

NORTH CAROLINA

Violent Death Reporting System

Annual Report 2007

North Carolina
Injury & Violence
PREVENTION Branch

Division of Public Health

North Carolina
Injury & Violence
PREVENTION Branch

**North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System
Annual Report
2007**

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch
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Executive Summary

North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System, 2007

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-funded state-wide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in North Carolina resulting from violence, specifically homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention and those deaths for which the intent could not be determined. The system is a relational database and compiles information on the victims, suspects and circumstances surrounding each violent death. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports and law enforcement reports. The collection of this information has created a better understanding of the circumstances surrounding violent deaths that occur in North Carolina. The goal of the 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 findings from deaths that occurred during 2007 to North Carolina residents.

Overall Violent Deaths

In 2007 in North Carolina, 1,845 residents (20.4 per 100,000) died as a result of violence. Violent deaths included 58.8 percent from suicide, 36.6 percent from homicide and 4.6 percent from other causes (Figure i). Leading methods used in violent deaths were firearm (59.5 percent), poisoning (14.5 percent) and hanging/suffocation (11.9 percent).

Overall, men were 3.3 times more likely to die from violence than women (31.8 vs. 9.5 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure ii). The violent death rate per 100,000 from highest to lowest by race was American Indian (33.9), black (22.8), white (19.9) and Asian (4.3). Hispanics and non-Hispanics had similar violent death rates (18.5 vs. 20.5 per 100,000, respectively).

Across all age groups, young adults aged 20-24 years (33.4 per 100,000) were most likely to experience violent death. The overall violent death rate for adults gradually declined from age groups 25-34 years to 85 years and older. However, the violent death rate trend by age group differed by gender (Figure iii). Infants (<1 year old) (9.7 per 100,000) were most likely to be victims of violent death among children under 15 years of age.

Figure i: Manner of Violent Death, N.C., 2007

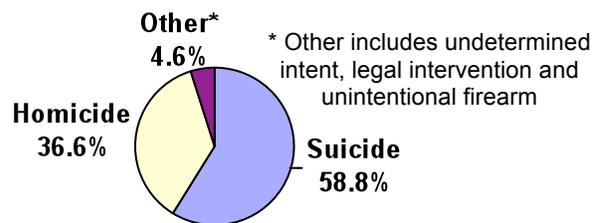


Figure ii: Overall Violent Death Rates by Gender and Race, N.C., 2007

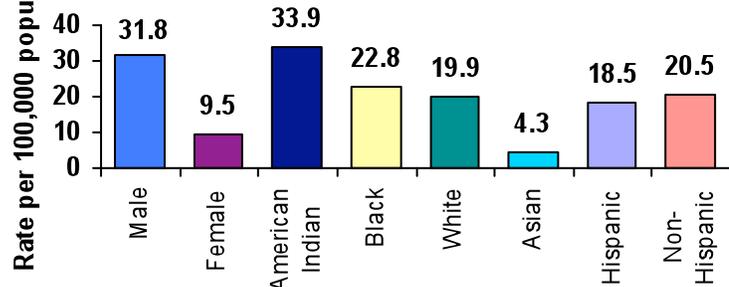
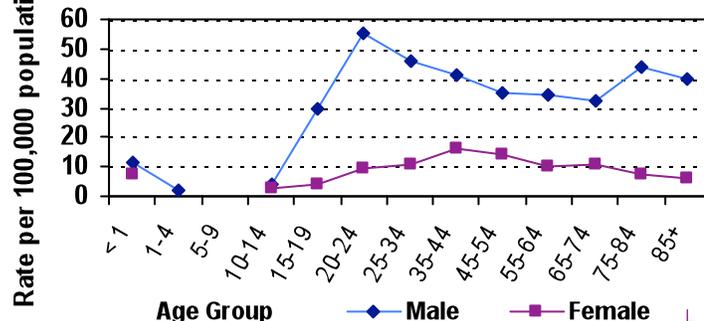


Figure iii: Violent Death Rates: Age Group by Gender of Victims, N.C., 2007



Suicide Deaths

In 2007, suicide was the cause of death in 1,085 North Carolinians (13.9 per 100,000). Suicide deaths were most commonly committed by a firearm (56.4 percent), poisoning (21.1 percent) and hanging/ suffocation (17.8 percent).

Men were 3.4 times more likely to die from suicide than women (21.9 vs. 6.4 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure iv). Among suicide victims, 76.5 percent were men and 90.3 percent were white. The suicide death rate per 100,000 was highest in whites (16.7) and American Indians (15.2) and was comparatively lower in blacks (5.0). The suicide death rate was two times higher in non-Hispanics than in Hispanics (14.4 vs. 6.7 per 100,000, respectively).

Age groups with the highest suicide rates were 35 to 44 years (17.5 per 100,000) and 75 to 84 years (17.3 per 100,000). Although the suicide rate was higher for men than women for all age groups, men aged 75 to 84 years were 10.7 times more likely to be a suicide victim than women in the same age group (Figure v).

Homicide Deaths

A total of 676 North Carolinians (7.5 per 100,000) were homicide victims in 2007. Firearm (67.5 percent), sharp instrument (13.8 percent) and blunt instrument (6.7 percent) were the most common homicide methods.

Men accounted for 77.4 percent of homicide victims and were 3.6 times more likely to die from homicide as compared to women (11.8 vs. 3.3 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure vi). Unlike suicide rates, homicide rates per 100,000 were higher in American Indians (20.3) and blacks (17.4) than in whites (4.4). Hispanics were nearly twice as likely to die from homicide as non-Hispanics (13.2 vs. 7.0 per 100,000).

Figure iv: Suicide Rates by Gender and Race, N.C., 2007

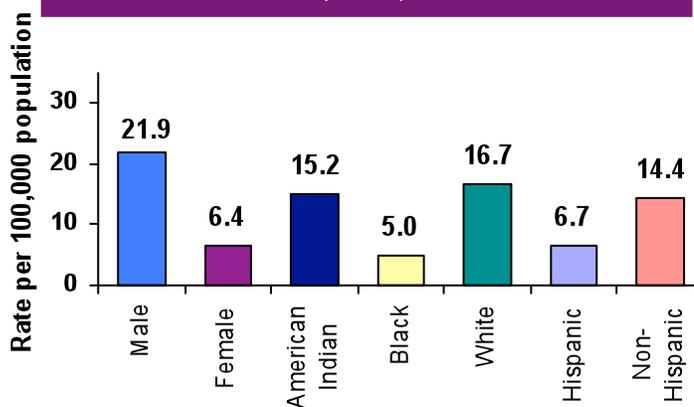


Figure v: Suicide Rates: Age Group by Gender of Victims, N.C., 2007

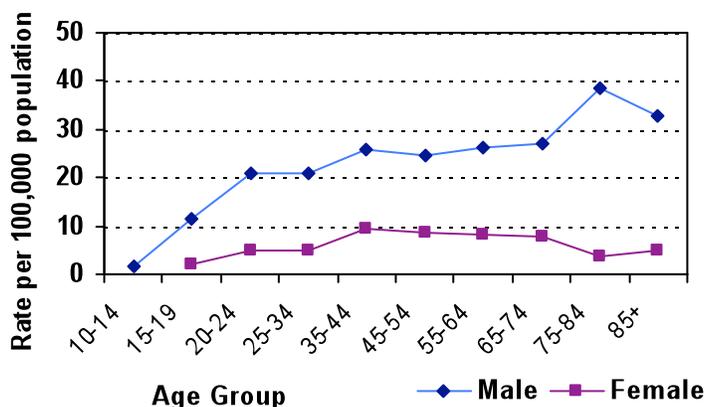
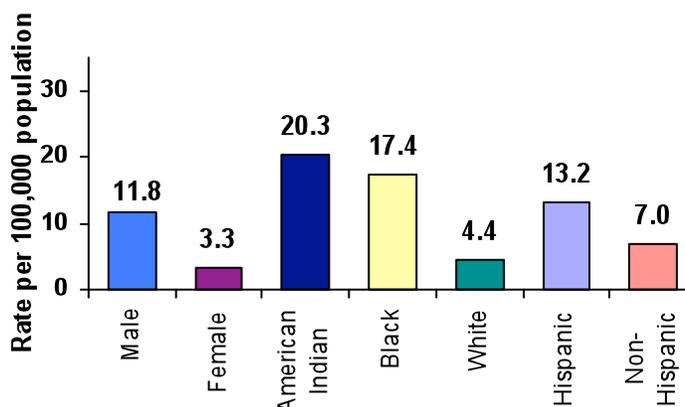
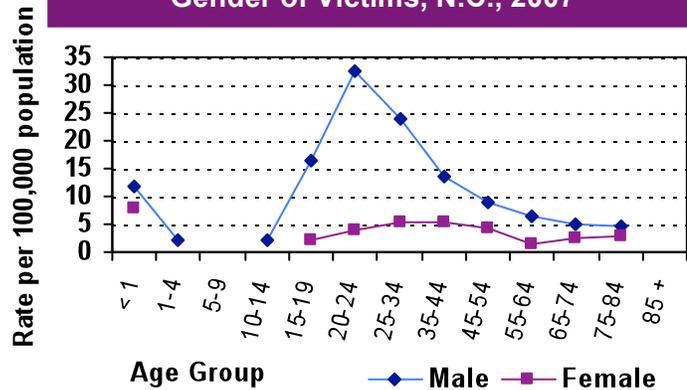


Figure vi: Homicide Rates by Gender and Race, N.C., 2007



Homicide rates per 100,000 were highest in ages: 20 to 24 years (19.0), 25 to 34 years (14.6) and less than 1 year (9.7). Males had a higher homicide rate than females for all age groups (Figure vii). Men were 7 to 8 times more likely to be a homicide victim than women in the ages of 15 to 24 years. Among females, the highest homicide rate was in infants less than 1 year of age.

Figure vii: Homicide Rates: Age Group by Gender of Victims, N.C., 2007



Legal Intervention

In 2007, 13 North Carolina residents died from legal intervention as victims killed by police or other peace officer acting in the line of duty. All legal intervention victims were males between 15 and 64 years of age with 38.5 percent in the age group of 20 to 24 years. Legal intervention victims were 53.8 percent white vs. 46.2 percent black, and 76.9 percent non-Hispanic vs. 23.1 percent Hispanic.

Unintentional Firearm Death

In 2007, nine North Carolinians died from a firearm injury sustained in a shooting not intentionally directed at the victim. Unintentional firearm victims were 88.9 percent male, 66.7 percent white, 33.3 percent black and 100 percent non-Hispanic. Unintentional firearm deaths occurred in ages 5 to 34 years and in ages 75 or older.

Child Death

Violent deaths were reported for 99 North Carolina children (4.5 per 100,000) in 2007. Leading causes of child violent death were homicide (64.6 percent) and suicide (28.3 percent). The most common methods of child violent deaths were firearm (53.5 percent), hanging/suffocation (19.2 percent) and unarmed assault (8.1 percent). Male children were 2.7 times more likely to be victims of violent death than female children (6.5 vs. 2.4 per 100,000, respectively). Black children had a violent death rate 2.2 times higher than white children (7.8 vs. 3.5 per 100,000, respectively). Hispanic children (4.8 per 100,000) and non-Hispanic children (4.4 per 100,000) had similar rates of violent death. The highest rates of child violent death were in the age groups of 15 to 17 years (13.6 per 100,000) and less than 1 year (9.7 per 100,000).

Weapons

Firearms were the most common weapon used for all manners of violent death except undetermined intent. Firearms accounted for 59.6 percent of all violent deaths, 56.4 percent of suicides, 67.9 percent of homicides, 92.3 percent of legal intervention deaths and 100 percent of unintentional firearm deaths. The most common weapon used in firearm deaths was a handgun (74.2 percent) followed by a shotgun (13.7 percent) and a rifle (10.2 percent).

Undetermined Intent

A total of 62 deaths of undetermined intent (0.7 per 100,000) were reported in North Carolina in 2007. Most of these victims were white (77.4 percent), non-Hispanic (100 percent) and aged 35 to 54 years (56.4 percent).

Violent Death Trends Over Time

The overall violent death rate in North Carolina remained relatively unchanged from 19.6 per 100,000 in 2004 to 20.4 per 100,000 in 2007. In addition, suicide and homicide rates were stable over time.

Introduction

Violence-related injuries are among the leading causes of death in the United States. Each year there are approximately 33,000 suicides and 18,000 homicides nationwide, many of which are preventable. In North Carolina, nearly 10,000 persons died from suicide or homicide in the five-year period from 2000 to 2005. In that same period, suicide and homicide ranked as the state's 11th and 15th leading causes of death, respectively. Among specific age groups, violent death constitutes an even greater risk. Suicide was the fourth leading cause of death for people ages 15 to 34 and the fifth leading cause of death for people ages 10 to 14 and 35 to 44 in North Carolina in 2007. Homicide was the state's third leading cause of death for people ages 15 to 34 and fourth leading cause of death for people ages 10 to 14 in 2007.

This report provides comprehensive information on the characteristics and circumstances of violent death victims and incidents within North Carolina, using data from the North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS). For the purpose of this report, violent deaths include homicide, suicide, legal intervention, as well as deaths of undetermined intent and from unintentional firearm injuries.

The NC-VDRS is a CDC-funded public health, population-based surveillance system that contains detailed information on deaths that result from violence. It is operated by the North Carolina Division of Public Health's Injury and Violence Prevention Branch to provide injury and violence prevention specialists and policy-makers detailed information on the victims, suspects, relationships, circumstances, and weapons that are associated with every incident of violence that results in a fatality in North Carolina. The NC-VDRS is an incident-based, relational database that combines data from multiple sources, such as death certificates, medical examiner reports, and incident reports from law enforcement agencies. The NC-VDRS began collecting data on January 1, 2004.

The NC-VDRS is part of a larger, national system that is being developed by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In 2002, Congress appropriated \$1.5 million to create the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) as a means to implement a nationwide surveillance system on deaths from violence. NVDRS is built on the knowledge gained from a firearm reporting system that was developed at the University of Wisconsin and the National Violent Injury Statistics System (NVISS, operated by the Harvard Injury Control Research Center). Participation in NVDRS is through competitive cooperative agreements. North Carolina was awarded funding in August, 2003. As of 2007, 17 states had submitted data to the NVDRS. The goal is to have all 50 states and U.S. territories contribute their data to NVDRS.

This annual report for the NC-VDRS presents statistics on deaths from violence to North Carolina residents during the period of January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007. This report is an update from the 2007 Violent Death Reporting System Provisional Report (dated November 2009). The final 2007 data file used for this 2007 Annual Report was dated May 4, 2010. Note that if changes are made to the 2007 data in NC-VDRS after this date, the 2007 violent death data could change in future reports. A glossary of the terms used in this report is shown in Appendix D.

Methods

Case Identification

This report provides a comprehensive summary of all violent deaths to residents of North Carolina during 2007. Violent deaths are captured by data abstractors using multiple, complementary data sources including:

- **Death Certificates** - obtained from the N.C. State Center for Health Statistics.
- **Chief Medical Examiner Reports** - obtained from the N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, who is required to evaluate all violent deaths in North Carolina.
- **Law Enforcement Reports** - obtained from more than 200 local law enforcement agencies across the state and the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation.

In most cases, the sources provide a unanimous categorization for the manner of death. However, in cases where a discrepancy occurs, the abstractor assigns a manner of death for which there is a preponderance of evidence from all sources. This classification must agree with at least one of the primary data sources listed above. These deaths must also correspond with the International Classification of Disease codes, version 10 (ICD-10), to be selected as cases for the NC-VDRS.

