

North Carolina

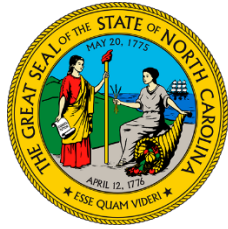
Violent Death Reporting System

2022

Annual Report



**North Carolina
Injury & Violence
Prevention Branch**



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health



Annual Report 2022

**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch**

March 2025

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Executive Summary

North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System, 2022

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-funded, state-wide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in North Carolina resulting from violence, specifically homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm injuries, legal intervention, and those deaths for which the intent could not be determined. The system is a relational database and compiles information on the victims, suspects and circumstances surrounding each violent death. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports and law enforcement reports. Collection of this information has created a better understanding of the circumstances surrounding violent deaths that occur in North Carolina. The goal of the system is to aid researchers, legislators and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. This report summarizes the violent deaths of North Carolina residents that occurred in 2022.

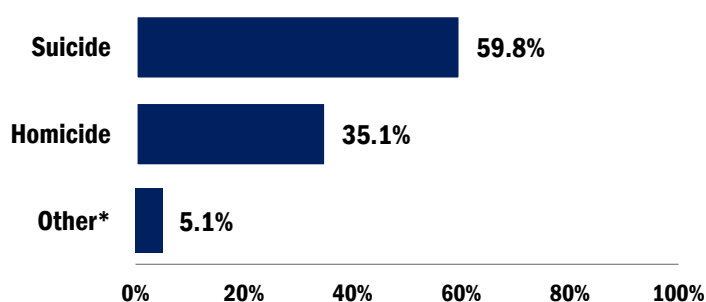
Overall Violent Deaths

In 2022, 2,610 North Carolina residents (24.4 per 100,000) died as a result of violence. The leading causes of violent death were suicide (59.8%) followed by homicide (35.1%) (Figure i). Leading methods of violent death were firearm (68.3%), hanging, strangulation or suffocation (13.2%), and poisoning (7.9%). The most common firearms involved in firearm deaths were handguns (77.5%), shotguns (7.4%), and rifles (7.8%).

Males were 3.9 times as likely to die from violence as women (39.4 vs. 10.1 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure ii). The violent death rates per 100,000 victims from highest to lowest by race/ethnicity were non-Hispanic (NH) American Indian (46.1), NH Black (37.3), NH white (23.1), Hispanic (14.8), and NH Asian (10.7).

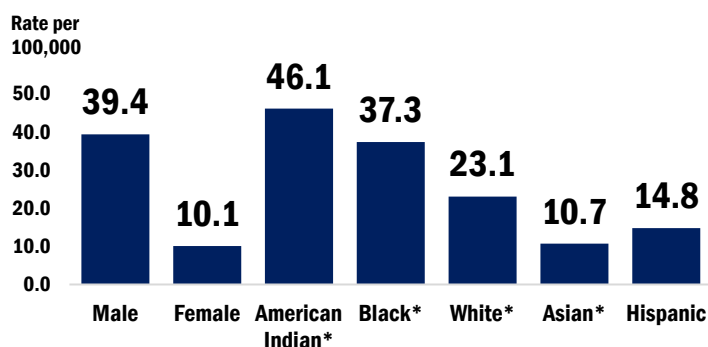
Adults from ages 15 to 44 years and ages 85 years and older had the highest violent death rates by age per 100,000 as follows: 20 to 24 (39.5), 25 to 34 (36.2), 35 to 44 (31.9), and 85 and older (31.2), and 15 to 19 (27.2). The violent death rate trend by age differed by sex, with male victims showing higher rates than female victims across nearly all age groups (Figure iii).

Figure i: Manner of violent death in North Carolina, 2022



* Other includes undetermined intent, legal intervention and unintentional firearm

Figure ii: Overall violent death rates by sex and race/ethnicity in North Carolina, 2022



* Non-Hispanic

Note: The number of homicide deaths for sex and race/ethnicity was high enough to support a rate calculation.

Executive Summary

Suicides

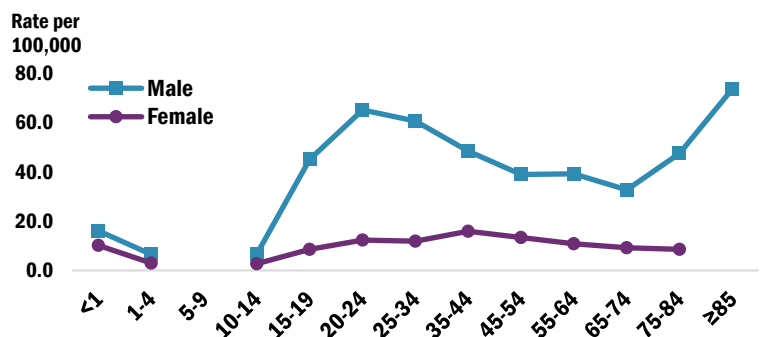
Suicide was the cause of death for 1,562 North Carolinians (16.9 per 100,000) in 2022. The most common method of suicide was firearm (61.9%), followed by hanging, strangulation, or suffocation (21.4%), and poisoning (10.6%). A handgun was the most common firearm, involved in 82.4% of suicide firearm deaths. Opiates were the most common substance category present in suicide poisonings (30.7%), followed by antidepressants (21.1%) and benzodiazepines (17.5%).

Men were 3.9 times more likely to die from suicide than women (26.7 versus 6.9 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure iv). Among suicide victims, 78.6% were male, and 78.4% were NH white. The suicide rate per 100,000 was highest among NH American Indians (22.5), and NH whites (20.7), and lower among NH Asians (10.5), NH Blacks (10.1), and Hispanics (8.5).

The age group with the highest suicide rate per 100,000 was those 85 and older (27.7), followed by ages 75 to 84 (22.3) and ages 20 to 24 (18.6). The suicide rate was higher for men than women across all age groups, however men ages 85 and older were at greatest risk with a rate of 70.4 per 100,000 (Figure v).

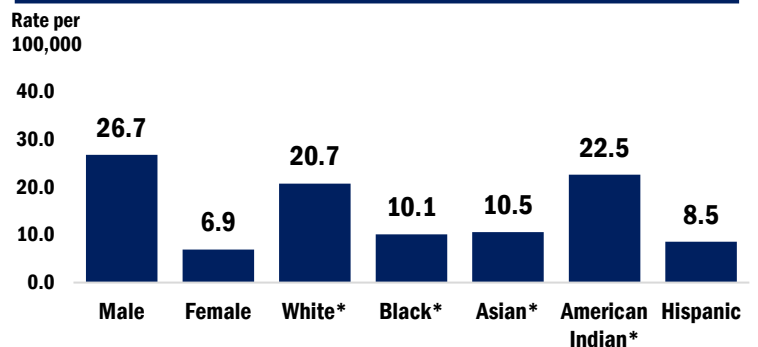
The most common circumstances of suicide were having ever been treated for mental illness (64.2%), current mental health problem (62.9%), a recent crisis (40.7%), a history of suicidal thoughts (39.1%), and current treatment for mental illness (31.9%). Most with a current mental health problem had depression (77.2%). Other common circumstances of suicide were problems with an intimate partner (26.6%), physical health problem (21.1%), an alcohol problem (17.3%), or other substance misuse problem (19.1%).

Figure iii: Overall Violent Death Rates in North Carolina: Age Group by Sex, 2022



Note: The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for males ages 5-9 and females ages 5-9 and 85 and older.

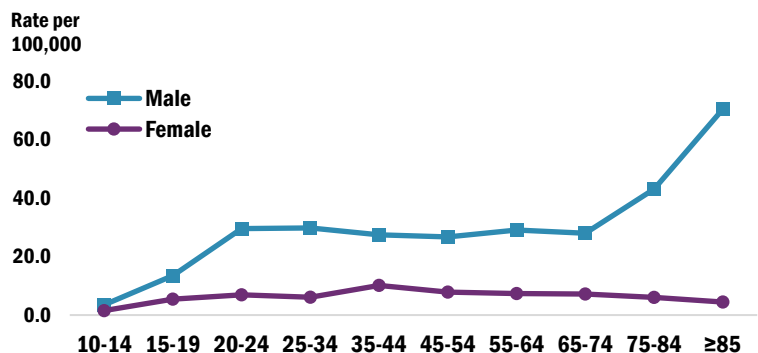
Figure iv: Suicide rates by sex and race/ethnicity in North Carolina, 2022



* Non-Hispanic

Note: The number of suicide deaths for sex and race/ethnicity was high enough to support a rate calculation.

Figure v: Suicide rates in North Carolina: Age group by sex, 2022



Note: The number of suicide deaths for age groups and sex was high enough to support a rate calculation.

Of the 90.0% of suicide victims tested, 25.7% had alcohol present at the time of death. Most (76.1%) injuries resulting in suicide occurred in a house or apartment.

Homicides

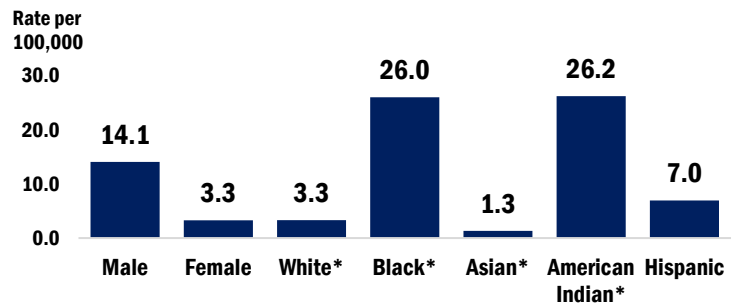
A total of 916 North Carolinians (8.6 per 100,000) were homicide victims in 2022. Firearm (81.4%) and sharp instruments (7.8%) were the most common homicide methods. Handguns accounted for 71.0% of firearms used in homicide firearm deaths.

Men accounted for 80.3% of homicide victims and were 4.3 times more likely to die from homicide than women (14.1 vs. 3.3 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure vi). Unlike suicide rates, homicide rates were higher among NH Black (26.0 per 100,000) and NH American Indian (26.2 per 100,000) than in NH white (3.3 per 100,000), and Hispanic (7.0 per 100,000) victims.

Homicide rates were highest in the following age groups: 20 to 24 years (18.4 per 100,000), 25 to 34 years (16.8 per 100,000), and 15-19 years (16.4 per 100,000). Males had a higher homicide rate across all age groups. (Figure vii). Among 20- to 24-year-olds, the homicide rate was 6.4 times greater among males than females.

The most common event circumstances surrounding homicides were an argument, abuse or conflict (46.9%), precipitated by another serious crime (25.8%), drug involvement (17.8%), and intimate partner violence-related (15.8%). Homicides occurred most often in a house or apartment (51.1%), a motor vehicle (14.6%), or a street, road, sidewalk or alley (11.5%).

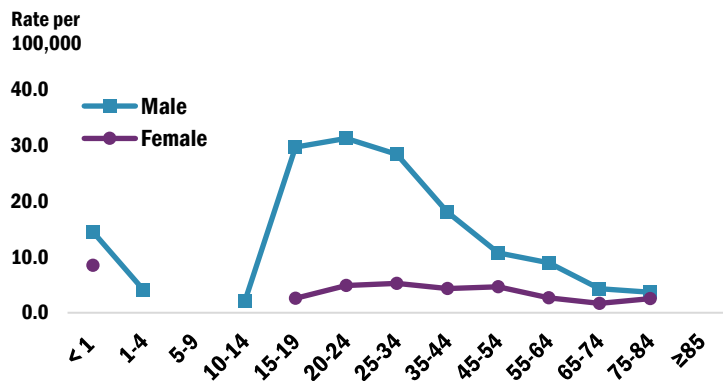
Figure vi: Homicide rates by sex and race/ethnicity in North Carolina, 2022



* Non-Hispanic

Note: The number of homicide deaths for sex and race/ethnicity was high enough to support a rate calculation.

Figure vii: Homicide rates in North Carolina: Age group by sex, 2022



Note: The number of homicide deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for males ages 5-9, and 85 and older, and females ages 1-14, and 85 and older.

Firearm Violent Deaths

Most violent deaths involve a firearm. In 2022, there were 1,782 firearm deaths, accounting for 68.3% of all violent deaths. Most firearm violent deaths were suicides (54.3%), followed by homicides (41.9%) (Figure viii).

Males were more likely than females to experience a violent death with a firearm (28.6 per 100,000 versus 5.3 per 100,000, respectively). Handguns were the most common type of firearm used (77.5%).

Executive Summary

Overall firearm death rates are highest among NH American Indian (31.6 per 100,000) and NH Black (30.0 per 100,000) victims, followed by NH white (14.6 per 100,000), Hispanic (9.1 per 100,000), and NH Asian (4.3 per 100,000) victims.

Firearm death rates were highest among ages 20 to 24 (30.9 per 100,000) and ages 25 to 34 (26.1 per 100,000).

Firearm Suicide

Firearms were used in 61.9% of the 1,562 suicides in 2022 (N=967). The most commonly used firearm type was a handgun (82.4%).

Males were 5.7 times more likely than females to die from firearm suicide (17.7 versus 3.1 per 100,000). NH white victims had the highest firearm suicide rate (13.2 per 100,000). This was 2.1 times greater than the firearm suicide rate among NH Black (6.3 per 100,000) victims.

Firearm suicide rates were highest among adults ages 85 and older and 75 to 84 (22.5 and 17.8 per 100,000). Among males, firearm suicide rates were highest for those 85 and older (59.0 per 100,000), whereas for females, the firearm suicide rate was highest among those ages 35-44 (4.6 per 100,000).

Firearm Homicide

A total of 746 North Carolinians were victims of firearm homicide in 2022. Firearm homicides accounted for 81.4% of all homicide incidents. Handguns were the most common firearm type (71.0%).

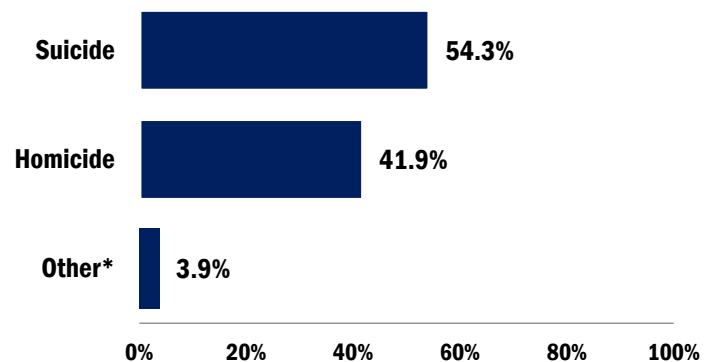
Males were 5.2 times more likely than females to be a victim of firearm homicide (13.5 and 2.6 per 100,000 respectively). Males ages 20 to 24 were 6.5 times more likely to die from firearm homicide than

females of the same age (30.1 and 4.6 per 100,000 respectively).

NH Black (26.0 per 100,000) and NH American Indian (22.5 per 100,000) victims had higher firearm homicide rates than Hispanic (7.0 per 100,000) and NH white (2.4 per 100,000).

Firearm homicide rates were highest among those ages 20 to 24 (17.7 per 100,000) and 15 to 19 (15.7 per 100,000).

Figure viii: Manner of violent death among firearm deaths in North Carolina, 2022



* Other includes unintentional firearm, firearm legal intervention, and firearm deaths of undetermined intent.

Unintentional Firearm Deaths

In 2022, 25 North Carolinians (0.2 per 100,000) died from a firearm injury sustained in a shooting not intentionally directed at the victim. Handguns (88.0%) were most commonly involved in unintentional firearm deaths, followed by shotguns (4.0%). There were no rifles involved in any unintentional firearm deaths (0.0%). The type of firearm was unknown in 8.0% of unintentional firearm deaths.

In 2022, there were 35 firearm legal intervention deaths and 9 firearm deaths of undetermined intent.

Legal Intervention

Forty-three North Carolina residents died in 2022 from legal intervention. These victims were killed by police or other law enforcement officers acting in the line of duty. Most legal intervention victims were male (88.4%), all victims were from 15 to 74 years of age, and most were NH white or NH Black (41.9% and 41.9%, respectively). All but eight legal intervention deaths occurred by firearm; of the total firearms involved (n=39), handguns were used most frequently (76.9%).

Child Violent Deaths

In North Carolina in 2022, 166 children (7.1 per 100,000) ages 0 to 17 died from violence. Homicide (57.8%) and suicide (28.9%) were the leading causes of child violent death (Figure ix). Firearm (63.9%), hanging, strangulation, or suffocation (10.8%), and personal weapons (5.4%) were the most common methods of child death.

Male children were 3.1 times as likely to be victims of violent death as female children (10.7 vs. 3.4 per 100,000, respectively). The violent death rate per 100,000 was 4.3 times higher for NH Black children (18.1 per 100,000) than for NH white children (4.2 per 100,000).

*Personal weapons include hands, fists, and feet.

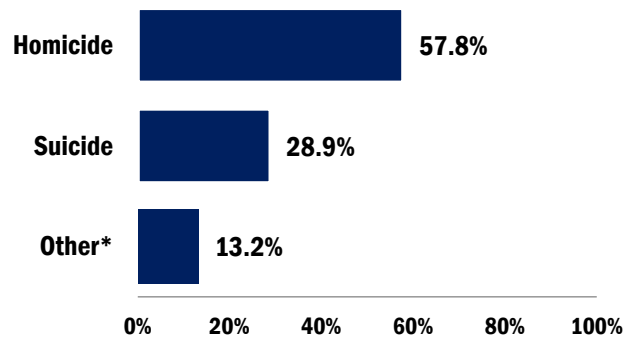
Undetermined Intent

A total of 66 deaths of undetermined intent (0.6 per 100,000) were reported in North Carolina in 2022. The leading methods of undetermined intent deaths were poisoning (60.9%), firearm (14.1%), and blunt instrument (6.3%).

Violent Deaths Over Time

The overall violent death rate in North Carolina remained fairly stable from 2013 to 2022, averaging 21.7 per 100,000 per year. The overall violent death rate was 19.5 per 100,000 in 2013, 22.4 per 100,000 in 2017, and 24.4 per 100,000 in 2022.

Figure ix: Manner of violent death among children in North Carolina, 2022



* Other includes undetermined intent and unintentional firearm.

NC-VDRS Data Dashboard

The interactive NC-VDRS Data Dashboard launched in November 2021 provides aggregate information on violent deaths for all 100 counties in North Carolina from 2004 through 2022.

The dashboard can be accessed [here](#), or with the following QR code:



Executive Summary

Introduction

In 2022, there were more than 49,476 suicides and 24,849 homicides nationwide, many of which were preventable. In North Carolina, more than 21,189 residents died from suicide or homicide in the 10-year period from 2013 to 2022. In that same period, suicide and homicide ranked as the state's 12th and 16th leading causes of death, respectively. Among specific age groups, violent death constitutes an even greater risk. In North Carolina in 2022, suicide was the second leading cause of death for children ages 10 to 14 and adults ages 25 to 34. Suicide was the third leading cause of death for young adults ages 15 to 24, the fourth leading cause for adults ages 35 to 44, and the seventh leading cause for adults ages 45 to 54. Homicide was the state's third leading cause of death for children ages one to four and adults ages 25 to 34. Homicide was the second leading cause of death for ages 15 to 24. In addition, violent death rates show disparities by sex, race, and ethnicity. For males in North Carolina in 2022, suicide was the ninth leading cause of death, compared to the sixteenth leading cause among females. Homicide was the 10th leading cause of death in NH Blacks, and suicide was the 11th leading cause of death in NH whites in North Carolina in 2022. Among Hispanics in North Carolina, homicide and suicide were respectively the seventh and eighth leading causes of death in 2022.

This report provides comprehensive information on the characteristics and circumstances of violent death victims and incidents within North Carolina, using data from the North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS). For the purpose of this report, violent deaths include homicide, suicide and legal intervention as well as deaths of undetermined intent and from unintentional firearm injuries. The North Carolina Division of Public Health, Injury and Violence Branch would like to acknowledge that generations of social, economic, and environmental inequities contribute to disparities in violent deaths. When interpreting the data, it is crucial to recognize and acknowledge these systemic, avoidable, and/or unjust factors. Although the purpose of this report is not to analyze these factors, the [CDC](#) as well as the [US Department of Health and Human Services](#) have compiled resources on social determinants of health, and the [North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics dashboard](#) has social determinants of health data publicly available that is specific to North Carolinians. These and other resources can provide important context on community and societal level factors that contribute to disparities in violence-related deaths.

The NC-VDRS is a CDC-funded public health, population-based surveillance system that contains detailed information on deaths that result from violence. Operated by the North Carolina Division of Public Health's Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, it provides injury and violence prevention specialists and policymakers detailed information on the victims, suspects, relationships, circumstances, and weapons that are associated with every incident of violence that results in a fatality in North Carolina. The NC-VDRS is an incident-based, relational database that combines data from multiple sources such as death certificates, medical examiner reports and incident reports from law enforcement agencies. The NC-VDRS began collecting data on January 1, 2004.

The NC-VDRS is part of a larger, national system developed by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at CDC. In 2002, Congress appropriated \$1.5 million to create the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) to implement a nationwide surveillance system on deaths from violence. NVDRS is built on the knowledge gained from a firearm reporting system developed at the University of Wisconsin and the National Violent Injury Statistics System (NVISS, operated by the Harvard Injury Control Research Center). Participation in NVDRS is through competitive cooperative agreements. North Carolina was awarded funding in August 2003. Currently, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico submit data to NVDRS.

This annual report for the NC-VDRS presents statistics on deaths from violence to North Carolina residents during the period of January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022. The 2022 data file used for this report was generated in July 2024. Note that if changes are made to the 2022 data in NC-VDRS after this date, the 2022 violent death data could change in future reports. Improvements were made to the NC-VDRS case definitions to capture NC violent deaths more accurately. Starting with the 2020 annual report, there may be slight differences in counts and rates for previous data years compared to data included in previously published NC-VDRS data products.

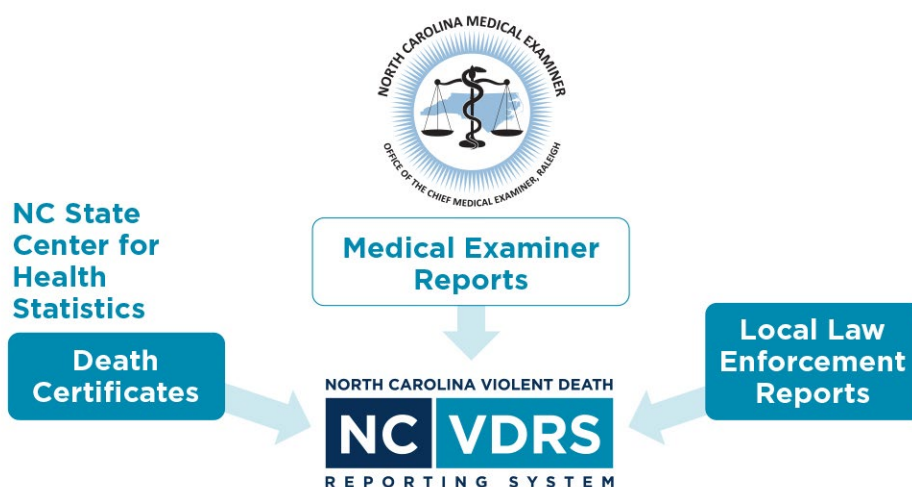
A glossary of the terms used in this report is shown in Appendix C.

Methods

Case Identification

This report provides a comprehensive summary of all violent deaths among residents of North Carolina during 2022. Violent deaths are captured by data abstractors using multiple, complementary data sources that include:

- **Death Certificates** – obtained from North Carolina’s State Center for Health Statistics.
- **Chief Medical Examiner Reports** – obtained from the NC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner which is required to evaluate all violent deaths in North Carolina.
- **Law Enforcement Reports** – obtained from more than 200 local law enforcement agencies across the state and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation.



