

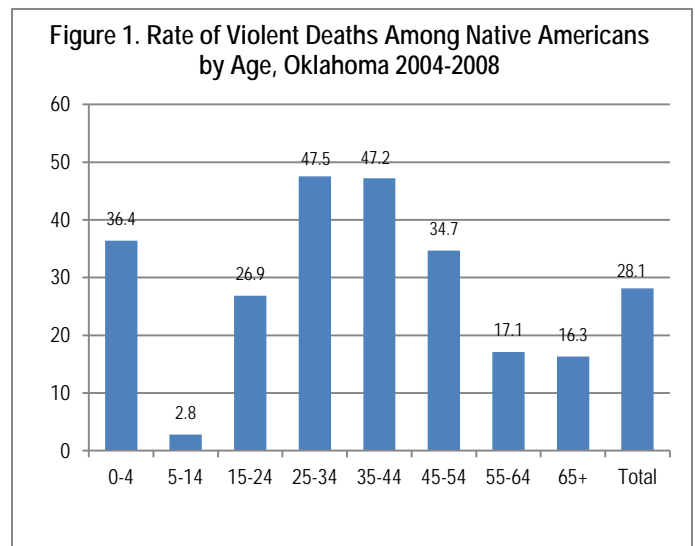
# OK-VDRS BRIEF REPORT

Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System

## Violent Deaths among Native Americans in Oklahoma

Every year more than 50,000 people die from violence in the U.S. Violent deaths in the U.S. occur disproportionately among Native Americans (NA). From 2004-2007, average homicide rates for NA were 20% higher and suicide rates were 8% higher than the U.S. Oklahoma's population has one of the highest concentrations of NA of any state in the U.S. Nine percent of Oklahoma's population is Native American compare to 1% of the U.S. population. Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System (OK-VDRS) data were used to determine the prevalence of violent deaths among NA in Oklahoma and identify disparities between NA and non-NA.

- From 2004-2008 there were 4,560 violent deaths among Oklahoma residents; 457 (10%) of the victims were NA.
- Seventy-four percent of NA victims were male and 26% were female.
- The mean age of NA victims was 32 years (range <1 - 80 years).
- Forty nine percent of violent deaths among NA were suicide, 26% were of undetermined manner death, 23% were homicide, 1% was legal intervention and less than 1% was unintentional firearm injury death.



- Rates of violent deaths among NA were highest among persons 25-44 years of age (Figure 1).
- The mean age of non-NA victims was 40 years (range <1 - 101 years).
- The overall violent death rate among NA was 17% higher than the rate among non-NA (28.1 and 24.0 per 100,000 population, respectively). The suicide rate among NA was 5% less than the rate among non-NA. The undetermined manner death among NA was more than twice the rate for non-NA, and the homicide rate among NA was 20% higher than the rate among non-NA (Table 1).