Operational Definition: ICD-10 Codes that Define NC-VDRS Cases

Manner of Death	Death < 1 year after injury	Death ≥ 1 year or more after injury
Intentional self-harm	X60-X84	Y87.0
Assault	X85-X99, Y00-Y09	Y87.1
Undetermined Intent	Y10-Y34	Y87.2, Y89.9
Unintentional firearm	W32-W34	Y86 (guns)
Legal intervention	Y35.0-Y35.7	Y89.0
Terrorism	U01, U03	U02

These data are received electronically from the medical examiner and death certificate sources and imported into NC-VDRS. Data that are not received electronically are obtained by hard-copy file and manually entered by the NC-VDRS abstraction team. Data are routinely evaluated for quality by the program manager. Quality control procedures ensure that the data are as accurate and complete as possible. Quality control measures include, but are not limited to:

- Review of death certificate and medical examiner data to determine whether cases meet NVDRS eligibility criteria
- Review of death certificate data and medical examiner data to identify inconsistent manner of death or ICD-10 codes
- Assessment of data completeness, especially manner of death
- Evaluation of data entry errors, including comparison against electronic death certificate data
- Documentation of coding errors
- Assessment of narrative completeness

Defining Manner of Death

The NC-VDRS conceptually defines a violent death as a death due to “the intentional use of physical force against oneself, another person, or against a group or community”. Deaths meeting this definition include intentional deaths, such as:

- **Suicide** - A death resulting from the intentional use of force against oneself. A preponderance of evidence should indicate that the use of force was intentional. Suicides are classified among violent deaths only for persons ages 10 or older.
- **Homicide** - A death resulting from the intentional use of force or power, threatened or actual, against another person, group or community. A preponderance of evidence must indicate that the use of force was intentional.
- **Legal Intervention** - A death when the decedent was killed by a police officer, military police officer or other peace officer (person with specified legal authority to use deadly force) acting in the line of duty. Legal executions are not included in the national system (NVDRS) but are reported in the state system (NC-VDRS) as legal intervention deaths.

The database also captures deaths from unintentional firearm injuries and deaths with undetermined intent. These deaths are defined as:

- **Unintentional Firearm** - A death resulting from a penetrating injury or gunshot wound from a weapon that uses a powder charge to fire a projectile and for which a preponderance of evidence indicates that the shooting was not directed intentionally at the decedent. Since most firearm deaths are intentional, unintentional firearm deaths are included in the data system so that they can be reviewed to identify patterns for injury prevention. This category also includes a child under the age of six who shoots himself or another person, since children under the age of six are presumed not to have developed the ability to intentionally harm themselves or others.
- **Undetermined Intent** - A death resulting from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating manner of death was not sufficient to determine intent.

The national and state violent death reporting systems are the official repository of deaths from terrorism. Deaths in North Carolina from an act of terrorism would be listed as a homicide or suicide in the NC-VDRS.

Analysis

This report provides three main types of analytic data on violent deaths in North Carolina: 1) number of deaths for each violent death category; 2) percent of total deaths for each manner of death and by specific demographic characteristics; and 3) rate of violent deaths for each manner of death and by demographic characteristic, where possible. Demographic characteristics include age, gender, race, Hispanic/non-Hispanic, years of completed education, marital status and North Carolina county. Note that since race and Hispanic/non-Hispanic ethnicity are separate demographic characteristics, race categories include both Hispanics and non-Hispanics.

The rate of violent death is calculated as the number of deaths during the specified time per 100,000 North Carolina residents in the same category (rate = [number of deaths x 100,000/ population]). Rates were calculated using bridged N.C. population data (vintage 2008) from the National Center for Health Statistics. The numbers of the total N.C. population and children by demographic characteristic are available in Appendix B. Unless otherwise stated, a child is a person under 18 years of age.

Resident vs. Occurrent Deaths

The NC-VDRS captures data on all violent deaths that occur in the state.

- **Resident deaths** are those in which the victim was a North Carolina resident at the time of death, and the death occurred in North Carolina.
- **Occurrent deaths** capture all deaths that occur within North Carolina during the specified time, regardless of the residential status of the decedent.

The data in this report are restricted to resident deaths. All victims included in the analyses were classified as residents of North Carolina at the time of death.

Data Use Caveat

All findings in the report are based on rigorous data collection and analysis. However, counts that are small (less than 20) must be interpreted with caution, particularly when they are used in the calculation of death rates. Small numbers, even if they are not used in the calculation of rates, have substantial variation over time (i.e., a large standard error). This report presents mortality rates for cases where there are at least 5 deaths; however, rates for counts less than 20 should be interpreted with extreme caution when making comparisons or assessing trends over time. An asterisk (*) in the rate cell indicates the number of deaths was too small to support the calculation of a rate. A good way of determining significance of death rates is to use the 95 percent confidence interval (95 percent CI) provided. The wider the confidence interval (i.e., the greater the difference between the lower and upper bounds of the confidence interval), the less accurate the rate is, and therefore, more caution should be employed when using the data.

Acknowledgements

The NC-VDRS is funded by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the CDC, and is operated by the Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, Division of Public Health, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services. This annual report was supported in part by CDC Cooperative Agreement Number 5U17CE423098-07. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent official views of the CDC.

We thank and acknowledge the on-going support and assistance of the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, and many local law enforcement agencies throughout North Carolina that have provided information to the NC-VDRS. Without these key data partners, the NC-VDRS would not be as credible or strong. The law enforcement agencies that provided data for this report are:

Ahoskie Police Department
 Alamance County Sheriff's Office
 Albermarle Police Department
 Alexander County Sheriff's Office
 Alleghany County Sheriff's Office
 Anson County Sheriff's Office
 Apex Police Department
 Archdale Police Department
 Asheboro Police Department
 Asheville Police Department
 Avery County Sheriff's Office
 Beaufort County Sheriff's Office
 Bertie County Sheriff's Office
 Black Mt Police Department
 Bladen County Sheriff's Office
 Boone Police Department
 Brevard Police Department
 Brunswick County Sheriff's Office
 Buncombe County Sheriff's Office
 Burke County Sheriff's Office
 Burlington Police Department
 Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office
 Caldwell County Sheriff's Office
 Camden County Sheriff's Office
 Canton Police Department
 Carolina Beach Police Department
 Carrboro Police Department
 Carteret County Sheriff's Office
 Caswell County Sheriff's Office
 Catawba County Sheriff's Office
 Chadbourn Police Department
 Chapel Hill Police Department
 Chatham County Sheriff's Office
 Cherokee County Sheriff's Office
 Chowan County Sheriff's Office
 Clay County Sheriff's Office
 Clayton Police Department
 Cleveland County Sheriff's Office
 Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department
 Columbus County Sheriff's Office

Concord Police Department
 Craven County Sheriff's Office
 Cumberland County Sheriff's Office
 Currituck County Sheriff's Office
 Davidson County Sheriff's Office
 Davidson Police Department
 Davie County Sheriff's Office
 Duplin County Sheriff's Office
 Durham County Sheriff's Office
 Durham Police Department
 Eden Police Department
 Edenton Police Department
 Edgecombe County Sheriff's Office
 Elizabeth City Police Department
 Elizabethtown Police Department
 Fayetteville Police Department
 Forsyth County Sheriff's Office
 Franklin County Sheriff's Office
 Franklin Police Department
 Gaston County Sheriff's Office
 Gastonia Police Department
 Gibsonville Police Department
 Goldsboro Police Department
 Graham Police Department
 Granite Falls Police Department
 Granville County Sheriff's Office
 Greensboro Police Department
 Greenville Police Department
 Grifton Police Department
 Guilford County Sheriff's Office
 Halifax County Sheriff's Office
 Hamlet Police Department
 Harnett County Sheriff's Office
 Havelock Police Department
 Haywood County Sheriff's Office
 Henderson County Sheriff's Office
 Henderson Police Department
 Hendersonville Police Department
 Hertford County Sheriff's Office
 Hickory Police Department

High Point Police Department
 Hillsborough Police Department
 Hoke County Sheriff's Office
 Holly Springs Police Department
 Huntersville Police Department
 Iredell County Sheriff's Office
 Jackson County Sheriff's Office
 Jacksonville Police Department
 Johnston County Sheriff's Office
 Jones County Sheriff's Office
 Kannapolis Police Department
 Kernersville Police Department
 Kill Devil Hills Police Department
 Kings Mountain Police Department
 Kinston Police Department
 Lake Waccamaw Police Department
 Laurinburg Police Department
 Lee County Sheriff's Office
 Lenoir County Sheriff's Office
 Lenoir Police Department
 Lexington Police Department
 Lincoln County Sheriff's Office
 Lumberton Police Department
 Macon County Sheriff's Office
 Marshville Police Department
 Martin County Sheriff's Office
 McDowell County Sheriff's Office
 Mebane Police Department
 Mint Hill Police Department
 Mitchell County Sheriff's Office
 Mocksville Police Department
 Monroe Police Department
 Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
 Moore County Sheriff's Office
 Mooresville Police Department
 Morganton Police Department
 Mount Olive Police Department
 Mt. Holly Police Department
 Murphy Police Department
 Nash County Sheriff's Office

New Bern Police Department	Rockingham County Sheriff's Office	Transylvania County Sheriff's Office
New Hanover County Sheriff's Office	Rockingham Police Department	Union County Sheriff's Office
Newton Police Department	Rocky Mount Police Department	Valdese Police Department
North Wilkesboro Police Department	Rowland Police Department	Vance County Sheriff's Office
Northampton County Sheriff's Office	Roxboro Police Department	Wadesboro Police Department
Norwood Police Department	Rutherford County Sheriff's Office	Wake County Sheriff's Office
Oak Island Police Department	Rutherfordton Police Department	Wake Forest Police Department
Onslow County Sheriff's Office	Salisbury Police Department	Wallace Police Department
Orange County Sheriff's Office	Sampson County Sheriff's Office	Warren County Sheriff's Office
Pasquotank County Sheriff's Office	Sanford Police Department	Washington Police Department
Pender County Sheriff's Office	Scotland County Sheriff's Office	Watauga County Sheriff's Office
Perquimans County Sheriff's Office	Selma Police Department	Waxhaw Police Department
Person County Sheriff's Office	Shelby Police Department	Wayne County Sheriff's Office
Pinehurst Police Department	Siler City Police Department	Waynesville Police Department
Pineville Police Department	Smithfield Police Department	West Jefferson Police Department
Pitt County Sheriff's Office	Southern Pines Police Department	Wilkes County Sheriff's Office
Plymouth Police Department	Spindale Police Department	Williamston Police Department
Raleigh Police Department	Spring Lake Police Department	Wilmington Police Department
Randolph County Sheriff's Office	St Pauls Police Department	Wilson Police Department
Red Springs Police Department	Stanly County Sheriff's Office	Woodland Police Department
Reidsville Police Department	Statesville Police Department	Winston Salem Police Department
Rhodiss Police Department	Stokes County Sheriff's Office	Yadkin County Sheriff's Office
Richmond County Sheriff's Office	Surry County Sheriff's Office	Yadkinville Police Department
Roanoke Rapids Police Department	Taylorsville Police Department	Yancey County Sheriff's Office
Robeson County Sheriff's Office	Thomasville Police Department	

The NC-VDRS is fortunate to have some of the most dedicated staff in the state. The Program Manager, Tammy Norwood, oversees all operational aspects of the NC-VDRS and beyond. The high level of data quality and program integrity is a direct result of her efforts. Data Abstractors Pat Jones (now retired), Susan Autry and Jessica Sillmon spend countless hours compiling the data and constructing sound narratives to make North Carolina's system one of the best in the nation. Without their daily efforts throughout the years, the data and reports would not be as accurate or complete.

Special thanks to Christy Ann Stevens, who is the lead technical author of the 2007 Annual Report. Without much assistance or feedback, she was able to assemble the data, create figures, synthesize the data and write the report contents. Thanks to Sharon Schiro for creating the programming that enables us to analyze the data and facilitate the creation of these reports and other documents.

Many thanks to past and current contributors, researchers, writers, editors, graphic designers, CDC staff and program staff which have helped make each year's report better. We would like to thank the following individuals who have provided the NC-VDRS program with assistance throughout the years: Tamera Coyne-Beasley, Stephen Marshall, Holly Hill, Sharon Smith, Leroy Frazier, Carol Schriber, Julie Henry, Tracey Jarrett, Ghazaleh Samandari, Sandra Martin, Phillip Graham, Becca Byrd, Kay Sanford, Cindy Stevenson, Katherine Harmon and Scott Proescholdbell. Thanks to Valerie Collins Russell, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch Head, Chris Bryant, Interim Injury and Violence Prevention Branch Head, Sharon Rhyne, Health Promotion Manager for the DPH Chronic Disease and Injury Section and Ruth Petersen, Section Chief, for the organizational support to make the NC-VDRS program successful.

During 2007, three advisory groups provided input and assistance to the NC-VDRS. A full listing of each group's members is found in Appendix C. The chairs from the three advisory groups which formed the Board Leadership and Evaluation Team (BLET) for 2007 were: Tamera Coyne-Beasley, Kay Sanford, Phillip J. Cook, Sandra Martin and Anna Waller. Thanks to all members of the BLET and Advisory Board members for their input.

Section I: Overall Violent Deaths

Basic Characteristics of Violent Deaths

Table 1 describes the overall violent deaths in North Carolina in 2007 by demographic characteristics of gender, race and age. The 2007 overall rate of violent deaths per 100,000 persons in North Carolina is displayed in Figure 1 by gender and race and in Figure 2 by age group.

Key Findings:

- In 2007, 1,845 North Carolinians died as a result of violence (20.4 per 100,000).
- Males were 3.3 times more likely to die from violence than females (31.8 vs. 9.5 per 100,000, respectively).
- American Indians had the highest violent death rate (33.9 per 100,000) followed by blacks (22.8 per 100,000), whites (19.9 per 100,000) and Asians (4.3 per 100,000).
- Hispanics and non-Hispanics had similar rates of violent death (18.5 vs. 20.5 per 100,000, respectively).
- The violent death rate was highest for people aged 20-24 years (33.4 per 100,000) with a gradual decline in rate for adult age groups 25-34 (28.3 per 100,000) to 85 and older (16.2 per 100,000).
- Among children under the age of 15 years, infants (less than 1 year old) had the highest violent death rate (9.7 per 100,000).

Table 2 lists the manner and method of violent deaths in North Carolina in 2007. Violent deaths in North Carolina in 2007 are shown in Figure 3 by manner of death and in Figure 4 by method of death.

Key Findings:

- The leading causes of violent death were suicide (58.8 percent) and homicide (36.6 percent).
- The leading methods of violent death were firearm (59.5 percent), poisoning (14.5 percent) and hanging/strangulation/suffocation (11.9 percent).

Violent death victims in North Carolina in 2007 are characterized by the number of years of completed education for adults (18 years or older) in Table 3 and by marital status in Table 4.

Key Findings:

- Most adult violent death victims completed high school (68.6 percent had 12 or more years of education).
- Most violent death victims were either never married (38.6 percent) or married (35.3 percent) as compared to widowed (19.4 percent) or separated/divorced (6.2 percent).

Figure 5 illustrates the violent death rates by county of residence in 2007. The average rate of violent deaths per N.C. county of residence was 22.4 deaths per 100,000. Table 5 lists the 10 highest violent death rates by N.C. county of residence in 2007, which were primarily in counties with smaller populations. In addition, Appendix A provides the number of violent deaths by manner of death for each county where the injury occurred. These statistics should be interpreted with caution since the numbers of violent deaths by county are small and subject to variation.

