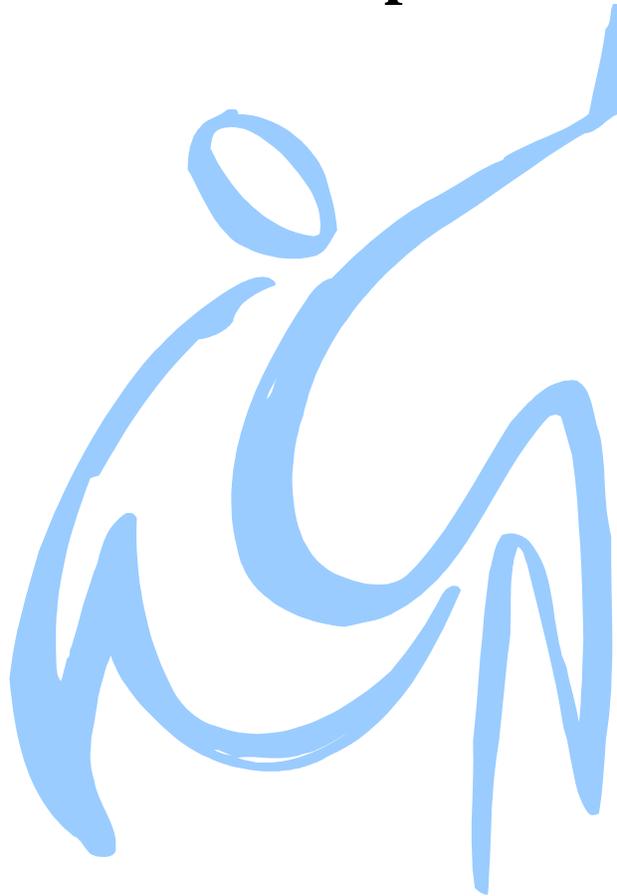


# **The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System**

## **Provisional Data Release for January to June, 2004**

### **Technical Report 1.0**



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch  
April 2005



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January to June, 2004**

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North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch  
April 2005

For copies, contact the Injury and Violence Prevention Branch  
**919.733.3732**  
[www.ncpublichealth.com](http://www.ncpublichealth.com); Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

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## Introduction

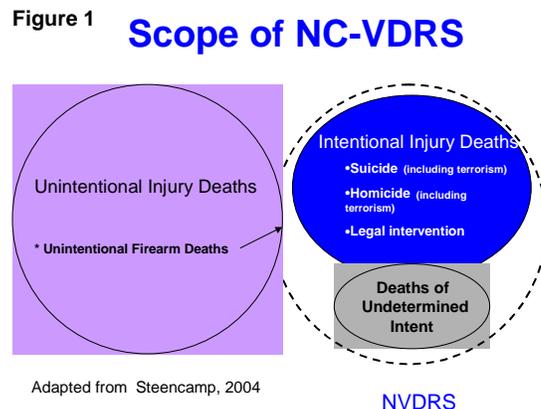
The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a public health, population-based surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths from violence. It is operated by the North Carolina Division of Public Health's Injury and Violence Prevention Branch to provide injury and violence prevention specialists and policy-makers timely 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 information from multiple sources, such as death certificates, medical examiner reports, and incident reports from law enforcement agencies. The NC-VDRS began collecting data as of 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. In 2005, 17 states currently submit data to the NVDRS. The goal is to have all 50 states and US territories contribute their data. For more information about the National Violent Death Reporting System, please visit the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/profiles/nvdrs/facts.htm>.

This is the first NC-VDRS technical report. It presents preliminary statistics on deaths that occurred during the first six months of surveillance (January 1 through June 30, 2004). For the most part, the tabular data are based on Medical Examiner reports and electronic Death Certificates. Law enforcement data are also being entered into the system, but these data will not be available until at least 6 months after the close of the calendar year in which they are collected.

Most of the tables in this technical report present simple descriptive statistics, however, the system has the capacity to eventually produce detailed reports which capture the relationships between multiple people and weapons involved in the same incident.

The NC-VDRS conceptually defines a violent death as a death due to "the intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or against a group or community". Deaths meeting this definition (Figure 1) include intentional deaths (i.e., suicides, homicides, legal interventions --deaths where the victim is killed by a person with the authority to use deadly force in the line of duty), deaths where the manner/intent was undetermined, and unintentional deaths from firearms. Legal executions are excluded from the National Violent Death Reporting System but are captured in the North Carolina system as legal



intervention deaths. Because most deaths from violence could have been prevented, the NC-VDRS errs on the side of inclusivity, and collects information on all deaths that were the consequence of violence or a potentially lethal weapon/mechanism. Therefore, deaths of undetermined intent are captured in the system because the preponderance of deaths in this category is the result of violence, even though the evidence is insufficient to definitively classify the intent of the victim or the suspect. Unintentional deaths from firearms are also included in the system.

These include deaths resulting from a penetrating injury or gunshot wound from a weapon that uses a powder charge to fire a projectile when there is a preponderance of evidence that the shooting was not intentional. This category also includes a child less than the age of six who shoots himself or another person. The national and state violent death reporting systems are the official repository of deaths from terrorism. Should an act of terrorism occur in North Carolina, resultant deaths would be listed as a homicide or a suicide. The International Classification of Disease codes, version 10, (ICD-10) that correspond to the selection criteria for inclusion in the NC-VDRS are listed in Figure 2.

Figure 2

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

Manner of Death	Death <1 yr after Injury	Death ≥1 yr 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 Y35.5	Y89.0
Terrorism	*U01, *U03	*U02

correspond to the selection criteria for inclusion in the NC-VDRS are listed in Figure 2.

