

Domestic Violence Task Forces

Through The Criminal Justice Improvement Committee

Goal: To create and enhance effective coordinated community response (CCR: VAWA) and domestic violence task forces for greater accountability of offenders and decreased intimate partner violence.

- To strengthen specialized law enforcement and 50B enforcement
- To reduce DV homicides in the top 5 counties
- To engage stakeholders in a community response to violence
- To educate key personnel in risk/lethality assessments of offenders
- To utilize technology, advocacy and a CCR approach to increase victim safety

DV related homicides: top 5 counties

North Carolina General Statute § 114-2.7 directs all state and local law enforcement agencies to regularly report specific information on domestic violence related homicides committed on or after July 1, 2007 to the North Carolina Attorney General's Office.

The North Carolina Department of Justice and the State Bureau of Investigation developed the Domestic Violence Related Homicide Report form in consultation with the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association, North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police, North Carolina Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission, the Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the North Carolina Victims Assistance Network.

According to the NCDOJ Report on Domestic Violence Related Homicides for Calendar Year 2008, 2009 and NCCADV report on Domestic Violence Homicides from January 1- July 13, 2010, counties that have experienced the highest rate of DV related homicide are:

County	2008	2009	2010	total
Mecklenburg	14	8	5	27
Wake	6	5	3	14
Forsyth	7	3	2	12
Guilford/Robeson	7/5	3/6	G-1	11/11 tie
Durham	4	4	1	9

Although there are limitations to the data collected by NCDOJ and other sources of data, reports from service providers, local governments and historical data, show that these communities consistently experience a high rate of domestic violence and DV-related homicide. Given the limitations to the numbers we currently have, it is likely, that the incidences of DV-related homicide are actually much higher.

Existing Task Forces

The North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence compiled a list of Coordinated Community Response Teams across NC in 2008.

See attached list*

According to the NCCADV, currently, two model programs exist: Chatham and New Hanover Counties. According to AOC and NCCADV, Mecklenburg County is the only county that has a DV fatality review team that works towards an intense scrutiny of criminal justice processes and improving the overall response to domestic violence.

Advantages of a DV Task Force

As stated by the NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Task Forces seek to coordinate all the components of the criminal justice system to improve justice system practice and to better communicate and collaborate in work to end violence against women.

Field experience shows that when the criminal justice system, along with service providers, work together, violence may be reduced. Due to the fragmented nature of the criminal justice system, victims may begin to engage the criminal justice system through different points of entry in the overall system. The first point of entry could be through the response of an officer and/or investigator, clerk, advocate and/or magistrate, or perhaps, an advocate. A coordinated effort between systems and professionals can be effective in decreasing violence because it allows victims to engage the criminal justice system with consistent practices, victim-focused services and common understanding. Professionals at each level of involvement can also benefit by leveraging skills, information and resources. Further, having interdisciplinary protocols and procedures can alleviate frustration and increase officer safety.

Who Should Apply?

A task force can potentially be established at any level such as the county or local law enforcement level. However, to have the greatest potential for responding to a larger jurisdiction, the ideal applicant may be a District Attorney's Office since they serve several counties or The Administrative Office of the Courts because they can affect larger judicial districts. These applicants have both the jurisdiction and the authority to create the largest impact on coordinating the task force.

Ideal Members of a DV Task Force

Any combination of the following people could potentially be the ideal task force for a specific community depending on the needs and strengths of the criminal justice personnel who work there and their level of expertise on domestic violence.

The Administrative Office of the Courts DV Advisory Committee suggests, that for an effective coordinated community response, consider at least 1 position (possibly more) in the following disciplines:

Law Enforcement

Judges

Clerks

Public defenders/private defense bar

Advocates

Abuser Treatment Program Personnel

Probation Officers

Substance Abuse/Mental Health Personnel

Fatality Review Board Members

Possibility of Replicating the Task Force

This can be accomplished. The NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence has both literature and technical assistance available to help communities implement DV task forces. Model programs are available to assist communities identify what is needed to fill the gaps in service and reduce violence.

