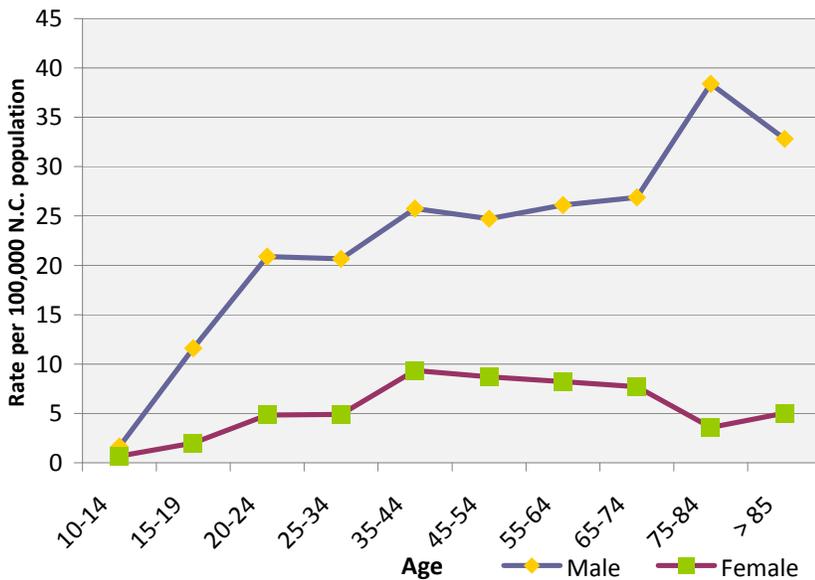


SUICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA

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 N.C. 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 N.C. residents caused by suicide for the year 2007.

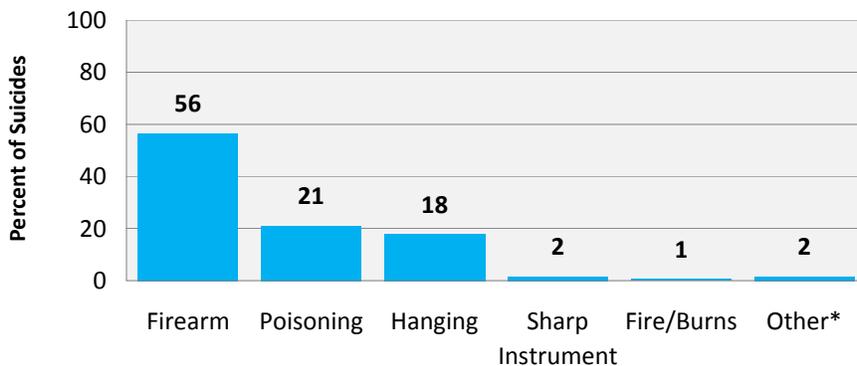
Gender-Specific Suicide Rates by Age: N.C. 2007



- One thousand eighty-five North Carolina residents died as a result of suicide in 2007. The total of number of deaths as a result of violence was 1,845.
- Males consistently had a higher suicide rate than females, regardless of age.
- The suicide rate peaked for adults ages 35 - 44 and remained relatively stable thereafter, with another peak for both sexes at 75 - 84.
- Suicide rates were relatively stable for adult females. The maximum rate of 9.4 occurred in females between the ages of 35 and 44.

- Ninety percent of all suicide victims were identified as white. Whites, particularly white males, had higher suicide rates than members of other racial groups.
- The majority of suicides (56 percent) were accomplished using firearms.

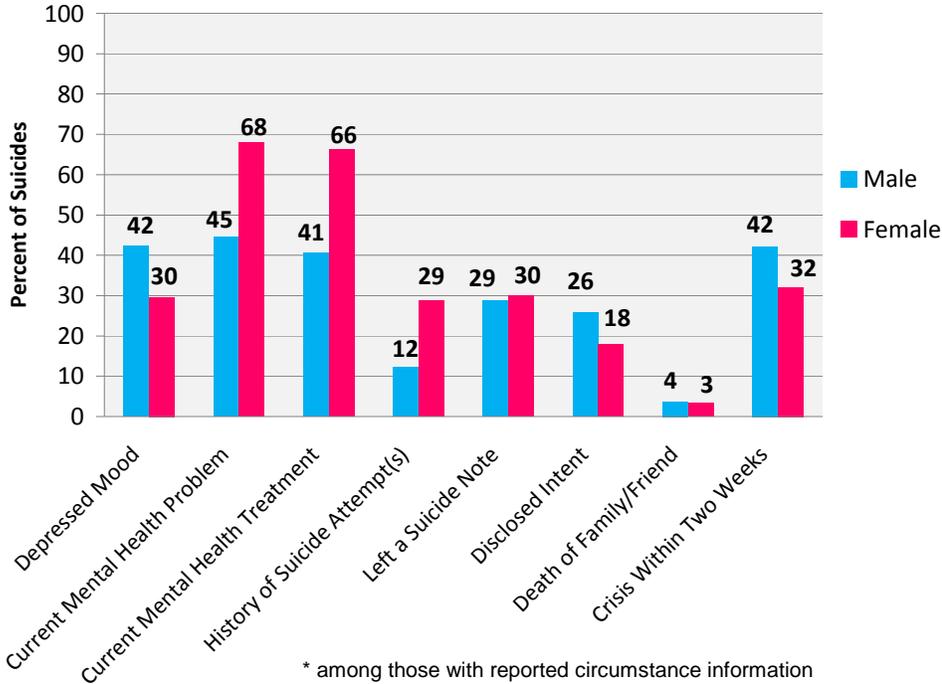
Method of Death: N.C. 2007



*Other includes falls, drowning, motor vehicle, and other causes of suicide.

- Overall, 56 percent of suicides involved firearms, followed by poisoning (21 percent) and hanging (18 percent).
- Less than 5 percent of suicides were accomplished using a method other than firearms, poisoning, or hanging.

Suicide Circumstances*: N.C., 2007



- More than 39 percent of suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being depressed.

- Sixty-eight percent of female victims and 45 percent of male victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

- A similar trend was seen in mental health treatment. Sixty-six percent of females and 41 percent of males were being treated for a mental health problem at the time of death.

- Males (42 percent) were more likely to have experienced a crisis within two weeks of death compared with females (32 percent).

- 24 percent of victims had disclosed their intention to commit suicide to someone else.
- Females (29 percent) were more likely to have a history of prior suicide attempts than were males (12 percent).

More information on suicide prevention efforts can be found at:

State Resource Partners

Mental Health Association in North Carolina, Inc.

Contact: Romaine E. Riddle 919-866-3272

www.mha-nc.org

N.C. Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services

www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas

North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Contact: Krista Ragan, Child Death Investigator, 919-445-4414

www.ocme.unc.edu

The Triangle Consortium for Suicide Prevention

Contact: Phil Morse

www.trianglesuicideprevention.org

National Resources

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center

www.sprc.org

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

www.afsp.org

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