



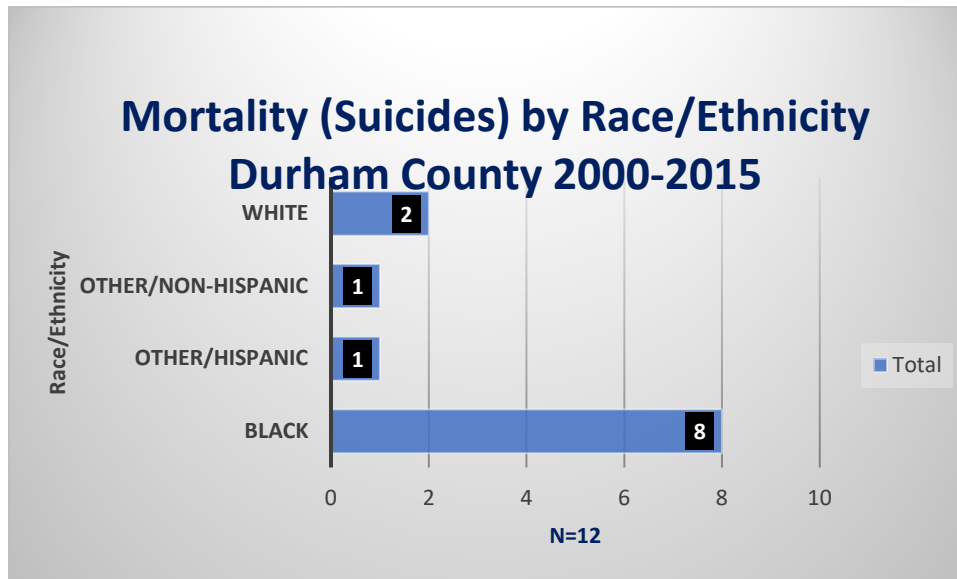
Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT)  
Annual Report Presentation Follow-up  
Child Mortality (Suicides)

## Mortality (Suicides) in Children, Ages 11-17, in Durham County 2000-2015

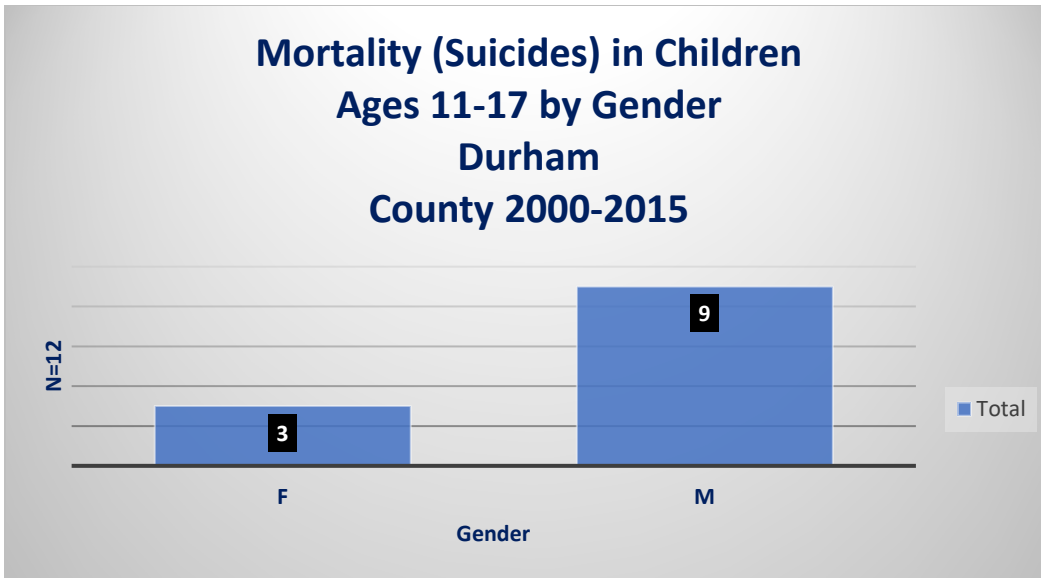
Durham County Child Deaths between 2000 and 2015 were reviewed to determine the number of child suicides that were completed during this period.

The total number of child deaths between 2000 and 2015 was 153. Suicide was determined to be the cause of death by the NC State Medical Examiner's office in 12 (approximately 8%) of these deaths.

