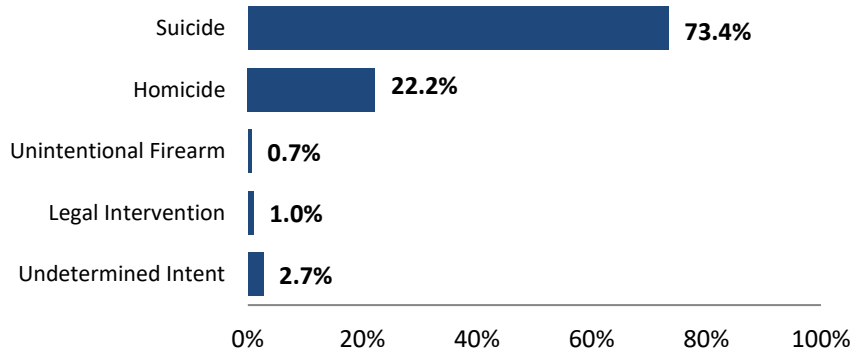


## VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA: UNION COUNTY INCIDENTS, 2008-2017

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. 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 Union County for the years 2008-2017.

**Manner of Death: Union County, N.C.:**  
**NC-VDRS, 2008-2017\***

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- For the years 2008-2017, there were 297 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Union County. Of these 297 deaths, 283 were N.C. residents (95.3%) and 269 were Union County residents (90.6%).

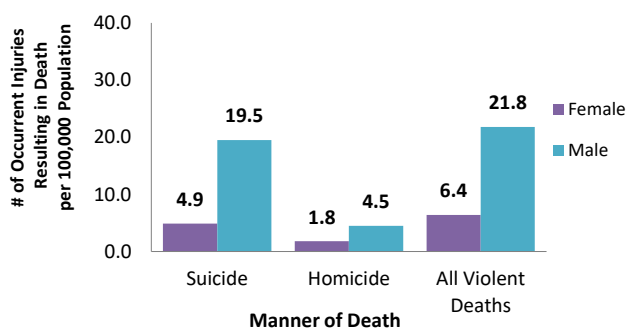
- There were 218 suicides (73.4%), 66 homicides (22.2%), two unintentional firearm deaths (0.7%), three deaths from legal intervention (1.0%) and eight deaths of undetermined intent (2.7%).

\*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

- In Union County, the suicide ratio was 4.0 times higher in males than females, and the homicide ratio was 2.5 times higher in males than in females.
- Patterns of suicide and homicide differed by race. Suicide victims were more likely to be Non-Hispanic white than NH black. NH whites had 14.2 suicides per 100,000 population versus 6.5 suicides per 100,000 population in NH blacks. All other racial groups combined had nine suicides.
- In contrast, NH blacks had 10.6 homicides per 100,000 population as opposed to NH whites who had 2.0 homicides per 100,000 population. All other racial groups combined had eight homicides.

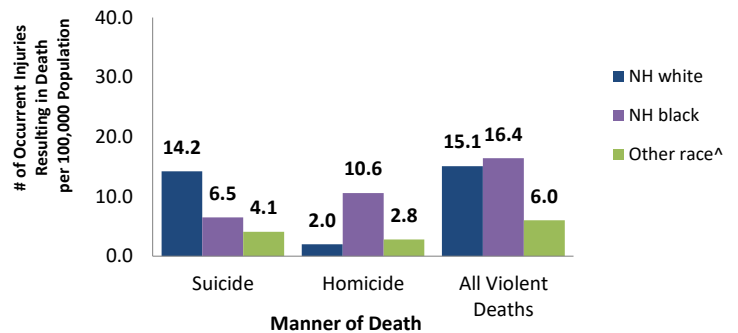
**Manner of Death by Sex: Union County, N.C.:**  
**NC-VDRS, 2008-2017\***

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**Manner of Death by Race: Union County, N.C.:**  
**NC-VDRS, 2008-2017\***