Funding

JAG Priority #7 and

STOP Formula Funding through the Office on Violence Against Women is awarded to the states to improve criminal justice responses to violence against women, specifically in domestic violence, dating violence sexual assault and stalking. It can provide funding for positions in law enforcement such as specialized investigators,

advocates and uniformed officers, as well as, positions in the courts, prosecution and victim-witness legal assistants. Equipment is often needed to support those positions. Current technology can provide additional monitoring tools for both officers and victims. The CVS committee has recently explored technology options for victims of domestic violence through electronic monitoring and GPS tracking. Technology coupled with trained officers can be an effective combination to increase safety for victims in higher risk situations. The Violence Against Women Act funding allows for 25% of the state's award to support law enforcement in this effort. In addition, 25% of the award must be provided to prosecution and 5% must go to the courts along with 30% to victim services and 15% as determined by the CVS committee.

If you would like additional information, you may contact
Maria Fryer/VAWA Administrator/Victim Planner
919-733-4564 ext 238

2008 NC CCR Teams / DV Task Forces

Judicial District	County	CCR Name
1	Camden	See Pasquotank
1	Chowan	NONE
1	Currituck	NONE
1	Dare	DV Prevention Organization
1	Gates	See Hertford
1	Pasquotank and Camden	Pasquotank/Camden DV CCR Team
1	Perquimans	NONE
2	Beaufort	Beaufort Co. DV Task Force
2	Hyde	NONE
2	Martin	NONE
2	Tyrrell	NONE
2	Washington	NONE
3A	Pitt	DV Network
3B	Carteret	NONE
3B	Craven	NONE
3B	Pamlico	NONE
4	Duplin	NONE
4	Jones	NONE
4	Onslow	NONE
4	Sampson	Victim Advocacy Case Review Management Team
5	New Hanover	DV Advocacy Council and EVOLVE
5	Pender	NONE
6A	Halifax	NONE
6B	Bertie	See Hertford
6B	Hertford, Bertie, Gates,	DV Task Force - Hertford, Bertie, Gates and Northampton
6B	(Gates in 1) Northampton	See Hertford
6B	(Gates in 1) Northampton	Advocacy Council on DV - Edgecombe and Nash
7	Edgecombe and Nash	See Edgecombe
7	Nash	See Edgecombe
7	Wilson	Wilson County CCR Team
8	Green	NONE
8	Lenoir	NONE
8	Wayne	NONE
9	Franklin	NONE
9	Granville	NONE
9	Vance	NONE
9	Warren	Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART)
9A	Caswell	NONE
9A	Person	NONE
10	Wake	DV Task Force - Wake
11	Harnett	Harnett County DV Task Force
11	Johnston	DV Task Force
11	Lee	Lee Co. DV & SA Task Force
12	Cumberland	DV Task Force
13	Bladen	NONE
13	Brunswick	NONE
13	Columbus	NONE

