VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA: GUILFORD COUNTY INCIDENTS, 2008-2017

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in North Carolina resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. All deaths reported in this document are based on location of occurrence rather than residence and, instead of a rate, the occurring ratio is reported. This statistic is derived from the total number of violent deaths resulting from injuries in a specified geographic region divided by the number of residents in this region. This document summarizes all fatal injuries from violence that occurred in Guilford County for the years 2008-2017.

- In Guilford County, the suicide ratio was 2.9 times higher in males than females, and the homicide ratio was 4.3 times higher in males than females.

- Patterns of suicide and homicide differed by race. Suicide victims were more likely to be Non-Hispanic (NH) white than NH black. NH whites had 18.7 suicides per 100,000 population versus 4.6 suicides per 100,000 population in NH blacks. All other racial groups combined had 20 suicides.

- In contrast, NH blacks had 15.3 homicides per 100,000 population as opposed to NH whites who had 2.4 homicides per 100,000 population. All other racial groups combined had 29 homicides.

- For the years 2008-2017, there were 957 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Guilford County. Of these 957 deaths, 928 were N.C. residents (97.0%) and 860 were Guilford County residents (89.9%).

- There were 545 suicides (56.9%), 352 homicides (36.8%), 6 unintentional firearm deaths (0.6%), 22 deaths from legal intervention (2.3%) and 32 deaths of undetermined intent (3.3%).

### Manner of Death: Guilford County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2008-2017*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manner of Death</th>
<th>Occurrence Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>56.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unintentional Firearm</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Intervention</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undetermined Intent</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

### Manner of Death by Sex: Guilford County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2008-2017*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manner of Death</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Violent Deaths</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>30.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

### Manner of Death by Race: Guilford County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2008-2017*

- NH white: 18.7
- NH Black: 4.6
- Other Race: 2.4

*Other race refers to Hispanics, American Indians, Asians, other races, and unspecified or unknown race.
• Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicides peaked among those 25-34 with 18.4 homicides per 100,000, where suicides peaked among those 45-54 with 16.4 suicides per 100,000.

• The majority of homicides (74.7%) and approximately half of suicides (51.9%) were committed using firearms.

• Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 23.9% of homicides and 28.4% of suicides.

• For homicide incidents where one or more suspects were identified, the relationship of the victim to the suspect was known (current or former spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend, family, friend or acquaintance) more frequently for female (65.4%) than male (44.6%) victims.

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• Arguments or conflicts were more likely to be a contributing factor for male homicides (46.4%) than for female homicides (25.8%).

• 24.2% of female homicides and 38.1% of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary or drug trafficking.

• Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 47.0% of female homicides, but only 5.4% of male homicides.

• 41% of male and 37.6% of female Guilford County suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they completed suicide.

• 75.2% of female and 50.3% of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

• Females (32.2%) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past as compared to males (18.5%).

• Arguments or conflicts were more likely to be a contributing factor for male homicides (46.4%) than for female homicides (25.8%).

• 24.2% of female homicides and 38.1% of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary or drug trafficking.

• Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 47.0% of female homicides, but only 5.4% of male homicides.

Circumstances of Suicides: Guilford County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2008-2017*

- Depressed Mood
  - Female: 38%
  - Male: 41%

- Current Mental Health Problem
  - Female: 75%
  - Male: 72%

- Current Mental Health Treatment
  - Female: 50%
  - Male: 43%

- History of Suicide Attempt(s)
  - Female: 32%
  - Male: 18%

- Left a Suicide Note
  - Female: 36%
  - Male: 26%

- Disclosed Intent
  - Female: 26%
  - Male: 26%

- Physical Health Problem
  - Female: 20%
  - Male: 21%

Percent of Suicides

*Based on the county of injury occurrence. 94.9% of cases had circumstance information. 3 females and 25 males were missing circumstance information.

† There were less than or equal to 5 deaths

Circumstances of Homicides: Guilford County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2008-2017*

- Argument/Conflict
  - Female: 26%
  - Male: 46%

- Precipitated by Another Crime
  - Female: 24%
  - Male: 38%

- Intimate Partner Violence
  - Female: 5%
  - Male: 12%

- Drug Involvement
  - Female: 32%
  - Male: 22%

Percent of Homicides

*Based on the county of injury occurrence. 86.6% of cases had circumstance information. 42 males and 5 females were missing circumstance information.

† There were less than or equal to 5 deaths