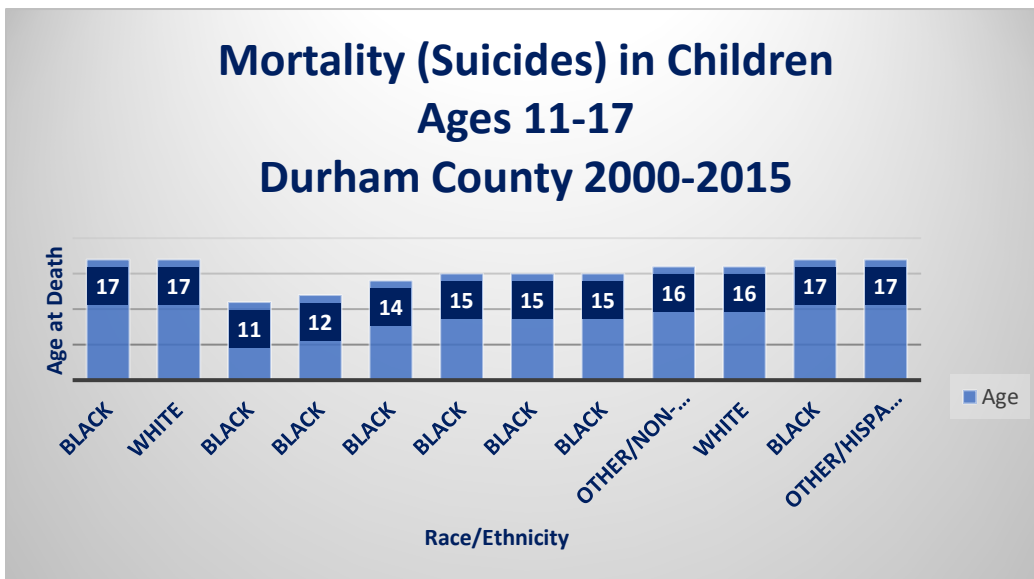
- Apart from broad, general comparisons, it is difficult to compare these twelve events to the number of suicide events throughout North Carolina for this same period.
- Durham County's numbers represent a small number of suicide events and data are suppressed to maintain confidentiality.
- Additionally, North Carolina defines the ages of 10-24 for youth suicide and began data collection for these events in 2004 (NC Violent Death Reporting System, 2004-2013, NC Violence and Injury Prevention Branch, 12/15). Durham County's mortality as a result of suicide events is determined by the age of the youngest child(ren) who died as a result of suicide.
- The following information is specific to Durham County suicide events for children between 11-17 years in the years 2000-2015.



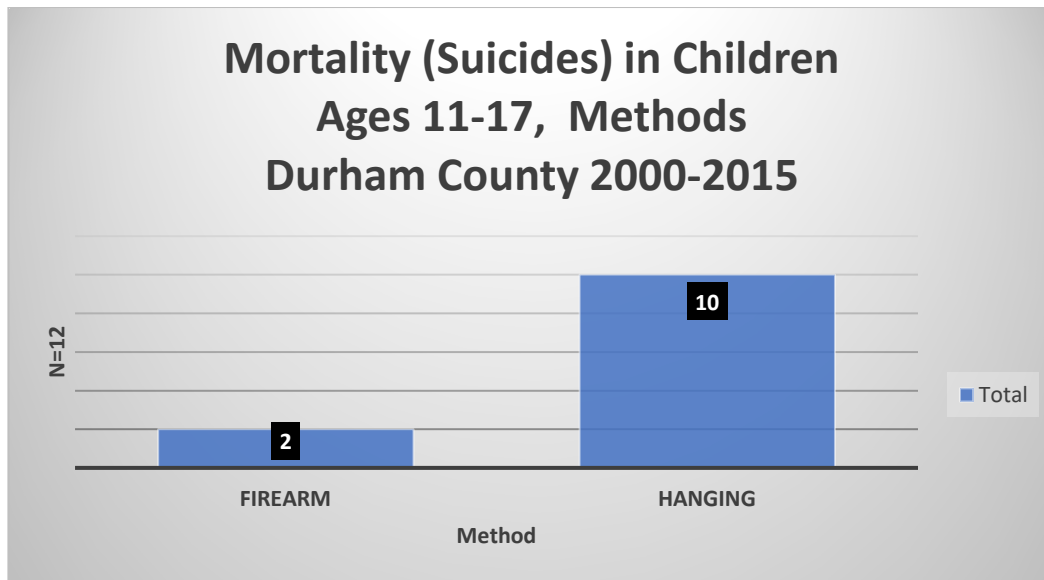
- Eight (8) children or 66% of the children who committed suicide in Durham County were Black/Non-Hispanic. In North Carolina, white males comprised approximately 79% of all youth suicides.



- Nine (9) children or 75% of Durham County suicide events were male. As a broad, general comparison, North Carolina statistics showed that statewide, males consistently had a higher number of suicides than females, regardless of age.



- The age range for Durham County children who died by suicide is eleven (11) years and seventeen (17) years of age. The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting system uses ages 10-24 to define the “youth” population.
- Adolescents between the ages of 15-17 comprised the majority of Durham County youth who completed suicide.



- The most common method of completed suicides used by Durham County youth was hanging, ten (10) or 83% of youth suicides between 2000-2015.
- The only other method for suicide among Durham County youth was the use of a firearm, two (2) or 17% of the total number of completed suicides.
- No suicides were completed by Durham County youth using any other methods.
- The most common method used throughout North Carolina is by a firearm (55.6%); the second most common method as reported by the North Carolina violent death reporting system is hanging at 32%, followed by poisoning at 7.2%

Additionally,

- The number of Durham County youth suicides between 2000-2010 was six (6). The number of Durham County youth suicides completed during the next five (5) years, 2011-2015 was also six (6). It appears that the number of youth suicides doubled in the five (5) year period following the first ten (10) years of the new millennium (2000-2010).
- The youngest children who completed suicide, ages 11 and 12, died between 2011-2015, indicating younger children were aware of suicide methods and how to attempt and complete this manner of death. Prior to 2014, the age of the youngest child who completed suicide was 14 years old.
- Further review is necessary to determine possible reasons for these accelerations (though small) in the number of completed suicides and reasons that may explain reasons middle school aged children completed suicide.

In summary, during the review of Durham County youth, ages 11-17, suicide data for the years 2000-2015:

- More Black males completed suicide more than White youth, Hispanic or other races/ethnicities (n=8 or 66% of total suicides). Black females and White males tied for the second most completed suicides, 16% or a total of two for each group.
- No child death reports for White female youth, manner of death suicide, were received in Durham County during this period.
- Hanging was the most common method Durham County youth used to complete suicides.