#### Provisional Nature of Data

**USERS OF THESE DATA SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THESE COUNTS ARE PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.** The information contained in this report should be regarded as provisional and tentative. Final data for this period will not be issued by NC-VDRS until the State Center for Health Statistics confirms that all deaths for the 2004 calendar year have been enumerated and the 2004 death certificate data are officially closed. This generally occurs 6 to 8 months following the end of the calendar year. The Injury and Violence Prevention Branch is **providing this NC-VDRS technical report as interim data.** It is expected that the counts in these tables may change as the State Center for Health Statistics reviews and verifies the State’s mortality files. Counts in the table cells could increase or decrease.

#### Caution About the Use of Small Numbers

**USERS OF THESE DATA SHOULD BE AWARE THAT SOME OF THESE COUNTS ARE SMALL NUMBERS AND MUST BE INTERPRETED WITH CAUTION.** Small numbers, even if they are not calculated into rates, have substantial random variation over time (i.e., a large standard error). Counts of less than 10 are subject to serious random error and should be interpreted with extreme caution when making comparisons or assessing trends over time. These cautions are particularly relevant to the data in this technical report, as many of the numbers are small, because the data only reflect deaths from violence that occurred during the first half of 2004. In the interest of

completeness, we have tabulated numerous data elements. Nevertheless, we urge caution in the interpretation of these numbers, especially when the numbers in a single cell of a table are less than 3. Adding a single additional fatal event could erroneously change the interpretation of that table when the number of events is small.

### **Acknowledgments**

The NC-VDRS is funded by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the CDC), and is operated by the Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, Division of Public Health, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. This technical report was supported by CDC Cooperative Agreement U17/CCU423098-02. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.

We acknowledge the assistance of the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the State Bureau of Investigation, as well as the many local law enforcement agencies throughout North Carolina that have provided information to the NC-VDRS.

We are grateful to Theresa Cruz, whose analytic skills contributed greatly to the preparation of the tables in this report, and to Tammy Norwood and Krista Ragan, whose tireless efforts in obtaining, abstracting and integrating complex information from multiple sources into the NC-VDRS provided the data on which this report is based. We also acknowledge the work of Eleanor Howell, former NC-VDRS staff member, who helped add the NC-VDRS to the state's injury surveillance system.

We are especially thankful for the assistance of three advisory groups: a Technical Advisory Board, a Data User's Advisory Board, and a Durham Community Advisory Board. The members of those boards are listed at the end of this report. We wish to acknowledge Doctors Tamera Coyne-Beasley, Phillip J. Cook, and Anna E. Waller for their service as board chairs and co-chairs. We would also like to recognize Dr. Sandra L. Martin and Ms. Theresa Cruz of UNC-Chapel Hill who serve as the NC-VDRS evaluation team. The help and comments that they provide in their bi-annual program evaluations of the NC-VDRS have been instrumental in the successful implementation of the NC-VDRS in North Carolina.

The members and chairs of the advisory boards may have contributed to this report; however, they are not responsible for the contents of the report. Responsibility for this report rests solely with the Director and Co-Director of the NC-VDRS.

Catherine (Kay) Sanford, MSPH  
Director, NC-VDRS

Stephen W. Marshall, PhD  
Co-Director, NC-VDRS

April 2005

## Overview of Violence Resulting in Fatalities to N.C. Residents

**Table 1. Total number of incidents and deaths, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

	Frequency
<b>Incidents</b>	792
<b>Deaths</b>	803

**Comment:** During the first six months of 2004, the system registered 792 incidents involving violent death in North Carolina. Ten of these involved more than one death. The total number of deaths registered was 803.

**Table 2. Total number of deaths (and row percent) by manner of death, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

Manner										Total	
Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent			
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
485	60.3 %	288	35.8 %	13	1.6 %	8	0.9 %	9	1.1 %	803	100.0 %

### Definitions:

**Suicide** – A death resulting from the intentional use of force against oneself. This includes “Russian roulette” and assisted suicide involving only passive assistance to the decedent, such as supplying information or the means to complete the act.

**Homicide** – A death resulting from the intentional use of force or power, threatened or actual, against another person, group, or community (not including legal intervention or war). This includes “justifiable homicide” not falling into the category of legal intervention as defined below.

**Unintentional Firearm** – A death resulting from a penetrating injury or gunshot wound from a weapon that uses a powder charge to fire a projectile when there was a preponderance of evidence that the shooting was not intentional. This includes a child less than the age of six who shoots himself or another person.

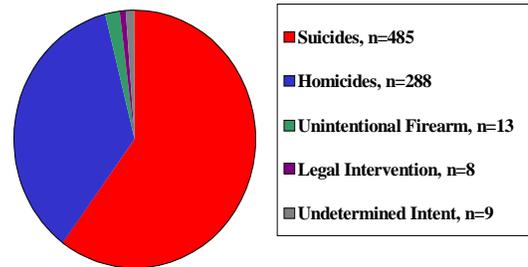
**Legal Intervention** – A death when the decedent is killed by a police officer or other peace officer, including military police, acting in the line of duty. The NC-VDRS includes legal executions in this category.

**Undetermined Intent** – A death resulting from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating one manner of death is no more compelling than the evidence indicating another manner of death. This includes self-inflicted injury, such as an overdose, where there is insufficient evidence to determine that the death resulted from an intentional or unintentional act.

**Comment:** Most of the 803 deaths were suicides (60%), followed by homicides (36%). The remaining incidents included deaths due to unintentional firearm injury and legal intervention (Figure 3). For nine deaths, the manner is undetermined. Of the unintentional firearm deaths, seven were self-inflicted, five were inflicted by others and in one incident it was unclear who pulled the trigger. Two incidents involved children under the age of 15 who died after being shot with firearms that were left unlocked and loaded; one death occurred in the home of a grandparent, the other in the home of a friend.

