SUICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA, 2013

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 deaths among North Carolina residents caused by suicide for the year 2013.

- Of the 1,914 violent deaths in North Carolina, 1,272 were suicides (66.5%).
- Males consistently had a higher suicide rate than females, regardless of age. The suicide rate peaked for men 85 years and older at a rate of 43.7 per 100,000.
- Among females, the suicide rate peaked for ages 45-54 at 10.7 per 100,000 and steadily declined thereafter.
- After firearms (60.1%), hanging (18.6%) and poisoning (17.0%) were the second and third leading causes of suicide, respectively.
- Less than five percent of suicides were completed using a method other than firearms, hanging or poisoning.

North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System
• Thirty-one percent of male suicide victims and 34.6 percent of female victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they completed suicide.

• Sixty-five percent of females and 46.8 percent of males were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

• Fifty-eight percent of females and 41.6 percent of males were currently being treated for a mental health problem at the time of suicide.

• Approximately twenty-nine percent of all suicide victims had disclosed their suicidal intention to someone else.

• Females (21.8%) were more likely to have a history of prior suicide attempts than males (12.6%).