Table 1: Gender, Race and Age Group of Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2007

		Number	Percent	Rate	95 Percent CI
Gender					
	Female	439	23.8	9.5	8.6 – 10.4
	Male	1406	76.2	31.8	30.1 – 33.5
Race					
	American Indian	40	2.2	33.9	23.4 – 44.4
	Asian	8	0.4	4.3	1.3 – 7.3
	Black	453	24.6	22.8	20.7 – 24.9
	Other/Unknown	1	0.1	*	*
	Pacific Islander	2	0.1	*	*
	White	1,341	72.7	19.9	18.8 – 21
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	118	6.4	18.5	15.2 – 21.8
	Non-Hispanic	1,727	93.6	20.5	19.5 – 21.5
Age Group (years)					
	< 1	13	0.7	9.7	4.4 – 15
	1 - 4	10	0.5	2.0	0.8 – 3.2
	5 - 9	5	0.3	0.8	0.1 – 1.5
	10 - 14	20	1.1	3.4	1.9 – 4.9
	15 - 19	107	5.8	17.2	13.9 – 20.5
	20 - 24	204	11.1	33.4	28.8 – 38.0
	25 - 34	344	18.6	28.3	25.3 – 31.3
	35 - 44	379	20.5	28.3	25.4 – 31.2
	45 - 54	317	17.2	24.4	21.7 – 27.1
	55 - 64	222	12.0	21.7	18.8 – 24.6
	65 - 74	120	6.5	20.3	16.7 – 23.9
	75 - 84	81	4.4	21.9	17.1 – 26.7
	85 +	23	1.2	16.2	9.6 – 22.8
Total Deaths		1,845	100	20.4	19.5 - 21.3

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

95 Percent CI = 95 Percent Confidence Interval for the Rate

Figure 1: Overall Violent Death Rates by Gender and Race, N.C., 2007

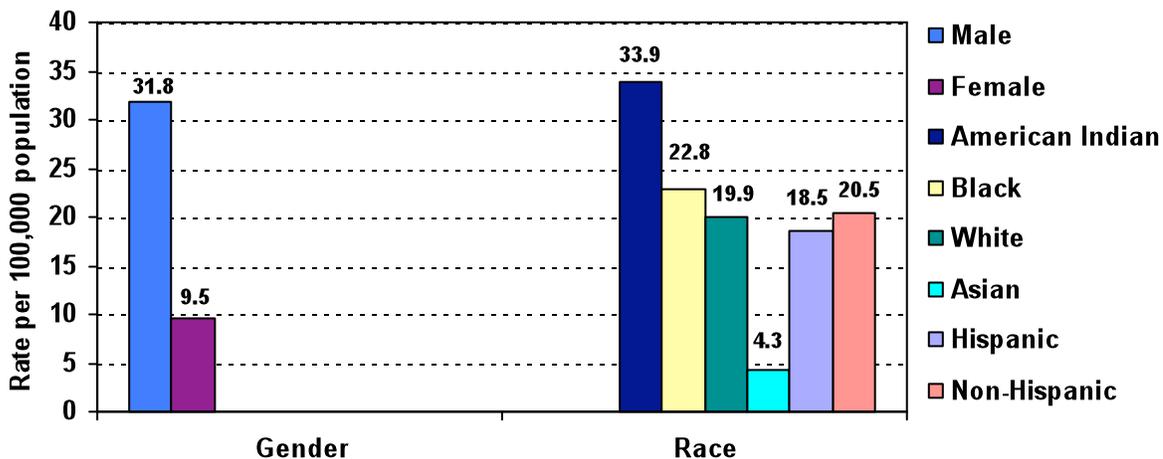


Figure 2: Overall Violent Death Rates by Age, N.C., 2007

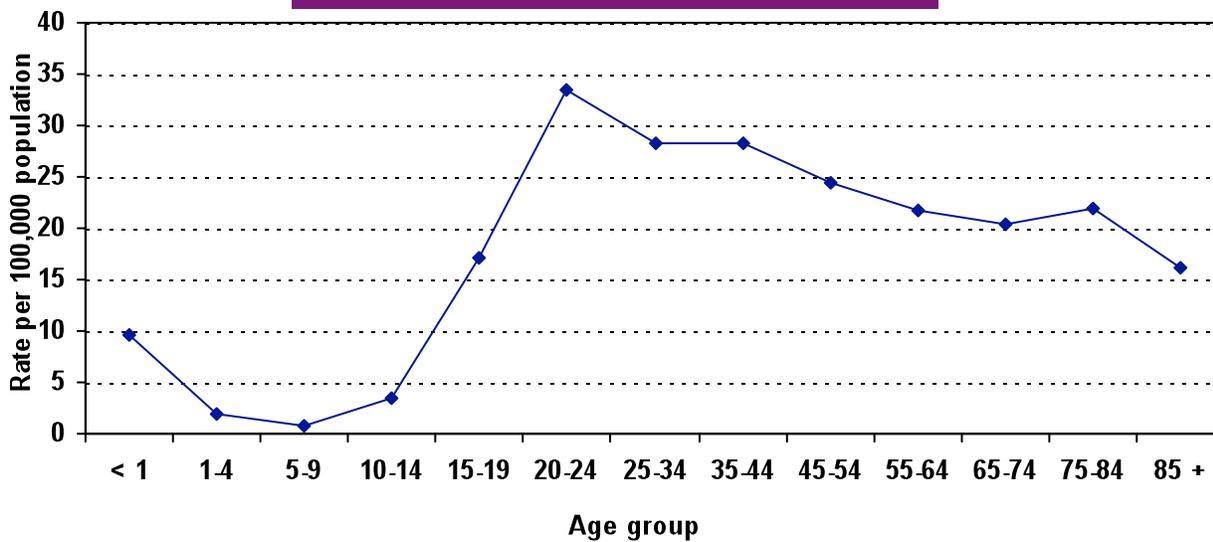


Table 2: Manner and Method of Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2007

		Number	Percent
Manner of Death			
	Suicide	1,085	58.8
	Homicide	676	36.6
	Undetermined Intent	62	3.4
	Legal intervention	13	0.7
	Unintentional firearm	9	0.5
Method of Death			
	Firearm	1,097	59.5
	Poisoning	268	14.5
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	219	11.9
	Sharp Instrument	110	6.0
	Blunt Instrument	46	2.5
	Unarmed Assault	34	1.8
	Fire/ Burn	16	0.9
	Drowning	12	0.7
	Motor Vehicle	9	0.5
	Fall	7	0.4
	Other Transport Vehicle	6	0.3
	Violent Shaking	3	0.2
	Intentional Neglect	2	0.1
	Other/ Unknown/ Missing	16	0.9
Total Deaths		1,845	100

Note: Legal intervention deaths include legal executions.

Figure 3: Manner of Violent Death, N.C., 2007

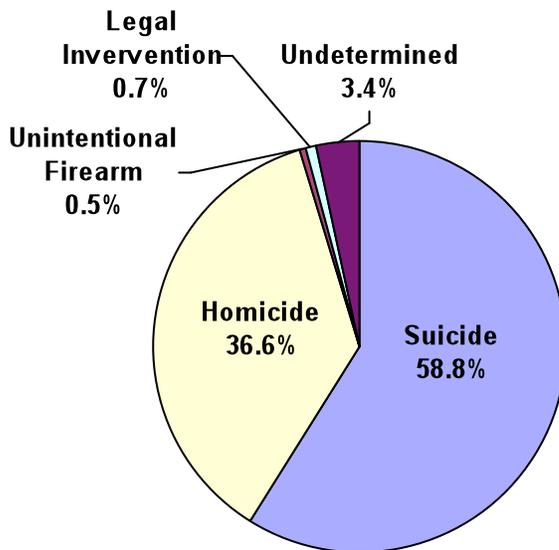
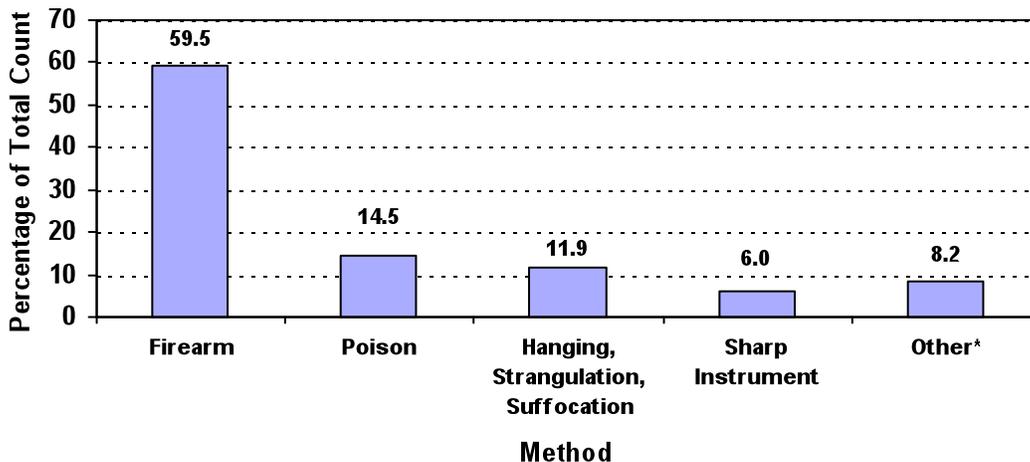


Figure 4: Method of Death for Overall Violent Deaths, N.C., 2007



* Other includes: blunt instrument, unarmed assault, fall, drowning, fire/ burn, violent shaking, motor vehicle/ other transport, intentional neglect and unknown.

Table 3: Years of Education Completed for Adult Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2007

	Number	Percent
Years of Education Completed		
< 9	142	8.1
9 to 11	388	22.2
12	683	39.1
> 12	514	29.4
Unknown	19	1.1
Total Deaths for Adults (18 years or older)	1,746	100

Table 4: Marital Status of Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2007

	Number	Percent
Marital Status		
Married	651	35.3
Never Married	712	38.6
Separated/ Divorced	114	6.2
Widowed	358	19.4
Unknown	10	0.5
Total Deaths	1,845	100

Figure 5: Map of Violent Death Rates by N.C. County of Residence, 2007

Rate of Violent Deaths by North Carolina County, 2007

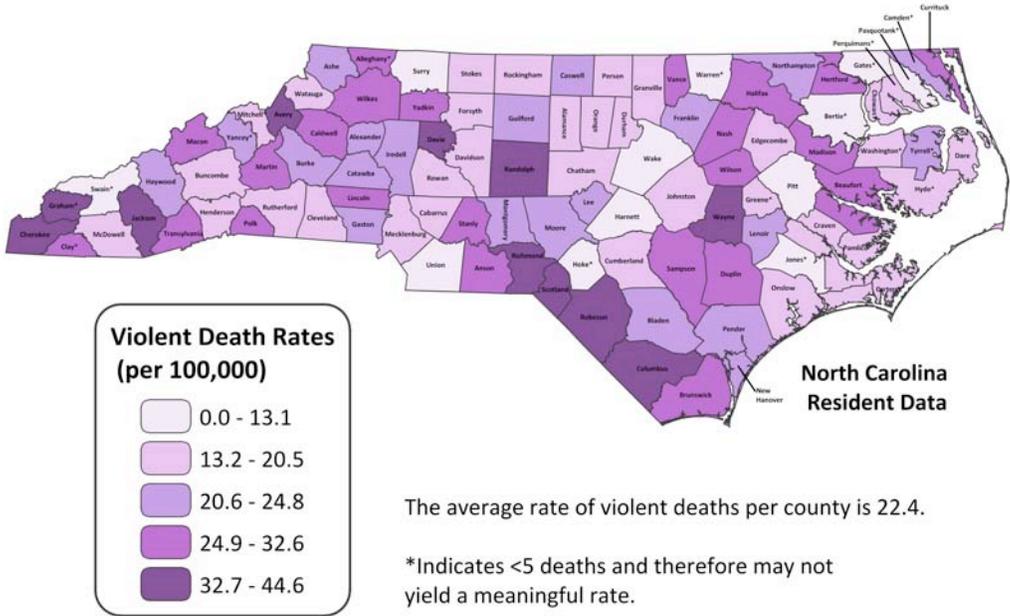


Table 5: Highest Violent Death Rates by N.C. County of Residence, 2007

N.C. County of Residence	Number	N.C. County Population	Rate
Davie	18	40,364	44.6
Columbus	23	53,966	42.6
Robeson	54	128,066	42.2
Cherokee	11	26,436	41.6
Jackson	15	36,272	41.4
Avery	7	17,842	39.2
Graham	3	7,833	*
Wayne	42	113,396	37.0
Scotland	13	36,341	35.8
Randolph	49	139,512	35.1

* The number of deaths was too small to support the calculation of a rate.

Race and Gender of Violent Death Victims

The proportions of violent death victims in North Carolina in 2007 by race and gender are summarized in Table 6 and Figure 6.

Key Findings:

- Of all violent death victims in North Carolina in 2007, 72.7 percent were white and 76.2 percent were males.
- Whites had the highest proportion of violent deaths by race and accounted for 70.7 percent of male victims and 79.0 percent of female victims.
- Blacks represented 26.3 percent of male violent death victims and 18.9 percent of female violent death victims.
- American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander and Other/Unknown race combined comprised less than 5 percent of all violent death victims for both men and women.

Age and Gender of Violent Death Victims

Table 7 compares the number and percentage of North Carolina violent death victims in 2007 by age group and gender. Figure 7 illustrates the 2007 rate of violent deaths per 100,000 in North Carolina by age group and gender.

Key Findings:

- Among males, most violent death victims were between ages 20 to 64 years with a rank order by age group of: 25-34 (19.8 percent), 35-44 (19.3 percent), 45-54 (15.8 percent), 20-24 (12.6 percent) and 55-64 (11.9 percent).
- Among females, most violent death victims were between ages 25 to 74 years with a rank order by age group of: 35-44 (24.4 percent), 45-54 (21.6 percent), 25-34 (15.0 percent), 55-64 (12.5 percent) and 65-74 (7.7 percent).
- Males were 5 to 7 times more likely to experience violent death than females between the ages of 15 to 24 years and 75 years or older based on the trend in violent death rate by age and gender.
- Among men, the trend in violent death rate by age was highest for ages 20 to 24 years (55.2 per 100,000) with a decline in rate from ages 25 to 74 years followed by an increase in rate for ages 75 and older.
- For women, the trend in violent death rate by age peaked for ages 35 to 44 years (15.9 per 100,000) with a gradual reduction in rate with older age.