Figure 3

**Violent Deaths by Manner/Intent, NC-VDRS: January – June 2004**



(n=803)

**Table 3. Total number of multiple incidents (and row percent) by manner and number of people involved, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

Multiple Decedent Incidents									
Double Suicide		Double Homicide		Triple Homicide		Homicide/Suicide		Total	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	10.0 %	4	40.0 %	1	10.0 %	4	40.0 %	10	100.0 %

**Comment:** Twenty-one individuals died in 10 incidents involving multiple decedents. Multiple homicides and homicides followed by suicides were more common than multiple suicides.

**Fatalities by Gender, Race and Ethnicity**

**Table 4. Total number of deaths (and column percent) by manner of death and gender, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

GENDER	MANNER										Total N
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
<b>Male</b>	380	78.3 %	222	77.0 %	12	92.3 %	8	100.0 %	6	66.6 %	628
<b>Female</b>	105	21.6 %	66	22.9 %	1	7.6 %	.	.	3	33.3 %	175
<b>Total</b>	485	100.0 %	288	100.0 %	13	100.0 %	8	100.0 %	9	100.0 %	803

**Comment:** Males accounted for 78% of the suicides and 77% of the homicides.

**Table 5. Total number of deaths (and column percent) by manner of death and race, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

RACE	MANNER										Total N
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
<b>Black</b>	47	9.6 %	152	52.7 %	6	46.1 %	2	25.0 %	1	11.1 %	208
<b>White</b>	428	88.2 %	118	40.9 %	6	46.1 %	6	75.0 %	8	88.8 %	566
<b>Other</b>	10	2.0 %	18	6.2 %	1	7.6 %	.	.	.	.	29
<b>Total</b>	485	100.0 %	288	100.0 %	13	100.0 %	8	100.0 %	9	100.0 %	803

\*Note: Hispanics may fall into any of the race categories but are most frequently classified as white (84%). ‘Other’ race includes Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans.

**Comment:** Whites accounted for the overwhelming majority of suicides (88%). In 53% of all homicides, the victim was black; in 41%, the victim was white.

**Table 6. Total number of deaths (and column percent) by manner of death and Hispanic ethnicity, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

ETHNICITY	MANNER										Total N
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
<b>Hispanic</b>	10	2.0 %	20	6.9 %	.	.	1	12.5 %	.	.	31
<b>Non-Hispanic</b>	475	97.9 %	268	93.0 %	13	100.0 %	7	87.5 %	9	100.0 %	772
<b>Total</b>	485	100.0 %	288	100.0 %	13	100.0 %	8	100.0 %	9	100.0 %	803

**Comment:** In 7% of all homicides and 2% of suicides, the victim was recorded as being of Hispanic ethnicity. While 62% of violent deaths among non-Hispanics are due to suicide, only 32 percent of violent deaths among Hispanics are due to suicide.

**Table 7. Total number of deaths (and column percent) by manner of death and age group, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

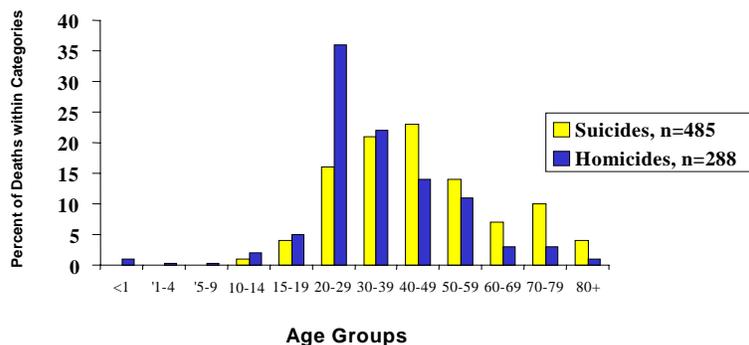
AGE GROUP	MANNER										Total N
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
<b>&lt; 1</b>	.	.	3	1.0 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
<b>Ages 1-4</b>	.	.	1	0.3 %	1	7.6 %	.	.	.	.	2
<b>Ages 5-9</b>	.	.	1	0.3 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
<b>Ages 10-14</b>	6	1.2 %	6	2.0 %	1	7.6 %	.	.	.	.	13
<b>Ages 15-19</b>	22	4.5 %	15	5.2 %	2	15.3 %	.	.	1	11.1 %	40
<b>Ages 20-29</b>	78	16.0 %	104	36.1 %	5	38.4 %	1	12.5 %	.	.	188
<b>Ages 30-39</b>	101	20.8 %	63	21.8 %	1	7.6 %	5	62.5 %	3	33.3 %	173
<b>Ages 40-49</b>	110	22.6 %	42	14.5 %	3	23.0 %	2	25.0 %	3	33.3 %	160
<b>Ages 50-59</b>	67	13.8 %	31	10.7 %	.	.	.	.	1	11.1 %	99
<b>Ages 60-69</b>	36	7.4 %	9	3.1 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	45
<b>Ages 70-79</b>	47	9.6 %	9	3.1 %	.	.	.	.	1	11.1 %	57
<b>Ages 80+</b>	18	3.7 %	4	1.3 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	22
<b>Total</b>	485	100.0 %	288	100.0 %	13	100.0 %	8	100.0 %	9	100.0 %	803

**Comment:** Suicide peaks among those ages 40-49 and maintains a greater presence among older adults compared with other manners of violent death. Homicide and unintentional firearm deaths peak among those ages 20-29. The suicide and homicide deaths are represented graphically in Figure 1.