14 Durham	Domestic & Sexual Violence Task Force
15A Alamance	Victims Advocacy Council of Alamance
15B Chatham	Coalition for Family Peace
15B Orange	NONE
16A Hoke	NONE
16A Scotland	NONE
16B Robeson	DV Task Force
17A Rockingham	Elder Domestic Task Force & General Domestic Violence Task Force
17B Stokes	Council Meetings
17B Surry	NONE
18 Guilford	Family Violence Task Force
19A Cabarrus	NONE
19B Montgomery	Montgomery Co. Advocacy Council
19B Moore	Sandhills Coalition Against Domestic Violence
19B Randolph	NONE
19C Rowan	Rowan County DV Task Force
20A Anson	NONE
20A Richmond	DV Task Force - Richmond
20A, Stanly	NONE
20B-C Union	NONE
21 Forsyth	DV Community Council
22 Alexander	Commissioners Task Force
22 Davidson	NONE
22 Davie	NONE
22 Iredell	NONE
23 Alleghany	See Watauga
23 Ashe	See Watauga
23 Wilkes	SAFE, Inc.
23 Yadkin	NONE
24 (Alleghany, Ashe in 23)	Regional Task Force- Watauga, Alleghany, Ashe & Avery
24 Avery	See Watauga
24 Madison	Madison County Family Violence Task Force
24 Mitchell	NONE
24 Yancey	NONE
25 Burke	Burke Co. Task Force on DV
25 Caldwell	NONE
25 Catawba	Catawba Professional Response to DV
26 Mecklenburg	DV Advocacy Council
27A Gaston	Gaston County DV Prevention Council
27B Cleveland	NONE
27B Lincoln	Lincoln Domestic Violence Task Force
28 Buncombe	The Asheville/Buncombe Coalition for Prevention of Family Viol.
29A McDowell	NONE
29A Rutherford	Rutherford Domestic Violence Task Force
29B Henderson	Task Force on Family Violence

29B Polk	NONE
29B Transylvania	NONE
30 Cherokee	See Haywood
30 Clay	See Haywood
30 Graham	See Haywood
Haywood, Swain, Graham,	
30 Cherokee, Clay, Macon, Jackson	30th Judicial District DV-SA Alliance
30 Jackson	See Haywood
30 Macon	See Haywood
30 Swain	See Haywood

Structures for a Successful CCR Team

Structure	Definition	Example
Name	What is the CCR team called?	Apple County Domestic Violence Task Force
Mission	One-two sentence action statement that is short enough to memorize and repeat in the community?	We seek to eliminate domestic violence in Apple County through effective victim services, batterer accountability, public awareness and primary prevention programming.
Vision	Longer statement outlining what you want your community to look like when the work is done.	We envision a county in which people live without the fear of violence and in which all people are treated fairly and equally.
Membership	What agencies you want represented?	Our CCR Team will consist of representatives of: Law enforcement Domestic violence program Medical personnel Judges Magistrates School personnel Faith Communities Department of Social Services Child Advocacy Center Media Survivors of Domestic Violence Animal Control Businesses Legal Aid Private Attorneys Community Advocacy Groups Concerned Community Members
Leadership	Who convenes and facilitates meetings? Does leadership rotate?	Typically, this is not the DV program, but someone with public recognition in

	On what schedule? How are leaders selected?	the community such as the Sheriff, DA, judge, doctor or college professor. This publicly sends the message that DV is an issue owned and addressed by the entire community, not just one provider.
Goals	Broad statements about the issues you want to focus on to meet your mission.	We will educate Apple county about resources for domestic violence survivors.
Objectives	Specific, measurable tasks designed to meet goals. The CCR should build in a few "quick wins" so that people get motivated by success early on.	We will produce 1000 brochures about services available in our county for domestic violence victims and these brochures will be distributed using churches, law enforcement, DSS and the DV program.
Committees	Outlines any standing subcommittees that address your goals/objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol Development {works on developing response protocols for law enforcement, medical providers, etc.} • Training/Community Awareness {organizes community-based training events and publications} • Prevention {works on strategies to influence social attitudes about the acceptability of violence—often do media campaigns, school presentations or