Table 6: Race by Gender of Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2007

Race	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
American Indian	33	2.3	7	1.6	40	2.2
Asian	6	0.4	2	0.5	8	0.4
Black	370	26.3	83	18.9	453	24.6
Other/ Unknown	1	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.1
Pacific Islander	2	0.1	0	0.0	2	0.1
White	994	70.7	347	79.0	1,341	72.7
Total Deaths	1,406	100	439	100	1,845	100

Figure 6: Race by Gender of Violent Death Victims, N.C., 2007

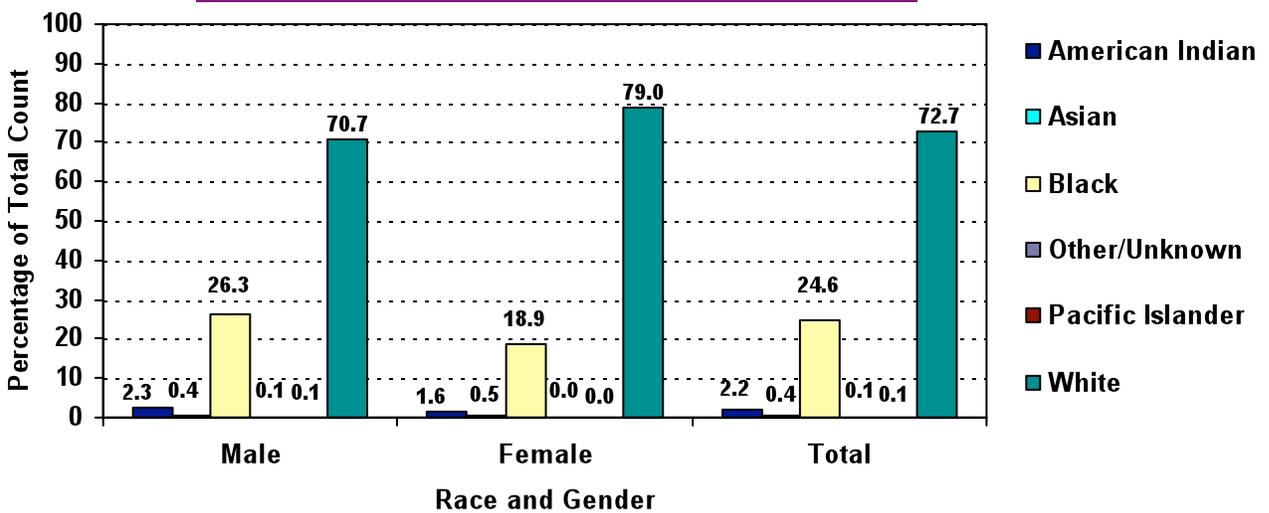
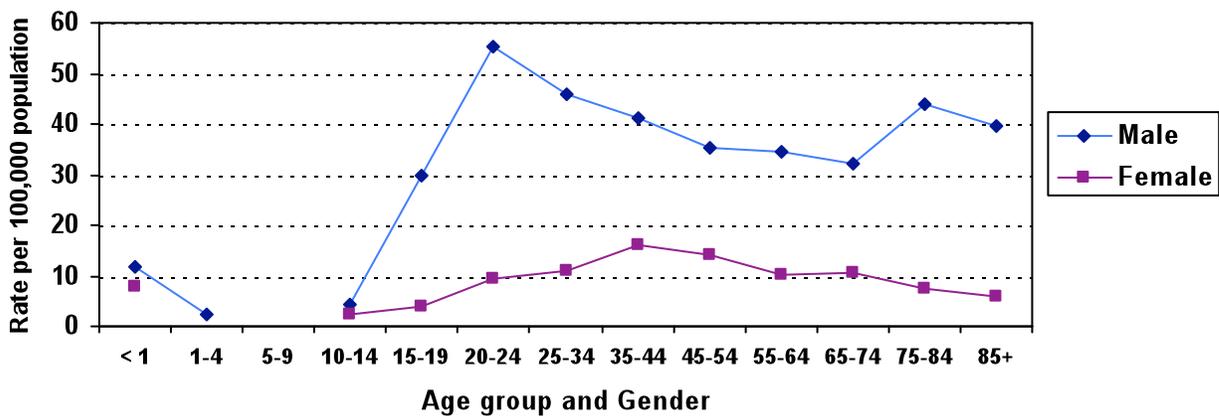


Table 7: Age Group by Gender of Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2007

Age Group (years)	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
< 1	8	0.6	5	1.1	13	0.7
1 - 4	6	0.4	4	0.9	10	0.5
5 - 9	1	0.1	4	0.9	5	0.3
10 - 14	13	0.9	7	1.6	20	1.1
15 - 19	95	6.8	12	2.7	107	5.8
20 - 24	177	12.6	27	6.2	204	11.1
25 - 34	278	19.8	66	15.0	344	18.6
35 - 44	272	19.3	107	24.4	379	20.5
45 - 54	222	15.8	95	21.6	317	17.2
55 - 64	167	11.9	55	12.5	222	12.0
65 - 74	86	6.1	34	7.7	120	6.5
75 - 84	64	4.6	17	3.9	81	4.4
85 +	17	1.2	6	1.4	23	1.2
Total Deaths	1,406	100	439	100	1,845	100

Figure 7: Violent Death Rates: Age Group by Gender of Victims, N.C., 2007



Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

Section II: Suicide

Basic Characteristics of Suicide Deaths

Table 8 describes the suicide deaths in 2007 for North Carolinians aged 10 years and older by demographic characteristics of gender, race and age. Figure 8 shows the 2007 rate of suicide deaths in North Carolina by race and gender.

Key Findings:

- In 2007, 1,085 suicide deaths (rate of 13.9 per 100,000) occurred in North Carolina.
- Males were 3.4 times more likely to die from suicide than females (21.9 vs. 6.4 per 100,000, respectively).
- Whites (16.7 per 100,000) and American Indians (15.2 per 100,000) had the highest rates of suicide death followed by blacks (5.0 per 100,000).
- Suicide deaths were twice as likely in non-Hispanics (14.4 per 100,000) compared to Hispanics (6.7 per 100,000).
- Rates of suicide death were similar across adult age groups with the highest rates in ages 35 to 44 years (17.5 per 100,000) and 75 to 84 years (17.3 per 100,000).

The methods of suicide deaths in North Carolina in 2007 are summarized in Table 9 and Figure 9.

Key Findings:

- The leading methods of suicide death were firearm (56.4 percent), poisoning (21.1 percent) and hanging/strangulation/suffocation (17.8 percent).
- All other methods comprised 4.7 percent of suicide deaths combined and included sharp instrument, drowning, fall, fire/burn, motor vehicle/other transport and other/unknown.

Suicide death victims in North Carolina in 2007 are shown stratified by the number of years of completed education for adults (18 years or older) in Table 10 and by marital status in Table 11.

Key Findings:

- The majority of adult suicide death victims completed high school (75.6 percent had 12 or more years of education).
- Suicide death victims were most often married (41.8 percent) and less frequently never married (26.1 percent), widowed (23.3 percent) or separated/divorced (8.3 percent).

Figure 10 displays the suicide death rates by county of residence in 2007. The average rate of suicide deaths per N.C. county of residence was 16.5 deaths per 100,000. Table 12 shows the 10 highest suicide death rates by N.C. county of residence in 2007. Furthermore, Appendix A provides the number of suicide deaths in 2007 for each county where the injury occurred. As for the overall violent deaths, suicide death statistics should be interpreted with caution since the numbers of deaths by county are small and subject to variation.

Table 8: Gender, Race and Age Group of Suicide Victims in N.C., 2007

		Number	Percent	Rate	95 Percent CI
Gender					
	Female	255	23.5	6.4	5.6 – 7.2
	Male	830	76.5	21.9	20.4 – 23.4
Race					
	American Indian	15	1.4	15.2	7.5 – 22.9
	Asian	4	0.4	*	*
	Black	85	7.8	5.0	3.9 – 6.1
	Pacific Islander	1	0.1	*	*
	White	980	90.3	16.7	15.7 – 17.7
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	31	2.9	6.7	4.3 – 9.1
	Non-Hispanic	1,054	97.1	14.4	13.5 – 15.3
Age Group					
	10 - 14	7	0.6	1.2	0.3 – 2.1
	15 - 19	43	4.0	6.9	4.8 – 9.0
	20 - 24	81	7.5	13.3	10.4 – 16.2
	25 - 34	155	14.3	12.7	10.7 – 14.7
	35 - 44	234	21.6	17.5	15.3 – 19.7
	45 - 54	214	19.7	16.5	14.3 – 18.7
	55 - 64	171	15.8	16.7	14.2 – 19.2
	65 - 74	97	8.9	16.4	13.1 – 19.7
	75 - 84	64	5.9	17.3	13.1 – 21.5
	85 +	19	1.8	13.4	7.4 – 19.4
Total Deaths		1,085	100	13.9	13.1 - 14.7

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

95 Percent CI = 95 Percent Confidence Interval for the Rate

Figure 8: Suicide Rates by Gender and Race, N.C., 2007

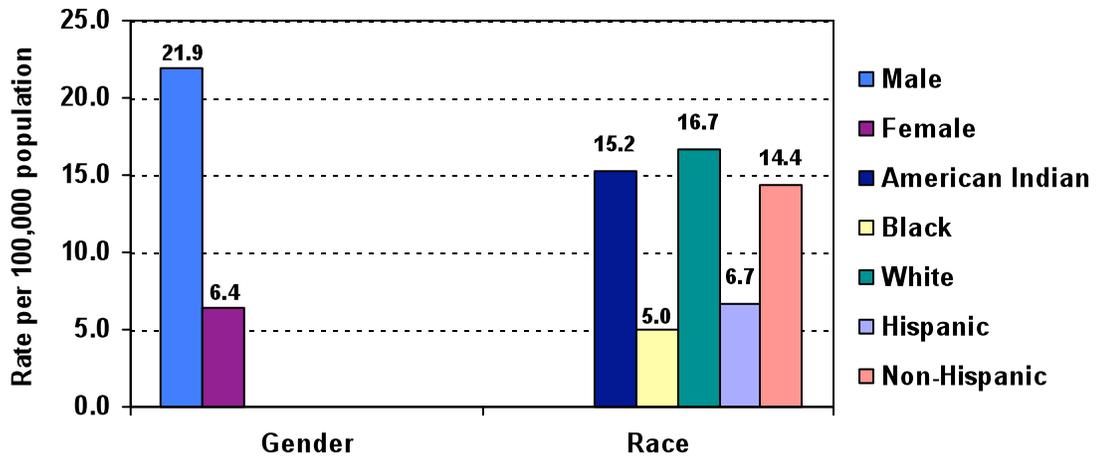
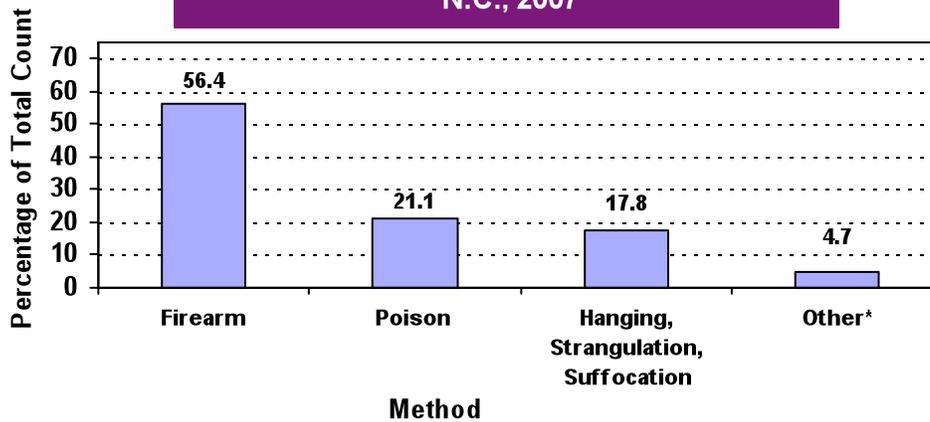


Table 9: Method of Death for Suicide Deaths in N.C., 2007

Method	Number	Percent
Firearm	612	56.4
Poisoning	229	21.1
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	193	17.8
Sharp Instrument	17	1.6
Drowning	10	0.9
Fall	6	0.6
Fire/ Burn	6	0.6
Other Transport Vehicle	6	0.6
Motor Vehicle	3	0.3
Other/ Unknown/Missing	3	0.3
Total Deaths	1,085	100

Figure 9: Method of Death for Suicide Deaths, N.C., 2007



* Other includes: sharp instrument, drowning, fall, fire/burn, motor vehicle/other transport, and other/unknown.

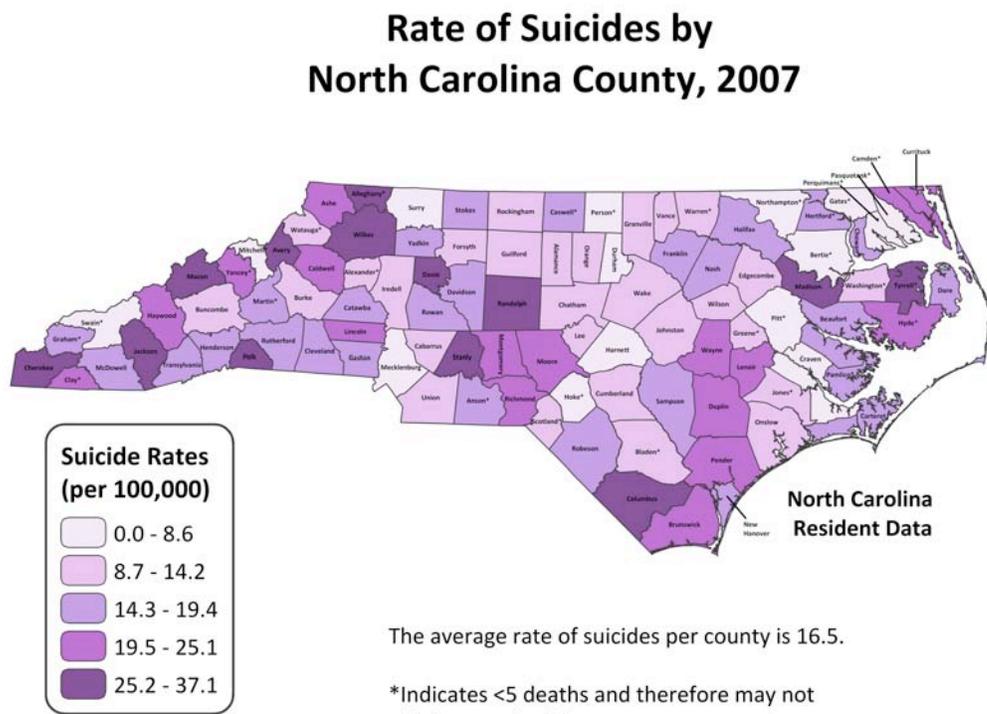
Table 10: Years of Education Completed for Adult Suicide Victims in N.C., 2007

	Number	Percent
Years of Education Completed		
< 9	73	6.9
9 to 11	173	16.4
12	427	40.4
> 12	372	35.2
Unknown	12	1.1
Total Deaths for Adults (18 years or older)	1,057	100

Table 11: Marital Status of Suicide Victims in N.C., 2007

	Number	Percent
Marital Status		
Married	453	41.8
Never Married	283	26.1
Separated/ Divorced	90	8.3
Widowed	253	23.3
Unknown	6	0.6
Total Deaths	1,085	100

Figure 10: Map of Suicide Death Rates by N.C. County of Residence, 2007



The average rate of suicides per county is 16.5.

*Indicates <5 deaths and therefore may not yield a meaningful rate.

Table 12: Highest Suicide Death Rates by N.C. County of Residence, 2007

N.C. County of Residence	Number	N.C. County Population	Rate
Avery	6	17,842	33.6
Jackson	12	36,272	33.1
Davie	13	40,364	32.2
Alleghany	3	10,874	*
Macon	9	32,595	27.6
Cherokee	7	26,436	26.5
Polk	5	18,951	26.4
Madison	5	20,278	24.7
Randolph	34	139,512	24.4
Columbus	13	53,966	24.1

* The number of deaths was too small to support the calculation of a rate.