**Figure 4. Homicide and suicide deaths by age group, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

Figure 4

### Suicides and Homicides by Age: NC-VDRS, January – June 2004



### Fatalities from Violence by Marital Status

**Table 8. Total number of deaths (and column percent) by manner of death and marital status, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

MARITAL STATUS	MANNER										Total N
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
<b>Married</b>	214	44.1 %	61	21.1 %	3	23.0 %	5	62.5 %	4	44.4 %	287
<b>Never Married</b>	150	30.9 %	180	62.5 %	8	61.5 %	2	25.0 %	2	22.2 %	342
<b>Widowed</b>	28	5.7 %	15	5.2 %	1	7.6 %	.	.	.	.	44
<b>Divorced</b>	93	19.1 %	30	10.4 %	1	7.6 %	1	12.5 %	3	33.3 %	128
<b>Unknown</b>	.	.	2	0.6 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
<b>Total</b>	485	100.0 %	288	100.0 %	13	100.0 %	8	100.0 %	9	100.0 %	803

Note: ‘Married’ includes common-law marriage. Although common-law marriage is not defined by North Carolina statute, the validity of common law marriages that were validly contracted in another jurisdiction is recognized (Full Faith and Credit Clause of the US Constitution. See Parker v. Parker, 46 N.C. App. 254 (1980)). ‘Married’ also includes married people who may not have lived with their spouse at the time of death. “Widowed” includes any victim or suspect involved in a death from violence in which the victim/suspect’s spouse died prior to the incident recorded in this incident.

**Comment:** In 63% of all homicides, the victim was never married. In contrast, the marital status of 31% of the suicide victims was reported as never married. Differences in the age distribution between the married and never-married populations should be considered when interpreting this table.

**Fatalities from Violence by Month**

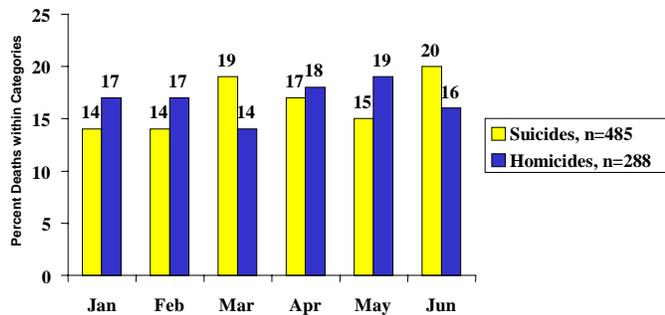
**Table 9. Total number of deaths (and column percent) by manner of death and month of death, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

MONTH	MANNER										Total N
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
January	68	14.0 %	49	17.0 %	2	15.3 %	2	25.0 %	3	33.3 %	124
February	70	14.4 %	48	16.6 %	1	7.6 %	1	12.5 %	1	11.1 %	121
March	94	19.3 %	39	13.5 %	2	15.3 %	1	12.5 %	3	33.3 %	139
April	83	17.1 %	51	17.7 %	2	15.3 %	2	25.0 %	.	.	138
May	74	15.2 %	56	19.4 %	5	38.4 %	.	.	1	11.1 %	136
June	96	19.7 %	45	15.6 %	1	7.6 %	2	25.0 %	1	11.1 %	145
<b>Total</b>	485	100.0 %	288	100.0 %	13	100.0 %	8	100.0 %	9	100.0 %	803

**Comment:** Suicide deaths peaked in March (19%) and June (20%) while homicide deaths and unintentional firearm deaths peaked in May (19% and 38%, respectively). The monthly patterns in suicide and homicide are graphically displayed in Figure 5.

**Figure 5**

**Suicides and Homicides by Month:  
NC-VDRS, January – June 2004**



**Fatalities from Violence by Place of Death and Location of Incident**

**Table 10. Total number of deaths (and column percent) by manner of death and place of death, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

PLACE OF DEATH	MANNER										Total
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Hospital inpatient	40	8.2 %	48	16.6 %	6	46.1 %	3	37.5 %	2	22.2 %	99
ED/outpatient	49	10.1 %	50	17.3 %	4	30.7 %	1	12.5 %	3	33.3 %	107
Dead on arrival	23	4.7 %	17	5.9 %	1	7.6 %	.	.	2	22.2 %	43
Hospice facility	1	0.2 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Nursing home, long term care facility	.	.	3	1.0 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Decedent's home	288	59.3 %	93	32.2 %	2	15.3 %	1	12.5 %	2	22.2 %	386
Other (specify)	83	17.1 %	74	25.6 %	.	.	3	37.5 %	.	.	160
Undetermined	1	0.2 %	3	1.0 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>803</b>

**Comment:** The majority of suicide victims died at their home (59%). Homicide victims were slightly more likely to die in the emergency department (ED) or hospital (34%) than at their own homes (32%). Victims of unintentional firearm injury were more likely to be transported and die in the hospital or ED (77%) than at home.

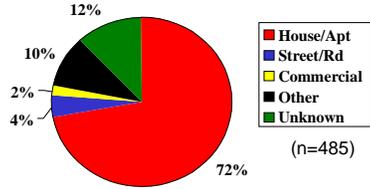
In the following groups of Tables (Tables 11, 11A, and 11B, through Tables 14, 14A, and 14B), the tables are first presented for both males and females combined, and then separately for males (“A”) and females (“B”).