In most cases, the sources provide a unanimous categorization for the manner of death. However, in cases where a discrepancy occurs, the abstractor assigns a manner of death for which there is a preponderance of evidence from all sources. This classification must agree with at least one of the primary data sources listed above. These deaths must also correspond with the International Classification of Disease codes, version 10 (ICD-10), to be selected as cases for the NC-VDRS.

Operational Definition: ICD-10 Codes that Define NC-VDRS Cases

Manner of Death	Death < 1 year after injury	Death ≥ 1 year or more after injury
Intentional self-harm	X60-X84	Y87.0
Assault	X85-X99, Y00-Y09	Y87.1
Undetermined intent	Y10-Y34	Y87.2, Y89.9
Unintentional firearm	W32-W34	Y86 (guns)
Legal intervention	Y35.0-Y35.7	Y89.0
Terrorism	U01, U03	U02

Methods

These data are received electronically from the medical examiner and death certificate sources and imported into NC-VDRS. Data not received electronically are obtained by hard-copy file and manually entered by the NC-VDRS abstraction team. Data are routinely evaluated for quality by the program manager. Quality control procedures ensure that the data are as accurate and complete as possible. Quality control measures include, but are not limited to:

- Review of death certificate and medical examiner data to determine whether cases meet NVDRS eligibility criteria;
- Review of death certificate data and medical examiner data to identify inconsistent manner of death or ICD-10 codes;
- Assessment of data completeness, especially manner of death;
- Evaluation of data entry errors, including comparison against electronic death certificate data;
- Documentation of coding errors; and
- Assessment of narrative completeness

Defining Manner of Death

The NC-VDRS conceptually defines a violent death as a death due to “the intentional use of physical force against oneself, another person, or against a group or community.” Deaths meeting this definition include intentional deaths, such as:

- **Suicide** – A death resulting from the intentional use of force against oneself. A preponderance of evidence should indicate that the use of force was intentional. Suicides are classified among violent deaths only for people ages 10 or older.
- **Homicide** – A death resulting from the intentional use of force or power, threatened or actual, against another person, group or community. A preponderance of evidence must indicate that the use of force was intentional.
- **Legal Intervention** – A death when the decedent was killed by a police officer, military police officer or other peace officer (person with specified legal authority to use deadly force) acting in the line of duty. Legal executions are not included in the national system (NVDRS) but are reported in the state system (NC-VDRS) as legal intervention deaths.

The database also captures deaths from unintentional firearm injuries and deaths with undetermined intent. These deaths are defined as:

- **Unintentional Firearm** – A death resulting from a penetrating injury or gunshot wound from a weapon that uses a powder charge to fire a projectile and for which a preponderance of evidence indicates that the shooting was not directed intentionally at the decedent. Because most firearm deaths are intentional, unintentional firearm deaths are included in the data system so that they can be reviewed to identify patterns for injury prevention. This category also includes a child under the age of six who shoots himself or another person, as children under the age of six are presumed not to have developed the ability to intentionally harm themselves or others.

- **Undetermined Intent** – A death resulting from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating manner of death was not sufficient to determine intent.

The national and state violent death reporting systems are the official repository of deaths from terrorism. Deaths in North Carolina from an act of terrorism would be listed as a homicide or suicide in the NC-VDRS.

Analysis

This report provides three main types of analytic data on violent deaths in North Carolina: 1) number of deaths for each violent death category; 2) percent of total deaths for each manner of death and by specific demographic characteristics; and 3) rate of violent deaths for each manner of death and by demographic characteristics, where possible. Demographic characteristics include age, sex, race/ethnicity, years of completed education, marital status and North Carolina county of residence.

The rate of violent death is calculated as the number of deaths during the specified time per 100,000 North Carolina residents in the same category (rate = [number of deaths x 100,000 / population]). Rates were calculated using bridged North Carolina population data (vintage 2022) from the National Center for Health Statistics. The numbers of the total North Carolina population and children by demographic characteristic are available in Appendix B. Unless otherwise stated, a child is a person under 18 years of age.

Resident vs. Occurrent Deaths

The NC-VDRS captures data on all violent deaths that occur in the state.

- **Resident deaths** are those in which the victim was a North Carolina resident at the time of death, and the death occurred in North Carolina (N=2,610).
- **Occurrent deaths** capture all deaths that occur within North Carolina during the specified time, regardless of the residential status of the decedent (N=2,700).

The data in this report are restricted to resident deaths. All victims included in the analyses were classified as residents of North Carolina at the time of death.

Data Use Caveat

All findings in the report are based on rigorous data collection and analysis. However, counts that are small (fewer than 20) must be interpreted with caution, particularly when they are used in the calculation of death rates. Small numbers, even if they are not used in the calculation of rates, have substantial variation over time (i.e., a large standard error). This report presents mortality rates for cases where there are at least five deaths; however, rates for counts fewer than 20 should be interpreted with extreme caution when making comparisons or assessing trends over time. An asterisk (*) in the rate cell indicates the number of deaths was too small to support the calculation of a rate. A good way of determining significance of death rates is to evaluate the 95% confidence interval (95% CI). The wider the confidence interval (i.e., the greater the difference between the lower and upper bounds of the confidence interval), the less accurate the rate is, and therefore, more caution should be employed when using the data.

NC-VDRS Data Dashboard

The NC-VDRS Data Dashboard launched in November 2021 provides aggregate information on violent deaths for all 100 counties in North Carolina from 2004 through 2022. The interactive dashboard was created to make data more accessible to public health partners to inform the development, implementation and evaluation of prevention efforts around violence and safety. Data are broken out by demographic group, including sex, race/ethnicity, and age group, and provide information by manner, mechanism, geographic area, and circumstances surrounding these deaths. Additionally, data from the figures and tables can be downloaded from the dashboard to support additional analysis and use for informing violence prevention efforts.

The dashboard can be accessed [here](#), or with the following QR code:



For more information on how to use the NC-VDRS Data Dashboard, please see the [NC-VDRS Dashboard User Guide](#) which includes frequently asked questions about the data dashboard, or the [How-to video](#) which provides detailed information on how to navigate between the pages of the dashboard and filter the data.

Acknowledgements

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We thank and acknowledge the ongoing support and assistance of the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Mecklenburg Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, and many local law enforcement agencies throughout North Carolina that have provided information to the NC-VDRS. Without these key data partners, the NC-VDRS would not be as credible or strong. The law enforcement agencies that provided data for this report are:

Alamance County Sheriff's Office	Concord Police Department
Albemarle Police Department	Conover Police Department
Alexander County Sheriff's Office	Cornelius Police Department
Alleghany County Sheriff's Office	Craven County Sheriff's Office
Angier Police Department	Cumberland County Sheriff's Office
Anson County Sheriff's Office	Currituck County Sheriff's Office
Apex Police Department	Dallas Police Department
Asheboro Police Department	Davidson County Sheriff's Office
Asheville Police Department	Davie County Sheriff's Office
Avery County Sheriff's Office	Dunn Police Department
Beaufort County Sheriff's Office	Duplin County Sheriff's Office
Benson Police Department	Durham County Sheriff's Office
Bertie County Sheriff's Office	Durham Police Department
Beulaville Police Department	Eden Police Department
Black Mountain Police Department	Edenton Police Department
Bladen County Sheriff's Office	Edgecombe County Sheriff's Office
Brevard Police Department	Elizabeth City Police Department
Brunswick County Sheriff's Office	Elkin Police Department
Buncombe County Sheriff's Office	Elon Police Department
Burke County Sheriff's Office	Enfield Police Department
Burlington Police Department	Fairmont Police Department
Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office	Fayetteville Police Department
Caldwell County Sheriff's Office	Fletcher Police Department
Carteret County Sheriff's Office	Forest City Police Department
Cary Police Department	Forsyth County Sheriff's Office
Caswell County Sheriff's Office	Franklin County Sheriff's Office
Catawba County Sheriff's Office	Franklinton Police Department
Chapel Hill Police Department	Fuquay-Varina Police Department
Chatham County Sheriff's Office	Garner Police Department
Cherokee County Sheriff's Office	Gaston County Police Department
Cherryville Police Department	Gastonia Police Department
Clay County Sheriff's Office	Gates County Sheriff's Office
Clayton Police Department	Gibsonville Police Department
Cleveland County Sheriff's Office	Goldsboro Police Department
Clinton Police Department	Graham Police Department
Clyde Police Department	Granville County Sheriff's Office
Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department	Greene County Sheriff's Office
Columbus County Sheriff's Office	Greensboro Police Department

Acknowledgements

Greenville Police Department
Guilford County Sheriff's Office
Halifax County Sheriff's Office
Harnett County Sheriff's Office
Haywood County Sheriff's Office
Henderson County Sheriff's Office
Henderson Police Department
Hendersonville Police Department
Hertford County Sheriff's Office
Hickory Police Department
High Point Police Department
Hillsborough Police Department
Hoke County Sheriff's Office
Huntersville Police Department
Hyde County Sheriff's Office
Iredell County Sheriff's Office
Jackson County Sheriff's Office
Jacksonville Police Department
Johnston County Sheriff's Office
Kannapolis Police Department
Kernersville Police Department
Kings Mountain Police Department
Kinston Police Department
Knightdale Police Department
Laurinburg Police Department
Lee County Sheriff's Office
Lenoir County Sheriff's Office
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Longview Police Department
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Lumberton Police Department
Macon County Sheriff's Office
Madison County Sheriff's Office
Madison Police Department
Maggie Valley Police Department
Martin County Sheriff's Office
Matthews Police Department
Maxton Police Department
McDowell County Sheriff's Office
Mebane Police Department
Mint Hill Police Department
Mitchell County Sheriff's Office
Monroe Police Department
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
Moore County Sheriff's Office
Mooresville Police Department
Morehead City Police Department
Morganton Police Department
Morrisville Police Department

Mount Airy Police Department
Mount Holly Police Department
Murphy Police Department
Nags Head Police Department
Nash County Sheriff's Office
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Newport Police Department
Newton Police Department
Northampton County Sheriff's Office
Oak Island Police Department
Onslow County Sheriff's Office
Orange County Sheriff's Office
Oxford Police Department
Pamlico County Sheriff's Office
Pasquotank County Sheriff's Office
Pender County Sheriff's Office
Perquimans County Sheriff's Office
Pinehurst Police Department
Pineville Police Department
Pitt County Sheriff's Office
Pittsboro Police Department
Plymouth Police Department
Polk County Sheriff's Office
Polkton Police Department
Raleigh Police Department
Randleman Police Department
Randolph County Sheriff's Office
Reidsville Police Department
Richmond County Sheriff's Office
Roanoke Rapids Police Department
Robeson County Sheriff's Office
Rockingham County Sheriff's Office
Rocky Mount Police Department
Rowan County Sheriff's Office
Roxboro Police Department
Rutherford County Sheriff's Office
Rutherford Police Department
Rutherfordton Police Department
Salisbury Police Department
Sampson County Sheriff's Office
Scotland County Sheriff's Office
Scotland Neck Police Department
Shelby Police Department
Smithfield Police Department
Southern Pines Police Department
Sparta Police Department
St. Pauls Police Department
Stallings Police Department
Stanly County Sheriff's Office
Statesville Police Department
Stokes County Sheriff's Office
Surf City Police Department

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Surry County Sheriff's Office
Thomasville Police Department
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Transylvania County Sheriff's Office
Trent Woods Police Department
Troy Police Department
Tyrell County Sheriff's Office
Union County Sheriff's Office
Valdese Police Department
Vance County Sheriff's Office
Wadesboro Police Department
Wake County Sheriff's Office
Warren County Sheriff's Office
Washington Police Department

Wayne County Sheriff's Office
Waynesville Police Department
Weldon Police Department
Whiteville Police Department
Wilkes County Sheriff's Office
Wilmington Police Department
Wilson County Sheriff's Office
Wilson Police Department
Woodfin Police Department
Winston Salem Police Department
Yadkin County Sheriff's Office
Yancey County Sheriff's Office
Youngsville Police Department

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Section I: Overall Violent Deaths

Basic Characteristics of Violent Deaths

Table 1 describes violent death victims in North Carolina in 2022 by demographic characteristics of sex, race/ethnicity and age. The 2022 overall rate of violent deaths per 100,000 people in North Carolina is displayed in **Figure 1** by sex and race/ethnicity and in **Figure 2** by age group.

Key Findings:

- A total of 2,610 North Carolinians (24.4 per 100,000) died as a result of violence in 2022.
- Males were 3.9 times as likely to die from violence as females (39.4 versus 10.1 per 100,000, respectively).
- Non-Hispanic (NH) American Indians had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (46.1) followed by NH Blacks (37.3), NH whites (23.1), Hispanics (14.8), and NH Asians (10.7).
- Adults ages 20 to 24 years had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (39.5), followed by adults ages: 25 to 34 (36.2), 35 to 44 (31.9), 85 and older (31.2).
- Among children under the age of 15, children less than one year old had the highest violent death rate (13.2 per 100,000).

Table 2 lists the manner and method of violent deaths in North Carolina in 2022. NC violent deaths in 2022 are presented in **Figure 3** by manner of death and in **Figure 4** by method of death. The type of firearm used in firearm violent deaths is shown in **Table 3**.

Key Findings:

- The leading causes of violent death were suicide (59.8%) followed by homicide (35.1%).
- The leading methods of violent death were firearm (68.3%), hanging, strangulation or suffocation (13.2%), and poisoning (7.9%).
- The most common firearm involved in violent firearm deaths was a handgun (77.5%).

Table 4 characterizes adult violent death victims (18 years or older) in North Carolina in 2022 by the number of years of completed education, marital status and veteran status.

Key Findings:

- Most adult victims at least completed high school (79.9%) while 38.6% completed at least some college.
- Over one-fourth of adult violent death victims were married, in a civil union, or a domestic partnership (26.0%). Nearly one-half of adult violent victims were never married (47.2%). Fewer victims were divorced (16.4%) or widowed (5.0%).
- Military veterans accounted for 13.4% of North Carolina adult violent death victims in 2022.

Table 5 and **Figure 5** show the overall violent death rates in 2022 by North Carolina county of residence. County violent death rates should be interpreted with caution because the numbers of violent deaths by county are small and subject to variation. The number of deaths in 10 counties was too small to support a rate calculation (greater than zero, but less than 5).

Key Findings:

- For the 90 counties where the number of resident deaths was sufficient to support a rate calculation, the average rate of violent deaths by North Carolina county of residence was 28.5 deaths per 100,000 with a range from 0.0 to 93.3 deaths per 100,000.

Note: Rounding of percentages found in tables/figures may result in totals more or less than 100.

Table 1: Demographics of violent death victims in North Carolina, 2022

	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex				
Female	552	21.2	10.1	9.3 - 10.9
Male	2,058	78.9	39.4	37.7 - 41.1
Race/Ethnicity				
White*	1,505	57.7	23.1	21.9 - 24.2
Black*	841	32.2	37.3	34.8 - 39.8
Asian*	40	1.5	10.7	7.4 - 14.0
American Indian*	51	2.0	46.1	33.4 - 58.7
Hispanic	170	6.5	14.8	12.5 - 17.0
Other/Unknown	3	0.1	--	--
Age Group (Years)				
< 1	16	0.6	13.2	6.7 - 19.7
1-4	23	0.9	4.8	2.8 - 6.7
5-9	3	0.1	*	*
10-14	32	1.2	4.8	3.1 - 6.4
15 - 19	194	7.4	27.2	23.4 - 31.0
20 - 24	283	10.8	39.5	34.9 - 44.1
25 - 34	520	19.9	36.2	33.0 - 39.3
35 - 44	433	16.6	31.9	28.9 - 34.9
45 - 54	350	13.4	25.9	23.2 - 28.6
55 - 64	336	12.9	24.5	21.9 - 27.1
65 - 74	222	8.5	20.0	17.4 - 22.7
75 - 84	144	5.5	25.6	21.5 - 29.8
85 +	54	2.1	31.2	22.9 - 39.5
Total Deaths	2,610	100	24.4	23.5 - 25.3

Sex, race/ethnicity and age-specific crude rates per 100,000 NC population

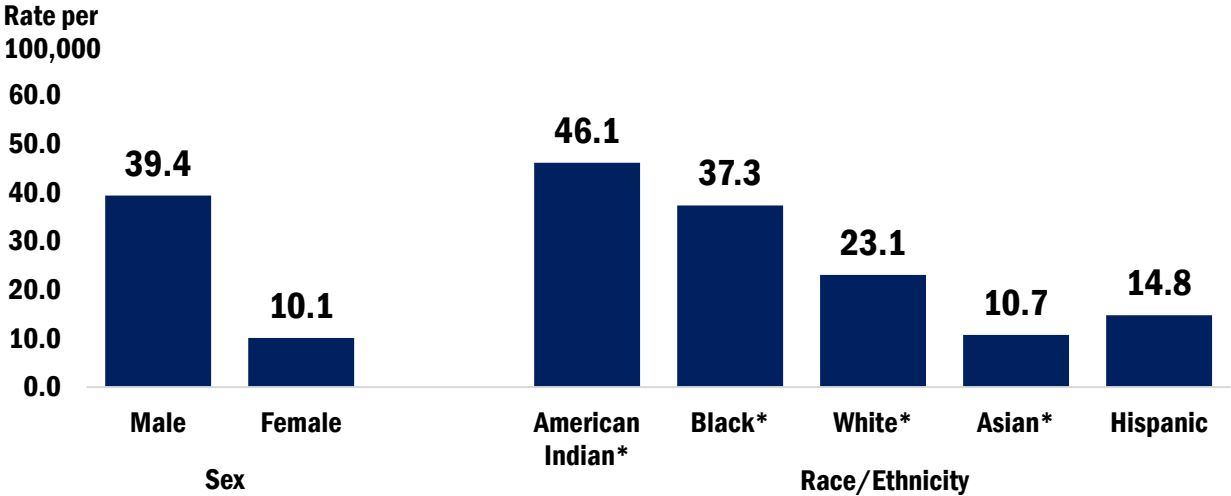
95% CI = 95 % Confidence Interval for the Rate

* Non-Hispanic

Note: The number of violent deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for ages 5-9.

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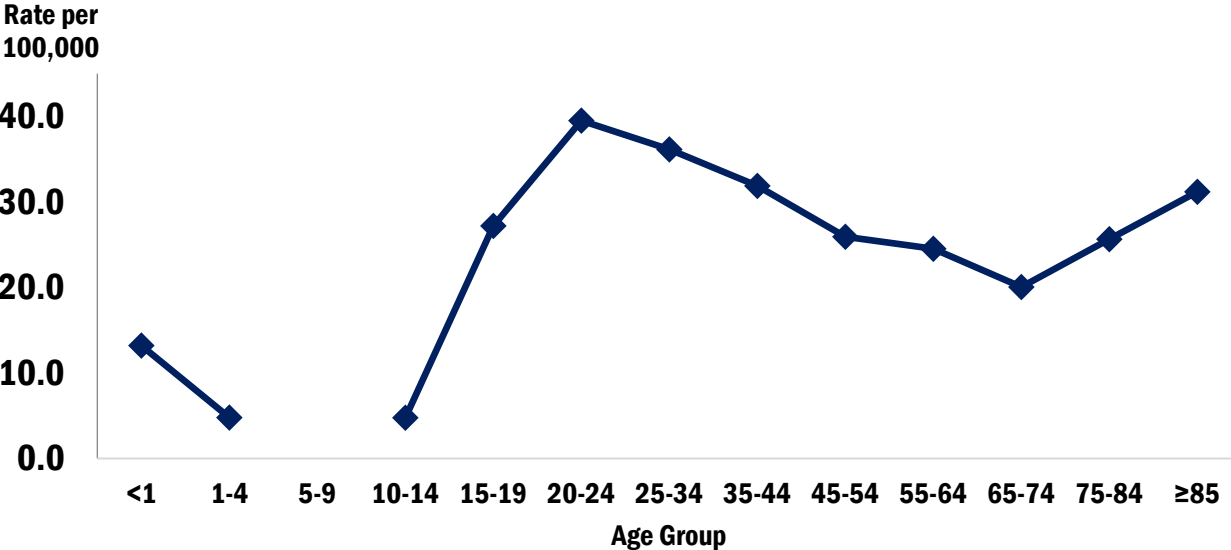
Figure 1: Crude overall violent death rates by sex and race/ethnicity in North Carolina, 2022



* Non-Hispanic

Note: The number of violent deaths for sex and race/ethnicity was high enough to support a rate calculation.

Figure 2: Age-specific crude overall violent death rates by age group in North Carolina, 2022



Note: The number of violent deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for ages 5-9.

