YOUTH SUICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA, 2005-2014

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 2005-2014.

From 2005 to 2014, 3,126 North Carolina residents ages 10 to 24 died as a result of violence. Of these violent deaths, 1,431 (45.8%) were suicide.

Seventy-nine percent of all youth suicide victims were identified as non-Hispanic (NH) white, 16.8 percent as NH black, and 4.2 percent as belonging to another racial/ethnic group.

Overall, the most common method of suicide among youth was firearms (54.8%), followed by hanging/strangulation/suffocation (33.5%) and poisoning (7.1%).

Only five percent of suicides were completed using a method other than firearms, hanging or poisoning.
• Forty-eight percent of female and 34.4 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 (42.6%) were more likely than males (29.3%) to be receiving treated for a mental health problem at the time of suicide.

• Thirty-five percent of female and 33.2 percent of male suicide victims had an intimate partner problem.

• Twenty-six percent of female and 24.1 percent of male victims had disclosed their intent to commit suicide to someone else.

• Females (28.9%) were more likely to leave a suicide note than males (25.6%).

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**State Resource Partners**

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

North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner  
www.ocme.dhhs.nc.gov

The Triangle Consortium 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

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