**Table 11. Total number of deaths (and column percent) by manner of death and location of incident/injury, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

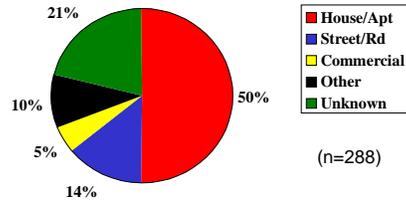
LOCATION OF INCIDENT/INJURY	MANNER										Total N
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
House, apartment	347	71.5 %	143	49.6 %	8	61.5 %	3	37.5 %	1	11.1 %	502
Street/road, sidewalk, alley	9	1.8 %	37	12.8 %	1	7.6 %	2	25.0 %	1	11.1 %	50
Highway, freeway	9	1.8 %	2	0.6 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	11
Motor vehicle (excluding school bus, and public transportation)	9	1.8 %	7	2.4 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	16
Bar, nightclub	.	.	7	2.4 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
Service station	.	.	1	0.3 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Other commercial establishment (e.g., grocery store, retail outlet)	8	1.6 %	6	2.0 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	14
Industrial or construction areas (e.g., factory, warehouse)	1	0.2 %	3	1.0 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Office building	1	0.2 %	1	0.3 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Parking lot/ parking garage	3	0.6 %	7	2.4 %	.	.	1	12.5 %	.	.	11
Abandoned house, building, or warehouse	1	0.2 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Sports or athletic area (e.g., stadium, baseball field, gymnasium,)	1	0.2 %	2	0.6 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
College/University, including dormitory, fraternity/sorority	2	0.4 %	1	0.3 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Hospital or medical facility	2	0.4 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Supervised residential facility (e.g., shelter, halfway house)	.	.	2	0.6 %	.	.	.	.	1	11.1 %	3
Farm	1	0.2 %	.	.	1	7.6 %	.	.	.	.	2
Jail, prison, detention facility	3	0.6 %	.	.	.	.	1	12.5 %	.	.	4
Park, playground, public use area	7	1.4 %	2	0.6 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	9
Natural area (e.g., field, river, beaches, woods)	15	3.0 %	3	1.0 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	18
Hotel/motel	7	1.4 %	2	0.6 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	9
Other	1	0.2 %	1	0.3 %	.	.	1	12.5 %	.	.	3
Unknown	58	11.9 %	61	21.1 %	3	23.1 %	.	.	6	66.6 %	128
<b>Total</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>803</b>

**Figure 6**

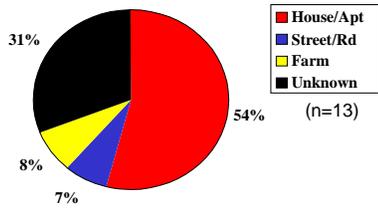
**Suicides by Location of Incident:  
NC-VDRS, January – June 2004**



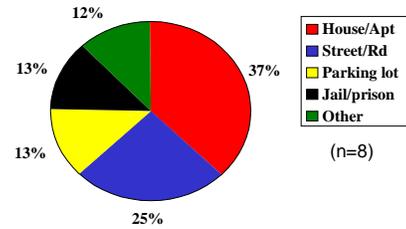
**Homicides by Location of Incident:  
NC-VDRS, January – June 2004**



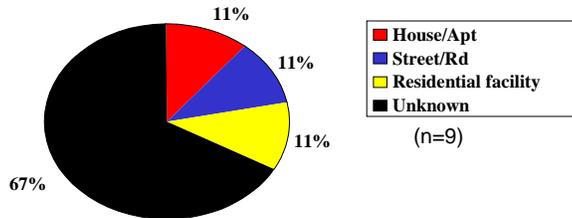
**Fatal Unintentional Firearm by Location of  
Incident: NC-VDRS, January – June 2004**



**Legal Intervention by Location of Incident:  
NC-VDRS, January - June 2004**



**Undetermined Intent by Location of Incident  
NC-VDRS, January – June 2004**



**Table 11A - MALES ONLY. Total number of deaths (and column percent) by manner of death and type of location among males, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

LOCATION OF INCIDENT/INJURY	MANNER										Total N
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
House, apartment	281	73.9 %	101	45.4 %	7	58.3 %	3	37.5 %	1	16.6 %	393
Street/road, sidewalk, alley	6	1.5 %	34	15.3 %	1	8.3 %	2	25.0 %	1	16.6 %	44
Highway, freeway	8	2.1 %	1	0.4 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	9
Motor vehicle (excluding school bus and public transportation)	8	2.1 %	6	2.7 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	14
Bar, nightclub	.	.	7	3.1 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
Service station	.	.	1	0.4 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Other commercial establishment (e.g., grocery store, retail outlet)	7	1.8 %	6	2.7 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	13
Industrial or construction areas (e.g., factory, warehouse)	1	0.2 %	2	0.9 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Office building	1	0.2 %	1	0.4 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Parking lot/ parking garage	3	0.7 %	7	3.1 %	.	.	1	12.5 %	.	.	11
Abandoned house, building, or warehouse	1	0.2 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Sports or athletic area (e.g., stadium, baseball field, gymnasium)	1	0.2 %	2	0.9 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
College/University, including dormitory, fraternity/sorority	2	0.5 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Hospital or medical facility	1	0.2 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Supervised residential facility (e.g., shelter, halfway house)	.	.	1	0.4 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Farm	1	0.2 %	.	.	1	8.3 %	.	.	.	.	2
Jail, prison, detention facility	2	0.5 %	.	.	.	.	1	12.5 %	.	.	3
Park, playground, public use area	6	1.5 %	2	0.9 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
Natural area (e.g., field, river, beaches, woods)	12	3.1 %	2	0.9 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	14
Hotel/motel	5	1.3 %	2	0.9 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
Other	1	0.2 %	.	.	.	.	1	12.5 %	.	.	2
Unknown	33	8.6 %	47	21.1 %	3	25.0 %	.	.	4	66.6 %	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>628</b>

**Table 11B - FEMALES ONLY. Total number of deaths (and column percent) by manner of death and type of location among females, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