Table 2: Manner and method of violent death in North Carolina, 2022

	Number	%
Manner of Death		
Suicide	1,562	59.9
Homicide	916	35.1
Undetermined intent	64	2.5
Legal intervention	43	1.7
Unintentional firearm	25	1.0
Method of Death		
Firearm	1,782	68.3
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	345	13.2
Poisoning	207	7.9
Sharp instrument	102	3.9
Blunt instrument	30	1.2
Personal weapons	41	1.6
Fall	31	1.2
Motor vehicle	22	0.8
Fire or burns	16	0.6
Other transport vehicle	5	0.2
Drowning	14	0.5
Intentional neglect	9	0.3
Violent shaking	2	0.1
Other/Unknown	4	0.2
Total Deaths	2,610	100

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Figure 3: Manner of violent death in North Carolina, 2022

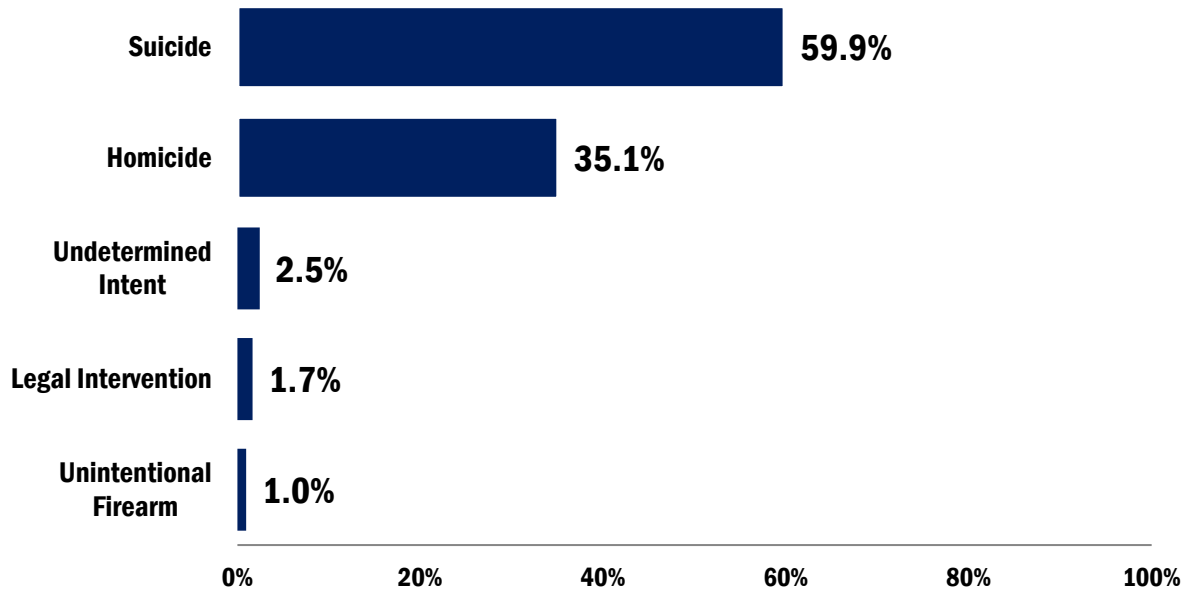
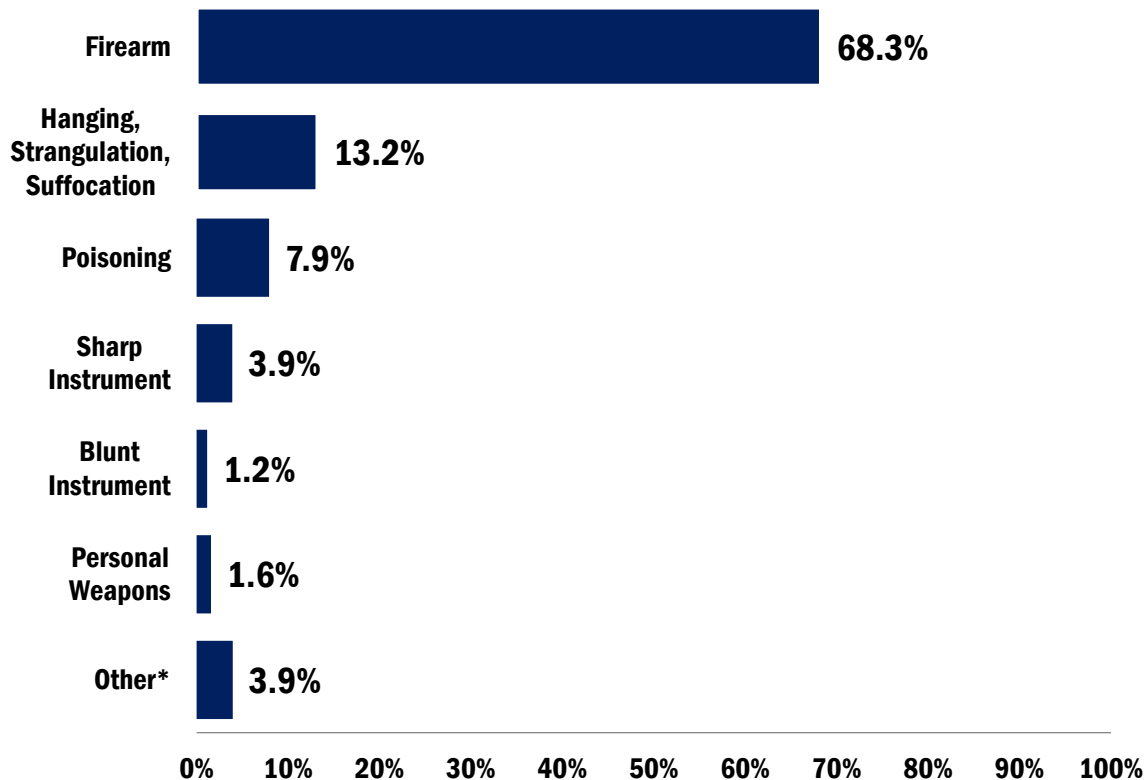


Figure 4: Method of violent death in North Carolina, 2022



* Other includes: drowning, fall, motor vehicle, fire or burns, other transport vehicle, violent shaking, intentional neglect, and other/unknown.

Table 3: Type of firearm involved in violent firearm deaths in North Carolina, 2022

	Number	%
Firearm Type*		
Handgun	1,388	77.5
Shotgun	132	7.4
Rifle	139	7.8
Other/Unknown type	133	7.4
Total Firearms Involved, All Violent Deaths	1,792	100

* Multiple firearm types were reported for 10 violent firearm deaths; therefore, the total number of firearms exceeds the number of firearm deaths (n=1,782).

Table 4: Completed education, marital status and veteran status of adult violent death victims (ages 18 or older) in North Carolina, 2022

	Number	%
Education Level		
8th grade or less	86	3.5
9th – 12th grade	383	15.7
High school or GED graduate	1,011	41.4
Some college credit	367	15.0
Associate degree	200	8.2
Bachelor degree	253	10.4
Master degree	90	3.7
Doctorate degree	33	1.4
Unknown	21	0.9
Marital Status		
Never married	1,154	47.2
Married*	635	26.0
Divorced	400	16.4
Widowed	123	5.0
Married, but separated	112	4.6
Single, not otherwise specified	1	0.0
Unknown	19	0.8
Veteran Status		
Non-veteran	2,096	85.8
Veteran	327	13.4
Unknown	21	0.9

*Married includes: married, in a civil union or a domestic partnership

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Table 5: Overall violent deaths by county of residence in North Carolina, 2022

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Alamance	36	20.4	Franklin	18	24.2	Pamlico	5	40.9
Alexander	10	27.5	Gaston	53	22.7	Pasquotank	8	19.4
Alleghany	2	*	Gates	4	*	Pender	14	21.3
Anson	6	27.3	Graham	0	0.0	Perquimans	4	*
Ashe	7	25.9	Granville	21	34.0	Person	13	33.0
Avery	5	28.5	Greene	7	34.4	Pitt	40	23.0
Beaufort	7	15.8	Guilford	112	20.5	Polk	6	30.0
Bertie	8	46.9	Halifax	20	41.9	Randolph	39	26.7
Bladen	11	37.4	Harnett	34	24.6	Richmond	13	30.5
Brunswick	44	28.8	Haywood	14	22.4	Robeson	53	45.5
Buncombe	75	27.4	Henderson	29	24.5	Rockingham	23	25.0
Burke	22	25.0	Hertford	1	*	Rowan	54	36.1
Cabarrus	40	17.0	Hoke	25	46.6	Rutherford	13	20.0
Caldwell	31	38.6	Hyde	1	*	Sampson	16	27.1
Camden	3	*	Iredell	42	21.4	Scotland	14	40.8
Carteret	20	28.8	Jackson	9	20.5	Stanly	24	37.4
Caswell	4	*	Johnston	46	19.6	Stokes	10	22.2
Catawba	39	23.9	Jones	2	*	Surry	15	21.0
Chatham	11	13.8	Lee	15	22.9	Swain	13	93.3
Cherokee	14	47.5	Lenoir	20	36.7	Transylvania	5	15.0
Chowan	5	36.0	Lincoln	13	14.0	Tyrrell	0	0.0
Clay	2	*	McDowell	11	24.6	Union	46	18.5
Cleveland	25	24.8	Macon	7	18.4	Vance	17	40.3
Columbus	14	28.0	Madison	5	22.9	Wake	187	16.0
Craven	30	29.7	Martin	10	46.6	Warren	6	32.1
Cumberland	127	37.7	Mecklenburg	225	19.7	Washington	0	0.0
Currituck	1	*	Mitchell	5	33.2	Watauga	13	23.6
Dare	14	36.9	Montgomery	9	34.8	Wayne	39	33.2
Davidson	52	30.2	Moore	30	28.4	Wilkes	20	30.4
Davie	17	38.5	Nash	28	29.2	Wilson	25	31.9
Duplin	13	26.6	New Hanover	58	24.6	Yadkin	11	29.3
Durham	77	23.1	Northampton	7	41.6	Yancey	9	48.0
Edgecombe	15	31.0	Onslow	56	26.8			
Forsyth	102	26.2	Orange	28	18.6			

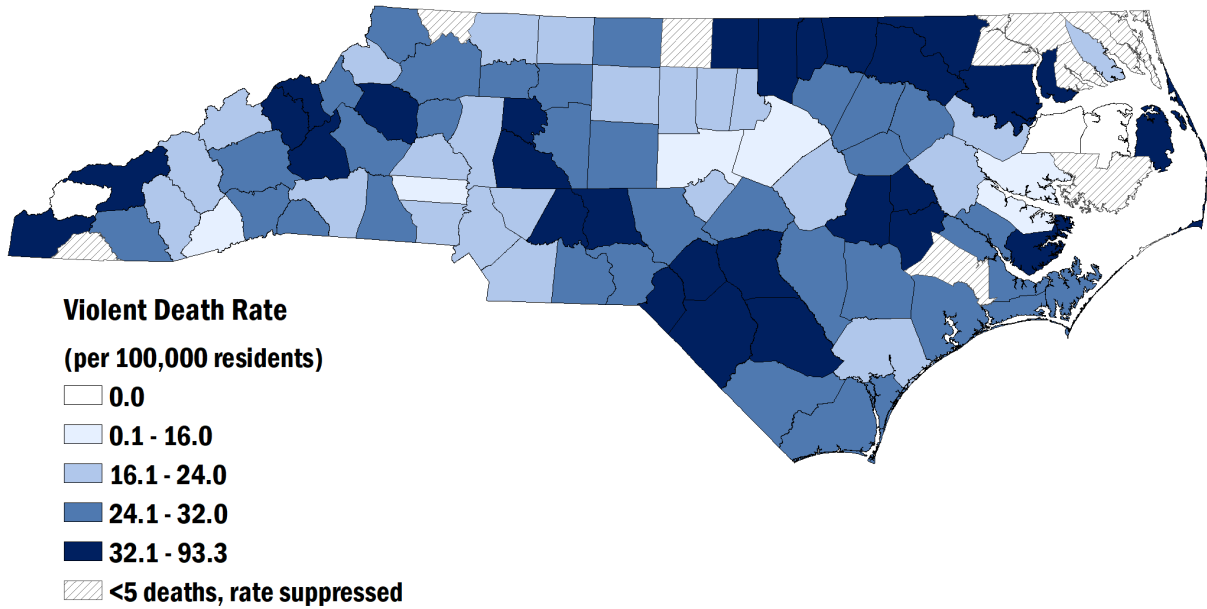
Crude rate per 100,000 population in NC county

* The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation.

Top 20 counties with the highest crude overall violent death rates are shown in bold.

Figure 5: Map of overall violent death rates in North Carolina by county of residence, 2022

North Carolina 2022 violent death rate: 24.4 deaths per 100,000 residents



Section I

Race/Ethnicity and Sex of Violent Death Victims

Table 6 and **Figure 6** summarize the characteristics of violent death victims in North Carolina in 2022 stratified by race/ethnicity and sex.

Key Findings:

- NH whites (57.7%) and males (78.9%) represented the majority of violent death victims, as shown in Table 1.
- NH whites accounted for 55.7% of male violent death victims and 65.0% of female victims, while NH Blacks comprised 33.7% of male victims and 26.8% of female victims.
- Among males, NH American Indian males had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (74.9) followed by NH Black males (65.5), NH white males (35.7), Hispanic males (24.7), and NH Asian males (17.0).
- Among females, NH American Indian females had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (19.2) followed by NH Black females (12.4), NH white females (10.8), NH Asian females (4.7), and Hispanic females (4.3).
- The violent death rate was higher for males than for females of the same race/ethnicity by 5.8 times for Hispanics, 5.3 for NH Blacks, 3.9 times for NH American Indians, 3.6 times for NH Asians, and 3.3 times for NH whites.

Age and Sex of Violent Death Victims

Table 7 stratifies the North Carolina violent death victims in 2022 by age group and sex. **Figure 7** illustrates the 2022 rate of violent deaths per 100,000 in North Carolina by age group and sex.

Key Findings:

- Most male violent death victims were ages 25 to 34 (21.1%) and 35 to 44 (15.7%) years old followed by males ages 55 to 64 (12.6%), 45 to 54 (12.5%), 20 to 24 (11.7%), and 65 to 74 (8.1%).
- Among females, most violent death victims were ages 35 to 44 (19.9%) years old followed by females ages 45 to 54 (16.7%), 25 to 34 (15.6%), 55 to 64 (13.9%), 65 to 74 (10.0%), and 20 to 24 (7.8%).
- Among males, the violent death rate per 100,000 by age group was highest for ages 85 and older (73.7) followed by ages 20 to 24 (65.1) and 25 to 34 (60.7).
- For females, the violent death rate trend by age reached a peak of 15.9 per 100,000 for ages 35 to 54 followed by ages 45 to 54 (13.4) and 20 to 24 (12.4).
- Males were more likely to experience violent death than females by 9.2 times for ages 85 and older, 5.6 times for ages 75 to 84, 5.3 times for ages 20 to 24, 5.2 times for ages 15 to 19, and 5.1 times for ages 25 to 34.

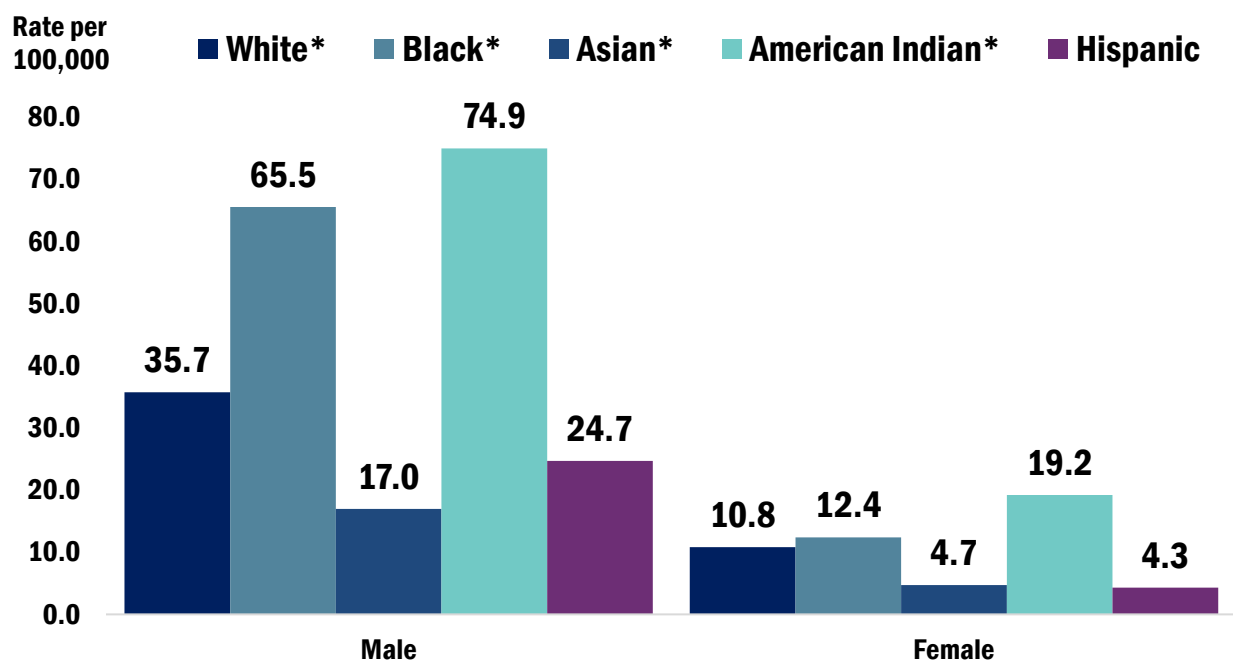
Table 6: Race/ethnicity of violent death victims in North Carolina by sex, 2022

Race/Ethnicity	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
White*	1,146	55.7	35.7	359	65.0	10.8
Black*	693	33.7	65.5	148	26.8	12.4
Asian*	31	1.5	17.0	9	1.6	4.7
American Indian*	40	1.9	74.9	11	2.0	19.2
Hispanic	146	7.1	24.7	24	4.3	4.3
Other/Unknown	2	0.1	-	1	0.2	-
Total Deaths	2,058	100	40.4	552	100	10.4

Sex and race/ethnicity-specific crude rate per 100,000 NC population

* Non-Hispanic

Note: The number of violent deaths for sex and race/ethnicity was high enough to support a rate calculation.

Figure 6: Crude overall violent death rates in North Carolina, stratified by race/ethnicity and sex, 2022

* Non-Hispanic (NH)

Note: The number of violent deaths for sex and race/ethnicity was high enough to support a rate calculation.

Section I

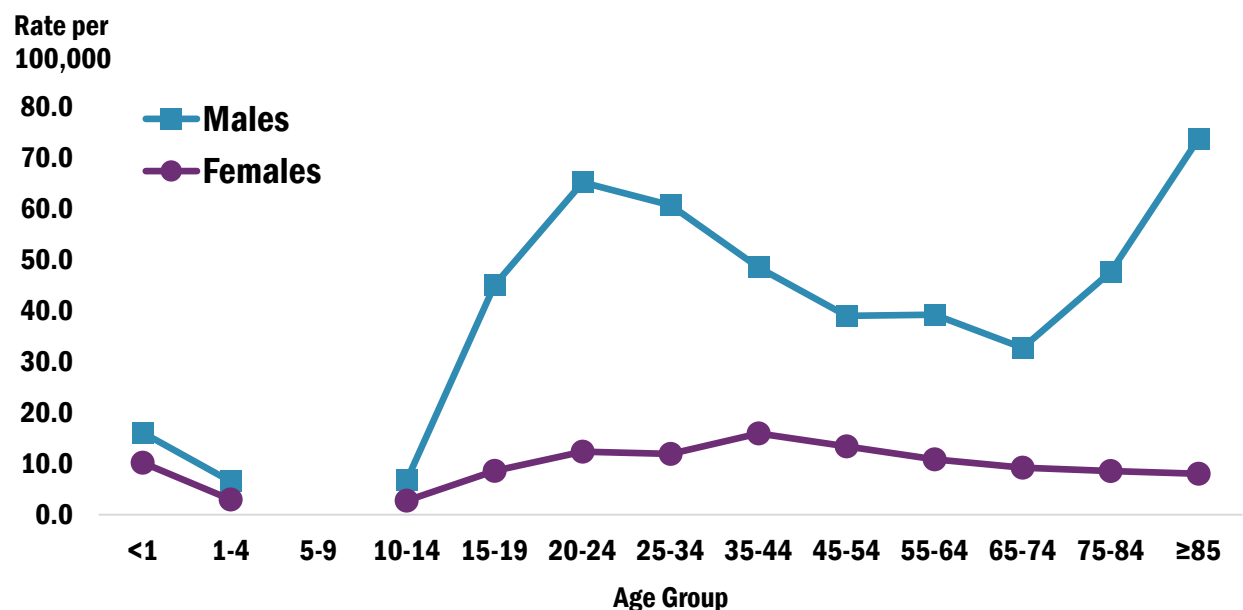
Table 7: Age group of violent death victims in North Carolina by sex, 2022

Age Group (years)	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
<1	10	0.5	16.1	6	1.1	10.2
1-4	16	0.8	6.5	7	1.3	3.0
5-9	2	0.1	*	1	0.2	*
10-14	23	1.1	6.7	9	1.6	2.7
15-19	164	8.0	45.0	30	5.4	8.6
20-24	240	11.7	65.1	43	7.8	12.4
25-34	434	21.1	60.7	86	15.6	11.9
35-44	323	15.7	48.4	110	19.9	15.9
45-54	258	12.5	39.0	92	16.7	13.4
55-64	259	12.6	39.2	77	13.9	10.9
65-74	167	8.1	32.7	55	10.0	9.2
75-84	117	5.7	47.6	27	4.9	8.6
≥85	45	2.2	73.7	9	1.6	8.0
Total Deaths	2,058	100	39.4	552	100	10.1

Sex and age-specific crude rate per 100,000 NC population

Note: The number of violent deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for males and females ages 5-9.

Figure 7: Age-specific crude overall violent death rates in North Carolina, stratified by age group and sex, 2022



Note: The number of violent deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for males and females ages 5-9.

Section II: Suicide

Basic Characteristics of Suicides

Table 8 describes suicides in 2022 for North Carolinians ages 10 or older by demographic characteristics of sex, race/ethnicity, and age. The rate of suicide in North Carolina per 100,000 population in 2022 is illustrated by race/ethnicity and sex in **Figure 8** and by age group in **Figure 9**.

Key Findings:

- In 2022, a total of 1,562 North Carolinians (16.9 per 100,000) died from suicide.
- Males were 3.9 times as likely to die from suicide as females (26.7 vs. 6.9 per 100,000).
- NH American Indians had the highest suicide rate (22.5 per 100,000) followed by NH whites (20.7 per 100,000), NH Asian (10.5 per 100,000), NH Black (10.1 per 100,000), and Hispanic (8.5 per 100,000) victims.
- Adults ages 85 and older had the highest rate of suicide (27.7 per 100,000) followed by those ages 75 to 84 (22.3 per 100,000), 35 to 44 (18.6 per 100,000), and 20 to 24 (18.6 per 100,000).

Table 9 and **Figure 10** summarize the method of death for suicide victims in North Carolina in 2022. **Table 10** shows the type of firearm used for suicide firearm deaths and **Table 11** lists the categories of substances that caused suicide poisoning deaths.

Key Findings:

- The leading methods of suicide were firearm (61.9%), hanging, strangulation or suffocation (21.4%), and poisoning (10.6%).
- Men more often died from suicide by a firearm (66.5%) or hanging, strangulation or suffocation (22.4%) and less frequently died from suicide by poisoning (5.6%).
- Women more commonly died from suicide by firearm (45.1%) or poisoning (29.0%), compared to hanging, strangulation or suffocation (17.9%).
- Considering only suicide firearm deaths, a handgun was the most common firearm used in 82.4% of all deaths; handguns accounted for 80.5% of male deaths and 93.4% of female deaths.
- Most suicide poisoning deaths (30.7%) involved opiates (either illicit or prescription). The second most common substance was antidepressants (21.1%), followed by benzodiazepines (17.5%) and anticonvulsants (15.7%).

Table 12 characterizes the 1,562 adult suicide victims (age 18 or older) in North Carolina in 2022 by education level, marital status and veteran status.

Key Findings:

- The majority (85.6%) of adult suicide victims at least graduated high school or received their GED.
- Suicide victims were most often never married (35.9%) and less frequently married, in a civil union or domestic partnership (31.6%), divorced (19.4%), or widowed (6.7%).
- Military veterans accounted for 17.8% of adult suicide victims.

Section II

Table 13 and **Figure 11** show the suicide rates in 2022 by North Carolina county of residence. County rates should be interpreted with caution because the numbers of suicides by county are small and subject to variation. The number of suicides in 18 counties was too small to support a rate calculation. Furthermore, county suicide rates are influenced by small populations with 12 of the 20 counties with the highest suicide rates having less than 50,000 residents in 2022.

Key Findings:

- For the 82 counties where the number of suicides was sufficient to support a rate calculation, the average suicide rate by North Carolina county of residence was 19.0 deaths per 100,000 with a range from 0.0 to 57.0 deaths per 100,000.