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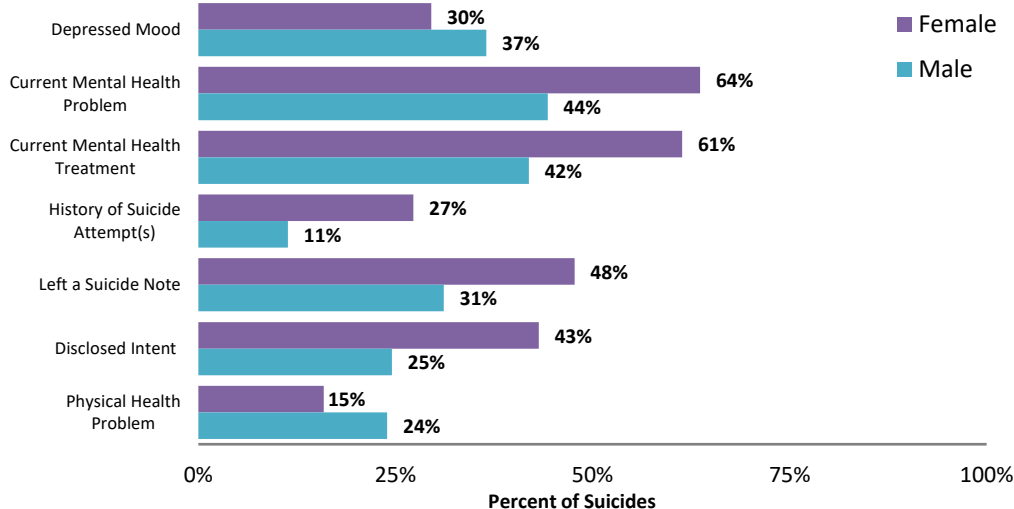
\*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

^Other race refers to Hispanics, American Indians, Asians, other races, and unspecified or unknown race.

- Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicides peaked among those 25-34 with 8.3 homicides per 100,000, where suicides peaked among those 20-24 with 19.2 suicides per 100,000.
- Most homicides (68.2%) and more than half of suicides (61.5%) were committed using firearms.
- Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 22.7% of homicides and 22.9% 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 (90.0%) than male (57.1%) victims.

### Circumstances of Suicides: Union County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2008-2017\*

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- 36.5% of male and 29.6% of female Union County suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they completed suicide.

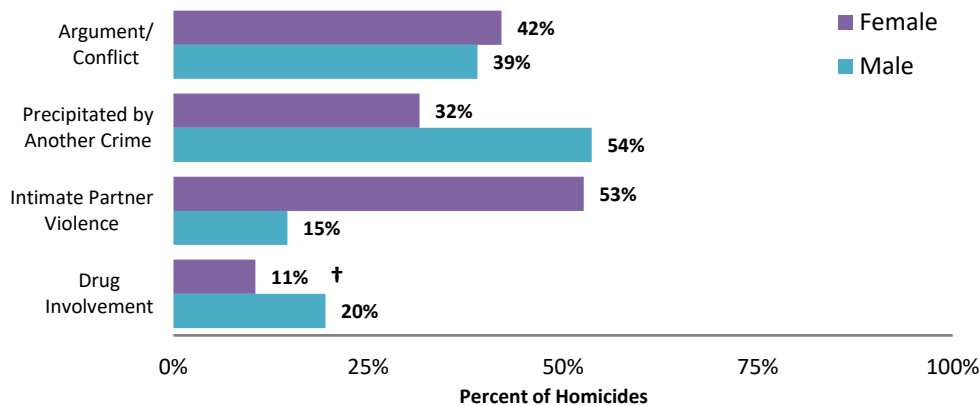
- 63.6% of female and 44.3% of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

- Females (27.3%) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past as compared to males (11.4%).

\*Based on the county of injury occurrence. 96.8% of cases had circumstance information. Six males and one female were missing circumstance information.

### Circumstances of Homicides: Union County, N.C.: NC-VDRS, 2008-2017\*

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- Arguments or conflicts were more likely to be a contributing factor for female homicides (42.1%) than for male homicides (39.0%).

- 31.6% of female homicides and 53.7% of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary or drug trafficking.

- Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 52.6% of female homicides, but only 14.6% of male homicides.

\*Based on the county of injury occurrence. 90.9% of cases had circumstance information. Six males and zero females were missing circumstance information.

†Use caution-There were less than 5 deaths

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 6NU17/CE002613-05-01 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

N.C. Division of Public Health / [www.publichealth.nc.gov](http://www.publichealth.nc.gov) / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425  
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Please see the NC-VDRS 2017 Annual Report for additional data and technical information.

