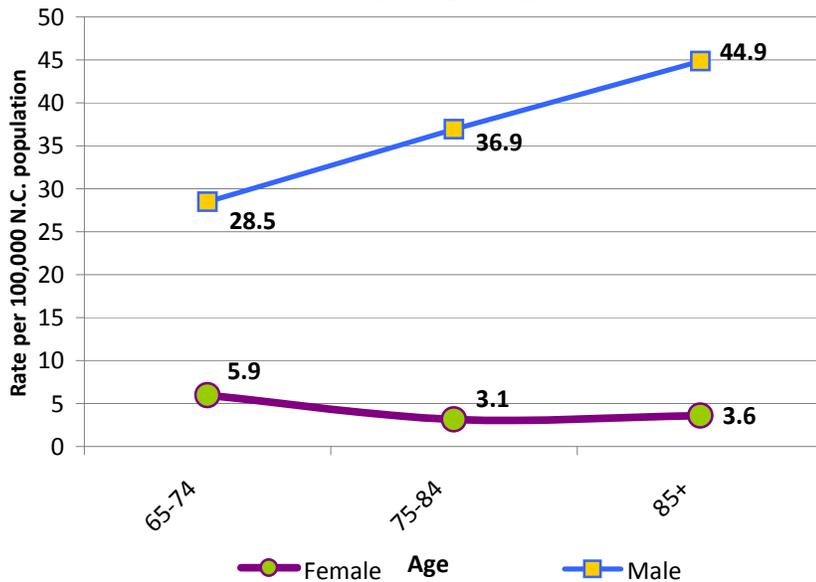


ELDER SUICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA

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 ages 65 plus completing suicide for the years 2006-2007.

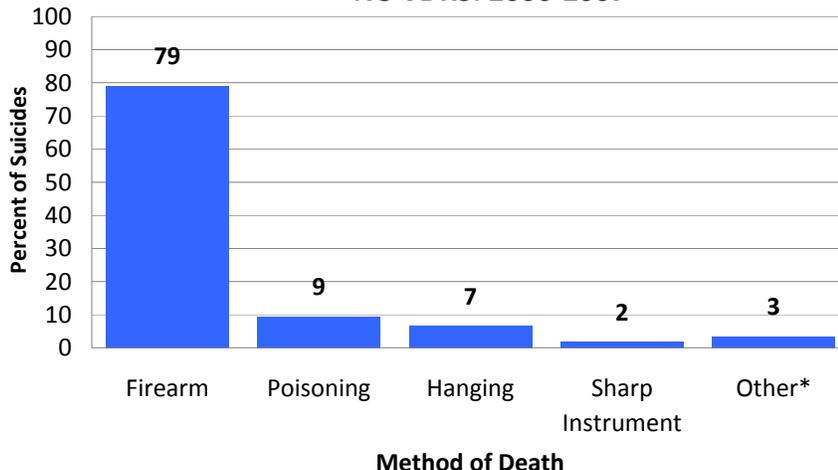
**Elder Specific Suicide Rates by Age Groups:
NC-VDRS: 2006-2007**



- From 2006 to 2007, 426 elder North Carolina residents died as a result of violence. Of those 353 were suicide-related.
- The elder suicide rate was 16.2 suicides per 100,000.
- 83 percent of elder suicides were male compared to female (17%).
- The suicides rates peaked among male 85 and older but all male age groups were consistently higher than females.
- The peak for females was for those 65 to 74.

- 96 percent of elder suicide victims were identified as white with the remaining 4 percent black, Asian and American Indian .

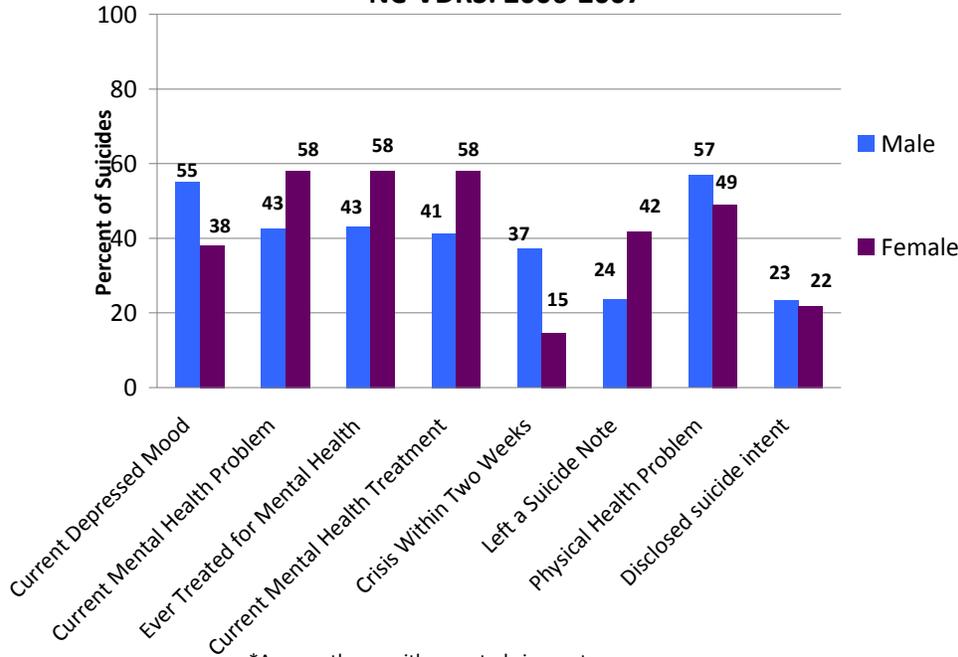
**Elder Suicide Method of Death:
NC-VDRS: 2006-2007**



- Overall, 79 percent of suicides involved firearms followed by poisoning (9 percent) and hanging/strangulation/suffocation (7 percent).
- Less than 5 percent of suicides were accomplished using a method other than firearms, hanging, or poisoning.

*Other circumstances include: falls, drowning, fire/burn, motor vehicle and other

**Elder Suicide Circumstances*:
NC-VDRS: 2006-2007**



*Among those with reported circumstances

- More than half (55 percent) of elder male suicides with circumstance information were categorized as being in a current depressed mood compared to females (38 percent).

- Forty-three percent of all elder males and 58 percent of elder females had been characterized as having a current mental health problem by a medical professional.

- Thirty-seven percent of elder males versus 15 percent of elder females had a crisis within the last two weeks.

- 23 percent of males and 22 percent of females had disclosed their intent to commit suicide to someone else.

- 42 percent of females but only 24 percent of males left a suicide note.

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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N.C. Division of Public Health / www.ncpublichealth.com / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425 / www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov
N.C. Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432

State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / www.ncdhhs.gov
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