INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN NORTH CAROLINA, 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. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January 2004. This document summarizes deaths as a result of intimate partner violence (IPV) among North Carolina residents for the year 2017.

*NC-VDRS defines IPV as homicide deaths occurring as a direct result of conflict between current or former spouses or partners. This is a broad definition that includes deaths of children, friends or even bystanders who may or may not be directly involved in the conflict or those who may be intervening in the conflict.*

• In 2017, a total of 685 North Carolina residents died as a result of homicide. Circumstances were available for 645 (94.2%) of these homicides.

• 18.0% of homicides in 2017 with known circumstances were associated with intimate partner violence (IPV).

• Of the 117 identified IPV-related deaths in 2017 in North Carolina, 116 (99.1%) were homicides.

• Approximately one-half of all female homicides were IPV-related (50.4%), while roughly one-tenth of all male homicides were IPV-related (9.7%).

• In 2017, the highest number of IPV-related homicides were in the 25-34 and 35-44 year age groups for both males and females.

• Of the IPV-related homicide victims, 48 (41.4%) were married, 52 (44.8%) were never married, 15 (12.9%) were divorced/separated, and 1 (0.9%) was widowed, single, or marital status was unknown.

• Of all homicides, the proportion that were IPV-related was higher among never married victims (44.8%) than married victims (41.4%) and victims who were separated or divorced (12.9%).
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The percentage of homicides among non-Hispanic (NH) white females that were IPV-related (52.5%, n=31) was higher than the percentage of homicides among NH black females that were IPV-related (50.0%, n=28).

The percentage of homicides among NH white males that were IPV-related (13.5%, n=18) was higher than the percentage of homicides among NH black males that were IPV-related (9.1%, n=30).

Female IPV-related homicide victims were most likely to have been killed by a current spouse or partner (70.1%, n=47), in contrast to an ex-spouse or former partner (14.9%, n=10).

Of male IPV-related homicide victims, 66.7% (n=34) were killed by someone other than a current or former spouse or partner.

More information about intimate partner violence can be found at:

Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission
Contact: (877) 502-9898
https://ncadmin.nc.gov/about-doa/divisions/council-for-women

North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Contact: (888) 232-9124
https://nccadv.org/

The National Domestic Violence Hotline
Contact: (800) 799-7233
https://www.thehotline.org/

The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
Contact: (202) 289-3900
https://www.endsexualviolence.org/