LOCATION OF INCIDENT/INJURY	MANNER								Total N
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Undetermined Intent		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
House, apartment	66	62.8 %	42	63.6 %	1	100.0 %	.	.	109
Street/road, sidewalk, alley	3	2.8 %	3	4.5 %	.	.	.	.	6
Highway, freeway	1	0.9 %	1	1.5 %	.	.	.	.	2
Motor vehicle (excluding school bus and public transportation)	1	0.9 %	1	1.5 %	.	.	.	.	2
Other commercial establishment (e.g., grocery store, retail outlet)	1	0.9 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Industrial or construction areas (e.g., factory, warehouse)	.	.	1	1.5 %	.	.	.	.	1
College/University, including dormitory, fraternity/sorority	.	.	1	1.5 %	.	.	.	.	1
Hospital or medical facility	1	0.9 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Supervised residential facility (e.g., shelter, halfway house)	.	.	1	1.5 %	.	.	1	33.3 %	2
Jail, prison, detention facility	1	0.9 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Park, playground, public use area	1	0.9 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Natural area (e.g., field, river, beaches, woods)	3	2.8 %	1	1.5 %	.	.	.	.	4
Hotel/motel	2	1.9 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Other	.	.	1	1.5 %	.	.	.	.	1
Unknown	25	23.8 %	14	21.2 %	.	.	2	66.6 %	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>175</b>

**Comment for Tables 11, 11A, and 11B:** These data represent the location of the incident/injury and not necessarily the location where the person died. The majority of suicide (72%), homicide (50%), and unintentional firearm (54%) incidents occurred at a residence (notice that it is not specified as the victim's residence). Among males, 74% of suicide, 46% of homicide, and 59% of unintentional firearm incidents occurred at a residence. Among females (in comparison to males), a smaller percentage of suicide incidents (63%) and a larger percentage of homicide incidents (64%) occurred at a residence.

**Table 12. Total number of deaths (and column percent) by manner of death and whether the incident occurred at the decedent's place of employment, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

INCIDENT AT DECEDENT'S WORKPLACE	MANNER										Total N
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Yes	6	1.2 %	14	4.8 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	20
No	476	98.1 %	267	92.7 %	13	100.0 %	8	100.0 %	9	100.0 %	773
Unknown	3	0.6 %	7	2.4 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>803</b>

**Table 12A – MALES ONLY. Total number of deaths (and column percent) among males by manner of death and whether the incident occurred at the decedent's place of employment, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

INCIDENT AT DECEDENT'S WORKPLACE	MANNER										Total N
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Yes	5	1.3 %	14	6.3 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	19
No	373	98.1 %	204	91.8 %	12	100.0 %	8	100.0 %	6	100.0 %	603
Unknown	2	0.5 %	4	1.8 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>628</b>

**Table 12B - FEMALES ONLY. Total number of deaths (and column percent) among females by manner of death and whether the incident occurred at the decedent's place of employment, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

INCIDENT AT DECEDENT'S WORKPLACE	MANNER								Total N
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Undetermined Intent		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Yes	1	0.9 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
No	103	98.0 %	63	95.4 %	1	100.0 %	3	100.0 %	170

INCIDENT AT DECEDENT'S WORKPLACE	MANNER								Total N
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Undetermined Intent		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Unknown	1	0.9 %	3	4.5 %	.	.	.	.	4
<b>Total</b>	105	100.0 %	66	100.0 %	1	100.0 %	3	100.0 %	175

**Comment for Tables 12, 12A, and 12B:** The proportion of males that died from violence in the workplace (3%) was higher than the proportion of females (<1%). These statistics should be interpreted with extreme caution due to the small number of deaths, particularly among the women.

**NOTE:** The following tables present alcohol test data from toxicology screens performed by the North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. It is important to note that the effects of decomposition on a body can produce alcohol (ethanol) in the victim's system. Furthermore, it cannot be determined with absolute certainty whether these levels are the result of decomposition or alcohol consumption. In applicable cases, the text of the autopsy report will generally indicate whether a positive toxicology result is thought to be a result of decomposition. Therefore, at this time, positive alcohol values that may be due to decomposition are included as "Alcohol Present". **Although the number of decedents with positive alcohol toxicity due to decomposition may be small, these data must be interpreted with some caution, since they may overstate the role of alcohol consumption in violent death.** Alcohol data were available for 88% of deaths.

### Fatalities from Violence Associated with Alcohol Consumption

**Table 13. Total number of deaths (and column percent) by manner of death and whether an alcohol screen was conducted, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

TESTED FOR ALCOHOL	MANNER										Total N
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Yes	422	87.0 %	258	89.6 %	9	69.2 %	7	87.5 %	7	77.8 %	703
No	63	13.0 %	30	10.4 %	4	30.8 %	1	12.5 %	2	22.2 %	100
<b>Total</b>	485	100.0 %	288	100.0 %	13	100.0 %	8	100.0 %	9	100.0 %	803

**Table 14. Total number of deaths (and column percent) by manner of death and whether alcohol was present, among those tested for alcohol, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

ALCOHOL IN THE DECEDENT	MANNER										Total N
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
<b>Present</b>	124	29.3 %	99	38.3 %	3	33.3 %	4	57.1 %	2	28.5 %	232
<b>Not present</b>	298	70.6 %	159	61.6 %	6	66.6 %	3	42.8 %	5	71.4 %	471
<b>Total</b>	422	100.0 %	258	100.0 %	9	100.0 %	7	100.0 %	7	100.0 %	703

**Table 14A - MALES ONLY. Total number of deaths (and column percent) by manner of death and whether alcohol was present, among males tested for alcohol, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

