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 2014.

- Of the 1,932 violent deaths in North Carolina in 2014, 1,303 were suicides (67.4%).
- 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 45.5 per 100,000.
- Among females, the suicide rate peaked for ages 55-64 at 11.2 per 100,000 and steadily declined thereafter.

- Eighty-six percent of all suicide victims were identified as non-Hispanic (NH) white.
- NH white males had higher suicide rates than other racial/ethnic groups in North Carolina (28.7 per 100,000).

- After firearms (55.7%), hanging (21.7%) and poisoning (18.2%) 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.
Thirty-three percent of male suicide victims and 30.7 percent of female victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they completed suicide.

Sixty-six percent of females and 47.2 percent of males were characterized as having a current mental health problem.

Fifty-seven percent of females and 39.9 percent of males were currently being treated for a mental health problem at the time of suicide.

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

Females (28.1%) were more likely to have a history of prior suicide attempts than males (13.9%).

More information on suicide prevention efforts can be found at:

**State Resource Partners**

N.C. Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services  
www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddas

North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner  
www.ocme.unc.edu

The Triangle Coalition for Suicide Prevention  
Contact: Phil Morse  
www.trianglesuicideprevention.org

N.C. Injury and Violence Prevention's Youth Suicide Prevention Website  
www.itsok2ask.com

**National Resources**

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center  
www.sprc.org

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
www.afsp.org

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline  
for suicide crisis calls  
1-800-273-8255