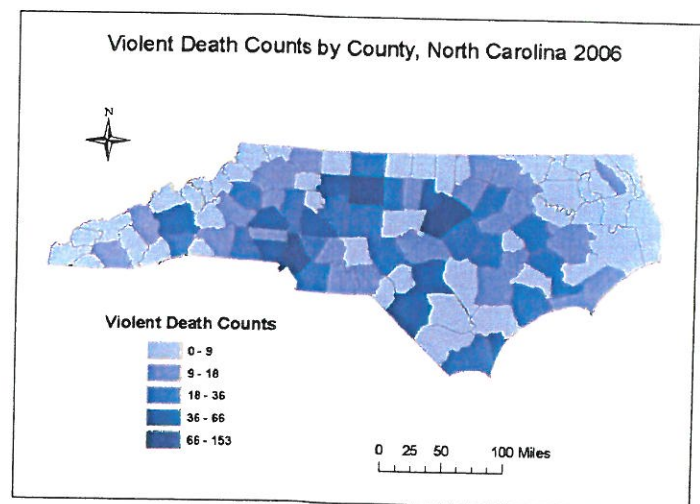
		<p>men's discussion groups}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Issues {Develops strategies for supporting child witnesses/victims of domestic violence and developing school-based DV responses
Decision Making	<p>Outlines how the group decides on actions. Covers the responsibilities of committees to report back to the full CCR team. Also covers what to do when there is disagreement among CCR members.</p>	<p>Committees make recommendations to the full CCR team. The CCR team will work to build consensus from all members before moving forward, but ultimately decisions will be made by majority vote.</p>
Funding	<p>Covers from where the group may choose to seek funding. Often contains a non-competition clause.</p>	<p>Before funding is sought for any CCR activity, the committee responsible for the activity will make a proposal to the full CCR team outlining which organization will act as the pass-through agent for funding. Members of the CCR team agree that no CCR funding application will be submitted in competition with a member's funding application without permission from the director/administrator of that member program.</p>

Each year, 50,000 Americans die from violence. Homicide and suicide are, respectively, the third and fourth leading causes of death for everyone in the United States under age 40, except infants. Overall, almost twice as many people in the United States die from suicide than homicide.

Most communities lack the information they need to understand and ultimately prevent these violent deaths. Responding to this need for better, more complete information, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention established the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) in 2002. By linking data from multiple sources into one comprehensive system, NVDRS provides a clearer picture of why these deaths occur, in turn helping law enforcement, policymakers, public health advocates and others to develop strategies for preventing deaths from violence.

NVDRS is a proven public health tool currently operating in 17 states including North Carolina, with more states prepared to join as funding becomes available.

North Carolina became one of the 17 states participating in the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) in 2003 and began collecting data in 2004. The North Carolina Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch was awarded funding through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (CDC/NCIPC). This agreement began in 2003 for a period of 5 years; North Carolina is currently in the 2nd 5-year cycle of funding.



The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is an incident-based, relational database that collects detailed information from death certificates, medical examiner records, law enforcement reports, and reports from the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation on all deaths from violence that occur in North Carolina. Those deaths include: homicides, suicides, deaths of undetermined intent, unintentional firearm-related deaths, and deaths due to legal intervention. Personal identifying information is stripped out; the de-identified data is then transmitted daily to the national database which is maintained and supported by the CDC.

What are the goals of North Carolina's Violent Death Reporting System?

- * Collect detailed information about violent deaths in North Carolina, including when, where, and how it happened.
- * Link data collected by crime labs, police, vital statistics, and the Medical Examiner's office into a single reporting system.
- * Provide information to help law enforcement, public health officials, violence prevention groups, and policy makers better understand the problems and guide local action plans for prevention.
- * Strengthen a joint public health and criminal justice response to violence.

What are the sources of data?

- * Vital Statistics provides such information as work-related status, education level, demographics and cause of death.
- * Medical Examiner Reports provide such information as toxicology reports, circumstances of injury, medical history and manner of death.
- * Law Enforcement Investigation Reports provide such information as perpetrator data, weapon information, risk factors and past criminal history.

Unique data elements from each of these sources will be linked and combined to create a comprehensive source for statewide violent death data.

What kinds of questions will be answered by this data system?

