The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in North Carolina resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. All deaths reported in this document are based on location of occurrence rather than residence and, instead of a rate, the occurrence ratio is reported. This statistic is derived from the total number of violent deaths resulting from injuries in a specified geographic region divided by the number of residents in this region. This document summarizes all fatal injuries from violence that occurred in Durham County for the years 2005-2014.

- For the years 2005-2014, there were 543 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Durham County. Of these 543 deaths, 538 were N.C. residents (99.1%) and 486 were Durham County residents (89.5%).

- There were 236 suicides (43.5%), 281 homicides (51.7%), two unintentional firearm death (0.4%), 11 deaths from legal intervention (2.0%) and 13 deaths of undetermined intent (2.4%).

*Based on the county of injury occurrence.

- In Durham County, the suicide ratio was 3.5 times higher in males than females, and the homicide ratio was 4.8 times higher in males than in females.

- Patterns of suicide and homicide differed by race. Suicide victims were more likely to be non-Hispanic (NH) White than NH Black. NH Whites had 16.3 suicides per 100,000 population versus 6.3 suicides per 100,000 population in NH Blacks. All other racial groups combined had seven suicides.

- In contrast, NH Blacks had 20.3 homicides per 100,000 population as opposed to NH Whites who had 5.8 homicides per 100,000 population. All other racial groups combined had four homicides.
• Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicides peaked among those 20-24 with 26.8 homicides per 100,000, where suicides peaked among those 75-84 with 15.5 suicides per 100,000.

• Most homicides (76.9%) and nearly half of suicides (43.6%) were committed using firearms.

• Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 19.9 percent of homicides and 24.2 percent of suicides.

• For homicide incidents where one or more suspects were identified, the relationship of the victim to the suspect was known (current or former spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend, family, friend or acquaintance) more frequently for female (90.0%) than male (57.8%) victims.

• Thirty-eight percent of male and 50.9 percent of female Durham County suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they completed

• Sixty-eight percent of female and 44.7 percent of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

• Females (37.7%) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past as compared to males (17.1%).

• Arguments or conflicts were slightly more likely to be a contributing factor for male homicides (43.3%) than for female homicides (41.7%).

• Twenty-five percent of female homicides and 41.4 percent of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary or drug trafficking.

• Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 43.8 percent of female homicides, but only 5.8 percent of male homicides.

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Please see the NC-VDRS 2014 Annual Report for additional data and technical information.