ALCOHOL IN THE DECEDENT	MANNER										Total N
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
<b>Present</b>	103	31.3 %	87	43.2 %	3	37.5 %	4	57.1 %	1	20.0 %	198
<b>Not present</b>	226	68.6 %	114	56.7 %	5	62.5 %	3	42.8 %	4	80.0 %	352
<b>Total</b>	329	100.0 %	201	100.0 %	8	100.0 %	7	100.0 %	5	100.0 %	550

**Table 14B - FEMALES ONLY. Total number of deaths (and column percent) by manner of death and whether alcohol was present, among females tested for alcohol, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

ALCOHOL IN THE DECEDENT	MANNER										Total N
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Undetermined Intent				
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%			
<b>Present</b>	21	22.5 %	12	21.0 %	.	.	1	50.0 %			34
<b>Not present</b>	72	77.4 %	45	78.9 %	1	100.0 %	1	50.0 %			119
<b>Total</b>	93	100.0 %	57	100.0 %	1	100.0 %	2	100.0 %			153

Note: There were no incidents of legal intervention among females.

**Comment for Tables 14, 14A, and 14B:** For all manners of violent death in which the victim was tested for the presence of alcohol, there were more victims with a negative alcohol test than a positive alcohol test. However, males had a higher proportion of positive alcohol results compared with females among both suicides (31% and 23%, respectively) and homicides (43% and 21%, respectively).

**Fatalities from Violence Associated with Intimate Partners**

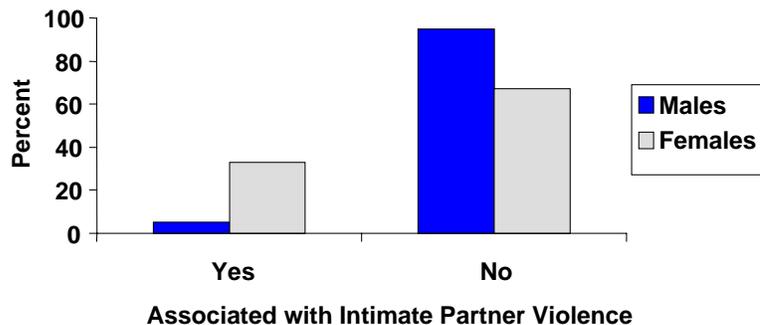
**Table 15. Total number of homicide victims (and column percent) by gender and whether the incident involved intimate partner violence, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

GENDER	INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE INVOLVED				Total	
	Yes		No, Unknown, Not Available			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	11	33.3 %	201	82.0 %	212	76.2 %
Female	22	66.6 %	44	17.9 %	66	23.7 %

Note: The method of coding intimate partner violence precludes distinguishing between ‘no’, ‘unknown’ and ‘not available’. Data were not complete at the time of abstraction for ten male homicide victims.

**Figure 7**

**Homicides and Intimate Partner Violence by Gender: NC-VDRS, January - June 2004**



**Definition:**

**Intimate Partner** - A current or former girlfriend/boyfriend, date, or spouse.

**Comment:** Thirty-five percent of female homicides involved documented violence by an intimate partner compared with five percent of male homicides. Overall, only 23% of homicide victims were female (see Table 4). However, in incidents where intimate partner violence (IPV) was clearly identified as related to the death, 67% were deaths of a female. There were no documented IPV-related deaths of people under the age of 20.

Since intimate partner violence (IPV) is a topic of specific prevention interest within North Carolina, the following tables are restricted to homicides among females with documented IPV. The NC-VDRS definition of IPV-related death includes homicides in which one intimate partner kills another, as well as deaths that are associated with IPV but are not deaths of the intimate partners themselves (i.e., during an episode of IPV, the child of an intimate partner intervenes, and is killed by one of the intimate partners).

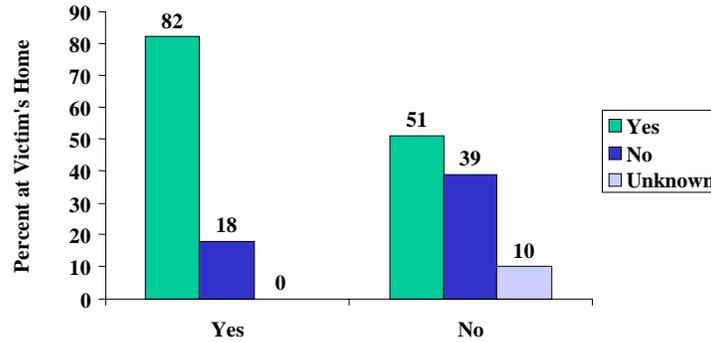
**Fatalities from Violence in Women**

**Table 16. Total number of female homicide victims by whether the incident occurred at the decedent's home and intimate partner violence status, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

DEATH AT DECEDENT'S HOME	INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE INVOLVED				Total N
	Yes		No, Unknown, Not Available		
	N	%	N	%	
Yes	18	81.8 %	22	50.0 %	40
No	4	18.1 %	18	40.9 %	22
Unknown	.	.	4	9.0 %	4
<b>Total</b>	22	100.0 %	44	100.0 %	66

**Comment:** The vast majority (82%) of the IPV-related female homicides occurred at the victim’s residence.

**Figure 8**  
**Female Intimate Partner Violence Resulting in Homicide**  
**in Victim’s Home: NC-VDRS, January – June 2004**



**Table 17. Total number of female homicide victims by whether the decedent tested positive for alcohol and intimate partner violence status, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

ALCOHOL IN DECEDENT	INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE INVOLVED				Total N
	Yes		No, Unknown, Not Available		
	N	%	N	%	
<b>Present</b>	5	25.0 %	7	18.9 %	12
<b>Not present</b>	15	75.0 %	30	81.0 %	45
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0 %	37	100.0 %	57

**Comment:** Intimate partner violence-related female homicides had a slightly higher proportion of positive alcohol tests (25%) compared with overall female homicide victims (21%, see Table 14B). However, as the number of events is small, no definite conclusions can be drawn.

