VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA:
WAKE COUNTY INCIDENTS, 2007-2016

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 occurrent 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 Wake County for the years 2007-2016.

- In Wake County, the suicide ratio was 3.1 times higher in males than females, and the homicide ratio was 2.7 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 13.1 suicides per 100,000 population versus 5.2 suicides per 100,000 population in NH Blacks. All other racial groups combined had 71 suicides.

- In contrast, NH Blacks had 8.0 homicides per 100,000 population as opposed to NH whites who had 1.2 homicides per 100,000 population. All other racial groups combined had 60 homicides.

- For the years 2007-2016, there were 1,183 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Wake County. Of these 1,183 deaths, 1,163 were N.C. residents (98.3%) and 1,081 were Wake County residents (91.4%).

- There were 839 suicides (70.9%), 290 homicides (24.5%), 3 unintentional firearm deaths (0.3%), 17 deaths from legal intervention (1.4%) and 34 deaths of undetermined intent (2.9%).
Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicides peaked among those 20-24 with 9.3 homicides per 100,000, where suicides peaked among those 85 and older with 19.3 suicides per 100,000.

Approximately two thirds of homicides (66.9%) and nearly half of suicides (45.2%) were committed using firearms.

Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 23.4 percent of homicides and 23.0 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 (72.0%) than male (50.2%) victims.

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