NC-VDRS provides detailed descriptions of victims and suspects involved in incidents where violence results in death. Reports combine information on circumstances, demographics, relationships between victims and suspects, and weapons. Although there are other sources in North Carolina that report information on deaths from violence, the NC-VDRS presents a fuller picture. The detailed information can be used to help local, state and national policy makers, along with community organizations, better understand patterns and trends in violence. The system is able to answer questions such as:

- What life crisis most commonly precedes a suicide?
- What percent of women are killed by an intimate partner? ✓
- How many suicide victims made previous attempts?
- How often do murder-suicides occur?
- What proportion of homicides are drug-related?
- What proportion of homicide victims are killed by a stranger? ✓
- How often are homicides precipitated by another crime?

For more information on the North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System contact:

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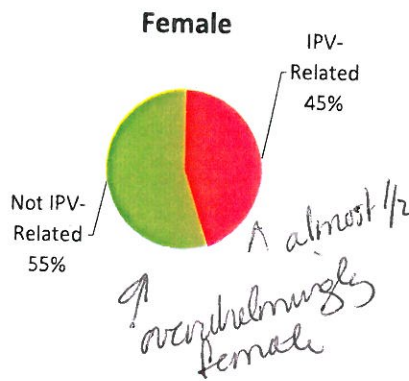
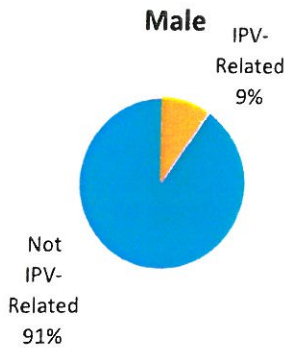
The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement U17/CE423098-06 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded state-wide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in N.C. 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 as a result of intimate partner violence (IPV) among N.C. residents for the year 2006.

Percent of Homicides Associated with Intimate Partner Violence (IPV): N.C., 2006

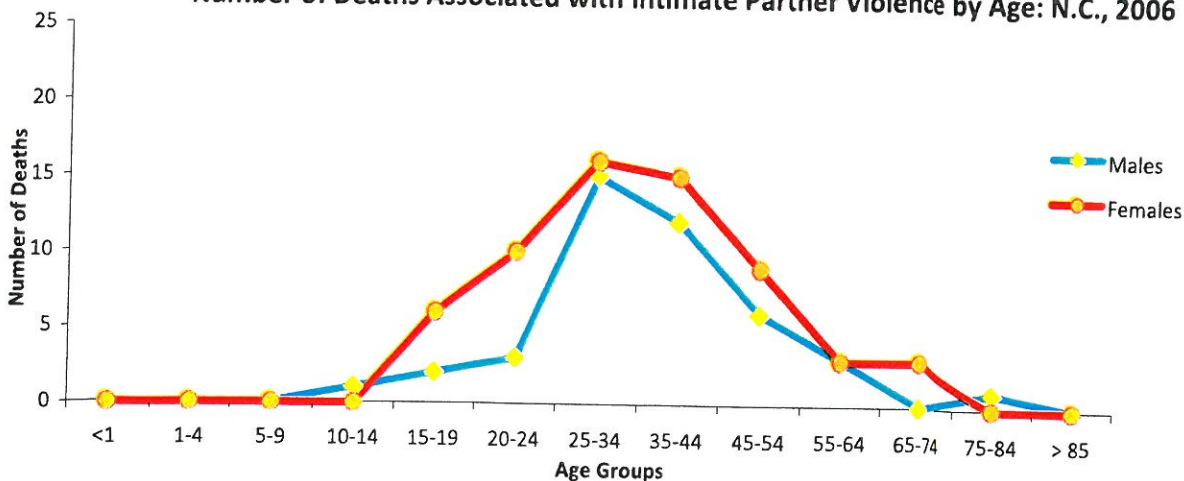


- In 2006, there were 599 N.C. residents who died as a result of homicide.
- 17.5% of all homicides were associated with intimate partner violence (IPV).
- Nearly one-half of all female homicides were IPV-related (45%), while nearly one-tenth of male homicides were linked to IPV (9%).