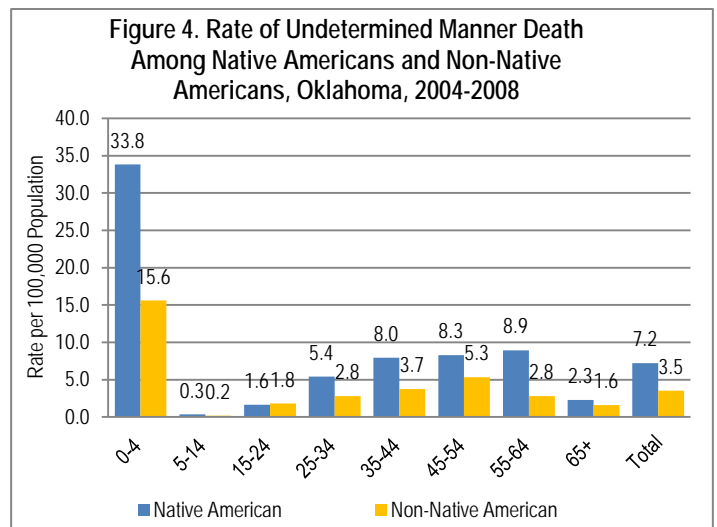
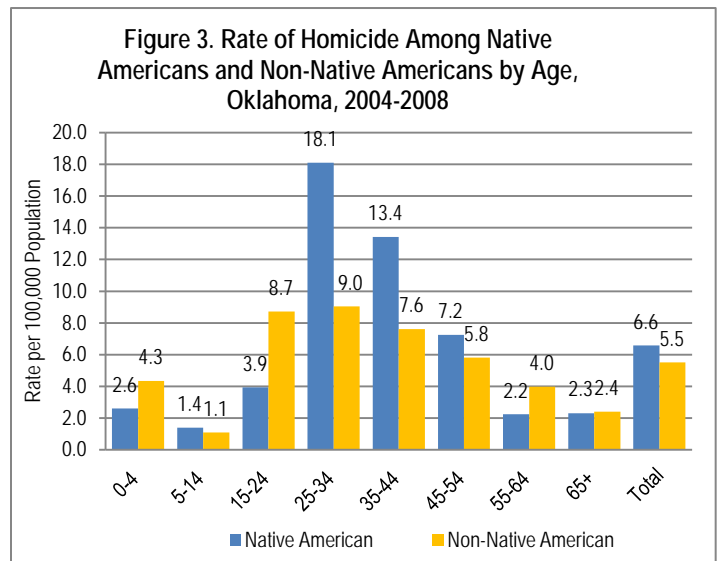
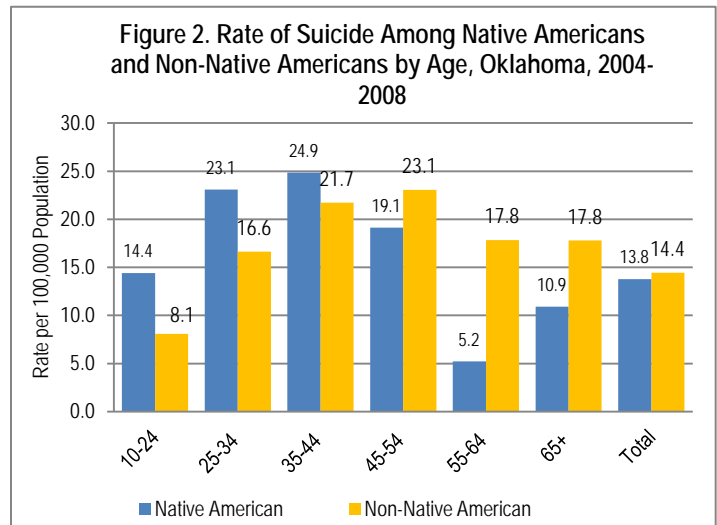
Table 1. Comparison of Violent Death Rates among Native Americans and Non-Native Americans by Manner, Oklahoma 2004-2008

	Native American (Rate*)	Non-Native American (Rate*)	Ratio Native American/ Non-Native American
All Violent Death	28.1	24	1.17
Suicide	13.8	14.4	0.95
Homicide	6.6	5.5	1.20
Unknown Manner Death	7.2	3.5	2.05
Legal Intervention	0.4	0.3	1.33
Unintentional Firearm	0.1	0.3	0.33

