NORTH CAROLINA, 2013-2014

Size: Divided into 100 counties covering 48,000 square miles
Population: 9th most populated state with 10 million residents
Race/ethnicity of state population: 64% White non-Hispanic, 22% Black, 9% Hispanic or Latino, 3% Asian/Pacific Islander, 2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2% two or more races
NVDRS participation: North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NCVDRS) joined NVDRS in 2003; first year of data collection in 2004

A LOOK AT SUICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA

Data from the National Violent Death Reporting System 2013-2014.

MANNER OF DEATH

SUICIDE

HOMICIDE

LEGAL INTERVENTION

UNINTENTIONAL FIREARM

? UNDETERMINED

Types of Violent Deaths in North Carolina

- Nearly all (95%) violent deaths occurring in North Carolina in 2013-2014 were classified as suicide or homicide.
- Suicide was the most common manner of violent death in North Carolina (N=2641, 67%), occurring 2.4 times more often than homicide (N=1095, 28%).
- The remaining deaths from violence were attributed to undetermined manner (N=122, 3%), legal intervention (N=57, 1%), and unintentional firearm death (N=31, 1%).

Suicide and Non-Suicide* Firearm Death Rates By Age and Sex

STATE U.S. COMPARISON. The suicide rate in North Carolina was 1% higher than the U.S. suicide rate (13.2) and was tied with Virginia for the seventh lowest of all NVDRS states.

Race/ethnicity. Suicide victims were 86% White, 9% Black, 2% Hispanic, 1% American Indian/Alaska Native, 1% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1% other/two or more races/unknown.

Sex. Males accounted for 75% of suicide victims (23.7/100,000 ages 10+) and females accounted for 25% (7.4/100,000 ages 10+). The suicide rate among males was highest for those ages 45-64 and 65+ (29.9/100,000 each). For females, the suicide rate was highest among those ages 45-64 (10.8/100,000).

Suicide in North Carolina

- State rates. North Carolina’s suicide rate* in 2013-2014 was 13.3/100,000 residents, an 11% increase from 12.0 in 2004-2005 and a 6% increase from 12.6 in 2009-2010.

Percents in this state profile may not equal 100% due to rounding.

*All rates in this profile are occurrent ratios based on the number of resident and non-residents deaths that occurred in the state per 100,000 resident population.
SUICIDE METHODS
- A firearm was used in 58% of suicides, followed by hanging/strangulation/suffocation (20%) and poisoning (17%).
- Use of a firearm was the most common method for both males (64%) and females (39%). Males ages 65+ had the highest firearm suicide rate (25.5/100,000). (See infographic)

ADDITIONAL SUICIDE DEMOGRAPHICS
- Veterans. Twenty percent (20%) of suicide victims were identified as veterans (served in the U.S. Armed Forces) on the death certificate, including 43% of victims ages 65+.
- Sexual orientation. Sixteen (16) victims were identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual.
- Homeless status. Ten (10) victims were identified as homeless at the time of death.
- Marital status. Thirty-five percent (35%) of suicide victims were married, 31% were never married, 22% were divorced, 6% were widowed, and 5% had another or unknown marital status.
- Education level. Among victims ages 25+, 50% had an unknown or missing education level, 18% were a high school or GED graduate, 8% had less than a high school education, and 24% had some college or a college degree.

SUICIDE CIRCUMSTANCES
- In 93% of North Carolina’s deaths by suicides, circumstances were documented in the records (N=2466).
- The most frequently cited circumstances were current mental health problem (52%), current or past mental health treatment (51%), history of suicidal thoughts or plans (40%), a recent/imminent crisis (35%), relationship problems (33%), and current depressed mood (32%). A suicide note was left in 33% of the incidents.
- The most frequent or notable circumstances by age group are shown in the chart below.