Table 8: Demographics of suicide victims (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina, 2022

	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex				
Female	335	21.4	6.9	6.2 - 7.6
Male	1,227	78.6	26.7	25.2 - 28.2
Race/Ethnicity				
White*	1,225	78.4	20.7	19.5 - 21.8
Black*	200	12.8	10.1	8.7 - 11.5
Asian*	34	2.2	10.5	7.0 - 14.1
American Indian*	22	1.4	22.5	13.1 - 31.9
Hispanic	79	5.1	8.5	6.6 - 10.4
Other/Unknown	2	0.1	-	-
Age Group (Years)				
10-14	17	1.09	2.5	1.3 - 3.7
15 - 19	68	4.35	9.5	7.3 - 11.8
20 - 24	133	8.51	18.6	15.4 - 21.7
25 - 34	257	16.45	17.9	15.7 - 20.1
35 - 44	253	16.20	18.6	16.3 - 20.9
45 - 54	231	14.79	17.1	14.9 - 19.3
55 - 64	244	15.62	17.8	15.6 - 20.0
65 - 74	186	11.91	16.8	14.4 - 19.2
75 - 84	125	8.00	22.3	18.4 - 26.2
≥85	48	3.07	27.7	19.9 - 35.6
Total Deaths	1,562	100	16.5	15.7 - 17.3

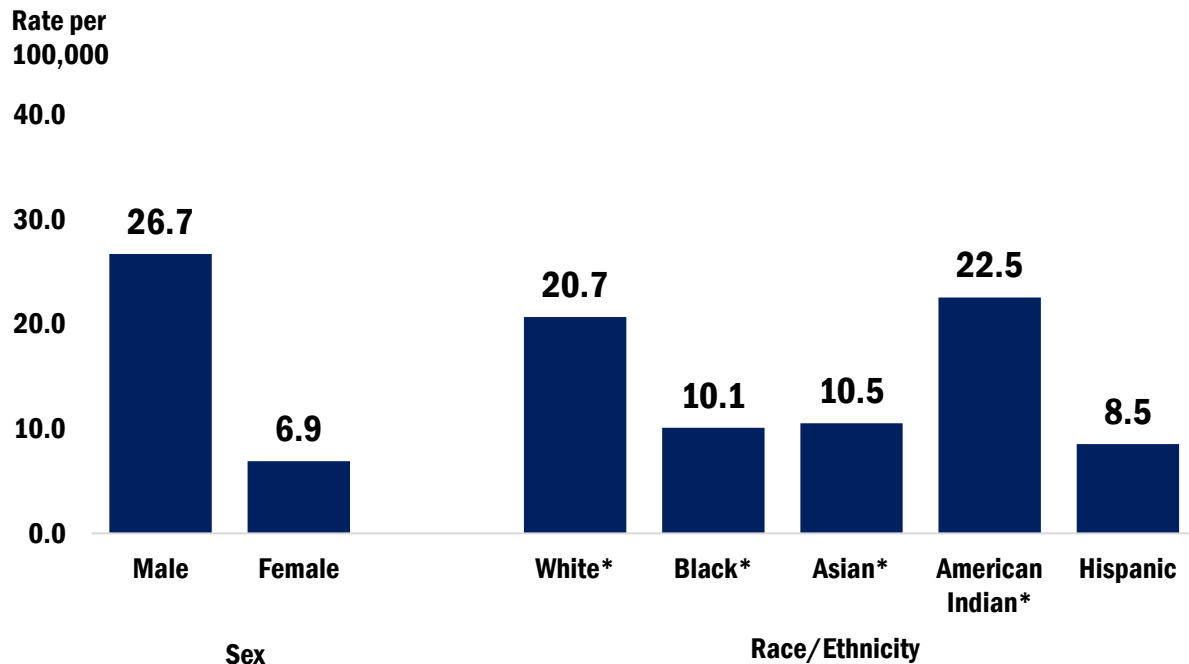
Sex, race/ethnicity and age-specific crude rates per 100,000 NC population

95% CI = 95 % confidence interval for the rate.

* Non-Hispanic

Note: The number of suicide deaths for sex, race/ethnicity, and age was high enough to support a rate calculation.

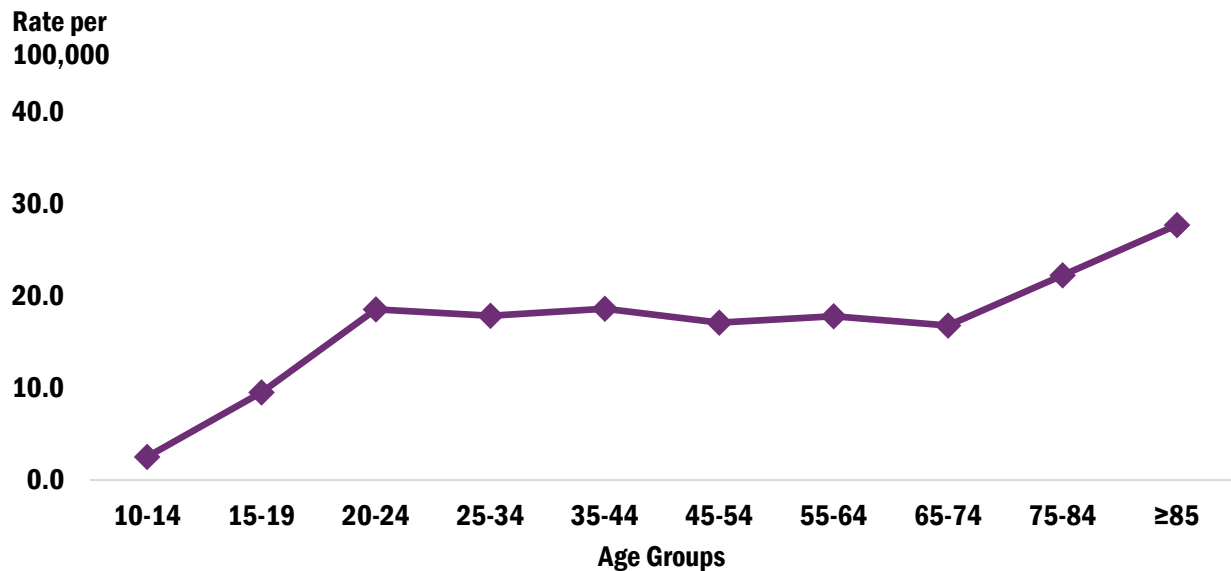
Figure 8: Crude suicide rates (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by sex and race/ethnicity, 2022



* Non-Hispanic

Note: The number of suicide deaths for sex and race/ethnicity was high enough to support a rate calculation.

Figure 9: Age-specific crude suicide rate (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by age group, 2022



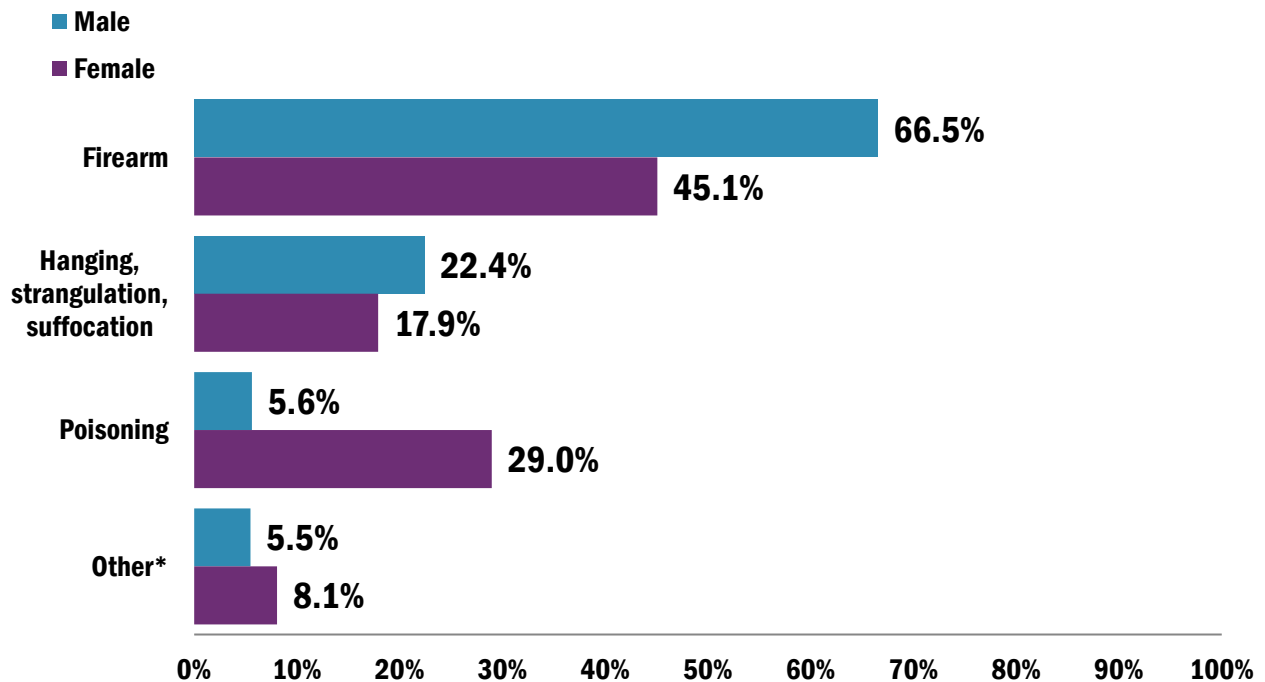
Note: The number of suicide deaths for all ages was high enough to support a rate calculation.

Section II

Table 9: Method of death for suicide victims (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by sex, 2022

Method of Death	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm	816	66.5	151	45.1	967	61.9
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	275	22.4	60	17.9	335	21.4
Poisoning	69	5.6	97	29.0	166	10.6
Sharp instrument	24	2.0	5	1.5	29	1.9
Fall	16	1.3	11	3.3	27	1.7
Drowning	7	0.6	4	1.2	11	0.7
Motor vehicle including buses, motorcycles	9	0.7	1	0.3	10	0.6
Fire or burns	6	0.5	6	1.8	12	0.8
Other	5	0.4	0	0.0	5	0.3
Total Deaths	1,227	100	335	100	1,562	100

Figure 10: Method of death for suicide victims (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by sex, 2022



* Other includes: drowning, fall, sharp instrument, motor vehicle, other transport vehicle, fire or burns, non-powder gun, other, and unknown.

Table 10: Type of firearm involved in suicide firearm deaths (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by sex, 2022

Firearm Type*	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Handgun	656	80.4	141	93.4	797	82.4
Shotgun	96	11.8	6	4.0	102	10.6
Rifle	55	6.7	3	2.0	58	6.0
Other/Unknown	9	1.1	1	0.7	10	1.0
Total Firearms Involved in Suicides	816	100.0	151	100.0	967	100.0

* Multiple firearm types were reported in zero firearm suicide deaths; therefore, the total number of firearms does not exceed the number of suicide firearm deaths (n=967).

Table 11: Fatal substances in suicide poisoning deaths (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by sex, 2022

Category of Fatal Substance*	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Opiate**	20	29.0	31	32.0	51	30.7
Antidepressant	11	15.9	24	24.7	35	21.1
Benzodiazepines	6	8.7	23	23.7	29	17.5
Anticonvulsants	8	11.59	18	18.56	26	15.66
Alcohol	4	5.8	14	14.4	18	10.8
Carbon monoxide	10	14.5	2	2.1	12	7.2
Antipsychotics	3	4.35	5	5.15	8	4.82
Muscle relaxant	1	1.45	3	3.09	4	2.41
Barbiturates	2	2.9	2	2.1	4	2.4
Amphetamine	7	10.1	4	4.1	11	6.6
Cocaine	3	4.4	4	4.1	7	4.2
Other poison***	24	34.8	22	22.7	46	27.7

* Category of substance that directly caused or was suspected to cause suicide poisoning. There were 61 suicide poisonings (36.8%) where more than one substance caused the death in 2022, with as many as five fatal substances present in a given case (1.2%).

** Opiate includes both prescription opioids and illicit substances such as heroin

*** Other poison includes substances that did not fall into any of the summary categories

Section II

Table 12: Completed education, marital status and veteran status of adult suicide victims (ages 18 or older) in North Carolina, 2022

	Number	%
Education Level		
8th grade or less	43	2.8
9th - 12th grade	163	10.8
High school or GED graduate	568	37.5
Some college credit	253	16.7
Associates degree	148	9.8
Bachelor degree	219	14.5
Master degree	76	5.0
Doctorate degree	32	2.1
Unknown	12	0.8
Marital Status		
Never married	543	35.9
Married*	479	31.6
Divorced	294	19.4
Married, but separated	86	5.7
Widowed	102	6.7
Single, not otherwise specified	1	0.1
Unknown	9	0.6
Veteran Status		
Non-veteran	1,236	81.6
Veteran	270	17.8
Unknown	8	0.5

* Married includes: married, civil union, or domestic partnership.

Table 13: Suicides (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by county of residence, 2022

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Alamance	25	16.0	Franklin	17	25.8	Pamlico	2	*
Alexander	8	24.5	Gaston	33	16.0	Pasquotank	1	*
Alleghany	1	*	Gates	2	*	Pender	7	12.1
Anson	3	*	Graham	0	0.0	Perquimans	4	*
Ashe	7	28.2	Granville	13	23.6	Person	5	14.3
Avery	3	*	Greene	6	32.6	Pitt	19	12.4
Beaufort	7	17.5	Guilford	60	12.4	Polk	5	27.1
Bertie	4	*	Halifax	8	18.9	Randolph	26	20.1
Bladen	6	22.9	Harnett	24	20.2	Richmond	2	*
Brunswick	33	23.3	Haywood	10	17.6	Robeson	16	16.0
Buncombe	62	25.0	Henderson	23	21.5	Rockingham	12	14.6
Burke	15	18.9	Hertford	0	0.0	Rowan	33	24.9
Cabarrus	23	11.2	Hoke	12	26.5	Rutherford	11	18.9
Caldwell	24	33.3	Hyde	0	0.0	Sampson	6	11.7
Camden	3	*	Iredell	27	15.5	Scotland	4	*
Carteret	15	23.6	Jackson	7	17.4	Stanly	19	33.5
Caswell	1	*	Johnston	34	16.6	Stokes	9	22.1
Catawba	22	15.2	Jones	2	*	Surry	10	15.7
Chatham	9	12.5	Lee	10	17.4	Swain	7	57.0
Cherokee	11	40.6	Lenoir	6	12.5	Transylvania	5	16.3
Chowan	2	*	Lincoln	9	10.8	Tyrrell	0	0.0
Clay	1	*	McDowell	8	19.8	Union	32	14.6
Cleveland	18	20.3	Macon	5	14.6	Vance	5	13.6
Columbus	7	15.7	Madison	5	25.1	Wake	129	12.5
Craven	24	26.9	Martin	5	26.1	Warren	3	*
Cumberland	52	18.0	Mecklenburg	105	10.5	Washington	0	0.0
Currituck	1	*	Mitchell	5	36.7	Watauga	10	19.3
Dare	11	31.7	Montgomery	4	*	Wayne	22	21.5
Davidson	36	23.5	Moore	23	24.8	Wilkes	17	28.7
Davie	9	22.8	Nash	9	10.6	Wilson	14	20.3
Duplin	6	14.1	New Hanover	44	20.6	Yadkin	10	29.9
Durham	25	8.5	Northampton	0	0.0	Yancey	5	29.5
Edgecombe	6	14.1	Onslow	45	25.3			
Forsyth	55	16.0	Orange	15	11.0			

Crude rate per 100,000 population in NC county

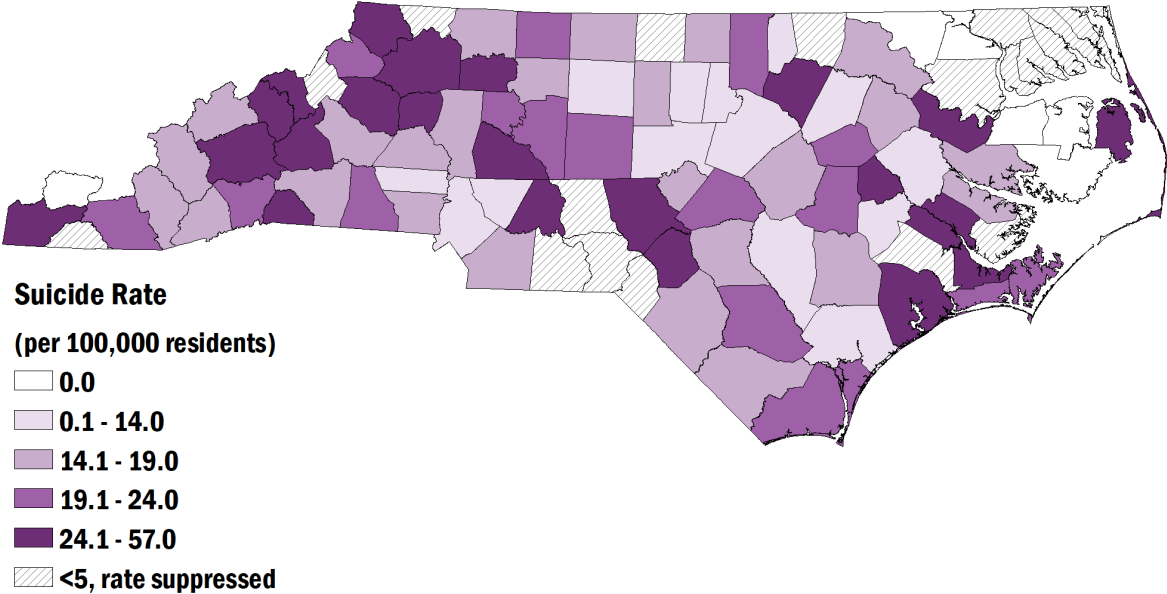
* The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation.

Top 20 counties with the highest crude overall violent death rates are shown in bold.

Section II

Figure 11: Map of suicide rates (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by county of residence, 2022

North Carolina 2022 suicide rate: 16.5 deaths per 100,000 residents



Race/Ethnicity and Sex of Suicide Victims

Table 14 and Figure 12 describe suicide victims in North Carolina in 2022 by race and sex.

Key Findings:

- Of all suicide victims, 78.4% were NH white and 78.6% were male, as shown in **Table 8**.
- Most male suicide victims were NH white (78.7%) as compared to NH Black (12.0%). Similarly, most female suicide victims were NH white (77.3%) as compared to NH Black (15.8%).
- For males, the suicide rate per 100,000 from highest to lowest by race/ethnicity was NH American Indian males (36.3), NH white males (33.3), NH Asian males (17.2), NH Black males (16.0), and Hispanic males (14.4).
- For females, the suicide rate per 100,000 from highest to lowest by race/ethnicity was NH American Indian females (9.8), NH white females (8.6), NH Black females (5.0), NH Asian females (4.2), and Hispanic females (2.2).
- The suicide rate was higher for males than for females of the same race by 6.5 times for Hispanics, 4.1 times for NH Asians, 3.9 times for NH whites, 3.7 times for NH American Indians, and 3.2 times for NH Blacks.

Age and Sex of Suicide Victims

Table 15 portrays the suicide victims in North Carolina in 2022 by age group and sex. Figure 13 plots the 2022 suicide rates per 100,000 in North Carolina by age group and sex.

Key Findings:

- Among males, most suicide victims were ages 25 to 64 with a rank order by age group of: 25 to 34 (17.4%), 55 to 64 (15.6%), 35 to 44 (14.9%), and 45 to 54 (14.4%).
- Similarly, among females most suicide victims were ages 25 to 74 with a rank order by age group of: 35 to 44 (20.9%), 45 to 54 (16.1%), 55 to 64 (15.5%), 25 to 34 (13.1%), and 65 to 74 (12.8%).
- For males, the suicide rate peaked among those ages 85 and older (70.4 per 100,000).
- The suicide rate by age group for females peaked at 35 to 44 (10.1 per 100,000).
- Males had higher suicide rates than females across all age groups with the largest sex disparity occurring among those ages 85 and older with the rate being 15.8 times higher among males than females (70.4 versus 4.5 per 100,000, respectively).

Section II

Table 14: Race of suicide victims (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by sex, 2022

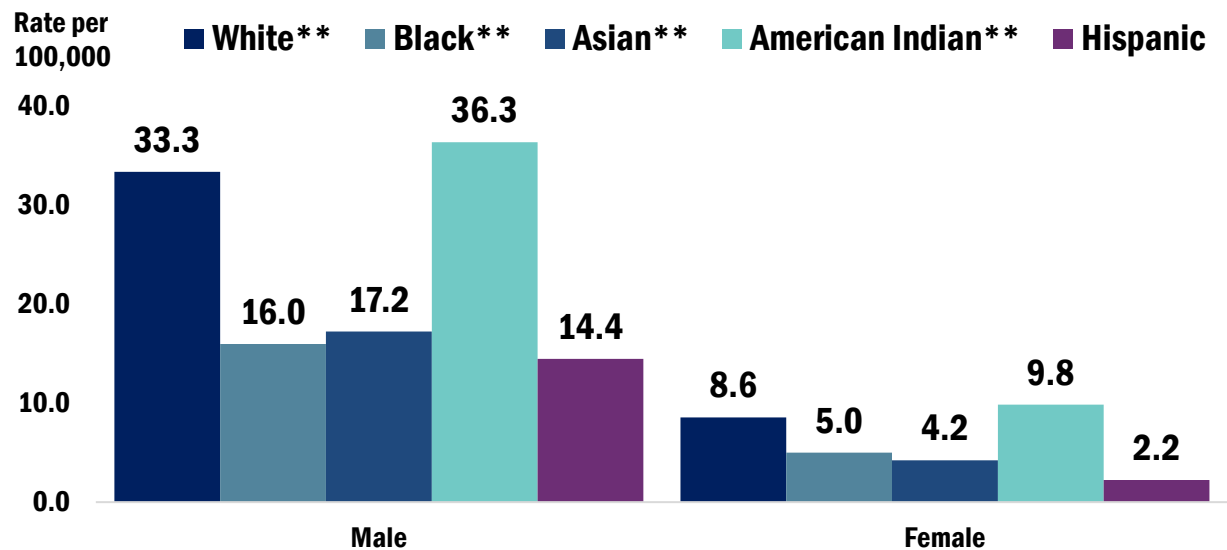
Race/Ethnicity	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
White**	966	78.7	33.3	259	77.3	8.6
Black**	147	12.0	16.0	53	15.8	5.0
Asian**	27	2.2	17.2	7	2.1	4.2
American Indian**	17	1.4	36.3	5	1.5	9.8
Hispanic	69	5.6	14.4	10	3.0	2.2
Other/Unknown	1	0.1	-	1	0.3	-
Total Deaths	1,227	100	26.7	335	100	7.8

Sex and race-specific crude rate per 100,000 NC population

* The number of suicide deaths for sex and race/ethnicity was high enough to support a rate calculation.

** Non-Hispanic

Figure 12: Crude suicide rates (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina stratified by race/ethnicity and sex, 2022



* The number of suicide deaths for sex and race/ethnicity was high enough to support a rate calculation.

** Non-Hispanic

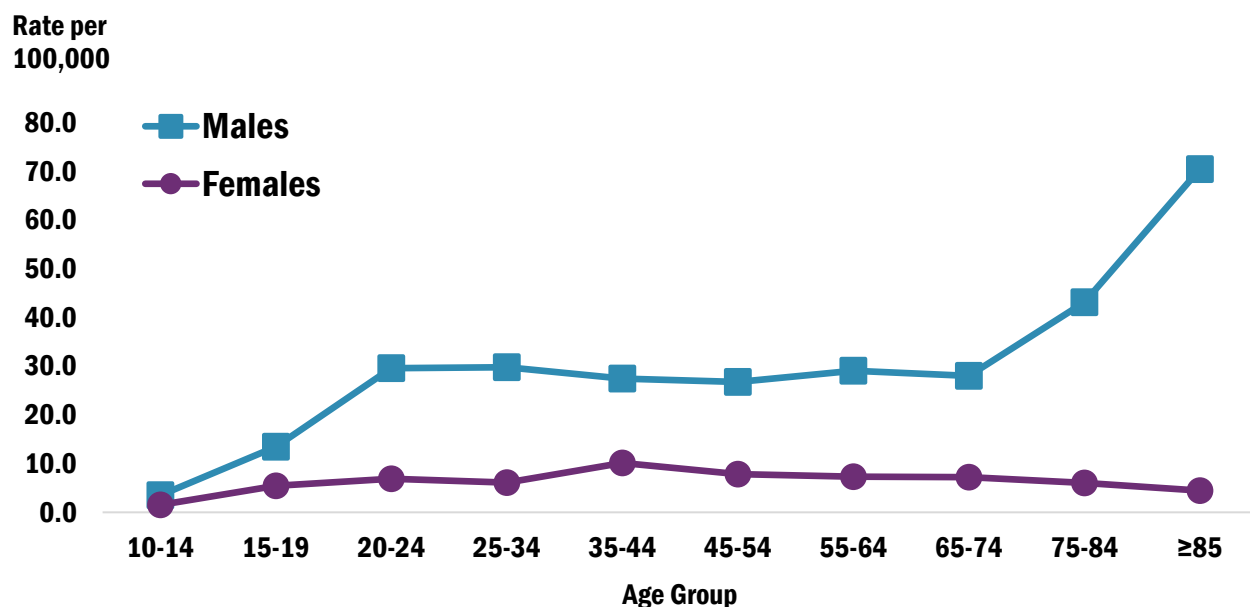
Table 15: Age group of suicide victims (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by sex, 2022

Age Group (Years)	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
10-14	12	1.0	3.5	5	1.5	1.5
15-19	49	4.0	13.5	19	5.7	5.4
20-24	109	8.9	29.6	24	7.2	6.9
25-34	213	17.4	29.8	44	13.1	6.1
35-44	183	14.9	27.4	70	20.9	10.1
45-54	177	14.4	26.7	54	16.1	7.9
55-64	192	15.6	29.1	52	15.5	7.3
65-74	143	11.7	28.0	43	12.8	7.2
75-84	106	8.6	43.1	19	5.7	6.0
≥85	43	3.5	70.4	5	1.5	4.5
Total Deaths	1,227	100	26.7	335	100	6.9

Sex and age-specific crude rates per 100,000 NC population

Note: The number of suicide deaths for age and sex was high enough to support a rate calculation.