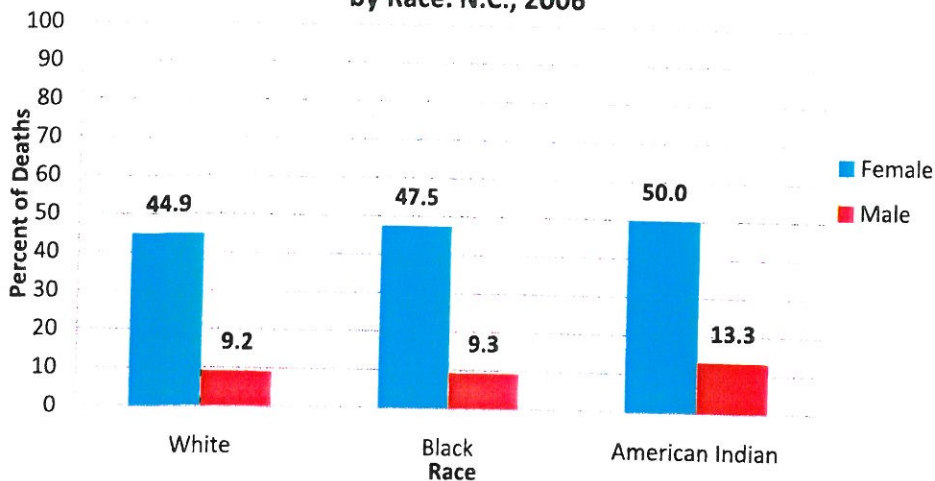
• NC-VDRS defines intimate partner violence (IPV) as those deaths occurring as a direct result of conflict between current or former spouses or partners. This is a broad definition that includes deaths of children, friends, or even bystanders who may or may not be directly involved in the conflict, as well as those who may be intervening in the conflict.

- In 2006, the greatest proportion of IPV-related deaths was in the age group of 25-34 years for both sexes.
- The proportion of IPV deaths were similar for married and never-married victims.

Number of Deaths Associated with Intimate Partner Violence by Age: N.C., 2006



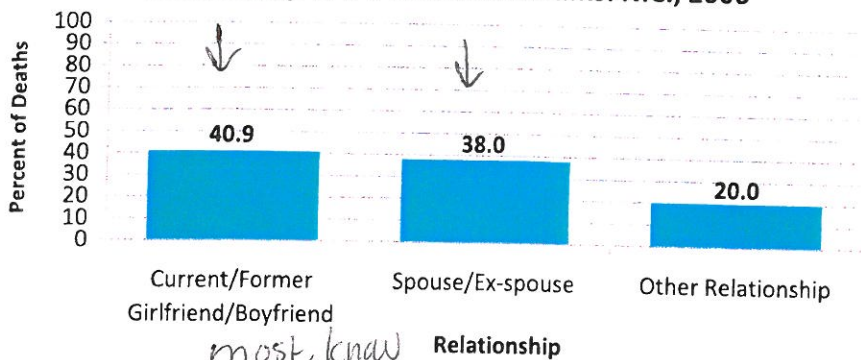
**Gender Specific Percent of Homicides Associated with IPV
by Race: N.C., 2006**



- The American Indian (AI) population had the highest percentage of deaths related to IPV for both sexes. These numbers may be exaggerated, however, as there were only 19 AI homicides in 2006.

- Blacks had a slightly higher percentage of deaths due to IPV than did whites.

Relationship of IPV Homicide Victims: N.C., 2006



- Overall, IPV homicide victims were most likely to be killed by a former/current girlfriend/boyfriend (41%).

- Females were more likely to have been murdered by a spouse or ex-spouse (50%).

- Males were more likely to have been killed by a former/current girlfriend/boyfriend (37.3 %).

