## VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA: PITT COUNTY INCIDENTS, 2007-2016

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. All deaths reported in this document are based on location of occurrence rather than residence and, instead of a rate, the ocurrent ratio is reported. This statistic is derived from the total number of violent deaths resulting from injuries in a specified geographic region divided by the number of residents in this region. This document summarizes all fatal injuries from violence that occurred in Pitt County for the years 2007-2016.


- For the years 2007-2016, there were 278 violent deaths from injuries sustained in Pitt County. Of these 278 deaths, 275 were N.C. residents ( $98.9 \%$ ) and 260 were Pitt County residents (93.5\%).
- There were 151 suicides ( $54.3 \%$ ), 114 homicides (41.0\%), 1 unintentional firearm death ( $0.4 \%$ ), 3 deaths from legal intervention (1.1\%) and 9 deaths of undetermined intent (3.2\%).
*Based on the county of injury occurrence.
- In Pitt County, the suicide ratio was 4.0 times higher in males than females, and the homicide ratio was 3.2 times higher in males than in females.
- Patterns of suicide and homicide differed by race. Suicide victims were more likely to be non-Hispanic (NH) white than NH Black. NH whites had 15.6 suicides per 100,000 population versus 1.8 suicides per 100,000 population in NH Blacks. All other racial groups combined had 6 suicides.
- In contrast, NH Blacks had 12.7 homicides per 100,000 population as opposed to NH whites who had 3.8 homicides per 100,000 population. All other racial groups combined had 3 homicides.

[^0]- Suicides and homicides displayed dissimilar age patterns. Homicides peaked among those less than one with 22.4 homicides per 100,000 (confidence Interval: 2.8, 42.0), where suicides peaked among those 45-54 with 18.8 suicides per 100,000.
- Most homicides (64.9\%) and suicides (63.6\%) were committed using firearms.
- Suspicion of intoxication was reported in 23.7 percent of homicides and 27.8 percent of suicides.
- For homicide incidents where one or more suspects were identified, the relationship of the victim to the suspect was known (current or former spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend, family, friend or acquaintance) more frequently for female (80.0\%) than male (52.8\%) victims.

*Based on the county of injury occurrence. $95.4 \%$ of cases had circumstance information. 1 female and 6 males were missing circumstance information.

Circumstances of Homicides: Pitt County, N.C.:
NC-VDRS, 2007-2016*

*Based on the county of injury occurrence. $94.7 \%$ of cases had circumstance information. 5 males and 1 females were missing circumstance information.
†There were less than or equal to 10 deaths

- 45 percent of male and 36.4 percent of female Pitt County suicide victims with circumstance information were characterized as being currently depressed when they completed suicide.
- 64 percent of female and 35.1 percent of male suicide victims were characterized as having a current mental health problem.
- Females (42.4\%) were more likely to have attempted suicide in the past as compared to males (16.2\%).
- Arguments or conflicts were more likely to be a contributing factor for male homicides (47.5\%) than for female homicides (46.4\%).
- 14.3 percent of female homicides and 40.0 percent of male homicides were precipitated by another crime such as robbery, burglary or drug trafficking.
- Intimate partner violence was a contributing factor in 46.4 percent of female homicides, but only 10.0 percent of male homicides.

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