Figure 13: Age-specific suicide rates (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina stratified by age group and sex, 2022



Note: The number of suicide deaths for age and sex was high enough to support a rate calculation.

Section II

Circumstances, Toxicology Testing and Injury Location for Suicide Victims

NC-VDRS collects data on the circumstances surrounding suicides. In 2022, 97.4% of suicide victims had available data. A wide range of circumstances lead to suicide, and each victim may have more than one circumstance. Accordingly, the total number of circumstances may exceed the total number of suicides. **Table 16** and **Figure 14** describe the circumstances for suicide victims ages 10 or older stratified by sex and based on the number of cases reporting circumstances in North Carolina in 2022. **Table 17** lists the mental health problem at the time of the suicide for both males and females in 2022.

Key Findings:

- The most common circumstances of suicide for male victims were ever being treated for mental illness (59.8%), current mental health problem (58.5%), experienced a recent crisis (42.0%), history of suicidal thoughts (36.3%), and current depressed mood (27.5%).
- The most common circumstances of suicide for female victims were ever being treated for mental illness (80.2%), current mental health problem (79.0%), current treatment for mental illness (51.7%), history of suicidal thoughts (49.2%), and experienced a recent crisis (36.2%).
- A suicide note was left by 26.7% of male victims and 36.2% of female victims. Intent to commit suicide was disclosed by 25.7% of male victims and 24.9% of female victims. A total of 14.4% of male victims and 29.2% of female victims reported a history of suicide attempts, while 36.3% of male victims and 49.2% of female victims had a history of suicidal thoughts.

An intimate partner problem was a circumstance of suicide for 27.2% of males and 24.3% of females. A substance problem other than alcohol was a circumstance of suicide for 18.4% of males and 21.3% of females. Other common circumstances of suicide for males and females, respectively, were alcohol problem (17.8% and 15.5%), physical health problem (22.7% and 15.2%), recent criminal-related legal problem (7.2% and 3.0%), job problem (6.4% and 5.5%) and financial problem (5.0% and 4.9%).

At the time of suicide, the most common mental health problems were depression or dysthymia (77.2%), anxiety disorder (15.4%), bipolar disorder (12.5%), schizophrenia (4.8%), and post-traumatic stress disorder (3.5%).

Toxicology testing was performed on suicide victims at the medical examiner's direction to identify substances believed to have contributed to the death or circumstances surrounding the death. A positive test for a substance does not necessarily indicate that substance was present at a lethal level. Testing of North Carolina suicide victims in 2022 is shown by sex in **Table 18** and by age and race/ethnicity in **Table 19**.

Key Findings:

- Alcohol was tested in 90.0% of all suicides. Testing was relatively infrequent for other substances. Of those victims tested, alcohol was present in 25.7% of all suicide victims, 25.8% of male victims and 25.4% of female victims.
- Ages 20 to 64 had the highest percentage of suicide victims with alcohol present, with a range from 26.3% to 40.2% of those age groups testing positive for alcohol. Alcohol was present in those victims tested by race as follows: NH American Indians (35.0%), NH whites (30.4%), Hispanics (22.2%), NH Blacks (20.9%), and NH Asians (18.5%).

Table 20 lists the location of the injury resulting in death for suicide victims in North Carolina in 2022.

Key Findings:

- The majority (76.1%) of injuries resulting in death occurred in a house or an apartment.

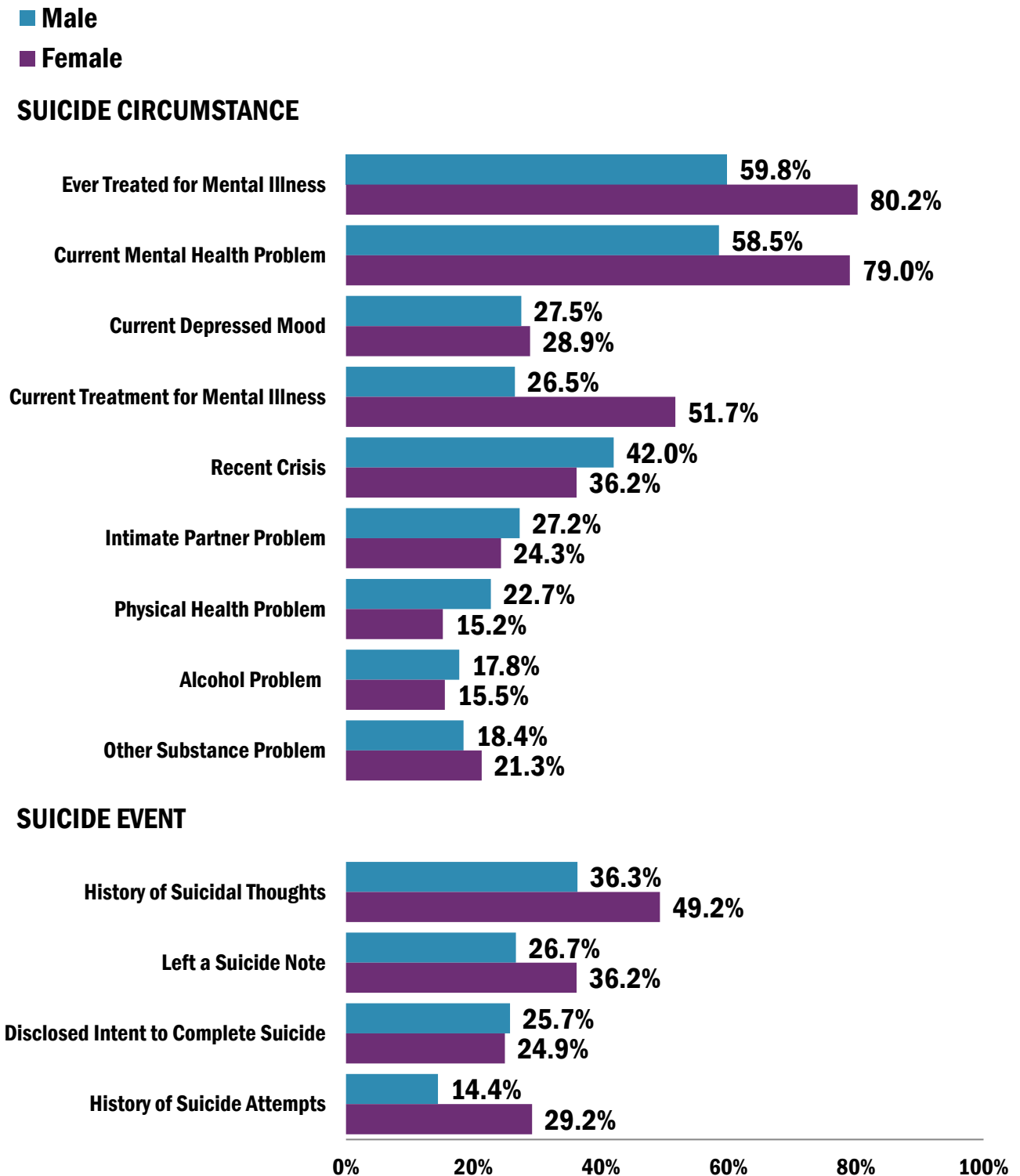
Table 16: Circumstances of suicide victims (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by Sex, 2022

Circumstance*	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Mental Health						
Ever treated-mental health	713	59.8	264	80.2	977	64.2
Current mental health problem	698	58.5	260	79.0	958	62.9
Current depressed mood	328	27.5	95	28.9	423	27.8
Current treatment MH	316	26.5	170	51.7	486	31.9
Substance Misuse/Addiction						
Alcohol problem	212	17.8	51	15.5	263	17.3
Other substance problem	220	18.4	70	21.3	290	19.1
Other addiction problem	2	0.2	2	0.6	4	0.3
Interpersonal						
Intimate partner problem	325	27.2	80	24.3	405	26.6
Other relationship problem	26	2.2	2	0.6	28	1.8
Perpetrator of intimate partner violence	64	5.4	13	4.0	77	5.1
Death of family/friend	87	7.3	26	7.9	113	7.4
Suicide death of family/friend in past 5 years	18	1.5	4	1.2	22	1.5
Life Stressor						
Physical health problem	271	22.7	50	15.2	321	21.1
Job problem	76	6.4	18	5.5	94	6.2
Criminal/legal problem	86	7.2	10	3.0	96	6.3
Financial problem	60	5.0	16	4.9	76	5.0
Legal problem, other	56	4.7	17	5.2	73	4.8
School problem	18	1.5	1	0.3	19	1.3
Recent crisis	501	42.0	119	36.2	620	40.74
Suicide Event						
Left a suicide note	318	26.7	119	36.2	437	28.7
Suicide disclosed	307	25.7	82	24.9	389	25.6
History of suicide attempt	172	14.4	96	29.2	268	17.6
History of suicidal thoughts	433	36.3	162	49.2	595	39.1

* Circumstances were available for 97.2% (1,193/1,227) of male victims, 98.2% (329/335) of female victims, and 97.4% (1,522/1,562) of all suicide victims. The percentage of circumstances for suicide victims is based on the number of cases reporting circumstances in North Carolina in 2022.

Section II

Figure 14: Circumstances of suicide victims (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by Sex, 2022



Note: For Table 15 and Figure 14, suicide victims may have more than one circumstance; Therefore, the responses add up to more than 100%. This figure does not include all circumstances.

Table 17: Current mental health problems at the time of suicide (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by sex, 2022

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Current Mental Health Problem *						
Depression / Dysthymia	530	75.9	210	80.8	740	77.2
Bipolar Disorder	74	10.6	46	17.7	120	12.5
Schizophrenia	38	5.4	8	3.1	46	4.8
Anxiety Disorder	98	14.0	50	19.2	148	15.4
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	29	4.2	5	1.9	34	3.5
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or Hyper-Reactivity Disorder	21	3.0	4	1.5	25	2.6
Eating Disorder	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.1
Other/Unknown	93	13.3	32	12.3	125	13.0

* For 698 males, 260 females, and 958 total suicide victims with a current mental health problem
Note: Victims may have more than one current problem; thus, responses add up to more than 100%.

Table 18: Toxicology testing and results for suicide victims (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by sex, 2022

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Alcohol						
Tested with results	1,104	90.0	301	89.9	1,405	90.0
Alcohol present in those tested	317	25.8	85	25.4	402	25.7
Amphetamines						
Tested with results	105	8.6	102	30.5	207	13.3
Amphetamines present in those tested	22	1.8	14	4.2	36	2.3
Antidepressant						
Tested with results	27	2.2	38	11.3	65	4.2
Antidepressant present in those tested	27	2.2	38	11.3	65	4.2
Cocaine						
Tested with results	102	8.3	99	29.6	201	12.9
Cocaine present in those tested	8	0.7	6	1.8	14	0.9
Opiates						
Tested with results	98	8.0	98	29.3	196	12.6
Opiates present in those tested	30	2.4	40	11.9	70	4.5
Other substances*						
Tested with results	230	3.1	226	11.2	456	4.9
Other drugs present in those tested	56	0.8	90	4.5	146	1.6

* Other substances include carbon monoxide, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, and marijuana.
Note: Testing refers to conducted toxicology tests of suicide victims.

Section II

Table 19: Alcohol toxicology testing and results for suicide victims (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by age group and race, 2022

	Alcohol tested with results		Alcohol present in those tested	
	Number	%	Number	%
Age Group (Years)				
10-14	15	88.2	1	6.7
15 - 19	60	88.2	6	10.0
20 - 24	118	88.7	31	26.3
25 - 34	230	89.5	83	36.1
35 - 44	234	92.5	94	40.2
45 - 54	210	90.9	74	35.2
55 - 64	218	89.3	70	32.1
65 - 74	162	87.1	31	19.1
75 - 84	113	90.4	10	8.8
≥85	45	93.8	2	4.4
Race/Ethnicity				
White*	1,107	90.4	337	30.4
Black*	177	88.5	37	20.9
Asian*	27	79.4	5	18.5
American Indian*	20	90.9	7	35.0
Hispanic	72	91.1	16	22.2
Other/Unknown	2	100.0	0	0.0

*Non-Hispanic

Table 20: Injury location for suicide victims (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina, 2022

	Number	%
Injury Location		
House, apartment	1,188	76.1
Motor vehicle (excluding school bus and public transportation)	108	6.9
Natural area (e.g., field, river, beach, woods)	71	4.6
Hotel/motel	23	1.5
Jail, prison, detention facility	34	2.2
Park, playground, public use area	17	1.1
Other commercial establishment (e.g., grocery store, retail outlet, laundromat)	7	0.5
Street/road, sidewalk, alley	16	1.0
Parking lot/public parking garage	5	0.3
Highway/freeway	10	0.6
Hospital or medical facility	2	0.1
Synagogue, church, temple	3	0.2
Other specified*	60	3.8
Other/Unknown	18	1.2
Total Deaths	1,562	100

*Other Specified includes office building, industrial/construction area, abandoned house or building, college/university, farm, supervised residential facility, and railroad tracks.

Section III: Homicide

Basic Characteristics of Homicides

Table 21 characterizes the homicides in 2022 for North Carolina residents by demographics of sex, race/ethnicity, and age. The homicide rate in 2022 in North Carolina per 100,000 people is displayed by race/ethnicity and sex in **Figure 15** and by age group in **Figure 16**.

Key Findings:

- In 2022, 916 North Carolinians (8.6 per 100,000) were victims of homicide.
- Males were 4.3 times as likely to be victims of a homicide as females (14.1 versus 3.3 per 100,000, respectively).
- NH American Indians (26.2 per 100,000) had higher homicide rates than NH Blacks (26.0 per 100,000), Hispanics (7.0 per 100,000), NH whites (3.3 per 100,000), and NH Asians (1.3 per 100,000).
- Homicide rates per 100,000 were highest for adults ages 20 to 24 years (31.2 per 100,000) and ages 15 to 19 years (29.7 per 100,000). Among children younger than 14 (for age groups where rates could be calculated), the rate was highest in infants younger than one (14.5 per 100,000).

The method of death for homicide victims in North Carolina in 2022 is shown in **Table 22** and **Figure 17**. The type of firearm involved in homicide firearm deaths in North Carolina in 2022 is listed in **Table 23**.

Key Findings:

- The leading methods of homicide were firearm (81.4%), sharp instrument (7.8%), personal weapons (4.3%), blunt instrument (2.8%), and hanging, strangulation, and suffocation (1.0%).
- Most male and female homicide victims died by firearm (84.4% and 69.4% respectively), or sharp instrument (7.1% and 10.6% respectively).
- Considering only homicide firearm deaths, a handgun was the most common firearm used (71.0%).

Table 24 describes adult homicide victims (18 years or older) in North Carolina in 2022 by education level, marital status and veteran status.

Key Findings:

- Among adult homicide victims, 48.1% graduated high school or received their GED, 22.1% completed at least some college credit, and 28.8% completed up to 12th grade but did not graduate.
- About two thirds of homicide victims were never married (67.8%) as compared to married, civil union, or domestic partnership (15.6%), divorced (10.4%), married but separated (2.7%), or widowed (2.4%).
- Military veterans accounted for 6.2% of adult homicide victims.

Table 25 and **Figure 18** display the homicide rates in 2022 by North Carolina county of residence. County rates should be interpreted with caution because the numbers of homicides by county are small and subject to variation. The number of homicides in 31 counties was too small to support a rate calculation. Twelve of the 20 counties with the highest rates had less than 50,000 residents in 2022.

Key Findings:

- For the 69 counties where the number of homicides was sufficient to support a rate calculation, the average homicide rate by North Carolina County of residence was 9.8 deaths per 100,000 with a range from 0.0 to 35.7 deaths per 100,000.

Table 21: Demographics of homicide victims in North Carolina, 2022

	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex				
Female	180	19.7	3.3	2.8 - 3.8
Male	736	80.3	14.1	13.1 - 15.1
Race/Ethnicity				
White*	216	23.6	3.3	2.9 - 3.7
Black*	586	64.0	26.0	23.9 - 28.1
Asian*	5	0.5	1.3	0.2 - 2.5
American Indian*	29	3.2	26.2	16.7 - 35.7
Hispanic	80	8.7	7.0	5.4 - 8.5
Other/Unknown	0	0.0	-	-
Age Group (Years)				
< 1	14	1.5	11.6	5.5 - 17.6
1-4	14	1.5	2.9	1.4 - 4.4
5-9	2	0.2	*	*
10-14	11	1.2	1.6	0.7 - 2.6
15-19	117	12.8	16.4	13.4 - 19.4
20-24	132	14.4	18.4	15.3 - 21.6
25-34	241	26.3	16.8	14.6 - 18.9
35-44	150	16.4	11.0	9.3 - 12.8
45-54	103	11.2	7.6	6.2 - 9.1
55-64	78	8.5	5.7	4.4 - 7.0
65-74	32	3.5	2.9	1.9 - 3.9
75-84	17	1.9	3.0	1.6 - 4.5
≥85	5	0.5	2.9	0.4 - 5.4
Total Deaths	916	100.0	8.6	8.0 - 9.1

Sex, race/ethnicity and age-specific crude rates per 100,000 NC population

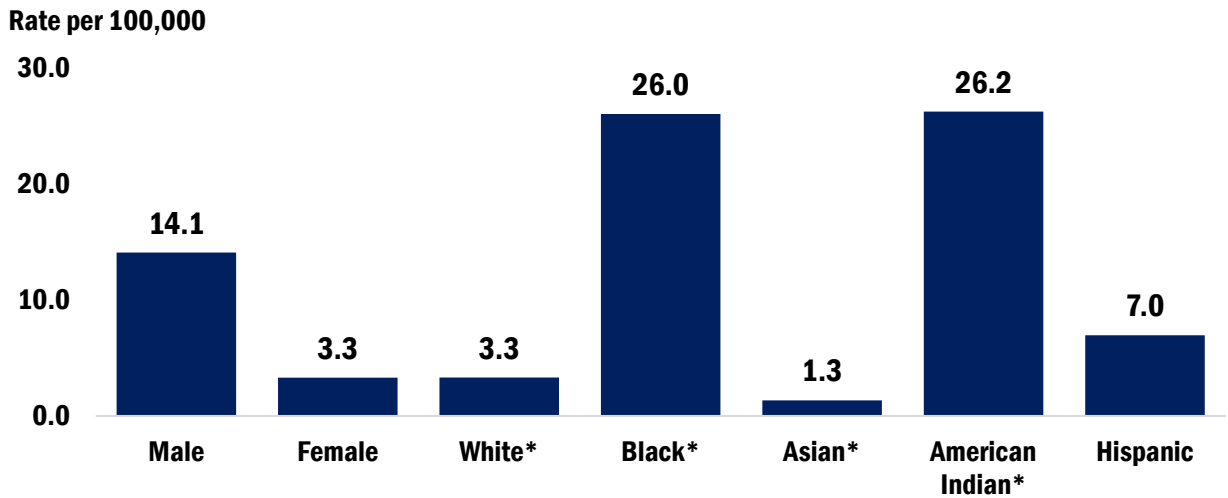
95% CI = 95 % confidence interval for the rate

* Non-Hispanic

Note: The number of homicide deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for ages 5-9.

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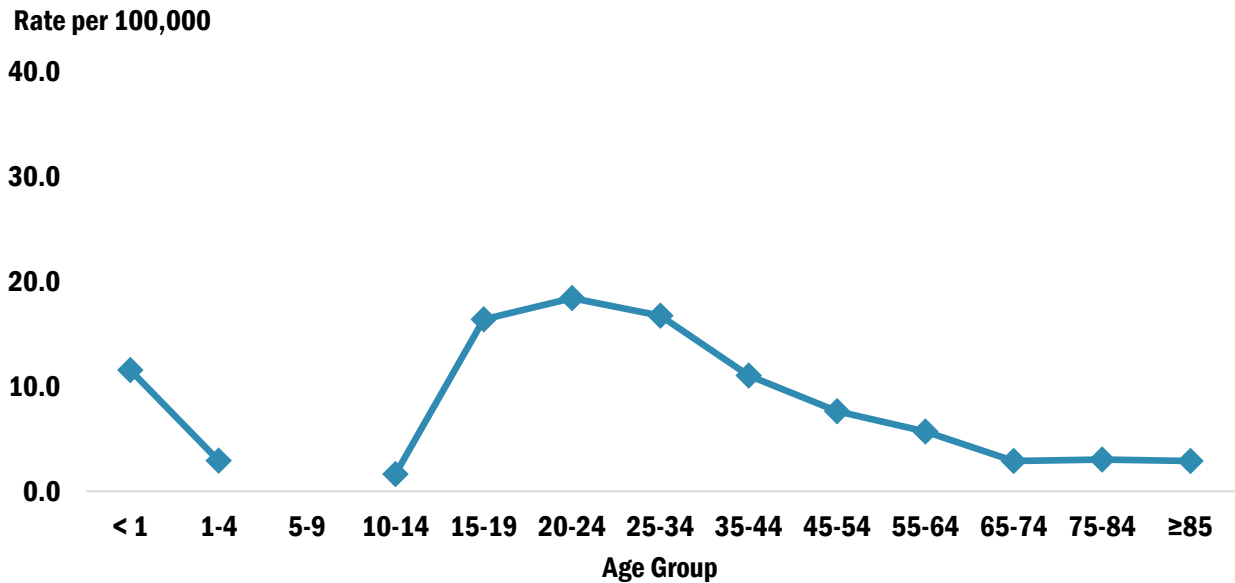
Figure 15: Crude homicide rates in North Carolina by sex and race/ethnicity, 2022



* Non-Hispanic

Note: The number of homicide deaths for sex and race/ethnicity was high enough to support a rate calculation.