Race and Gender of Suicide Victims

Table 13 and Figure 11 provide the proportion of suicide death victims in North Carolina in 2007 by gender and race.

Key Findings:

- Among suicide victims in North Carolina in 2007, 90.3 percent were white and 76.5 percent were men.
- Whites accounted for 89.8 percent of male suicide victims and 92.2 percent of female suicide victims.
- Blacks comprised 8.4 percent of male suicide victims and 5.9 percent of female suicide victims.
- American Indian, Asian and Pacific Islander combined comprised less than 2 percent of all suicide victims.

Age and Gender of Suicide Victims

Table 14 describes the suicide victims in North Carolina in 2007 by age group and gender. Figure 12 plots the 2007 suicide death rates per 100,000 in North Carolina by age group and gender.

Key Findings:

- Among males, the majority of suicide death victims were between ages 25 to 64 years with a rank order by age group of: 35-44 (20.6 percent), 45-54 (18.8 percent), 55-64 (15.3 percent) and 25-34 (15.1 percent).
- Similarly among females, the majority of suicide death victims were between ages 25 to 64 years with a rank order by age group of: 35-44 (24.7 percent), 45-54 (22.7 percent), 55-64 (17.3 percent) and 25-34 (11.8 percent).
- Males had higher rates of suicide death than females across all age groups with a rate 10.7 times higher in men than women in the ages of 75 to 84 years (38.4 vs. 3.6 per 100,000, respectively).
- For men, the trend in suicide death rate by age increased from age groups 10-14 to 35-44 years, remained relatively stable from ages 35 to 74, and reached a peak between ages 75-84 (38.4 per 100,000).
- The trend in suicide death rate by age for women increased slightly from age groups 15-20 to 25-34 years, peaked between ages 35-44 (9.4 per 100,000), and gradually declined in ages 45 years and older.

Table 13: Race by Gender of Suicide Victims in N.C., 2007

Race	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
American Indian	12	1.4	3	1.2	15	1.4
Asian	2	0.2	2	0.8	4	0.4
Black	70	8.4	15	5.9	85	7.8
Pacific Islander	1	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.1
White	745	89.8	235	92.2	980	90.3
Total Deaths	830	100	255	100	1,085	100

Figure 11: Race by Gender of Suicide Victims, N.C., 2007

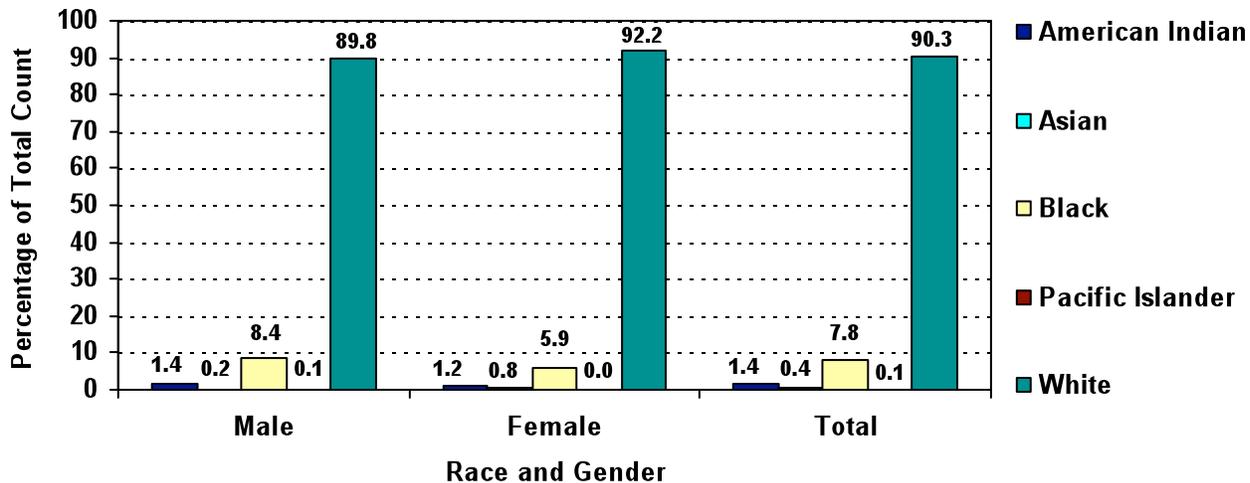
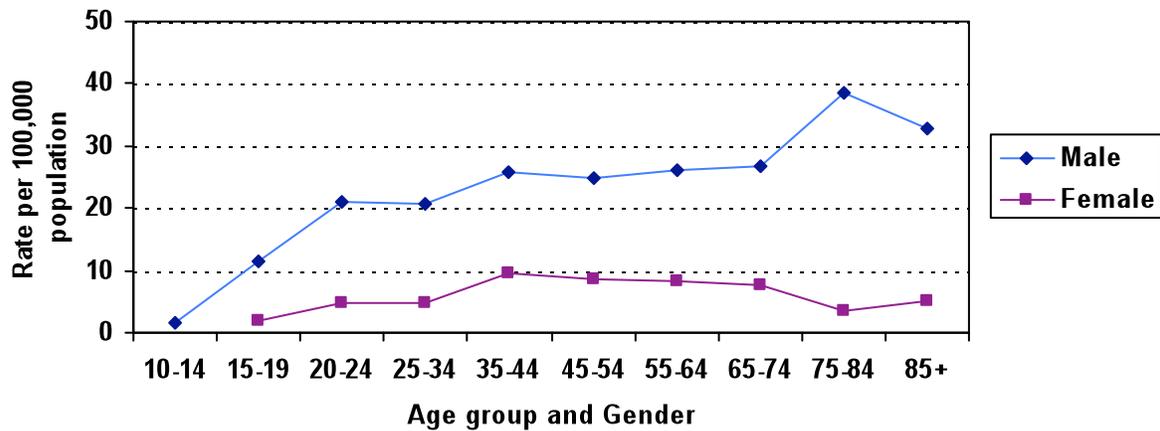


Table 14: Age Group by Gender of Suicide Victims in N.C., 2007

Age Group (years)	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
10 - 14	5	0.6	2	0.8	7	0.6
15 - 19	37	4.5	6	2.4	43	4.0
20 - 24	67	8.1	14	5.5	81	7.5
25 - 34	125	15.1	30	11.8	155	14.3
35 - 44	171	20.6	63	24.7	234	21.6
45 - 54	156	18.8	58	22.7	214	19.7
55 - 64	127	15.3	44	17.3	171	15.8
65 - 74	72	8.7	25	9.8	97	8.9
75 - 84	56	6.7	8	3.1	64	5.9
85 +	14	1.7	5	2.0	19	1.8
Total Deaths	830	100	255	100	1,085	100

Figure 12: Suicide Rates: Age Group by Gender of Victims, N.C., 2007



Circumstances of Suicide Victims

NC-VDRS collects data on the circumstances surrounding suicides based on information from law enforcement and medical examiner reports. However, circumstance data were not available for all suicide victims. In 2007, 92 percent of suicide deaths in ages 10 and older had data on circumstances available. A wide range of circumstances lead to suicide, and each victim may have more than one circumstance. Accordingly, the total number of circumstances may exceed the total number of suicide deaths.

Table 15 and Figure 13 show the percentage of circumstances for suicide victims stratified by gender based on the number of cases reporting circumstances in North Carolina in 2007. Table 16 lists the mental illnesses under treatment at the time of the suicide in 2007 in North Carolina for both men and women.

Key Findings:

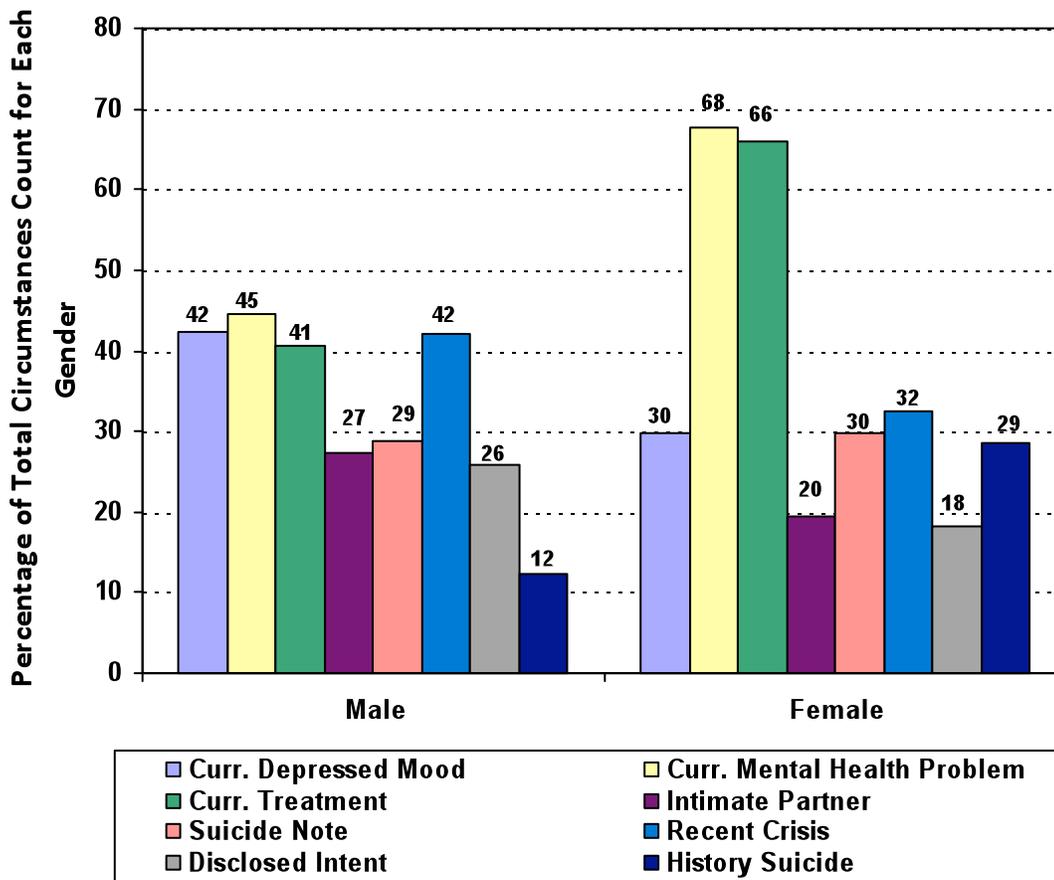
- Among male victims, the most common circumstances of suicide were: having a current mental health problem (44.5 percent); having been treated for mental illness ever (44.3 percent) or currently (40.6 percent); having a depressed mood (42.3 percent); and having a crisis in the past two weeks (42.2 percent).
- Similarly for female victims, the most common circumstances of suicide were: having been treated for mental illness ever (68.8 percent) or currently (66.3 percent); having a current mental health problem (67.9 percent); having a crisis in the past two weeks (32.1 percent); and having a depressed mood (29.6 percent).
- A suicide note was left by 28.7 percent male victims and 30.0 percent of female victims.
- Intent to commit suicide was disclosed by 25.8 percent of men and 17.9 percent of women.
- A history of suicide attempts was reported for 12.3 percent of male victims and 28.8 percent of female victims.
- Other common circumstances of suicide for men and women, respectively, were problems with an intimate partner (27.4 percent and 19.6 percent), physical health (20.9 percent and 19.6 percent), alcohol (14.6 percent and 14.6 percent) and other substance (12.8 percent and 19.6 percent).
- At the time of suicide, the most common mental illnesses under treatment were depression/dysthymia (72.8 percent), bipolar disorder (9.7 percent) and anxiety disorder (6.6 percent).

Table 15: Circumstances of Suicide Victims in N.C., 2007

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Victim Circumstances						
Current depressed mood	321	42.3	71	29.6	392	39.2
Current mental health problem	338	44.5	163	67.9	501	50.2
Current treatment for mental illness	308	40.6	159	66.3	467	46.7
Ever treated for mental illness	336	44.3	165	68.8	501	50.2
Alcohol problem	111	14.6	35	14.6	146	14.6
Other substance problem	97	12.8	47	19.6	144	14.4
Left a suicide note	218	28.7	72	30.0	290	29.0
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	196	25.8	43	17.9	239	23.9
History of suicide attempts	93	12.3	69	28.8	162	16.2
Crisis in past two weeks	320	42.2	77	32.1	397	39.7
Physical health problem	159	20.9	47	19.6	206	20.6
Intimate partner problem	208	27.4	47	19.6	255	25.5
Other relationship problem	58	7.6	20	8.3	78	7.8
Job problem	64	8.4	7	2.9	71	7.1
School problem	4	0.5	1	0.4	5	0.5
Financial problem	53	7.0	8	3.3	61	6.1
Suicide of friend/family in past 5 yrs	9	1.2	1	0.4	10	1.0
Other death of friend/family	29	3.8	8	3.3	37	3.7
Recent criminal legal problem	62	8.2	7	2.9	69	6.9
Other legal problems	17	2.2	5	2.1	22	2.2
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in past	58	7.6	2	0.8	60	6.0
Victim of interpersonal violence in past	0	0	1	0.4	1	0.1

* Circumstances are only available for 999 of the 1,085 suicide deaths where age was greater than or equal to 10.

Figure 13: Circumstances by Gender for Suicide Victims, N.C., 2007



Note: Multiple options are available; therefore, such responses add up to more than 100 percent. This Figure does not include all circumstances.

Table 16: Mental Illnesses Under Treatment at the Time of Suicide in N.C., 2007

	Male	Female	Total	
	Number	Number	Number	Percent
Mental Illness				
Depression/ dysthymia	286	136	422	72.8
Bipolar disorder	31	25	56	9.7
Anxiety disorder	22	16	38	6.6
Unknown	13	7	20	3.4
Schizophrenia	13	5	18	3.1
Other	9	2	11	1.9
Post-traumatic stress disorder	5	2	7	1.2
Obsessive-compulsive disorder	2	2	4	0.7
Attention deficit disorder (ADD) or hyper-reactivity disorder	2	1	3	0.5
Eating disorder	0	1	1	0.2

Section III: Homicide

Basic Characteristics of Homicide Deaths

Table 17 characterizes the homicide deaths in 2007 for residents of North Carolina by demographics of gender, race and age. Figure 14 displays the 2007 rate of homicide deaths in North Carolina by race and gender.

Key Findings:

- In 2007, 676 North Carolinians (7.5 per 100,000) were victims of homicide.
- Males were 3.6 times more likely to be victims of a homicide than females (11.8 vs. 3.3 per 100,000, respectively).
- American Indians (20.3 per 100,000) and blacks (17.4 per 100,000) had higher homicide rates than whites (4.4 per 100,000).
- Hispanics were nearly twice as likely to die from homicide as compared to non-Hispanics (13.2 vs. 7.0 per 100,000, respectively).
- Homicide rates were highest for age groups 20 to 24 years (19.0 per 100,000), 25 to 34 years (14.6 per 100,000) and less than 1 year (9.7 per 100,000).

The methods of homicide deaths in North Carolina in 2007 are summarized in Table 18 and Figure 15.

Key Findings:

- The leading methods of homicide death were firearm (67.5 percent), sharp instrument (13.8 percent) and blunt instrument (6.7 percent).
- Other methods accounted for 12.1 percent of homicide deaths and included unarmed assault, hanging/strangulation/suffocation, fire/burn, motor vehicle, violent shaking, poisoning, drowning, intentional neglect and other/unknown.

Homicide victims in North Carolina in 2007 are described by the number of years of completed education for adults (18 years or older) in Table 19 and by marital status in Table 20.

