CHILD VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA, 2013

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 child violent deaths among North Carolina residents for the year 2013.

• In 2013, there were a total of 91 violent deaths among North Carolina children ages 0-17.
• There were 39 homicides (42.9%), 39 suicides (42.9%), four unintentional firearm deaths (4.4%), two deaths resulting from legal intervention (2.2%), and seven deaths for which the Medical Examiner’s Office could not determine the manner of death (7.7%).
• Most of the child victims were male (80.2%).

Percent of Child Violent Deaths by Race: NC-VDRS, 2013

- Whites accounted for the greatest percent of deaths (59.3%), but black children had a higher rate of violent death: 5.7 deaths per 100,000 population vs. 3.8 deaths per 100,000 population for white children.

1Rates based on less than 10 deaths are considered unstable and should not be used.
2Other race refers to American Indians, Asians, other races, and unspecified or unknown race.
The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5U17/CE002613-02 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

N.C. Division of Public Health / www.publichealth.nc.gov / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425
N.C. Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432
State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / www.ncdhhs.gov
N.C. DHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider. 2013 FINAL DATA 11/15
Please see the NC-VDRS 2013 Annual Report for additional data and technical information.

• Firearms were involved in 46.2% of all child violent deaths. This percentage was propelled by the high number of firearm related deaths (n=32) among children ages 15-17.

• Hanging was the second most common cause of violent death among children (27.5%).

• Personal weapons was the most common cause of death among children under the age of one, while hanging, strangulation, or suffocation was the most common method of death among children ages 10-14.

More information on child violence prevention can be found at:

State Resource Partners
North Carolina Division of Social Services: Child Protective Services
Contact: (919) 733-4622
www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/cps/

National Resources
Children’s Bureau
Contact: Carlis Williams (404) 562-2900
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb

* Other includes other transport vehicle, sharp instrument, fire/burns, and unknown.