Figure 16: Age-specific crude homicide rates in North Carolina by age group, 2022



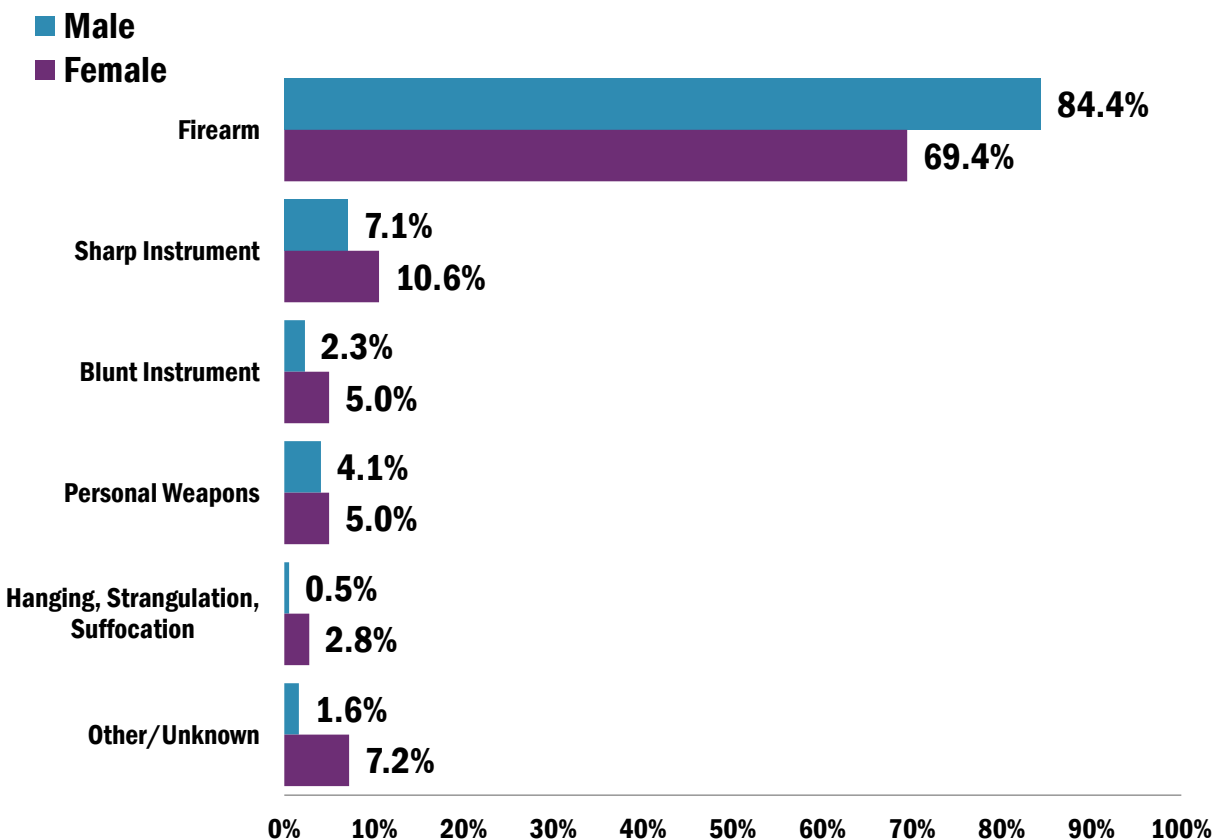
Note: The number of homicide deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for children ages 5-9.

Table 22: Method of death for homicide victims in North Carolina by sex, 2022

Method of Death	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm	621	84.4	125	69.4	746	81.4
Sharp instrument	52	7.1	19	10.6	71	7.8
Blunt instrument	17	2.3	9	5.0	26	2.8
Personal weapons	30	4.1	9	5.0	39	4.3
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	4	0.5	5	2.8	9	1.0
Fire or burns	1	0.1	3	1.7	4	0.4
Intentional neglect	5	0.7	3	1.7	8	0.9
Other*/ Unknown	6	0.8	7	3.9	13	1.4
Total Deaths	736	100	180	100	916	100

* Other includes intentional neglect (e.g., starvation), and violent shaking.

Figure 17: Method of death for homicide victims in North Carolina by sex, 2022



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Table 23: Type of firearm involved in homicide firearm deaths in North Carolina by Sex, 2022

Firearm Type*	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Handgun	440	70.3	94	74.6	534	71.0
Shotgun	18	2.9	9	7.1	27	3.6
Rifle	58	9.3	13	10.3	71	9.4
Other/Unknown	110	17.6	10	7.9	120	16.0
Total Firearms Involved in Homicides	626	100	126	100	752	100

* Multiple firearm types were reported for five male homicide deaths and one female homicide death; therefore, the total number of firearms exceeds the number of homicide firearm deaths (n=746).

Table 24: Completed education, marital status and veteran status of adult homicide victims (age 18 or older) in North Carolina, 2022

	Number	%
Education Level		
8th grade or less	39	4.8
9th – 12th Grade	197	24.0
High school or GED graduate	394	48.1
Some college credit	98	12.0
Associates degree	46	5.6
Bachelor degree	25	3.1
Master degree	11	1.3
Doctorate degree	1	0.1
Unknown	9	1.1
Marital Status		
Never married	556	67.8
Married*	128	15.6
Divorced	85	10.4
Married, but separated	22	2.7
Widowed	20	2.4
Unknown	9	1.1
Veteran Status		
Non-veteran	756	92.2
Veteran	51	6.2
Unknown	13	1.6

* Married includes married, civil union or domestic partnership.

Table 25: Homicides in North Carolina by county of residence, 2022

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Alamance	11	6.2	Franklin	1	*	Pamlico	2	*
Alexander	1	*	Gaston	17	7.3	Pasquotank	6	14.6
Alleghany	1	*	Gates	2	*	Pender	6	9.1
Anson	3	*	Graham	0	0.0	Perquimans	0	0.0
Ashe	0	0.0	Granville	6	9.7	Person	7	17.8
Avery	2	*	Greene	1	*	Pitt	18	10.4
Beaufort	0	0.0	Guilford	49	9.0	Polk	1	*
Bertie	3	*	Halifax	10	21.0	Randolph	12	8.2
Bladen	5	17.0	Harnett	9	6.5	Richmond	11	25.8
Brunswick	9	5.9	Haywood	2	*	Robeson	36	30.9
Buncombe	11	4.0	Henderson	5	4.2	Rockingham	7	7.6
Burke	6	6.8	Hertford	1	*	Rowan	15	10.0
Cabarrus	16	6.8	Hoke	11	20.5	Rutherford	0	0.0
Caldwell	5	6.2	Hyde	0	0.0	Sampson	9	15.2
Camden	0	0.0	Iredell	13	6.6	Scotland	9	26.2
Carteret	3	*	Jackson	2	*	Stanly	3	*
Caswell	3	*	Johnston	9	3.8	Stokes	1	*
Catawba	13	8.0	Jones	0	0.0	Surry	4	*
Chatham	0	0.0	Lee	5	7.6	Swain	4	*
Cherokee	2	*	Lenoir	13	23.9	Transylvania	0	0.0
Chowan	3	*	Lincoln	3	*	Tyrrell	0	0.0
Clay	1	*	McDowell	3	*	Union	12	4.8
Cleveland	7	7.0	Macon	1	*	Vance	12	28.5
Columbus	7	14.0	Madison	0	0.0	Wake	48	4.1
Craven	5	4.9	Martin	5	23.3	Warren	3	*
Cumberland	66	19.6	Mecklenburg	104	9.1	Washington	0	0.0
Currituck	0	0.0	Mitchell	0	0.0	Watauga	1	*
Dare	2	*	Montgomery	5	19.3	Wayne	17	14.5
Davidson	14	8.1	Moore	7	6.6	Wilkes	3	*
Davie	7	15.9	Nash	19	19.8	Wilson	11	14.0
Duplin	6	12.3	New Hanover	14	5.9	Yadkin	1	*
Durham	46	13.8	Northampton	6	35.7	Yancey	3	*
Edgecombe	7	14.5	Onslow	9	4.3			
Forsyth	45	11.5	Orange	12	8.0			

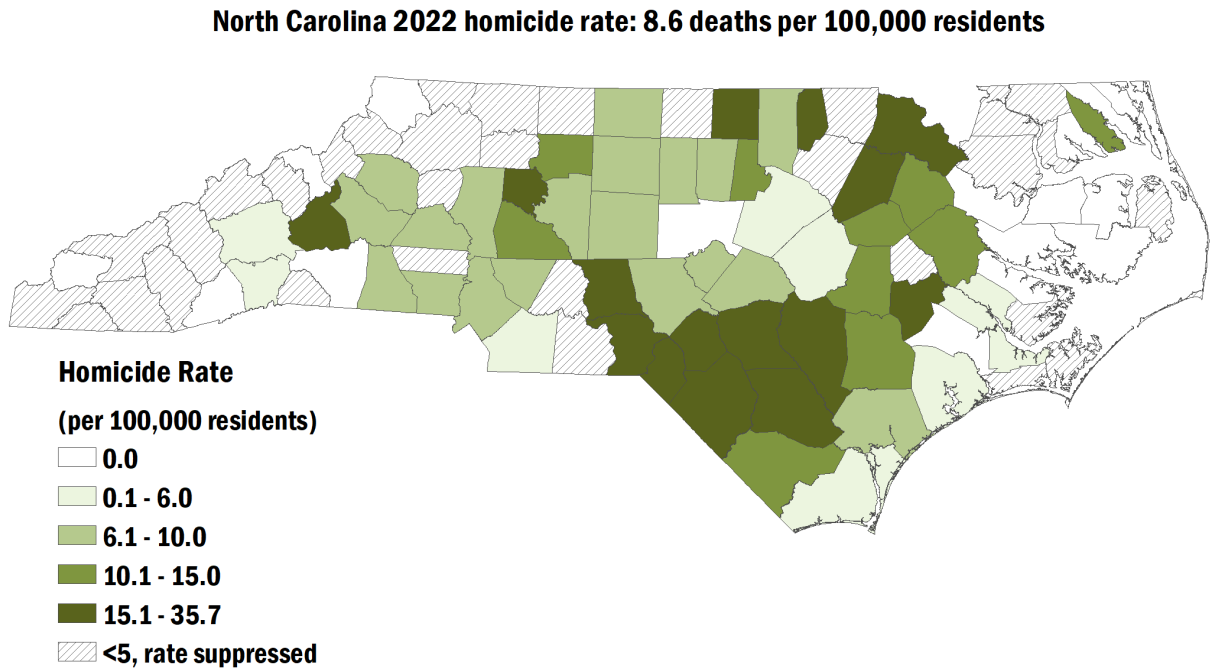
Crude rate per 100,000 population in NC county

* Number of deaths was too small to support rate calculation.

Top 20 counties with the highest crude homicide rates are shown in bold.

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Figure 18: Map of homicide rates in North Carolina by county of residence, 2022



Race/Ethnicity and Sex of Homicide Victims

Table 26 and Figure 19 describe the 2022 North Carolina homicide victims by sex and race/ethnicity.

Key Findings:

- Of all homicide victims 80.3% were male, 64.0% were NH Black, and 23.6% were NH white as shown in **Table 19**.
- Most male homicide victims were NH Black (68.1%) as compared to NH white (18.9%), Hispanic (9.4%), and NH American Indian (3.1%). Almost half of female homicide victims were NH Black (47.2%) followed by NH white (42.8%), Hispanic (6.1%), and NH American Indian (3.3%). There were five homicides among NH Asians in 2022, which was too small to compute rates by sex.
- The homicide rates per 100,000 were 10.9 times higher for NH Black males (47.4 per 100,000) and 9.9 times higher for NH American Indian males (43.1 per 100,000), than NH white males (4.3 per 100,000).
- NH American Indian females were 4.5 times as likely (10.5 per 100,000) and NH Black females 3.1 times as likely (7.1 per 100,000) to be homicide victims compared to NH white females (2.3 per 100,000, respectively).
- The homicide rate was 6.7 times higher for NH Black males than for NH Black females. The homicide rate was 1.9 times higher for NH white males than NH white females.

Age and Sex of Homicide Victims

The age and sex of homicide victims in North Carolina in 2022 are categorized in **Table 27**. The 2022 homicide rates per 100,000 in North Carolina are stratified by age group and sex in **Figure 20**.

Key Findings:

- Most male homicide victims were ages 15 to 54 years, with a rank order by age group of: 25 to 34 (27.6%), 35 to 44 (16.3%), 20 to 24 (15.6%), 15 to 19 (14.7%), and 45 to 54 (9.6%).
- Among females, most homicide victims were ages 20 to 64 years with a rank order by age group of: 25 to 34 (21.1%), 45 to 54 (17.8%), 35 to 44 (16.7%), 55 to 64 (10.6%), and 20 to 24 (9.4%).
- Males had higher homicide rates than females across all age groups, where the number of deaths was large enough to support rate calculation.
- The homicide rate by age for males peaked among ages 20 to 24 years (31.2 per 100,000) and then declined to 3.7 per 100,000 for ages 75 to 84.

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Table 26: Race/ethnicity of homicide victims in North Carolina by sex, 2022

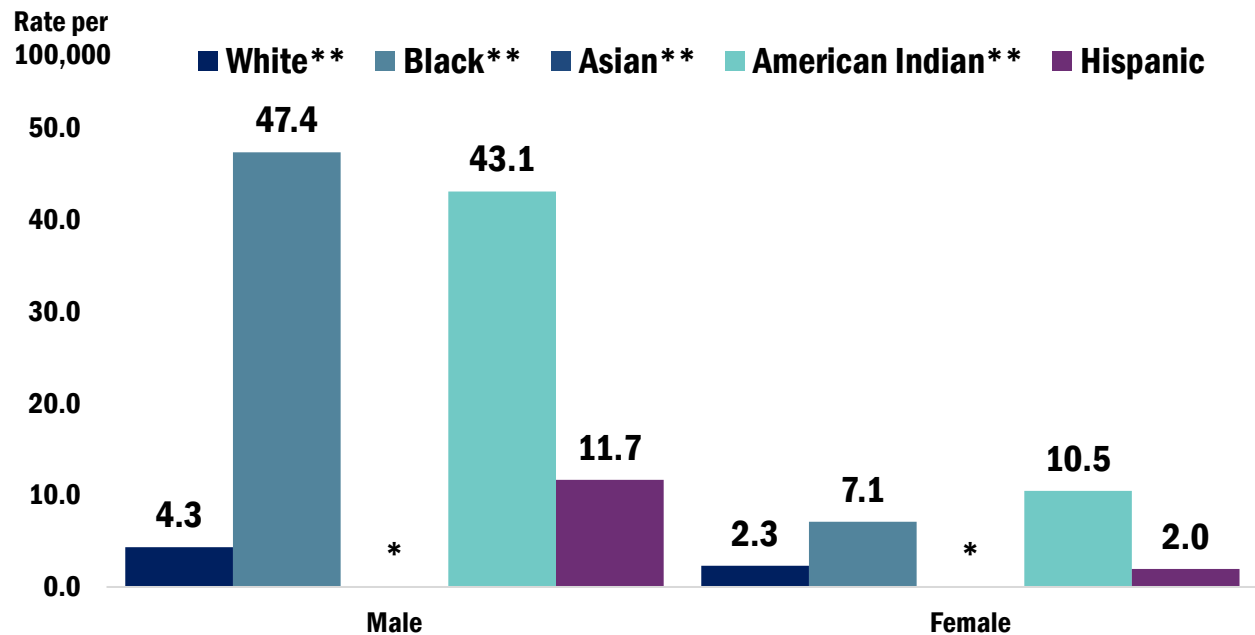
Race/Ethnicity	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
White**	139	18.9	4.3	77	42.8	2.3
Black**	501	68.1	47.4	85	47.2	7.1
Asian**	4	0.5	*	1	0.6	*
American Indian**	23	3.1	43.1	6	3.3	10.5
Hispanic	69	9.4	11.7	11	6.1	2.0
Other/Unknown	0	0.0	-	0	0	-
Total Deaths	736	100	14.1	180	100	3.4

Sex and race-specific crude rate per 100,000 NC population

* The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for NH Asian males and females.

** Non-Hispanic

Figure 19: Crude homicide rates in North Carolina stratified by race/ethnicity and sex, 2022



* The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for NH Asian males and females.

** Non-Hispanic

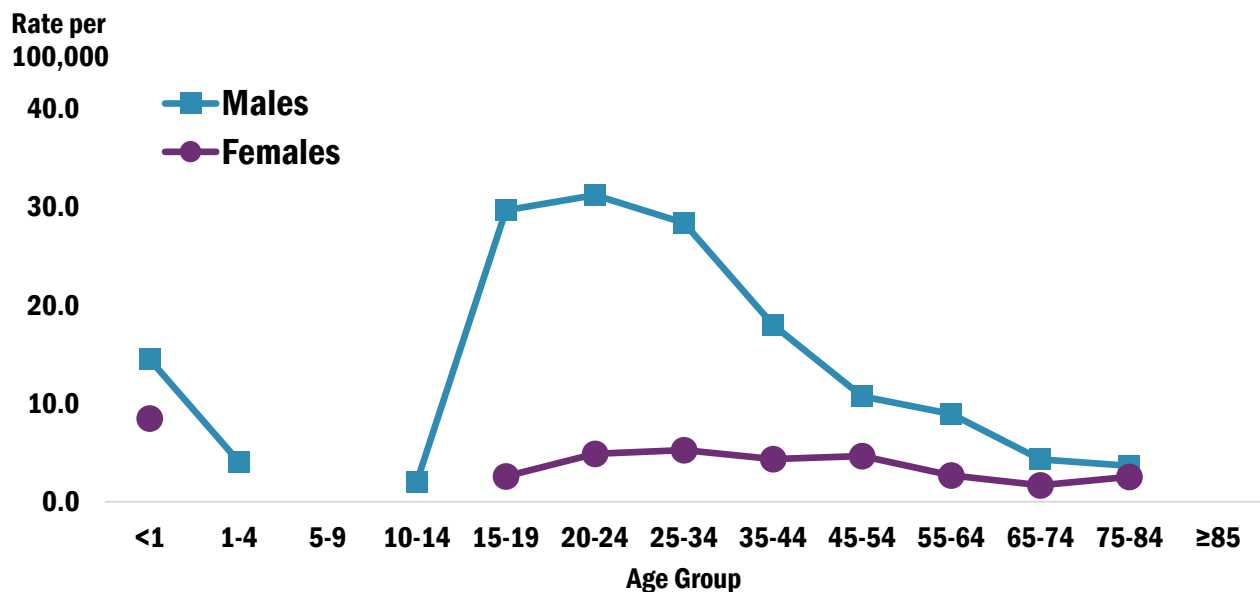
Table 27: Age group of homicide victims in North Carolina by sex, 2022

Age Group (Years)	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
<1	9	1.2	14.5	5	2.8	8.5
1-4	10	1.4	4.1	4	2.2	*
5-9	1	0.1	*	1	0.6	*
10-14	7	1	2.0	4	2.2	*
15-19	108	14.7	29.7	9	5	2.6
20-24	115	15.6	31.2	17	9.4	4.9
25-34	203	27.6	28.4	38	21.1	5.3
35-44	120	16.3	18.0	30	16.7	4.3
45-54	71	9.6	10.7	32	17.8	4.7
55-64	59	8	8.9	19	10.6	2.7
65-74	22	3	4.3	10	5.6	1.7
75-84	9	1.2	3.7	8	4.4	2.5
≥85	2	0.3	*	3	1.7	*
Total Deaths	736	100	14.1	180	100	3.3

Sex and age-specific crude rates per 100,000 NC population

* The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for males ages 5-9 and 85 and older, and for females ages 1-4, 5-9, 10-14, and 85 and older.

Figure 20: Age-specific crude homicide rates in North Carolina stratified by age group and sex, 2022



Note: The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for males ages 5-9 and 85 and older, and for females ages 1-4, 5-9, 10-14, and 85 and older.

Section III

Circumstances and Injury Location for Homicide Victims

NC-VDRS collects data on the event and victim circumstances involving homicides to understand the underlying causes of violent death. However, circumstance data were not available for all homicides. In 2022, 96.9% of homicide victims had data available for at least one circumstance related to the homicide. Since each victim may have more than one circumstance, the total number of circumstances may exceed the total number of homicides.

Please note that drug-related homicides are characterized in two ways. If the drug-related crime (e.g., drug sales) was part of the homicide, then the circumstances are categorized as “precipitated by another crime” and the crime is listed as “drug trade.” If drugs played a role in the homicide, then the homicide is classified as “drug involvement.” In addition, gang-related crimes are likely significantly undercounted because these crimes are difficult to identify, and definitions differ across agencies.

Table 28 describes the circumstances for homicide victims stratified by sex based on the number of cases reporting circumstances in North Carolina in 2022. **Table 29** lists the crimes that precipitated the homicide for both men and women. **Figure 21** illustrates the most common homicide event circumstances and precipitating crimes for homicide victims in North Carolina in 2022.

Key Findings:

- The most common event circumstances surrounding homicides for males were an argument, abuse, or conflict (47.5%), precipitated by another serious crime (26.3%), drug involvement (18.8%), intimate partner violence-related (10.4%), and gang related (9.6%).
- For females, the most common event circumstances surrounding homicides were an argument, abuse or conflict (44.3%), intimate partner violence-related (37.5%), precipitated by another serious crime (23.9%), drug involvement (13.6%), and gang related (5.7%).
- The most common crimes that precipitated homicide for male victims were robbery (39.9%), assault or homicide (19.2%), drug trade (15.0%), burglary (13.6%), and motor vehicle theft (4.2%).
- The most common crimes that precipitated homicide for female victims included burglary (22.2%), robbery (20.0%), rape or sexual assault (13.3%), assault or homicide (11.1%), and drug trade (6.7%).
- Common victim circumstances surrounding homicides were: the victim used a weapon (13.9%), justifiable self-defense (3.4%), and the victim was a bystander (1.5%).

Table 30 summarizes the location of the injury resulting in death for homicide victims in North Carolina in 2022.

Key Findings:

- Most injuries resulting in death occurred in a house or apartment (51.1%).
- Other common locations where injuries resulting in death occurred were: a motor vehicle (14.6%), a street, road, sidewalk or alley (11.5%), other commercial establishments such as a grocery store or laundromat (4.9%), a parking lots or public parking garage (3.6%), a hotel/motel (2.7%), natural areas such as a field or woods (2.3%), and service station (2.1%).

Table 28: Circumstances of homicides victims in North Carolina by sex, 2022

Circumstance*	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Event						
Other argument, abuse, conflict	338	47.5	78	44.3	416	46.9
Precipitated by another serious crime	187	26.3	42	23.9	229	25.8
Drug involvement	134	18.8	24	13.6	158	17.8
Intimate partner violence-related	74	10.4	66	37.5	140	15.8
Jealousy (lovers triangle)	20	2.8	5	2.8	25	2.8
Gang related	68	9.6	10	5.7	78	8.8
Brawl (mutual physical fight)	14	2.0	3	1.7	17	1.9
Mercy killing	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Victim						
Victim used a weapon	116	16.3	7	4.0	123	13.9
Victim was a bystander	6	0.8	7	4.0	13	1.5
Justifiable self-defense	28	3.9	2	1.1	30	3.4
Intervener assisting crime victim	4	0.6	2	1.1	6	0.7

* Circumstances were available for 96.7% (712/736) of male victims, 97.8% (176/180) of female victims and 96.9% (888/916) of all homicide victims. The percentage of circumstances for homicide victims is based on the number of cases reporting circumstances in North Carolina in 2022.

Note: Each victim may have more than one circumstance, therefore the total number of circumstances may exceed the total number of homicides or responses may exceed 100%.

Table 29: Crimes precipitating homicides in North Carolina by sex, 2022

Crime*	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Robbery	85	39.9	9	20.0	94	36.4
Burglary	29	13.6	10	22.2	39	15.1
Drug trade	32	15.0	3	6.7	35	13.6
Motor vehicle theft	9	4.2	2	4.4	11	4.3
Assault, homicide	41	19.2	5	11.1	46	17.8
Rape, sexual assault	3	1.4	6	13.3	9	3.5
Arson	4	1.9	2	4.4	6	2.3
Gambling	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
Other	9	4.2	8	17.8	17	6.6

* For 187 males, 42 females and 229 total victims whose homicide was precipitated by another serious crime.

