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 deaths among North Carolina residents ages 10-24 completing suicide for the years 2008 - 2017.

From 2008 to 2017, 3,378 North Carolina residents ages 10 to 24 died as a result of violence. Of these violent deaths, 1,567 (46.4%) were suicide.

71.8% of all youth suicide victims were identified as non-Hispanic (NH) white, 17.2% as NH black, 6.7% as Hispanic, and 4.3% as belonging to another racial/ethnic group.

Overall, the most common method of suicide among youth was firearms (52.5%), followed by hanging/strangulation/suffocation (36.5%) and poisoning (5.9%).

Only 5.2% of suicides were completed using a method other than firearms, hanging or poisoning.

• Males consistently had a higher number of suicides than females, regardless of age.

• The number of suicides peaked for males at age 22 with 183 suicides and for females at age 23 with 43 suicides.
Precipitating Circumstances by Sex: NC-VDRS, 2008 - 2017

Mental Health
- Current Mental Health Problem: 37% Males, 50% Females
- Current Mental Health Treatment: 29% Males, 43% Females
- Current Depressed Mood: 29% Males, 31% Females

Interpersonal
- Intimate Partner Problem: 32% Males, 37% Females
- Other Relationship Problem: 9% Males, 6% Females

Life Stressor
- Physical Health problem: 3% Males, 5% Females
- Recent criminal legal problem: 11% Males, 6% Females
- School Problem: 8% Males, 9% Females

Suicide Event
- History of suicide attempts: 14% Males, 28% Females
- Disclosed intent to commit suicide: 26% Males, 31% Females
- Left a suicide note: 27% Males, 34% Females

*Circumstances are known for 89% of males (n=1124) and 94% of females (n=279)

- 49.9% of female and 37.3% of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem when they completed suicide.
- A similar trend was seen for mental health treatment. Females (42.7%) were more likely than males (29.1%) to be receiving treated for a mental health problem at the time of suicide.
- 36.6% of female and 32.1% of male suicide victims had an intimate partner problem.
- 30.8% of female and 25.7% of male victims had disclosed their intent to commit suicide to someone else.
- Females (33.7%) were more likely to leave a suicide note than males (26.9%).

More information on suicide prevention efforts can be found at:

State Resource Partners
N.C. Division of Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services
https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas

North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
https://www.ocme.dhhs.nc.gov/

The Triangle Coalition for Suicide Prevention
https://trianglesuicideprevention.org/

N.C. Injury and Violence Prevention’s Youth Suicide Prevention Website
https://www.itsok2ask.com/

National Resources
The Suicide Prevention Resource Center
http://www.sprc.org/

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
https://afsp.org/

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
(for suicide crisis calls)
1-800-273-8255

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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. 2017 FINAL DATA 5/19

Please see the NC-VDRS 2017 Annual Report for additional data and technical information.