Key Findings:

- Although most (56.7 percent) adult homicide victims completed high school, 42.3 percent of adult homicide victims had less than 12 years of completed education.
- Most homicide victims were never married (58.7 percent) as opposed to married (25.9 percent), widowed (12.0 percent) or separated/divorced (2.8 percent).

Figure 16 graphically displays the homicide death rates in 2007 by county of residence. On average, the homicide death rate per N.C. county of residence was 6.9 deaths per 100,000. The 10 highest homicide rates by N.C. county of residence in 2007 are summarized in Table 21. Appendix A provides more information on the number of homicides in 2007 for each county where the injury occurred. As for the overall violent deaths, homicide death statistics should be interpreted with caution since the numbers of deaths by county are small and subject to variation.

Table 17: Gender, Race and Age Group of Homicide Victims in N.C., 2007

		Number	Percent	Rate	95 Percent CI
Gender					
	Female	153	22.6	3.3	2.8 – 3.8
	Male	523	77.4	11.8	10.8 – 12.8
Race					
	American Indian	24	3.6	20.3	12.2 – 28.4
	Asian	4	0.6	*	*
	Black	346	51.2	17.4	15.6 – 19.2
	Other/ Unknown	1	0.1	*	*
	Pacific Islander	1	0.1	*	*
	White	300	44.4	4.4	3.9 – 4.9
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	84	12.4	13.2	10.4 – 16
	Non-Hispanic	592	87.6	7.0	6.4 – 7.6
Age Group (years)					
	< 1	13	1.9	9.7	4.4 – 15
	1 - 4	10	1.5	2.0	0.8 – 3.2
	5 - 9	4	0.6	*	*
	10 - 14	10	1.5	1.7	0.7 – 2.7
	15 - 19	59	8.7	9.5	7.1 – 11.9
	20 - 24	116	17.2	19.0	15.5 – 22.5
	25 – 34	178	26.3	14.6	12.4 – 16.8
	35 – 44	125	18.5	9.3	7.7 – 10.9
	45 – 54	85	12.6	6.5	5.1 – 7.9
	55 – 64	39	5.8	3.8	2.6 – 5
	65 - 74	21	3.1	3.5	2 – 5
	75 - 84	13	1.9	3.5	1.6 – 5.4
	85 +	3	0.4	*	*
Total Deaths		676	100	7.5	6.9 - 8.1

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

95 Percent CI = 95 Percent Confidence Interval for the Rate

Figure 14: Homicide Rates by Gender and Race, N.C., 2007

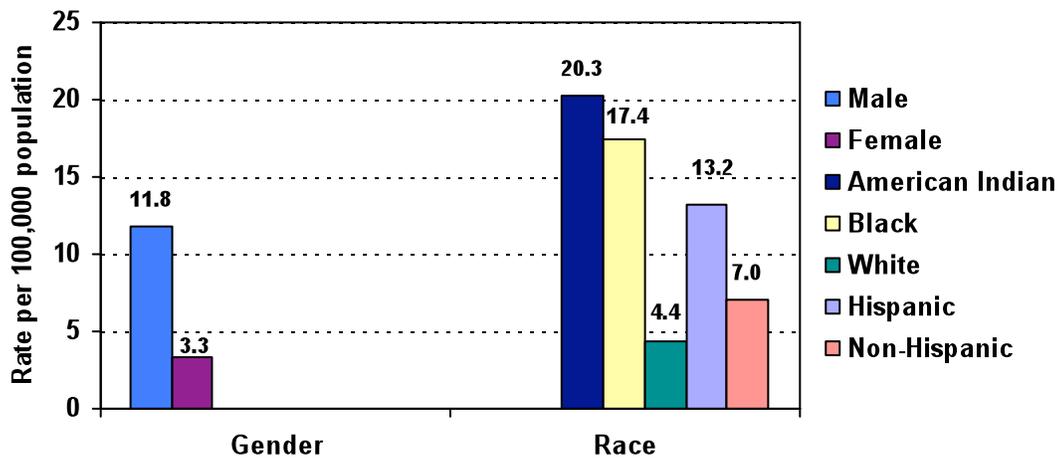
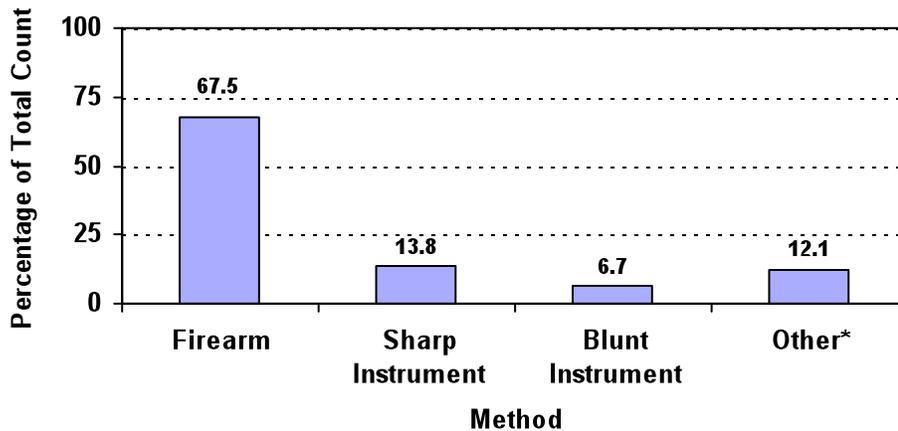


Table 18: Method of Death for Homicide Deaths in N.C., 2007

Method	Number	Percent
Firearm	456	67.5
Sharp instrument	93	13.8
Blunt instrument	45	6.7
Unarmed Assault	34	5.0
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	23	3.4
Fire/ Burn	5	0.7
Motor Vehicle	5	0.7
Violent Shaking	3	0.4
Poisoning	2	0.3
Drowning	2	0.3
Intentional Neglect	2	0.3
Unknown	6	0.9
Total Deaths	676	100

Figure 15: Method of Death for Homicide Deaths, N.C., 2007



*Other includes: hanging/strangulation/suffocation, poisoning, unarmed assault, drowning, fire/ burn, violent shaking, motor vehicle, intentional neglect and unknown.

Table 19: Years of Education Completed for Adult Homicide Victims in N.C., 2007

	Number	Percent
Years of Education Completed		
< 9	57	9.3
9 to 11	202	33.0
12	221	36.1
> 12	126	20.6
Unknown	6	1.0
Total Deaths for Adults (18 years or older)	612	100

Table 20: Marital Status of Homicide Victims in N.C., 2007

	Number	Percent
Marital Status		
Married	175	25.9
Never Married	397	58.7
Separated/ Divorced	19	2.8
Widowed	81	12.0
Unknown	4	0.6
Total Deaths	676	100

Figure 16: Map of Homicide Death Rates by N.C. County of Residence, 2007

Rate of Homicides by North Carolina County, 2007

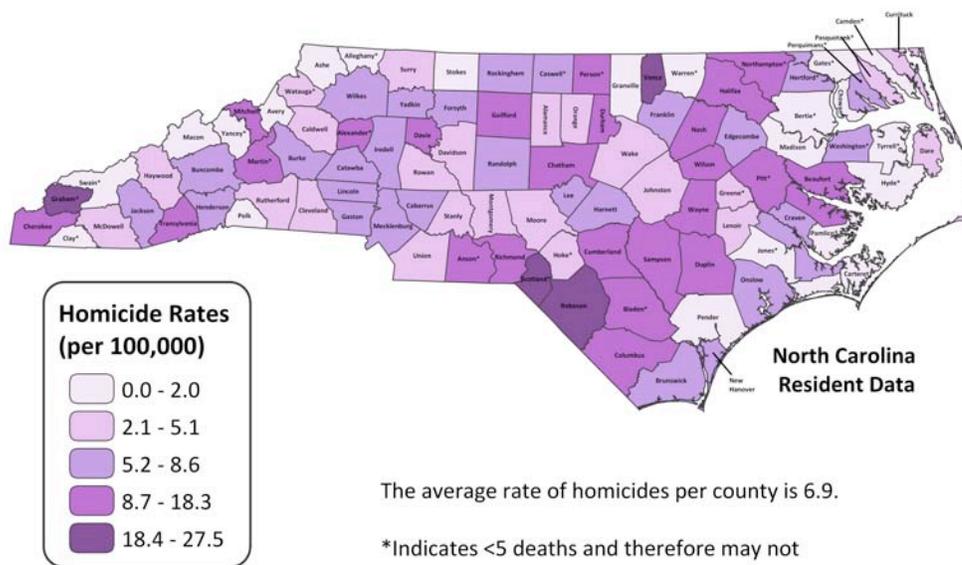


Table 21: Highest Homicide Death Rates by N.C. County of Residence, 2007

N.C. County of Residence	Number	N.C. County Population	Rate
Scotland	10	36,341	27.5
Robeson	35	128,066	27.3
Graham	2	7,833	*
Vance	9	42,892	21.0
Wilson	14	76,532	18.3
Wayne	19	113,396	16.8
Columbus	9	53,966	16.7
Northhampton	3	20,756	*
Nash	13	92,705	14.0
Beaufort	6	45,636	13.1

* The number of deaths was too small to support the calculation of a rate.

Race and Gender of Homicide Victims

Table 22 and Figure 17 describe the 2007 North Carolina homicide victims by gender and race.

Key Findings:

- Males represented 77.4 percent of homicide victims in North Carolina in 2007.
- Among male homicide victims, 54.7 percent were black and 40.3 percent were white.
- Conversely for female homicide victims, 58.2 percent were white and 39.2 percent were black.
- American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander and Other/Unknown race combined accounted for less than 5 percent of all homicide victims.

Age and Gender of Homicide Victims

The age and gender of homicide victims in North Carolina in 2007 are provided in Table 23. The 2007 homicide rates per 100,000 in North Carolina are depicted by age group and gender in Figure 18.

Key Findings:

- Among males, the majority of homicide victims were between ages 15 to 54 years with a rank order by age group of: 25-34 (27.9 percent), 20-24 (19.9 percent), 35-44 (17.2 percent), 45-54 (10.7 percent) and 15-19 (10.1 percent).
- Among females, the majority of homicide victims were between ages 20 to 54 years with a rank order by age group of: 35-44 (22.9 percent), 25-34 (20.9 percent), 45-54 (19.0 percent) and 20-24 (7.8 percent).
- Males had higher homicide rates than females across all age groups and were 7 to 8 times more likely to die of homicide than females from ages 15 to 24 years.
- Males had a sharp increase in the trend in homicide rate by age from age groups 10-14 years to 20-24 years with a peak rate for ages 20 to 24 years (32.4 per 100,000) followed by a decline in rate with older age.
- For females, the trend in homicide rate by age was highest in infants under 1 year of age (7.7 per 100,000) and remained relatively low (≤ 5.2 per 100,000) and consistent between 15 and 84 years of age.

Table 22: Race by Gender of Homicide Victims in N.C., 2007

Race	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
American Indian	20	3.8	4	2.6	24	3.6
Asian	4	0.8	0	0	4	0.6
Black	286	54.7	60	39.2	346	51.2
Other/Unknown	1	0.2	0	0	1	0.1
Pacific Islander	1	0.2	0	0	1	0.1
White	211	40.3	89	58.2	300	44.4
Total Deaths	523	100	153	100	676	100

Figure 17: Race by Gender of Homicide Victims, N.C., 2007

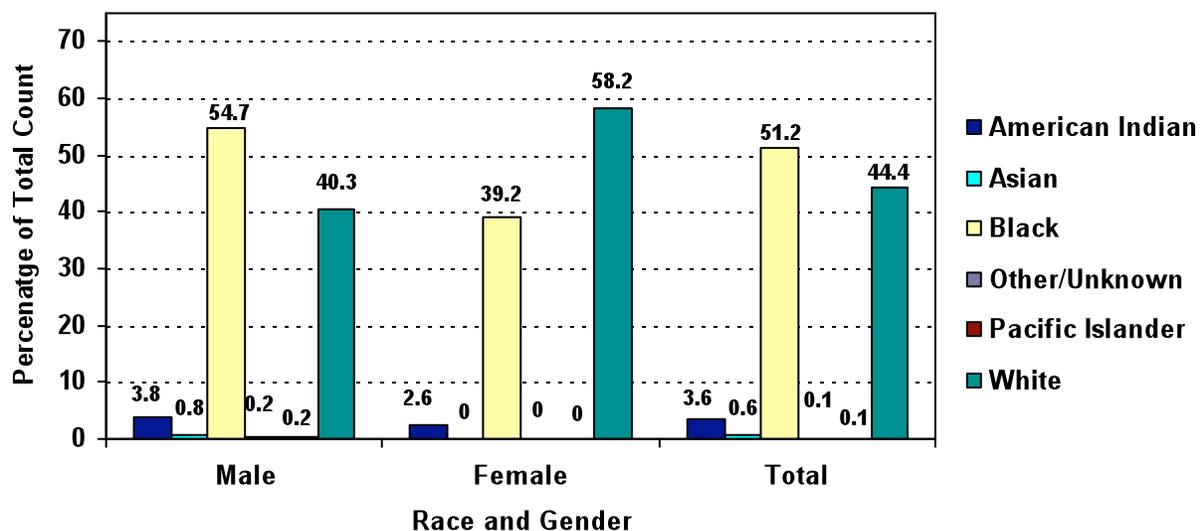
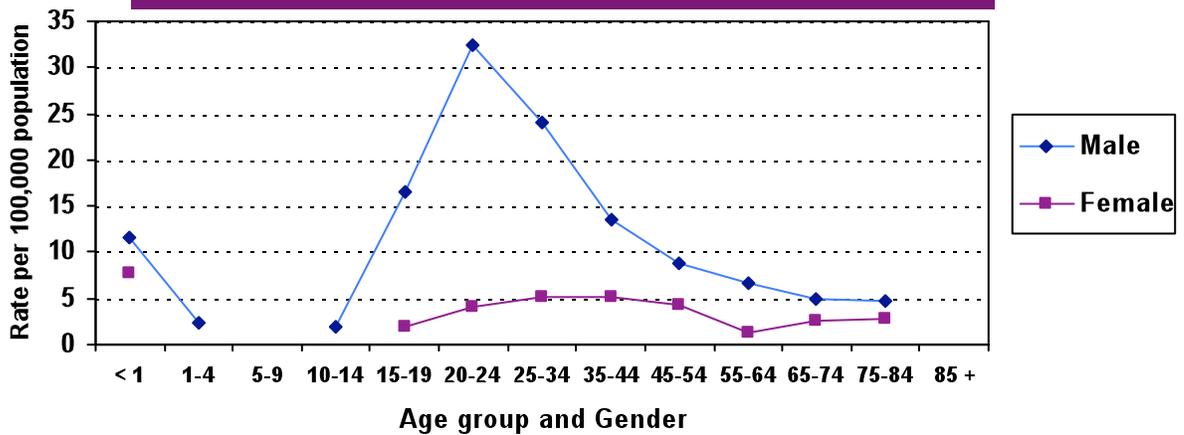


Table 23: Age Group by Gender of Homicide Victims in N.C., 2007

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Age Group (years)						
< 1	8	1.5	5	3.3	13	1.9
1 - 4	6	1.1	4	2.6	10	1.5
5 - 9	0	0.0	4	2.6	4	0.6
10 - 14	6	1.1	4	2.6	10	1.5
15 - 19	53	10.1	6	3.9	59	8.7
20 - 24	104	19.9	12	7.8	116	17.2
25 - 34	146	27.9	32	20.9	178	26.3
35 - 44	90	17.2	35	22.9	125	18.5
45 - 54	56	10.7	29	19.0	85	12.6
55 - 64	32	6.1	7	4.6	39	5.8
65 - 74	13	2.5	8	5.2	21	3.1
75 - 84	7	1.3	6	3.9	13	1.9
85 +	2	0.4	1	0.7	3	0.4
Total Deaths	523	100	153	100	676	100

Figure 18: Homicide Rates: Age Group by Gender of Victims, N.C., 2007



Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

Circumstances of Homicide Victims

NC-VDRS collects data on the event and victim circumstances involving homicides to help understand the underlying causes of violent death. However, circumstance data were not available for all homicides. In 2007, 90 percent of homicide victims had data available for at least one circumstance related to the homicide. Since each victim may have more than one circumstance, the total number of circumstances may exceed the total number of homicides.