**Table 18. Total number of female homicide victims by location type and intimate partner violence status, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

LOCATION OF INCIDENT/INJURY	INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE INVOLVED				Total N
	Yes		No, Unknown, Not Available		
	N	%	N	%	
House, apartment	18	81.8 %	24	54.5 %	42
Street/road, sidewalk, alley	2	9.0 %	1	2.2 %	3
Highway, freeway	1	4.5 %	.	.	1
Motor vehicle (excluding school bus and public transportation)	1	4.5 %	.	.	1
Industrial or construction areas (e.g., factory, warehouse)	.	.	1	2.2 %	1
College/University, including dormitory, fraternity/sorority	.	.	1	2.2 %	1
Supervised residential facility (e.g., shelter, halfway house)	.	.	1	2.2 %	1
Natural area (e.g., field, river, beaches, woods)	.	.	1	2.2 %	1
Other	.	.	1	2.2 %	1
Unknown	.	.	14	31.8 %	14
<b>Total</b>	22	100.0 %	44	100.0 %	66

**Comment:** Among documented IPV-related female homicides, 82% of the injuries resulting in death occurred at a residence. This is greater than the percentage of overall female homicide injuries occurring at a residence (64%, see Table 11B).

**Fatalities from Violence by Type of Weapons**

**Table 19. Total number of weapons used by type of weapon, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

WEAPON TYPE/MECHANISM	Total	
	N	%
Firearm	527	61.1 %
Sharp instrument	69	8.0 %
Blunt instrument	19	2.2 %
Poisoning	114	13.2 %
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	102	11.8 %
Personal weapons (e.g., hands and feet)	5	0.5 %
Fall/Jump/Push	5	0.5 %
Drowning	5	0.5 %
Fire or burns	4	0.4 %
Shaking (e.g., shaken baby syndrome)	1	0.1 %
Motor Vehicle	7	0.8 %
Unknown	4	0.4 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

**Definition:**

**Weapon** – The mechanism of injury resulting in the decedent’s death. These can include legal or illegal drugs in the case of a poisoning, or personal weapons such as hands and feet in the case of an individual beaten to death.

**Comment:** During the first six months of 2004, there were 862 weapons documented in the 792 incidents captured by the system. Every violent death involves at least one weapon/mechanism. Multiple weapons may have been utilized in the same incident. Firearms were the primary type of weapon. This data does not account for the fact that the same weapon may have been used in multiple incidents (i.e., if the same gun was utilized in three separate homicides that were not part of the same incident, the firearm would be represented as three weapons in this table).

**Table 20. Total number (and column percent) of weapons used by manner of death and type of weapon, N.C. Violent Death Reporting System, preliminary data, January – June, 2004.**

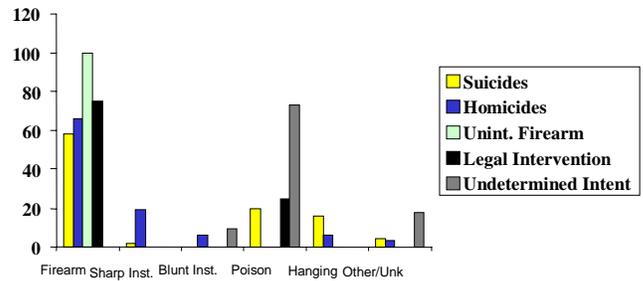
WEAPON TYPE	MANNER										Total N
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
<b>Firearm</b>	304	58.4 %	201	65.6 %	13	100.0 %	9	75.0 %	.	.	527
<b>Sharp instrument</b>	11	2.1 %	58	18.9 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	69
<b>Blunt instrument</b>	.	.	18	5.8 %	.	.	.	.	1	9.0 %	19
<b>Poisoning</b>	103	19.8 %	.	.	.	.	3	25.0 %	8	72.7 %	114
<b>Hanging, strangulation, suffocation</b>	84	16.1 %	18	5.8 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	102
<b>Personal weapons (e.g., hands and feet)</b>	.	.	5	1.6 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
<b>Fall/Jump/Push</b>	5	0.9 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
<b>Drowning</b>	5	0.9 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
<b>Fire or burns</b>	4	0.7 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
<b>Shaking (e.g., shaken baby syndrome)</b>	.	.	1	0.3 %	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
<b>Motor Vehicle</b>	4	0.7 %	2	0.6 %	.	.	.	.	1	9.0 %	7
<b>Unknown</b>	.	.	3	0.9 %	.	.	.	.	1	9.0 %	4
<b>Total</b>	520	100.0 %	306	100.0 %	13	100.0 %	12	100.0 %	11	100.0 %	862

**Definition:**

**Weapon** – The mechanism of injury resulting in the decedent’s death. These can include legal or illegal drugs in the case of a poisoning, or personal weapons such as hands and feet in the case of an individual beaten to death.

**Comment:** Firearms were the primary type of weapon involved in both suicides (59%) and homicides (66%). Poisons accounted for an additional 20% of the weapons used in suicides followed by hangings/suffocations which accounted for 16% of the weapons used in suicides. Sharp instruments (e.g., knives) accounted for 19% of the weapons used in homicides. Some violent deaths may involve more than one weapon. In that situation, the death appears twice in this table (Figure 9).

**Figure 9**  
**Violent Deaths by Type of Weapons:**  
**NC-VDRS, January – June 2004**



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As of April 1, 2005

The NC-VDRS has three Advisory Boards: a Technical Advisory Board, a Data Users Advisory Board, and a community-based users group, the Durham Community Advisory Board.

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