\*Rate per 100,000 population

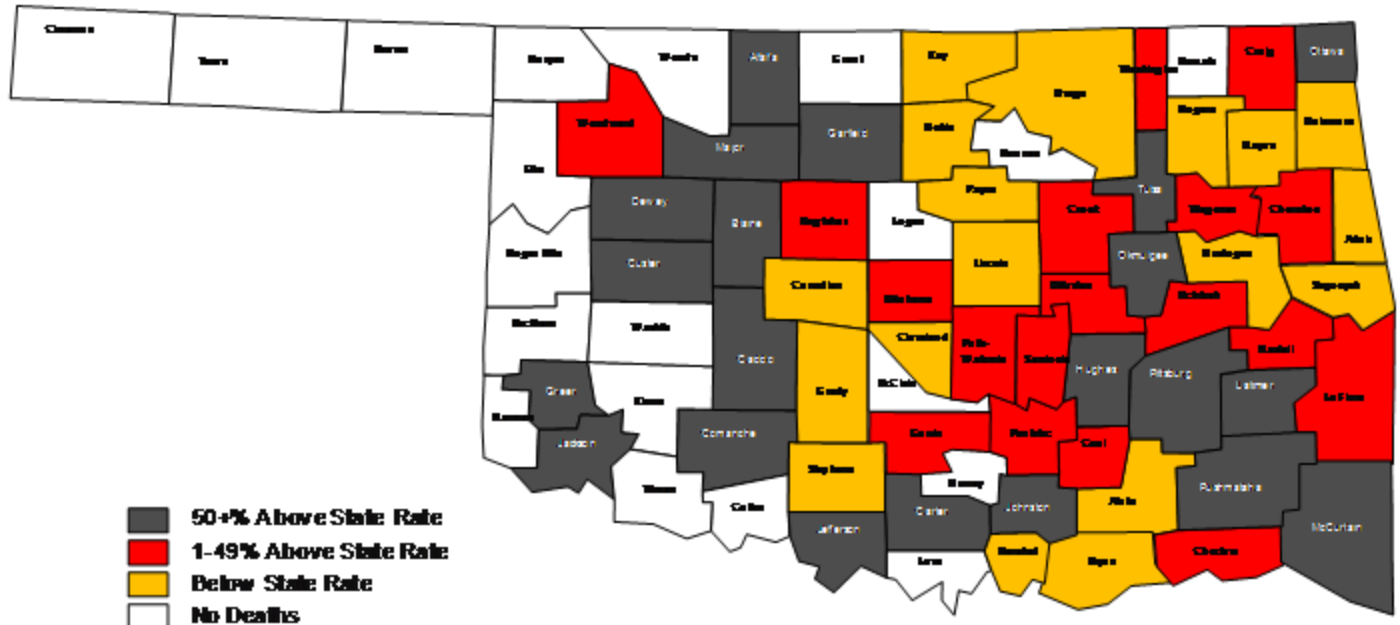
**Violent Deaths among Native Americans in Oklahoma**

- While the overall suicide rate among NA was slightly less than the rate among non-NA, suicide rate among NA youth 10-24 years of age was 78% higher than the rate among non-NA in that age group (Figure 2).
- The homicide rate among NA 25-44 years of age was nearly twice the homicide rate among non-NA in that age group (Figure 3).
- NA children 0-4 years of age had the highest rate of undetermined manner death (Figure 4). Ninety four percent of victims (49/52) were less than one year of age and 6% were 1-4 years of age.
- Firearms (48%) were the most common weapon/method used to kill among NA victims. Firearms were also the most common weapon/method used to kill among non-NA (59%).
- NA victims were more likely to be single/never married than non-NA (OR=1.63, 95% CI, 1.33-1.98).
- NA victims were more likely to be using alcohol at the time of death compare to non-NA (OR=1.85, 95% CI, 1.47-2.32), and drug use was similar among NA victims and non-NA victims at the time of death.
- Current depressed mood and intimate partner problems (18% each) were the leading circumstances of suicide among NA, followed by mental health problems (15%).
- Arguments and intimate partner violence were the leading circumstances of homicide among NA (49% and 22% respectively).
- In 39 counties, the rate of violent death among NA was higher than the state rate for all races combined. In 18 counties, the rate of violent death among NA was less than the state rate, and in 20 counties, there were no violent deaths among NA (Figure 5).



Violent Deaths among Native Americans in Oklahoma

**Figure 5. Violent Death Rates among Native Americans by County, Oklahoma, 2004-2008**



Prepared by:  
 H. Julien Kabore, MPH  
 Injury Prevention Service  
 Oklahoma State Department of Health

The Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System (OK-VDRS) is a statewide surveillance system for suicides, homicides, undetermined manner deaths, unintentional firearm injury deaths and legal intervention deaths. Data are collected from medical examiner reports, death certificates, law enforcement reports, and child fatality review data. The data are included in the National Violent Death Reporting System and can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/>.