Note that drug-related homicides are characterized in two ways. If the drug-related crime (e.g., drug sales) was part of the homicide, then the circumstances are categorized as “precipitated by another crime” and the crime is listed as “drug trade.” If drugs played a role in the homicide, then the homicide is classified as “drug involvement.” In addition, gang-related crimes are likely significantly undercounted because these crimes are difficult to identify and definitions differ across agencies.

Table 24 displays the percentage of circumstances for homicide victims based on the number of cases reporting circumstances in North Carolina in 2007. Table 25 lists the crimes that precipitated the homicide in 2007 in North Carolina stratified by gender.

Key Findings:

- The most common event circumstances surrounding homicides included: 46.8 percent were related to an argument, abuse or conflict; 34.0 percent were precipitated by another serious crime; 18.2 percent were related to intimate partner violence; and 12.8 percent had drug involvement.
- The most common crimes that precipitated the homicide were robbery (39.4 percent), burglary (21.2 percent) and drug trade (16.3 percent).
- Common homicide victim characteristics included: the victim used a weapon in 10.2 percent of cases; the homicide was justifiable self-defense in 3.1 percent of cases; and the victim was a bystander in 2.1 percent of cases.

Table 24: Circumstances of Homicides in N.C., 2007

		Number*	Percent
Event Circumstances			
	Other argument, abuse, conflict	285	46.8
	Precipitated by another serious crime	207	34.0
	Intimate partner violence related	111	18.2
	Drug Involvement	78	12.8
	Argument over money or property	23	3.8
	Gang related	23	3.8
	Jealousy (Lovers Triangle)	15	2.5
	Brawl (Mutual Physical Fight)	2	0.3
	Mercy killing	1	0.2
Victim Characteristics			
	Victim used a weapon	62	10.2
	Justifiable self defense	19	3.1
	Victim was a bystander	13	2.1
	Intervener assisting Crime Victim	4	0.7
	Victim was a Police Officer on Duty	2	0.3

* Only 609 of the 676 homicides cases had circumstance information.

Table 25: Crimes Precipitating Homicides in N.C., 2007

	Male	Female	Total	
	Number	Number	Number	Percent
Crime				
Robbery	88	16	104	39.4
Burglary	46	10	56	21.2
Drug Trade	39	4	43	16.3
Assault, Homicide	19	3	22	8.3
Rape, Sexual Assault	2	10	12	4.5
Motor Vehicle Theft	10	1	11	4.2
Arson	5	2	7	2.7
Other	4	1	5	1.9
Gambling	2	0	2	0.8
Witness Intimidation/Elimination	2	0	2	0.8

Section IV: Legal Intervention

NC-VDRS compiles data on legal intervention deaths, which would have been classified as homicide by the medical examiner but are defined by NVDRS as legal intervention. Legal intervention deaths represent victims killed by a police officer, military police officer or other peace officer (person with specified legal authority to use deadly force) acting in the line of duty. Legal executions are not included in the national system (NVDRS) but are reported in the state system (NC-VDRS) as legal intervention deaths. Table 26 summarizes the legal intervention deaths in North Carolina in 2007 by gender, race and age group. Caution should be used in interpreting the rates because of the very small number of legal intervention deaths.

Key Findings:

- In 2007, 13 residents of North Carolina (0.1 per 100,000) died from legal intervention.
- All victims of legal intervention were males between the ages of 15 and 64 years with the highest proportion (38.5 percent) in the age group of 20 to 24 years.
- Legal intervention victims were 53.8 percent white, 46.2 percent black, 76.9 percent non-Hispanic and 23.1 percent Hispanic.

Table 26: Gender, Race and Age Group of Legal Intervention Deaths in N.C., 2007

		Number	Percent	Rate	95 Percent CI
Gender					
	Female	0	0	*	*
	Male	13	100	0.3	0.1 - 0.5
Race					
	Black	6	46.2	0.3	0.1 - 0.5
	White	7	53.8	0.1	0 - 0.2
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	3	23.1	*	*
	Non-Hispanic	10	76.9	0.1	0 - 0.2
Age Group (years)					
	15 - 19	2	15.4	*	*
	20 - 24	5	38.5	0.8	0.1 - 1.5
	25 - 34	2	15.4	*	*
	35 - 44	2	15.4	*	*
	45 - 54	1	7.7	*	*
	55 - 64	1	7.7	*	*
Total Deaths		13	100	0.1	0 - 0.2

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

95 Percent CI = 95 Percent Confidence Interval for the Rate

Note: Legal intervention deaths include legal executions.

Section V: Unintentional Firearm Death

An unintentional firearm death results from the discharge of a firearm that killed a victim but the firearm was not intentionally directed at the victim. Therefore, unintentional firearm death is considered separately from a firearm-related suicide or homicide. Table 27 describes the unintentional firearm injury deaths in North Carolina in 2007 by gender, race and age group. Caution should be used in interpreting the rates because of the very small number of unintentional firearm deaths.

Key Findings:

- In 2007, nine North Carolinians (0.1 per 100,000) died from an unintentional firearm injury.
- Unintentional firearm victims were 88.9 percent male, 66.7 percent white, 33.3 percent black and 100 percent non-Hispanic.
- Deaths from an unintentional firearm injury occurred in ages 5 to 34 years and 75 years or older.

Table 27: Gender, Race and Age Group of Unintentional Firearm Injury Deaths in N.C., 2007

		Number	Percent	Rate	95 Percent CI
Gender					
	Female	1	11.1	*	*
	Male	8	88.9	0.2	0.1 - 0.3
Race					
	Black	3	33.3	*	*
	White	6	66.7	0.1	0 - 0.2
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	0	0	*	*
	Non-Hispanic	9	100	0.1	0 - 0.2
Age Group (years)					
	5 - 9	1	11.1	*	*
	10 - 14	1	11.1	*	*
	15 - 19	2	22.2	*	*
	20 - 24	1	11.1	*	*
	25 - 34	1	11.1	*	*
	35 - 44	0	0	*	*
	45 - 54	0	0	*	*
	55 - 64	0	0	*	*
	65 - 74	0	0	*	*
	75 - 84	2	22.2	*	*
	85 +	1	11.1	*	*
Total Deaths		9	100	0.1	0 - 0.2

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

95 Percent CI = 95 Percent Confidence Interval for the Rate

Section VI: Child Death

Table 28 characterizes violent deaths for children under the age of 18 years in North Carolina in 2007 by gender, race and age group.

Key Findings:

- In 2007, 99 children in North Carolina (4.5 per 100,000) died as a result of violence.
- Male children were 2.7 times more likely to be victims of violent death than female children (6.5 vs. 2.4 per 100,000, respectively).
- Black children had a violent death rate 2.2 times higher than white children (7.8 vs. 3.5 per 100,000, respectively).
- Hispanic and non-Hispanic children had similar rates of violent death (4.8 vs. 4.4 per 100,000, respectively).
- The highest rates of child violent death were in the age groups of 15 to 17 years (13.6 per 100,000) and less than 1 year (9.7 per 100,000).

Table 29 provides the manner and method of violent death for child victims in North Carolina in 2007. Table 30 describes the manner of violent death in North Carolina in 2007 by race of the child victim. Child violent death victims in North Carolina during 2007 are stratified by age group for manner of death in Table 31 and for method of death in Table 32.

Key Findings:

- The leading causes of child violent death were homicide (64.6 percent) and suicide (28.3 percent).
- The most common methods of child violent death were firearm (53.5 percent), hanging/suffocation/strangulation (19.2 percent) and unarmed assault (8.1 percent).
- Of the 44 violent deaths in black children, 84.1 percent were homicides and 11.4 percent were suicides.
- Of the 54 violent deaths in white children, 48.1 percent were homicides and 42.6 percent were suicides.
- Homicide accounted for 100 percent of child violent deaths in ages 4 and younger, 80.0 percent in ages 5-9, 50.0 percent in ages 10-14, and 52.9 percent in ages 15-17.
- Suicide represented 35.0 percent of child violent deaths in ages 10-14 and 41.2 percent in ages 15-17.
- Unarmed assault was a leading method of violent death in children ages 4 and younger, whereas firearm was the leading method in ages 5 to 17.
- Hanging/strangulation/suffocation was also a leading method of violent death for infants less than 1 year of age and the second leading method in ages 10 to 17.

Table 28: Gender, Race and Age Group of Child Violent Deaths in N.C., 2007

		Number	Percent	Rate	95 Percent CI
Gender					
	Female	26	26.3	2.4	1.5 - 3.3
	Male	73	73.7	6.5	5 - 8
Race					
	American Indian	1	1	*	*
	Black	44	44.4	7.8	5.5 - 10.1
	White	54	54.5	3.5	2.6 - 4.4
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	12	12.1	4.8	2.1 - 7.5
	Non-Hispanic	87	87.9	4.4	3.5 - 5.3
Age Group (years)					
	< 1	13	13.1	9.7	4.4 - 15
	1 – 4	10	10.1	2.0	0.8 - 3.2
	5 – 9	5	5.1	0.8	0.1 - 1.5
	10 – 14	20	20.2	3.4	1.9 - 4.9
	15 – 17	51	51.5	13.6	9.9 - 17.3
Total Deaths		99	100	4.5	3.6 - 5.4

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

95 Percent CI = 95 Percent Confidence Interval for the Rate

Table 29: Manner and Method of Child Violent Death Victims in N.C., 2007

Manner of Death		Number	Percent
	Homicide	64	64.6
	Suicide	28	28.3
	Unintentional Firearm	3	3.0
	Legal Intervention	2	2.0
	Undetermined Intent	2	2.0
Method of Death			
	Firearm	53	53.5
	Hanging, suffocation, strangulation	19	19.2
	Unarmed Assault	8	8.1
	Poisoning	6	6.1
	Sharp instrument	6	6.1
	Violent Shaking	3	3.0
	Blunt instrument	2	2.0
	Intentional neglect	2	2.0
Total Deaths		99	100

Table 30: Violent Death Manner by Race for Child Victims in N.C., 2007

	Number of Deaths by Manner of Death					
	Suicide	Homicide	Unintentional Firearm	Legal Intervention	Undetermined Intent	Total
Race						
American Indian	0	1	0	0	0	1
Black	5	37	1	1	0	44
White	23	26	2	1	2	54
Total Deaths	28	64	3	2	2	99

Table 31: Violent Death Manner by Age Group for Child Victims in N.C., 2007

	Number of Deaths by Age Group (years)					
	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-17	Total
Manner						
Suicide	0	0	0	7	21	28
Homicide	13	10	4	10	27	64
Unintentional Firearm	0	0	1	1	1	3
Legal Intervention	0	0	0	0	2	2
Undetermined Intent	0	0	0	2	0	2
Total Deaths	13	10	5	20	51	99

Table 32: Violent Death Method by Age Group for Child Victims in N.C., 2007

	Number of Deaths by Age Group (years)					
	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-17	Total
Method						
Sharp Instrument	1	1	1	1	2	6
Blunt Instrument	1	1	0	0	0	2
Poisoning	1	0	0	1	4	6
Hanging/ Strangulation/ Suffocation	3	0	1	8	7	19
Unarmed Assault	3	5	0	0	0	8
Violent Shaking	2	1	0	0	0	3
Intentional Neglect	2	0	0	0	0	2
Firearm	0	2	3	10	38	53
Total Deaths	13	10	5	20	51	99

Section VII: Weapons

The type of weapon used in violent deaths in North Carolina in 2007 is categorized by manner of death in Table 33. Note that similar weapons are counted once (i.e., if four poisons were used in a suicide, poison was counted once as a weapon). For violent deaths from a firearm, the type of firearm by manner of death is shown in Table 34.

Key Findings:

- Firearms were the most common weapon used for all manners of violent death except for undetermined intent. Firearms accounted for 59.5 percent of all violent deaths, 56.4 percent of suicides, 67.5 percent of homicides, 92.3 percent of legal intervention deaths and 100 percent of unintentional firearm deaths.
- The most common weapon used in firearm deaths was a handgun (74.2 percent) followed by a shotgun (13.7 percent) and a rifle (10.2 percent).
- Considering firearm deaths only, a handgun was the most frequently used firearm for suicides (68.5 percent), homicides (81.8 percent), legal intervention deaths (91.7 percent), unintentional firearm deaths (66.7 percent) and undetermined intent deaths (62.5 percent).
- For suicides, other common weapons were poisoning (21.1 percent) and hanging/strangulation/suffocation (17.8 percent).
- For homicides, other common weapons were a sharp instrument (13.8 percent) and a blunt instrument (6.7 percent).
- For deaths of undetermined intent, poisoning (59.7 percent), firearm (12.9 percent) and fire/burn (8.1 percent) were the most common weapons used.

Table 33: Type of Weapon by Manner of Death in N.C., 2007

Weapon Type	Manner of Death										Total	
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Firearm	612	56.4	456	67.5	9	100.0	12	92.3	8	12.9	1,097	59.5
Sharp instrument	17	1.6	93	13.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	110	6.0
Blunt instrument	0	0.0	45	6.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.6	46	2.5
Poisoning	229	21.1	2	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	37	59.7	268	14.5
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	193	17.8	23	3.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	4.8	219	11.9
Unarmed Assault	0	0.0	34	5.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	34	1.8
Fall	6	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.6	7	0.4
Drowning	10	0.9	2	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	12	0.7
Fire or burns	6	0.6	5	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	8.1	16	0.9
Violent Shaking	0	0.0	3	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.2
Motor Vehicle	3	0.3	5	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.6	9	0.5
Other transport vehicle	6	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	0.3
Intentional neglect	0	0.0	2	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.1
Other/Unknown	3	0.3	6	0.9	0	0.0	1	7.7	6	9.7	16	0.9
Total Deaths	1,085	100	676	100	9	100	13	100	62	100	1,845	100

= Number % = Percent

Table 34: Type of Firearm by Manner of Death in N.C., 2007
For Firearm Deaths only

Firearm Type	Manner of Death										Total	
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Handgun	419	68.5	373	81.8	6	66.7	11	91.7	5	62.5	814	74.2
Shotgun	107	17.5	42	9.2	1	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	150	13.7
Rifle	79	12.9	29	6.4	2	22.2	1	8.3	1	12.5	112	10.2
Unknown firearm type	6	1.0	10	2.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	25.0	18	1.6
Other	1	0.2	2	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.3
Total Deaths	612	100	456	100	9	100	12	100	8	100	1,097	100

= Number % = Percent

Section VIII: Undetermined Intent

The NC-VDRS categorizes undetermined intent deaths as deaths with some evidence of intent but without enough information to definitively classify the death as purposeful. Table 35 lists the characteristics of undetermined intent deaths by gender, race and age group.

