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 all deaths from violence among non-Hispanic (NH) African American residents for the years 2007-2016.

For the years 2007-2016, there were 21,136,098 NH African Americans living in North Carolina, accounting for 21.9 percent of the state's population.

NH African Americans had the third highest rate of violent death by race in North Carolina for the years 2007-2016 (20.5 per 100,000 population).

From 2007-2016, 4,335 NH African Americans in North Carolina died by violence.

There were 3,103 homicides (71.6%), 1,010 suicides (23.3%), 39 unintentional firearm deaths (0.9%), 88 deaths from legal interventions (2.0%), and 94 deaths of undetermined intent (2.2%).

NH African Americans accounted for 53.7 percent of all homicides and 8.2 percent of all suicides, across all racial groups in North Carolina from 2007 to 2016.

In contrast, NH whites accounted for 86.8 percent of all suicides and 33.3 percent of all homicides, across all racial groups in North Carolina from 2007 to 2016.
Method of Death: NC-VDRS Among NH African Americans, 2007-2016

- The majority of homicides (77.9%) and suicides (54.5%) among NH African Americans were committed using firearms.
- The second most common method of homicide was sharp instruments (10.5%).
- The second most common method of suicide was hanging (21.6%).

Suicide Circumstances* Among NH African Americans, 2007-2016

- Among NH African American suicide victims with known circumstance information, 33.4 percent had experienced a recent problem with an intimate partner.
- 37.2 percent of NH African American suicide victims were described as having a current mental health problem, and 31.5 percent were receiving treatment for a mental health problem at the time of suicide.
- 23.3 percent of NH African American suicide victims disclosed their intent to complete suicide, and 22.4 percent left a note.

*Other includes fire/burns, motor vehicle, violent shaking, intentional neglect, drowning, falls and other methods.

Homicide Circumstances* Among NH African Americans, 2007-2016

- Of all homicides among NH African Americans with known circumstance information, a little less than half (48.6%) involved an argument or conflict.
- Another serious crime (e.g., robbery, buglary) precipitated 33.8 percent of homicides among NH African Americans.
- 17.6 percent of these homicides were suspected to have been related to drug dealing, trade, or use.

*Among those with reported circumstance information.