Firearm Deaths in North Carolina, 2015

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. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January 2004. This document summarizes firearm-related deaths among North Carolina residents for the year 2015.

*In 2015, there were 1,247 firearm-related deaths among North Carolina (N.C.) residents.

* Nearly two-thirds (60.5%) of all violent deaths in N.C. during 2015 were caused by firearms.

* Specific causes of firearm-related deaths included suicide (62.1%), homicide (34.6%), legal intervention involving discharge of firearm (1.7%), unintentional discharge of firearm (1.1%), and undetermined intent (0.6%).

* The rate of firearm-related deaths per 100,000 population remained relatively stable from 2006 (12.6) to 2015 (12.4).

* The rate of firearm-related homicides varied from a low of 3.6 in 2010 to a high of 5.1 in 2007.

* The rate of firearm-related suicides varied from a low of 7.8 in 2007 to a high of 8.9 in 2013.

* The most common locations of firearm-related deaths were apartment or home (72.2%); motor vehicle, excluding school bus and public transportation (9.7%); natural areas such as a field, river, beach, or woods (3.4%); street/road, sidewalk or alley (5.7%); other commercial establishment, such as a grocery store, retail outlet, or laundromat (1.6%); and parking lot or public parking garage (1.6%).
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Please see the NC-VDRS 2014 Annual Report for additional data and technical information.