VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA: CUMBERLAND COUNTY INCIDENTS, 2005-2014

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 occurrence 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 Cumberland County for the years 2005-2014.

Manner of Death: Cumberland County, N.C.:

- For the years 2005-2014, there were 771 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Cumberland County. Of these 771 deaths, 749 were N.C. residents (97.1%) and 712 were Cumberland County residents (92.3%).
- There were 394 suicides (51.1%), 335 homicides (43.5%), six unintentional firearm death (0.8%), 16 deaths from legal intervention (2.1%) and 20 deaths of undetermined intent (2.6%).

*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

- In Cumberland County, the suicide ratio was 3.0 times higher in males than females, and the homicide ratio was 4.4 times higher in males than in 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 21.8 suicides per 100,000 population versus 7.4 suicides per 100,000 population in NH Blacks. All other racial groups combined had 25 suicides.
- In contrast, NH Blacks had 18.8 homicides per 100,000 population as opposed to NH Whites who had 6.3 homicides per 100,000 population. All other racial groups combined had 13 homicides.

Manner of Death by Sex: Cumberland County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2005-2014*

Manner of Death by Race: Cumberland County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2005-2014*

*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

^Other race refers to Hispanics, American Indians, Asians, other races, and unspecified or unknown race.
Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. However, both homicides and suicides peaked among those 25-34 with 20.8 homicides per 100,000 and 20.4 suicides per 100,000.

Most homicides (72.2%) and suicides (62.7%) were committed using firearms.

Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 30.7 percent of homicides and 24.4 percent 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 (83.1%) than male (57.1%) victims.

Twenty-three percent of male and 28.0 percent of female Cumberland County suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they completed.

Fifty-eight percent of female and 33.2 percent of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

Females (24.7%) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past as compared to males (9.8%).

Arguments or conflicts were more likely to be a contributing factor for male homicides (57.0%) than for female homicides (37.1%).

Forty percent of female homicides and 39.3 percent of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary or drug trafficking.

Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 45.2 percent of female homicides, but only 7.4 percent of male homicides.

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Please see the NC-VDRS 2014 Annual Report for additional data and technical information.