YOUTH SUICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA, 2004 - 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 ages 10-24 completing suicide for the years 2004-2013.

- From 2004 to 2013, 3,118 North Carolina residents ages 10 to 24 died as a result of violence. Of these violent deaths, 1,400 (44.9%) were suicide.
- Males consistently had a higher number of suicides than females, regardless of age.
- The number of suicides peaked for males at age 22 with 169 suicides and for females at age 24 with 39 suicides.
- Seventy-nine percent of all youth suicide victims were identified as white, 17.3 percent as black, and 3.6 percent as belonging to another racial/ethnic group.
- Overall, the most common method of suicide among youth was firearms (55.6%), followed by hanging/strangulation/suffocation (32.0%) and poisoning (7.2%).
- Only five percent of suicides were completed using a method other than firearms, hanging or poisoning.
Forty-eight percent of female and 33.1 percent of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem when they completed suicide.

A similar trend was seen for mental health treatment. Females (42.8%) were more likely than males (27.5%) to be receiving treated for a mental health problem at the time of suicide.

Thirty-six percent of female and 33.5 percent of male suicide victims had an intimate partner problem.

Twenty-four percent of male and 27.4 percent female victims had disclosed their intent to commit suicide to someone else.

Females (31.6%) were more likely to leave a suicide note than males (24.3%).

*Circumstances are known for 86% of males (n=1006) and 91% of females (n=215)*