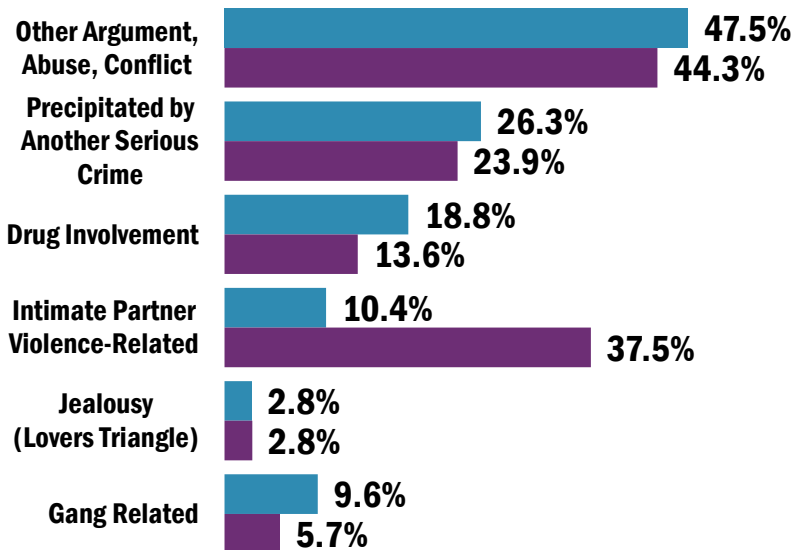
Note: Each homicide may be precipitated by more than one crime. Accordingly, the total number of crimes may exceed the total number of homicides, or responses may exceed 100%.

Section III

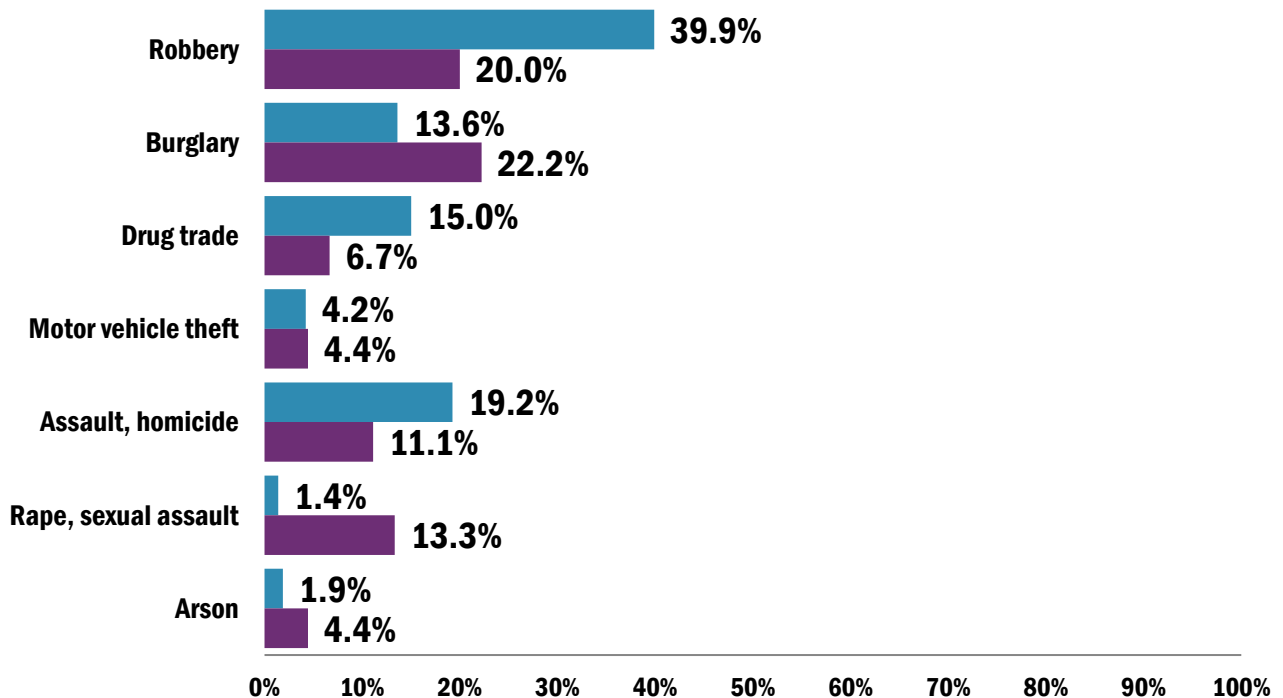
Figure 21: Circumstances of homicide victims and crimes precipitating homicides in North Carolina by sex, 2022

- Males
- Females

HOMICIDE CIRCUMSTANCE



CRIMES PRECIPITATING HOMICIDE



Note: Homicides may have more than one circumstance and precipitating crime; therefore, the responses add up to more than 100%. This figure does not include all circumstances and crimes.

Table 30: Injury location for homicide victims in North Carolina, 2022

	Number	%
Injury Location		
House, apartment	468	51.1
Motor vehicle (excluding school bus and public transportation)	134	14.6
Street/road, sidewalk, alley	105	11.5
Other commercial establishment (e.g., grocery store, retail outlet, laundromat)	45	4.9
Parking lot/public parking garage	33	3.6
Hotel/motel	25	2.7
Natural area (e.g., field, river, beaches, woods)	21	2.3
Service station	19	2.1
Park, playground, public use area	13	1.4
Abandoned house, building, or warehouse	8	0.9
Supervised residential facility (e.g., shelter, halfway house, group home)	7	0.8
Public transportation or station (e.g., bus, train, plane, airport, depot, taxi)	4	0.4
Hospital or medical facility	3	0.3
Jail, prison, detention facility	3	0.3
Other/Unknown	28	3.1
Total Deaths	916	100

Section IV: Firearm Deaths

Table 31 and **Figure 22** display the manner of firearm deaths among North Carolina residents in 2022.

Table 32 characterizes firearm deaths by firearm type.

Key Findings:

- Half of firearm deaths were suicides (54.3%), followed by homicides (41.9%).
- Handguns were involved in 77.5% of all firearm deaths.

Table 33 characterizes violent deaths involving a firearm in 2022 among North Carolina residents by demographics of sex, race/ethnicity, and age. The overall firearm death rate per 100,000 North Carolina residents is displayed by race/ethnicity and sex in **Figure 23** and by age group in **Figure 24**.

Key Findings:

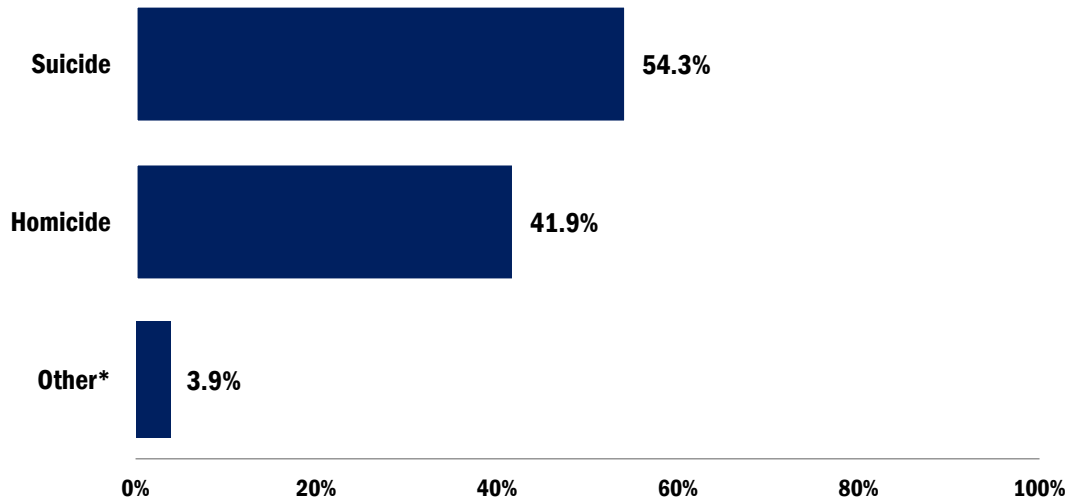
- In 2022, 1,782 North Carolinians died due to an injury from a firearm (16.7 per 100,000), representing 68.3% of all violent deaths.
- Males were 5.4 times more likely to die from firearm violence than females (28.6 versus 5.3 per 100,000, respectively).
- NH American Indian residents had the highest firearm violent death rate per 100,000 (31.6), followed by NH Black (30.0), NH white (14.6), Hispanic (9.1), and NH Asian residents (4.3).
- By age group, younger adults ages 20 to 24 had the highest firearm death rate per 100,000 (30.9), followed by those ages 25 to 34 (26.1), and 15 to 19 (22.3).

Table 34 provides counts and rates of firearm deaths by North Carolina county of residence in 2022.

Table 31: Manner of Firearm Death in North Carolina, 2022

Manner	Number	%
Suicide	967	54.3
Homicide	746	41.9
Legal intervention	35	2.0
Unintentional	25	1.4
Undetermined	9	0.5
Total Deaths	1782	100

Figure 22: Manner of Firearm Death in North Carolina, 2022



*Other includes legal intervention, unintentional, and undetermined firearm deaths.

Table 32: Type of firearm involved in firearm death in North Carolina, 2022

Firearm Type*	Number	%
Handgun	1388	77.5
Rifle	139	7.8
Shotgun	132	7.4
Other/Unknown	133	7.4
Total Firearms Involved in Firearm Deaths	1792	100

*Multiple firearm types were reported in 10 violent deaths; therefore, the total number of firearms exceeds the number of suicide firearm deaths (n=1,782).

Section IV

Table 33: Demographics of Firearm Deaths in North Carolina, 2022

	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex				
Female	287	16.1	5.3	4.6 - 5.9
Male	1495	83.9	28.6	27.1 - 30.0
Race/Ethnicity				
White*	950	53.3	14.6	13.6 - 15.5
Black*	675	37.9	30.0	27.7 - 32.2
Asian*	16	0.9	4.3	2.2 - 6.4
American Indian*	35	2.0	31.6	21.2 - 42.1
Hispanic	105	5.9	9.1	7.4 - 10.9
Other/Unknown	1	0.1	-	-
Age Group (Years)				
< 1	2	0.1	*	*
1-4	8	0.4	1.7	0.5 - 2.8
5-9	1	0.1	*	*
10-14	19	1.1	2.8	1.6 - 4.1
15-19	159	8.9	22.3	18.8 - 25.8
20-24	221	12.4	30.9	26.8 - 34.9
25-34	376	21.1	26.1	23.5 - 28.8
35-44	260	14.6	19.1	16.8 - 21.5
45-54	227	12.7	16.8	14.6 - 19.0
55-64	207	11.6	15.1	13.1 - 17.2
65-74	155	8.7	14.0	11.8 - 16.2
75-84	107	6.0	19.1	15.4 - 22.7
≥85	40	2.2	23.1	15.9 - 30.3
Total Deaths	1782	100.0	16.7	15.9 - 17.4

Sex, race/ethnicity and age-specific crude rates per 100,000 NC population

95% CI = 95 % confidence interval for the rate

* Non-Hispanic

Note: The number of firearm-involved deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for infants younger than one and ages 5-9.

Figure 23: Crude firearm death rates in North Carolina by sex and race/ethnicity, 2022

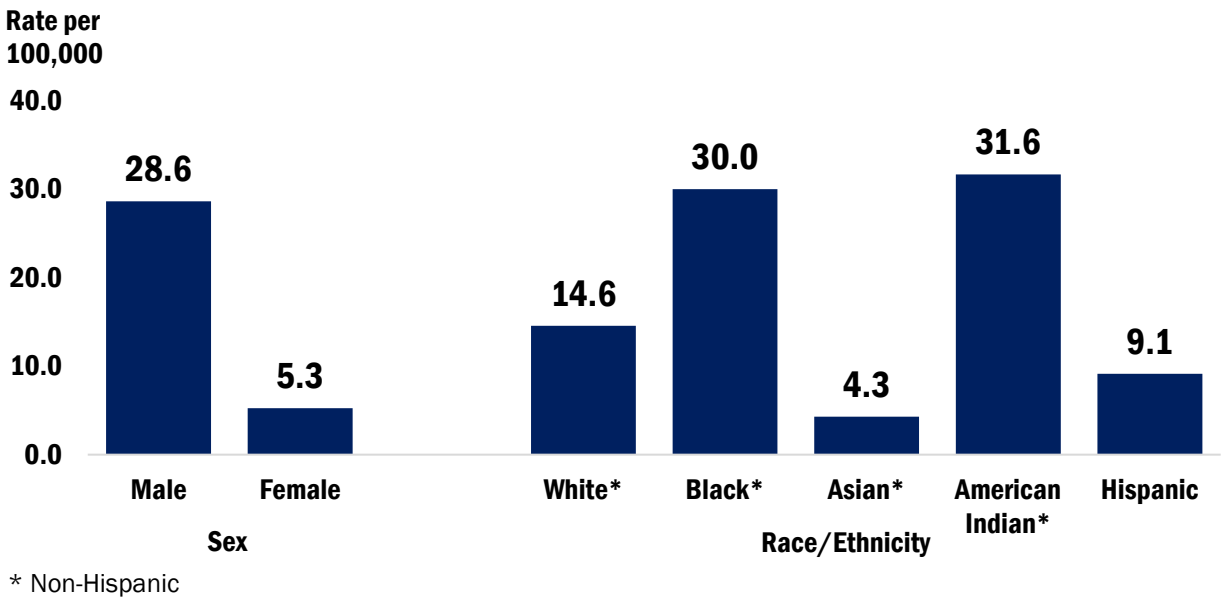
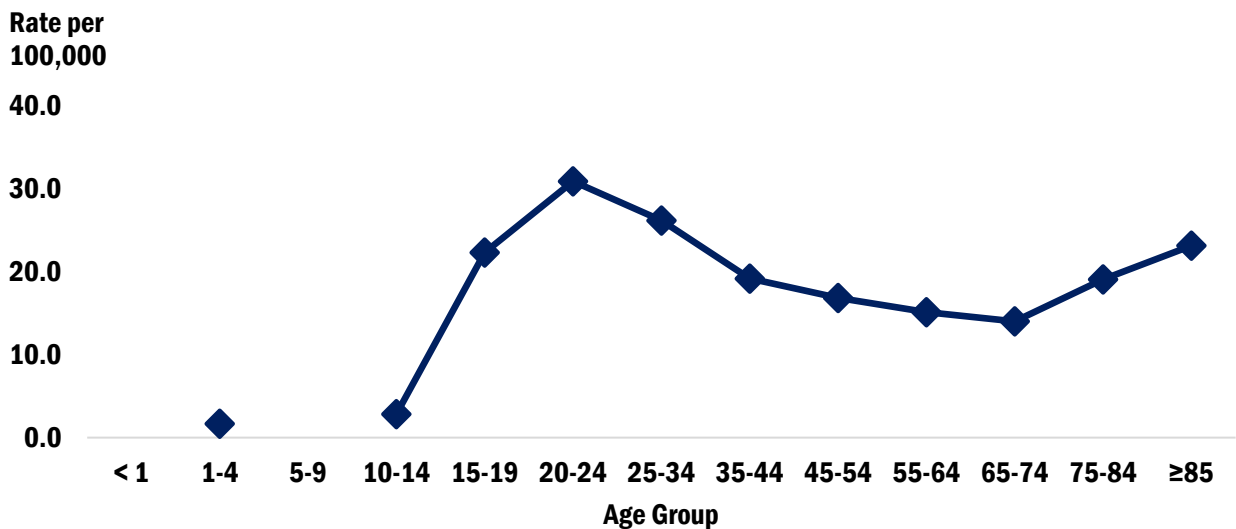


Figure 24: Age-specific crude firearm death rates in North Carolina stratified by age group, 2022



Note: The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for infants less than one year and ages 5-9.

Section IV

Table 34: Firearm death counts and rates by North Carolina county residence, 2022

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Alamance	27	15.3	Franklin	13	17.5	Pamlico	3	*
Alexander	4	*	Gaston	39	16.7	Pasquotank	4	*
Alleghany	2	*	Gates	3	*	Pender	9	13.7
Anson	5	22.8	Graham	0	0.0	Perquimans	2	*
Ashe	4	*	Granville	20	32.4	Person	10	25.4
Avery	5	28.5	Greene	7	34.4	Pitt	26	15.0
Beaufort	5	11.3	Guilford	78	14.3	Polk	5	25.0
Bertie	4	*	Halifax	16	33.5	Randolph	27	18.5
Bladen	10	34.0	Harnett	26	18.8	Richmond	10	23.5
Brunswick	26	17.0	Haywood	9	14.4	Robeson	36	30.9
Buncombe	42	15.3	Henderson	17	14.4	Rockingham	13	14.1
Burke	17	19.3	Hertford	1	*	Rowan	38	25.4
Cabarrus	29	12.3	Hoke	20	37.3	Rutherford	10	15.4
Caldwell	23	28.6	Hyde	1	*	Sampson	13	22.0
Camden	2	*	Iredell	27	13.8	Scotland	9	26.2
Carteret	8	11.5	Jackson	4	*	Stanly	18	28.0
Caswell	2	*	Johnston	32	13.6	Stokes	8	17.7
Catawba	29	17.8	Jones	2	*	Surry	11	15.4
Chatham	8	10.0	Lee	12	18.3	Swain	7	50.2
Cherokee	9	30.6	Lenoir	16	29.4	Transylvania	5	15.0
Chowan	5	36.0	Lincoln	11	11.8	Tyrrell	0	0.0
Clay	2	*	McDowell	8	17.9	Union	29	11.6
Cleveland	17	16.9	Macon	4	*	Vance	13	30.8
Columbus	13	26.0	Madison	3	*	Wake	109	9.3
Craven	17	16.8	Martin	8	37.2	Warren	3	*
Cumberland	94	27.9	Mecklenburg	161	14.1	Washington	0	0.0
Currituck	1	*	Mitchell	3	*	Watauga	6	10.9
Dare	8	21.1	Montgomery	8	31.0	Wayne	25	21.3
Davidson	36	20.9	Moore	24	22.8	Wilkes	10	15.2
Davie	9	20.4	Nash	19	19.8	Wilson	19	24.3
Duplin	11	22.5	New Hanover	36	15.3	Yadkin	8	21.3
Durham	54	16.2	Northampton	5	29.7	Yancey	7	37.3
Edgecombe	10	20.7	Onslow	31	14.8			
Forsyth	70	18.0	Orange	17	11.3			

Crude rate per 100,000 population in NC county

* The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation.

Firearm Suicides

Table 35 characterizes suicides involving a firearm in 2022 among North Carolina residents by demographics of sex, race/ethnicity, and age. The firearm suicide rate per 100,000 North Carolina residents is displayed by race/ethnicity and sex in **Figure 25** and by age group and sex in **Figure 26**.

Key Findings:

- In 2022, 967 North Carolinians died from a suicide involving a firearm, representing 61.9% of all suicides.
- Males were 5.7 times as likely to die of a firearm suicide as females (17.7 versus 3.1 per 100,000, respectively).
- NH American Indians had the highest firearm suicide rate (13.3 per 100,000), followed by NH whites (13.2 per 100,000), NH Blacks (6.3 per 100,000), NH Asians (3.7 per 100,000), and Hispanics (3.6 per 100,000).
- Adults ages 85 and older had the highest firearm suicide rates per 100,000 (22.5), followed by adults ages 75 to 84 (17.8), 65 to 74 (12.4), 55 to 64 (11.4), and 20 to 24 (11.3).
- Males ages 75 to 84 were 9.4 times as likely to die of a firearm suicide than females of the same age group (35.8 and 3.8 per 100,000, respectively).

Table 36 characterizes firearm suicides by firearm type.

Table 37 provides the 10 highest rates of firearm suicides by North Carolina county of residence in 2022.

Key Findings:

- In 2022, handguns accounted for 82.4% of all firearm suicides.
- Zero firearm suicide victims had used more than one firearm.
- The three highest county firearm suicide rates in 2022 were Greene (32.6 per 100,000), Cherokee (29.5 per 100,000), and Polk (27.1 per 100,000).

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Table 35: Demographics of firearm suicide in North Carolina, 2022

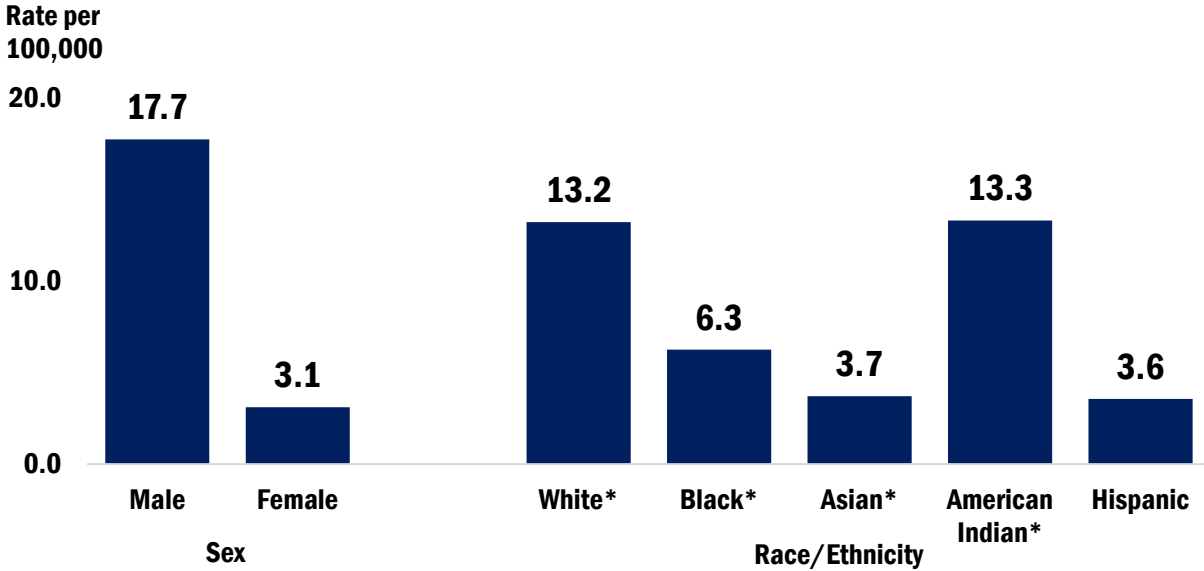
	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex				
Female	151	15.6	3.1	2.6 - 3.6
Male	816	84.4	17.7	16.5 - 19.0
Race/Ethnicity				
White*	784	81.1	13.2	12.3 - 14.2
Black*	124	12.8	6.3	5.2 - 7.4
Asian*	12	1.2	3.7	1.6 - 5.8
American Indian*	13	1.3	13.3	6.1 - 20.6
Hispanic	33	3.4	3.6	2.3 - 4.8
Other/Unknown	1	0.1	-	-
Age Group (Years)				
10-14	8	0.8	1.2	0.4 - 2.0
15-19	38	3.9	5.3	3.6 - 7.0
20-24	81	8.4	11.3	8.8 - 13.8
25-34	143	14.8	9.9	8.3 - 11.6
35-44	125	12.9	9.2	7.6 - 10.8
45-54	140	14.5	10.4	8.7 - 12.1
55-64	156	16.1	11.4	9.6 - 13.2
65-74	137	14.2	12.4	10.3 - 14.4
75-84	100	10.3	17.8	14.3 - 21.3
≥85	39	4.0	22.5	15.5 - 29.6
Total Deaths	967	100.0	10.2	9.6 - 10.9

Sex, race/ethnicity and age-specific crude rates per 100,000 NC population

95% CI = 95 % confidence interval for the rate

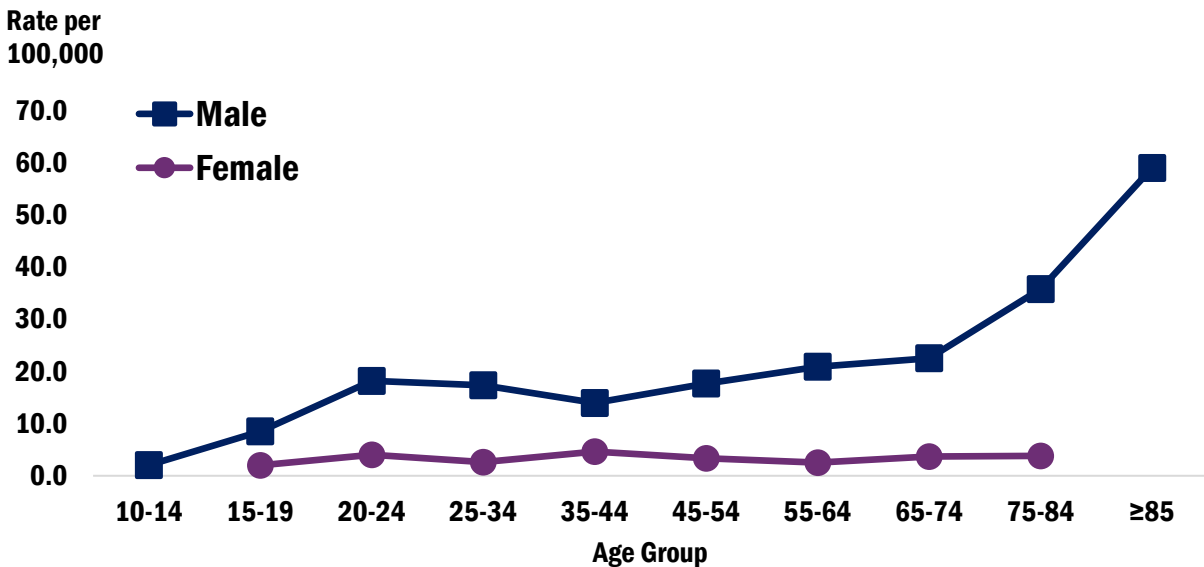
* Non-Hispanic

Figure 25: Crude firearm suicide rates in North Carolina by sex and race/ethnicity, 2022



* Non-Hispanic

Figure 26: Age-specific crude firearm suicide rates in North Carolina stratified by age group and sex, 2022



Note: The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for females ages 10-14, and 85 and older.