Key Findings:

- In 2007, 62 undetermined intent deaths (0.7 per 100,000) were reported in North Carolina.
- Men and women had similar undetermined intent death rates (0.7 vs. 0.6 per 100,000, respectively).
- Although 77.4 percent of undetermined intent victims were white, the undetermined intent death rate was equal for whites and blacks (both 0.7 per 100,000).
- The majority (56.4 percent) of undetermined intent deaths were in ages 35-54 (rate of 1.3 per 100,000 by age group).
- All undetermined intent death victims were non-Hispanic (0.7 per 100,000).

Table 35: Gender, Race and Age Group of Undetermined Intent Deaths in N.C., 2007

		Number	Percent	Rate	95 Percent CI
Gender					
	Female	30	48.4	0.6	0.4 - 0.8
	Male	32	51.6	0.7	0.4 - 1
Race					
	American Indian	1	1.6	*	*
	Black	13	21.0	0.7	0.3 - 1.1
	White	48	77.4	0.7	0.5 - 0.9
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	0	0	*	*
	Non-Hispanic	62	100	0.7	0.5 - 0.9
Age Group (years)					
	10 - 14	2	3.2	*	*
	15 - 19	1	1.6	*	*
	20 - 24	1	1.6	*	*
	25 - 34	8	12.9	0.7	0.2 - 1.2
	35 - 44	18	29.0	1.3	0.7 - 1.9
	45 - 54	17	27.4	1.3	0.7 - 1.9
	55 - 64	11	17.7	1.1	0.5 - 1.7
	65 - 74	2	3.2	*	*
	75 - 84	2	3.2	*	*
Total Deaths		62	100	0.7	0.5 - 0.9

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.
95 Percent CI = 95 Percent Confidence Interval for the Rate

Section IX: Violent Death Trends Over Time

Table 36 shows the number of deaths and the rate of deaths over time in North Carolina from 2004 to 2007 including overall violent deaths, suicides for N.C. residents aged 10 and older, and homicides. Figure 19 plots the overall violent death, suicide and homicide rates in N.C. from 2004 to 2007.

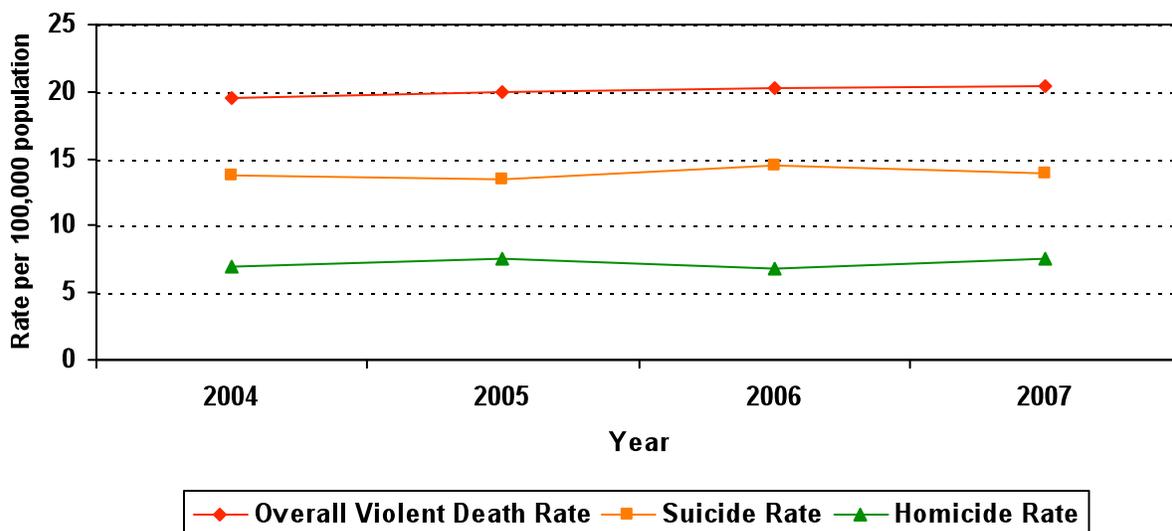
Key Findings:

- The overall violent death rate in North Carolina remained relatively unchanged from 19.6 per 100,000 in 2004 to 20.4 per 100,000 in 2007.
- Over 2004 to 2007 in North Carolina, the death rates were stable for suicides (range of 13.5 to 14.5 per 100,000 by year) and homicides (range of 6.8 to 7.5 per 100,000 by year).

Table 36: Trend in Violent Deaths Over Time in N.C., 2007

Year	Overall		Suicide (Age 10+)		Homicide	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2004	1,674	19.6	1,017	13.8	585	6.9
2005	1,734	20.0	1,009	13.5	646	7.5
2006	1,789	20.2	1,107	14.5	605	6.8
2007	1,845	20.4	1,085	13.9	676	7.5

Figure 19: Violent Death Rate Over Time, N.C., 2004 to 2007



Appendix A: Violent Deaths by N.C. County of Injury and Manner of Death: 2007

Appendix A: Number of Violent Deaths by N.C. County of Injury and Manner of Death, 2007							
N.C. County of Injury	Number of Deaths by Manner of Death					Total Deaths	
	Suicide	Homicide	Unintentional Firearm	Legal Intervention	Undetermined	Number	Rate
Alamance	17	7	0	0	2	26	18.0
Alexander	4	4	0	0	0	8	*
Alleghany	3	0	0	0	0	3	*
Anson	4	3	0	0	0	7	*
Ashe	5	0	0	0	1	6	*
Avery	5	0	0	1	0	6	*
Beaufort	6	4	0	0	0	10	21.9
Bertie	1	0	0	0	0	1	*
Bladen	3	3	0	0	0	6	*
Brunswick	18	7	1	0	0	26	26.3
Buncombe	27	17	1	0	4	49	21.6
Burke	9	8	1	1	1	20	22.5
Cabarrus	19	9	0	0	1	29	17.8
Caldwell	15	2	0	0	2	19	23.9
Camden	2	0	0	0	0	2	*
Carteret	11	1	0	0	1	13	20.6
Caswell	3	3	0	0	0	6	*
Catawba	23	8	1	1	1	34	21.9
Chatham	5	5	0	0	0	10	16.4
Cherokee	7	3	0	0	1	11	41.6
Chowan	2	1	0	0	0	3	*
Clay	2	0	0	0	1	3	*
Cleveland	14	6	0	0	2	22	22.4
Columbus	12	8	0	0	1	21	38.9
Craven	6	6	1	1	1	15	15.6

Appendix A: Number of Violent Deaths by N.C. County of Injury and Manner of Death, 2007

N.C. County of Injury	Number of Deaths by Manner of Death					Total Deaths	
	Suicide	Homicide	Unintentional Firearm	Legal Intervention	Undetermined	Number	Rate
Cumberland	29	32	0	1	1	63	20.4
Currituck	5	1	0	0	0	6	*
Dare	5	0	0	0	0	5	*
Davidson	26	3	0	0	1	30	19.2
Davie	12	6	0	0	0	18	44.6
Duplin	11	5	0	0	0	16	30.4
Durham	16	30	0	2	1	49	19.2
Edgecombe	5	6	0	0	0	11	20.9
Forsyth	38	29	0	0	3	70	20.7
Franklin	6	2	0	0	0	8	*
Gaston	33	8	0	0	3	44	21.8
Gates	1	0	0	0	0	1	*
Graham	1	1	0	0	0	2	*
Granville	7	1	0	0	1	9	*
Greene	2	0	0	0	0	2	*
Guilford	52	50	0	0	3	105	22.6
Halifax	7	6	0	0	0	13	23.6
Harnett	4	6	0	0	1	11	10.1
Haywood	11	2	0	0	0	13	23.0
Henderson	12	4	0	0	0	16	15.9
Hertford	3	2	0	0	0	5	*
Hoke	2	2	0	0	0	4	*
Hyde	1	0	0	0	0	1	*
Iredell	19	12	1	1	2	35	23.2
Jackson	10	2	0	0	0	12	33.1
Johnston	15	6	0	0	1	22	14.0

Appendix A: Number of Violent Deaths by N.C. County of Injury and Manner of Death, 2007

N.C. County of Injury	Number of Deaths by Manner of Death					Total Deaths	
	Suicide	Homicide	Unintentional Firearm	Legal Intervention	Undetermined	Number	Rate
Jones	1	1	0	0	0	2	*
Lee	7	7	0	0	0	14	24.2
Lenoir	9	2	0	0	0	11	19.4
Lincoln	11	6	0	0	0	17	23.4
McDowell	6	2	0	0	0	8	*
Macon	10	0	0	0	0	10	30.7
Madison	5	0	0	0	1	6	*
Martin	5	4	0	0	0	9	*
Mecklenburg	60	78	2	2	1	143	16.6
Mitchell	1	2	0	0	0	3	*
Montgomery	5	1	0	0	0	6	*
Moore	17	3	0	0	2	22	26.1
Nash	11	14	0	0	0	25	27.0
New Hanover	29	15	0	1	2	47	24.7
Northhampton	1	2	0	1	0	4	*
Onslow	17	9	0	0	1	27	16.5
Orange	12	5	0	0	1	18	14.5
Pamlico	2	0	0	0	0	2	*
Pasquotank	2	2	0	0	0	4	*
Pender	10	1	0	0	0	11	22.1
Perquimans	0	1	0	0	1	2	*
Person	1	3	0	0	0	4	*
Pitt	3	16	0	0	0	19	12.5
Polk	4	0	0	0	0	4	*
Randolph	30	10	0	0	3	43	30.8
Richmond	9	7	0	0	0	16	34.8
Robeson	16	36	0	0	3	55	42.9

Appendix A: Number of Violent Deaths by N.C. County of Injury and Manner of Death, 2007

N.C. County of Injury	Number of Deaths by Manner of Death					Total Deaths	
	Suicide	Homicide	Unintentional Firearm	Legal Intervention	Undetermined	Number	Rate
Rockingham	9	5	0	0	1	15	16.3
Rowan	20	5	0	0	0	25	18.2
Rutherford	9	2	0	0	1	12	19.1
Sampson	7	8	0	0	1	16	25.3
Scotland	3	9	0	0	0	12	33
Stanly	13	2	0	0	0	15	25.4
Stokes	7	0	0	0	0	7	*
Surry	6	2	0	0	0	8	*
Swain	3	0	0	0	0	3	*
Transylvania	5	4	0	0	0	9	*
Tyrrell	1	0	0	0	0	1	*
Union	14	6	0	0	1	21	11.4
Vance	5	9	0	0	0	14	32.6
Wake	72	32	0	1	2	107	12.9
Warren	3	1	0	0	0	4	*
Washington	1	1	0	0	0	2	*
Watauga	6	2	0	0	2	10	22.5
Wayne	22	20	1	0	2	45	39.7
Wilkes	17	4	0	0	0	21	31.5
Wilson	8	11	0	0	0	19	24.8
Yadkin	5	2	0	0	1	8	*
Yancey	4	1	0	0	0	5	*
Total Deaths**	1,080	674	9	13	62	1,838	20.3

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

** **Note:** For seven cases, the county of injury was unknown, the injury occurred out of state prior to death in N.C., or there were multiple victims in multiple counties. Therefore, the number of deaths by N.C. county of injury differs slightly from the number by N.C. county of residence.

Appendix B: Population Data for Rate Calculations

Appendix B: Population Data for Rate Calculations			
		Number of Total Population	Number of Children (age <18)
Gender			
	Female	4,621,342	1,078,694
	Male	4,420,252	1,129,785
Race			
	American Indian	118,078	34,091
	Asian	186,302	53,109
	Black	1,986,961	563,711
	Other/ Unknown	0	0
	Pacific Islander	included in Asian	included in Asian
	White	6,750,253	1,557,568
Hispanic			
	Hispanic	637,379	248,838
	Non-Hispanic	8,404,215	1,959,641
Age Group (years)			
	< 1	133,357	133,357
	1 - 4	501,104	501,104
	5 - 9	608,662	608,662
	10 - 14	591,692	591,692
	15 - 19	620,659	(ages 15-17) 373,664
	20 - 24	610,557	N/A
	25 - 34	1,215,863	N/A
	35 - 44	1,336,930	N/A
	45 - 54	1,297,944	N/A
	55 - 64	1,021,447	N/A
	65 - 74	591,550	N/A
	75 - 84	369,615	N/A
	85 +	142,214	N/A
Total Population		9,041,594	2,208,479

Note: Race categories include both Hispanic and non-Hispanic ethnicity.

Appendix C: Advisory Boards, 2007

The list of advisory board members below represents the membership and their positions during the year of this report.

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Tamera Coyne-Beasley, MD, MPH

Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine, Core Faculty of the Injury Prevention Research Center, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Board Facilitator:

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Research Assistant, NC-VDRS, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services

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Chief of Police, Durham Police Department

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Head of Applications and Program Unit, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services

Peggy Goodman, MD

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Jane Miller

Program Consultant, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services

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Lisa Price

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Joel Rosch, PhD

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Kristen Rosselli

Strategic Initiatives Manager, Raleigh Police Department

Leslie Starstoneck

Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina

Jennifer Tolle-Whiteside
Co-Chair, Child Fatality Task Force;
Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina

David C. Wiesner, PhD
Licensed Psychologist

NC-VDRS Data Sharing Committee

Catherine (Kay) Sanford
Director, NC-VDRS, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch,
N.C. Department of Health and Human Services

Stephen Marshall
Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Core Faculty of Injury Prevention Research Center,
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Tammy Norwood
Program Manager, NC-VDRS, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch,
N.C. Department of Health and Human Services

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Terry Sanford Professor of Public Policy, Duke University

Tamera Coyne-Beasley, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine,
Core Faculty of the Injury Prevention Research Center, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

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N.C. Department of Health and Human Services

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Tammy Norwood
Program Manager, NC-VDRS, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services

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N.C. Office of Chief Medical Examiner

Amy Ising
Department of Emergency Medicine, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Kathleen Jones-Vessey
N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services

Timothy Parker
N.C. State Bureau of Investigation

Appendix D: Glossary

Adult	Person was 18 years of age or older on date of death.
Child	Person was less than 18 years of age on date of death.
Homicide	A death resulting from the intentional use of force or power, threatened or actual, against another person, group or community.
Legal intervention	Decedent was killed by a police officer, military police officer or other peace officer acting in the line of duty. In North Carolina, legal intervention includes legal executions.
NVDRS	National Violent Death Reporting System
NC-VDRS	North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System
Occurrent death	Death occurred in North Carolina during the specified time frame. Decedent may or may not have been a N.C. resident at the time of death.
Peace officer	Person with specified legal authority to use deadly force.
Rates	Calculated as number of deaths x 100,000/population.
Resident death	Victim was a N.C resident at the time of death and the death occurred in North Carolina. All deaths reported in this report are resident deaths.
Suicide	A death resulting from the intentional use of force against oneself. Suicides are classified among violent deaths only for persons ages 10 or older.
Unintentional firearm	A death resulting from a penetrating injury or gunshot wound from a weapon that uses a powder charge to fire a projectile and from a shooting that was not directed intentionally at the decedent.
Undetermined intent	A death resulting from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating the manner of death was not sufficient to determine intent.
Violent death	Intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or against a group or community. Intentional deaths meeting this definition include suicides, homicides and legal interventions.



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Department of Health and Human Services • Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary
Division of Public Health • Jeffrey P. Engel, State Health Director
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North Carolina Division of Public Health

VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM ANNUAL REPORT

July 2010