*most, know
or have a relationship*

More information about intimate partner violence can be found at:

State Resources:

Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission

Contact: (877) 502-9898

www.nccfwdvc.com

North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Contact: (888) 232-9124

www.nccadv.org

Federal Resources:

The National Domestic Violence Hotline

Contact: (800) 799-7233

www.ndvh.org

The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence

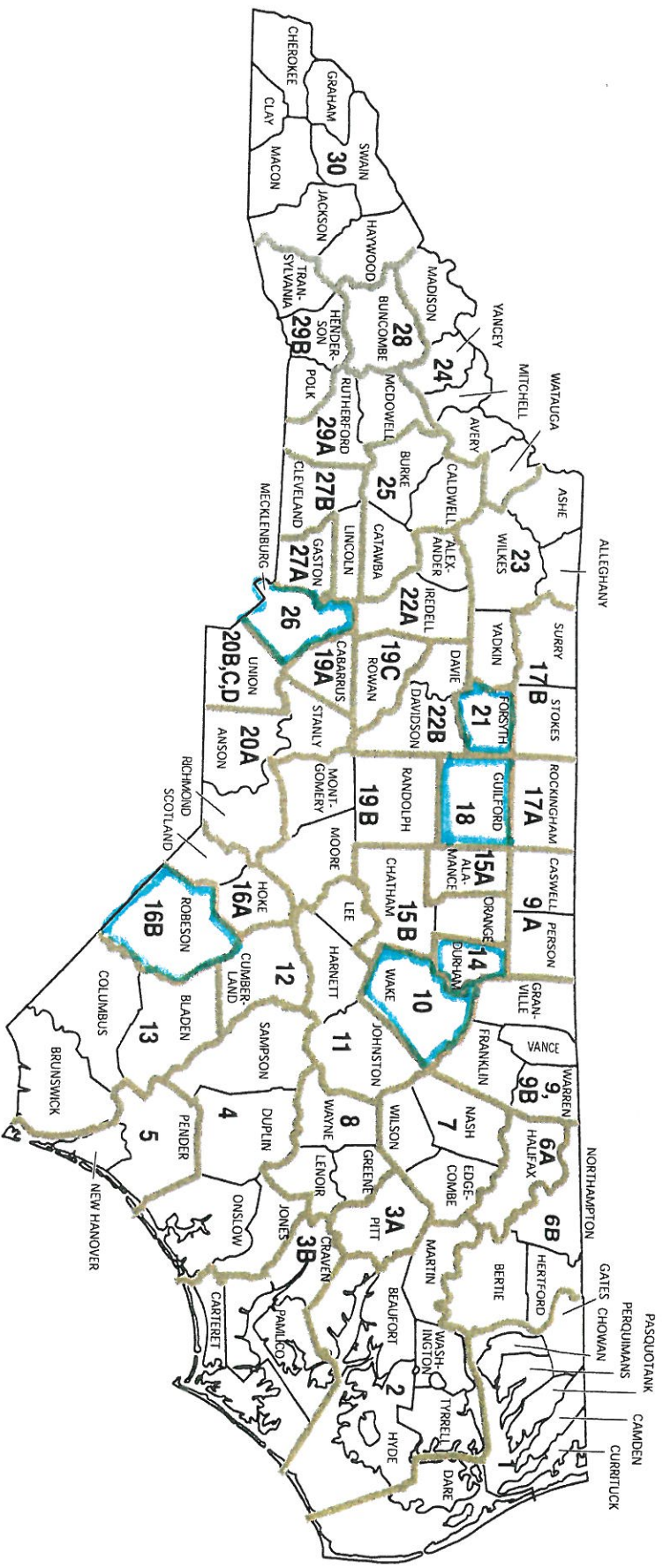
Contact: (202) 289-3900

www.naesv.org

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement U17/CE423098-06 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

North Carolina District Court Districts

Effective January 15, 2009



Note: Districts 9 and 9B, and districts 20B, 20C, and 20D are districts for electoral purposes only. They are combined for administrative purposes.

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North Carolina Prosecutorial Districts

Effective January 15, 2009