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Table 36: Firearm suicide firearm type in North Carolina, 2022

Firearm Type*	Number	%
Handgun	797	82.4
Rifle	58	6.0
Shotgun	102	10.5
Other/Unknown	10	1.0
Total Firearms Involved in Firearm Suicides	967	100

*Multiple firearm types were reported in zero firearm suicide deaths; therefore, the total number of firearms does not exceed the number of suicide firearm deaths (n=967).

Table 37: Ten highest firearm suicide rates in North Carolina by county of residence, 2022

County	Rate	County	Rate
Greene	32.6	Granville	23.6
Cherokee	29.5	Yadkin	20.9
Polk	27.1	Hoke	19.9
Caldwell	25.0	Stokes	19.6
Stanly	24.7	Moore	19.4

Circumstances of Firearm Suicides Compared to Non-Firearm Suicides

Circumstances surrounding suicides varied greatly between those involving firearms and those involving other means. Circumstance data were available for 97.4% of firearm suicides and 97.5% of non-firearm suicides in 2022. **Table 38** and **Figure 27** describe the circumstances for firearm and non-firearm suicide victims ages 10 or older in North Carolina in 2022.

Key Findings:

- Firearm suicide victims were less likely than victims of suicides involving other means to have even been treated for a mental health problem (57.4% and 75.2%) or to have been experiencing a current mental health problem (56.3% and 73.8%).
- Firearm suicide victims were slightly more likely to have a current depressed mood (30.2% versus 24.0%), but less likely to be receiving current mental health treatment (24.8% and 43.5%)
- Victims of firearm suicide were less likely to have had a substance use problem other than alcohol (12.4%) compared to suicide victims who used another means (29.8%).
- Firearm suicide victims were slightly more likely to have experienced an intimate partner problem (29.0% versus 22.8%).
- Victims of firearm suicide were more likely to have been experiencing a physical health problem (25.5% versus 14.0%), and more likely to have experienced a recent or imminent crisis within two weeks of their death (43.7% and 35.9%).
- Firearm suicide victims were much less likely to have a history of a suicide attempt(s) than other suicide victims (10.9% versus 28.5%), and less likely to have a history of suicidal thoughts (34.8% versus 46.0%).

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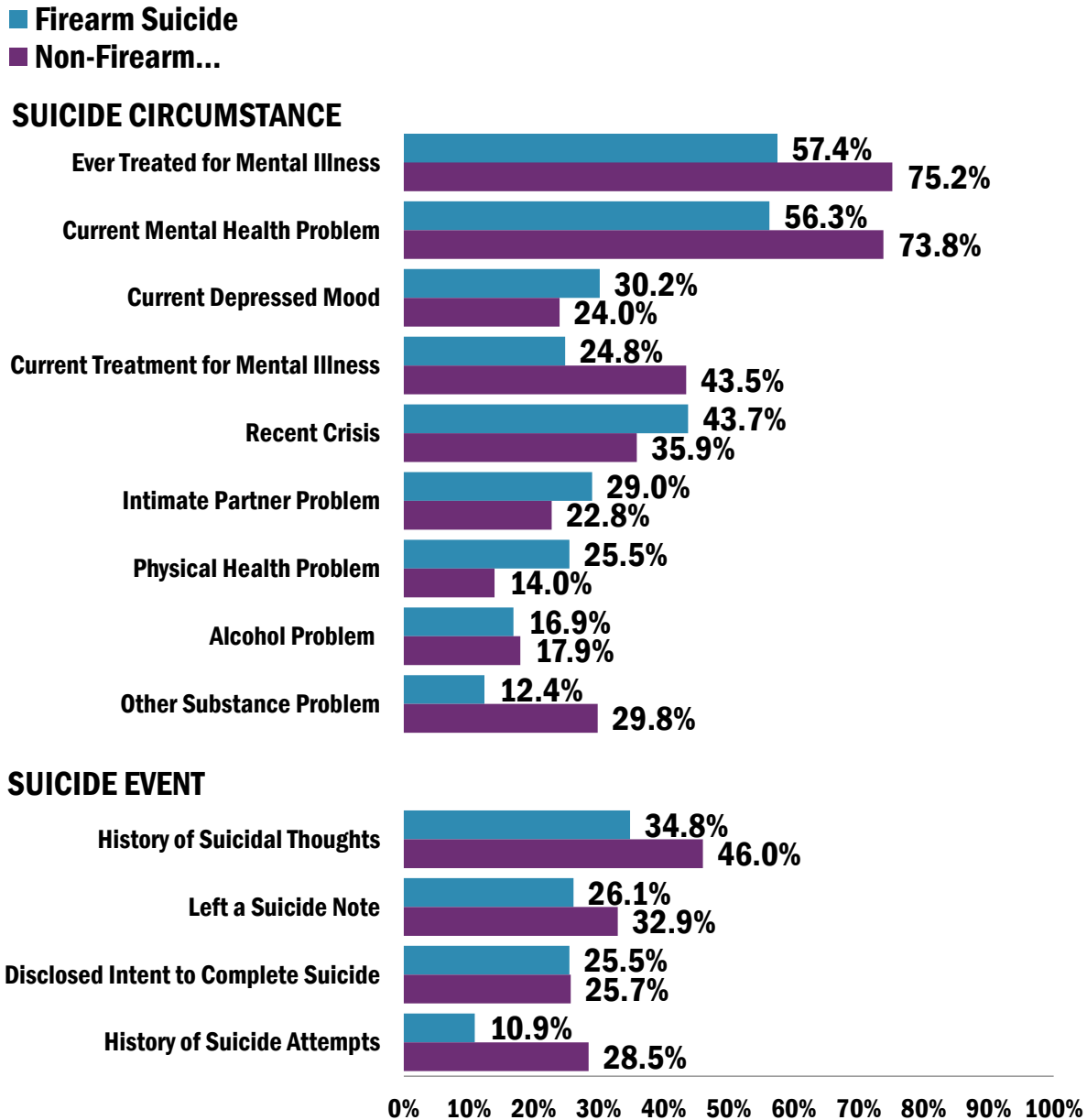
Table 38: Circumstances of firearm suicide compared to non-firearm* suicide in North Carolina, 2022

Circumstance*	Firearm Suicide		Non-Firearm** Suicide	
	Number	%	Number	%
Mental Health				
Ever treated-mental health	541	57.4	436	75.2
Current mental health problem	530	56.3	428	73.8
Current depressed mood	284	30.2	139	24.0
Current treatment MH	234	24.8	252	43.5
Substance Misuse/Addiction				
Alcohol problem	159	16.9	104	17.9
Other substance problem	117	12.4	143	28.8
Other addiction problem	4	0.4	0	0.0
Interpersonal				
Intimate partner problem	273	29.0	132	22.8
Other relationship problem	16	1.7	12	2.1
Perpetrator of intimate partner violence	58	6.2	19	3.3
Death of family/friend	78	8.3	35	6.0
Suicide death of family/friend in past 5 years	16	1.7	6	1.0
Life Stressor				
Physical health problem	240	25.5	81	14.0
Job problem	56	5.9	38	6.6
Criminal/legal problem	47	5.0	49	8.5
Financial problem	47	5.0	29	5.0
Legal problem, other	52	5.5	21	3.6
School problem	12	1.3	7	1.2
Recent crisis	412	43.7	208	35.9
Suicide Event				
Left a suicide note	246	26.1	191	32.9
Suicide disclosed	240	25.5	149	25.7
History of suicide attempt	103	10.9	165	28.5
History of suicidal thoughts	328	34.8	267	46.0

* Circumstances were available for 97.4% (942/967) of firearm suicide victims, and 97.5% (580/595) of non-firearm suicide victims. The percentage of circumstances for suicide victims is based on the number of cases reporting circumstances in North Carolina in 2022.

**Non-firearm includes hanging, strangulation or suffocation, poisoning, sharp instrument, fall, drowning, motor vehicle including buses and motorcycles, fire or burns, or other.

Figure 27: Suicide circumstances by firearm and non-firearm* means in North Carolina, 2022



*Non-firearm includes hanging, strangulation or suffocation, poisoning, sharp instrument, fall, drowning, motor vehicle including buses and motorcycles, fire or burns, or other.

Note: For Table 38 and Figure 27, firearm and non-firearm suicide victims may have more than one circumstance; therefore, the responses add up to more than 100%. This figure does not include all circumstances.

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Toxicology Testing and Results of Firearm Suicides Compared to Non-Firearm Suicides

Toxicology testing was performed on all suicide victims at the medical examiner's discretion to identify substances believed to have contributed to the death or circumstances surrounding the death. A positive test for a substance does not necessarily indicate that substance was present at a lethal level. Testing of North Carolina firearm and non-firearm suicide victims in 2022 is shown in **Table 39**.

Key Findings:

- Alcohol was tested in 90.7% of firearm suicides. Of those victims tested, alcohol was present in 27.3% of firearm suicide victims (28.2% of male victims and 22.5% of female victims). This is similar to non-firearm suicides, where 88.7% of victims were tested for alcohol, and 23.2% of victims were found to have alcohol present.
- Testing for substances other than alcohol was infrequent in firearm suicides. Average of testing for substances other than alcohol in all firearm suicide victims was 1.5%, and of those tested, substances other than alcohol were present in 0.2% of victims. In non-firearm suicides, substances were tested in 15.6% of victims on average, and of those tests, 4.9% of victims were found to have substances other than alcohol present.
- Substances such as cocaine and opiates were found to be tested more often in non-firearm suicides (2.3% vs. 30.1% for cocaine and 2.2% vs. 29.4% for opiates, for firearm and non-firearm suicides, respectively).
- Overall positive toxicology test results were less frequent for firearm suicide victims (3.2% vs. 6.4%).

Table 39: Toxicology testing and results by firearm or non-firearm* suicide in North Carolina, 2022

	Firearm Suicide		Non-Firearm* Suicide	
	Total	%	Total	%
Alcohol				
Tested with results	877	90.7	528	88.7
Alcohol present in those tested	264	27.3	138	23.2
Amphetamines				
Tested with results	24	2.5	183	30.8
Amphetamines present in those tested	6	0.6	30	5.0
Antidepressant				
Tested with results	3	0.3	62	10.4
Antidepressant present in those tested	3	0.3	62	10.4
Cocaine				
Tested with results	22	2.3	179	30.1
Cocaine present in those tested	1	0.1	13	2.2
Opiates				
Tested with results	21	2.2	175	29.4
Opiates present in those tested	2	0.2	68	11.4
Anticonvulsants				
Tested with results	21	2	182	30.6
Anticonvulsants present in those tested	0	0	39	6.6
Benzodiazepine				
Tested with results	21	2	184	30.9
Benzodiazepine present in those tested	2	0	59	9.9
Other substances*				
Tested with results	4	0.2	53	1.8
Other drugs present in those tested	4	0.2	51	1.7

* Non-firearm includes hanging, strangulation or suffocation, poisoning, sharp instrument, fall, drowning, motor vehicle including buses and motorcycles, fire or burns, or other.

** Other substances include carbon monoxide.

Note: Testing refers to conducted toxicology tests of suicide victims.

Section IV

Firearm Homicide

Table 40 characterizes firearm homicides in 2022 among North Carolina residents by demographics of sex, race/ethnicity, and age. The overall firearm homicide rate per 100,000 North Carolina residents is displayed by race/ethnicity and sex in **Figure 28** and by age group and sex in **Figure 29**.

Key Findings:

- In 2022, 746 North Carolinians were killed in a firearm homicide, representing 81.4% of total homicides.
- Males were 5.3 times more likely to die from firearm homicide than females (13.5 versus 2.6 per 100,000, respectively).
- NH Black residents had the highest firearm homicide rate (26.0 per 100,000), followed by NH American Indian (22.5 per 100,000), Hispanic (7.0 per 100,000) and NH white (2.4 per 100,000). There were four NH Asian firearm homicide deaths in 2022, which was too small to compute a rate.
- Young adults ages 20 to 24 years had the highest firearm homicide rate (17.7 per 100,000), followed by those ages 15 to 19 (15.7 per 100,000), and 25 to 34 (15.6 per 100,000).
- Males ages 15 to 19 were 16.9 times as likely to die from a firearm homicide than females of the same age (29.1 and 1.7 per 100,000, respectively).

Table 41 characterizes firearm homicides by firearm type.

Table 42 provides the 10 highest rates of firearm homicides by North Carolina county of residence in 2022.

Key Findings:

- Handguns accounted for 71.0% of all firearm homicides in 2022.
- More than one firearm was used in six homicide deaths.
- The three highest county firearm homicide rates in 2022 were Northampton (29.7 per 100,000), Scotland (26.2 per 100,000), and Vance (26.1 per 100,000).

Table 40: Demographics of firearm homicides in North Carolina, 2022

	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex				
Female	125	16.8	2.6	2.1 - 3.0
Male	621	83.2	13.5	12.4 - 14.6
Race/Ethnicity				
White*	140	18.8	2.4	2.0 - 2.8
Black*	515	69.0	26.0	23.7 - 28.2
Asian*	4	0.5	*	*
American Indian*	22	2.9	22.5	13.1 - 31.9
Hispanic	65	8.7	7.0	5.3 - 8.7
Other/Unknown	0	0.0	-	-
Age Group (Years)				
< 1	2	0.3	*	*
1-4	3	0.4	*	*
5-9	1	0.1	*	*
10-14	9	1.2	1.3	0.5 - 2.2
15-19	112	15.0	15.7	12.8 - 18.6
20-24	127	17.0	17.7	14.6 - 20.8
25-34	224	30.0	15.6	13.5 - 17.6
35-44	118	15.8	8.7	7.1 - 10.3
45-54	81	10.9	6.0	4.7 - 7.3
55-64	46	6.2	3.4	2.4 - 4.3
65-74	16	2.1	1.4	0.7 - 2.2
75-84	6	0.8	1.1	0.2 - 1.9
≥85	1	0.1	*	*
Total Deaths	746	100.0	7.9	7.3 - 8.5

Sex, race/ethnicity and age-specific crude rates per 100,000 NC population

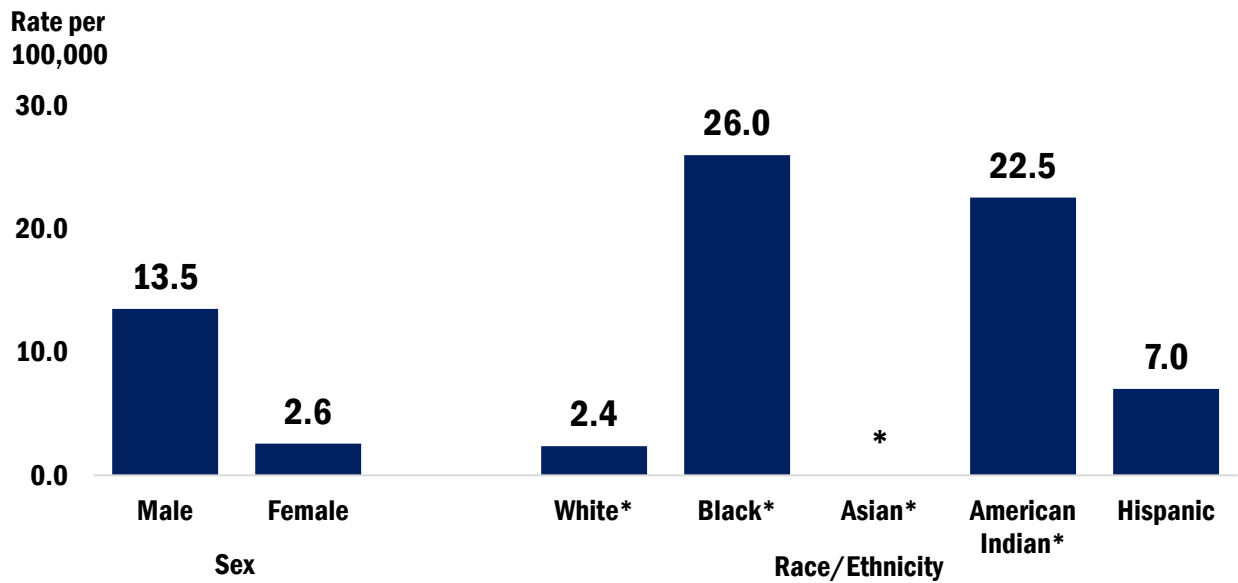
95% CI = 95 % confidence interval for the rate

* Non-Hispanic

Note: The number of firearm-involved deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for NH Asians, infants younger than one, and for ages 1-4, 5-9, and 85 and older.

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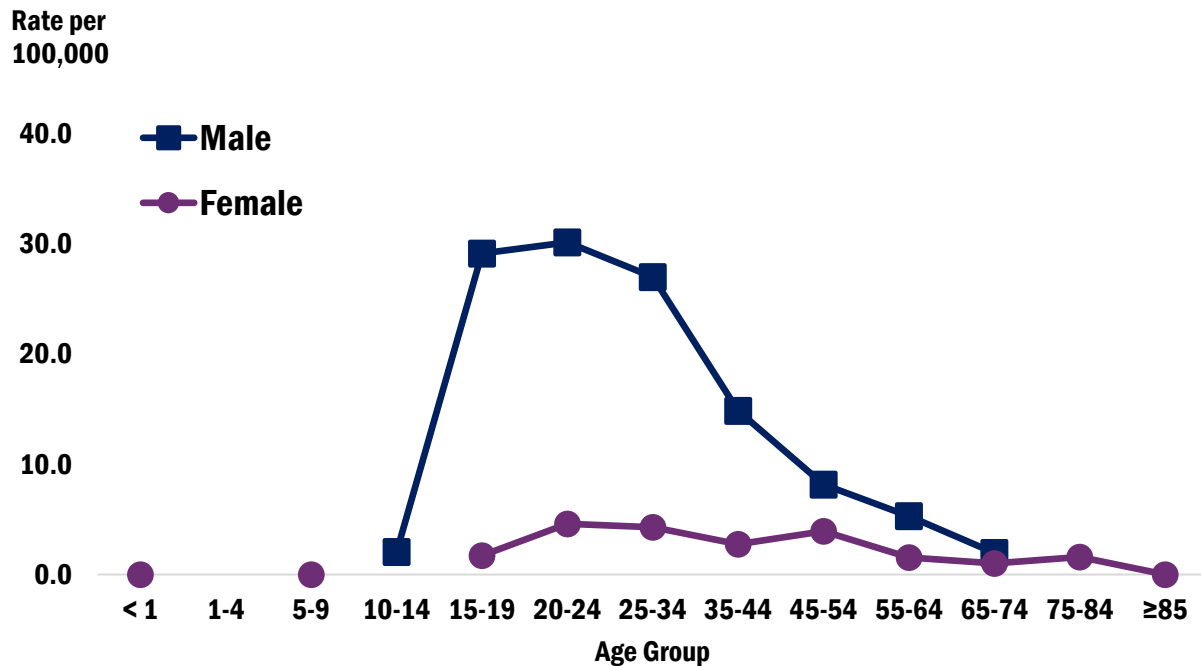
Figure 28: Crude firearm homicide rates in North Carolina by sex and race/ethnicity, 2022



* Non-Hispanic

Note: The number of firearm-involved deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for NH Asians.

Figure 29: Age-specific crude firearm homicide rates in North Carolina stratified by age group and sex, 2022



Note: The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for male infants younger than 1 and for males ages 1-4, 5-9, 75-84, and 85 and older, and for females ages 1-4, and 10-14.

Table 41: Type of firearm used in firearm homicide in North Carolina, 2022

	Number	%
Firearm Type*		
Handgun	534	71.0
Rifle	71	9.4
Shotgun	27	3.6
Other/Unknown	120	16.0
Total Firearms Involved in Firearm Homicides	752	100

*Multiple firearm types were reported in six firearm homicide deaths; therefore, the total number of firearms exceeds the number of homicide firearm deaths (n=746).

Table 42: Ten highest rates of firearm homicide by North Carolina county of residence, 2022

County	Rate	County	Rate
Northampton	29.7	Lenoir	20.2
Scotland	26.2	Montgomery	19.3
Vance	26.1	Halifax	18.9
Robeson	24.0	Richmond	18.8
Martin	23.3	Hoke	18.6

Section IV

Circumstances of Firearm Homicides Compared to Non-Firearm Homicides

Circumstance of homicides differed based on the involvement of a firearm. Circumstance data were available for 96.7% of firearm homicides, and for 98.2% of non-firearm homicides in 2022. **Table 43** and **Figure 30** describe the circumstances for firearm and non-firearm homicide in North Carolina in 2022.

Key Findings:

- Firearm homicides were less likely to have followed an argument, abuse, or conflict than homicides involving other means (46.2% versus 49.7%).
- Firearm homicides were more likely to have been precipitated by another serious crime (27.5% versus 18.6%).
- Drug dealing, drug trade, or drug use (drug involvement) was suspected to have played a role in precipitating the incident in 19.4% of firearm homicides compared to 10.8% in other homicides. Firearm homicides were more likely to have been gang related (10.5% versus 1.2%).
- Firearm homicides were less likely to have been related to intimate partner violence (14.7% versus 20.4%).

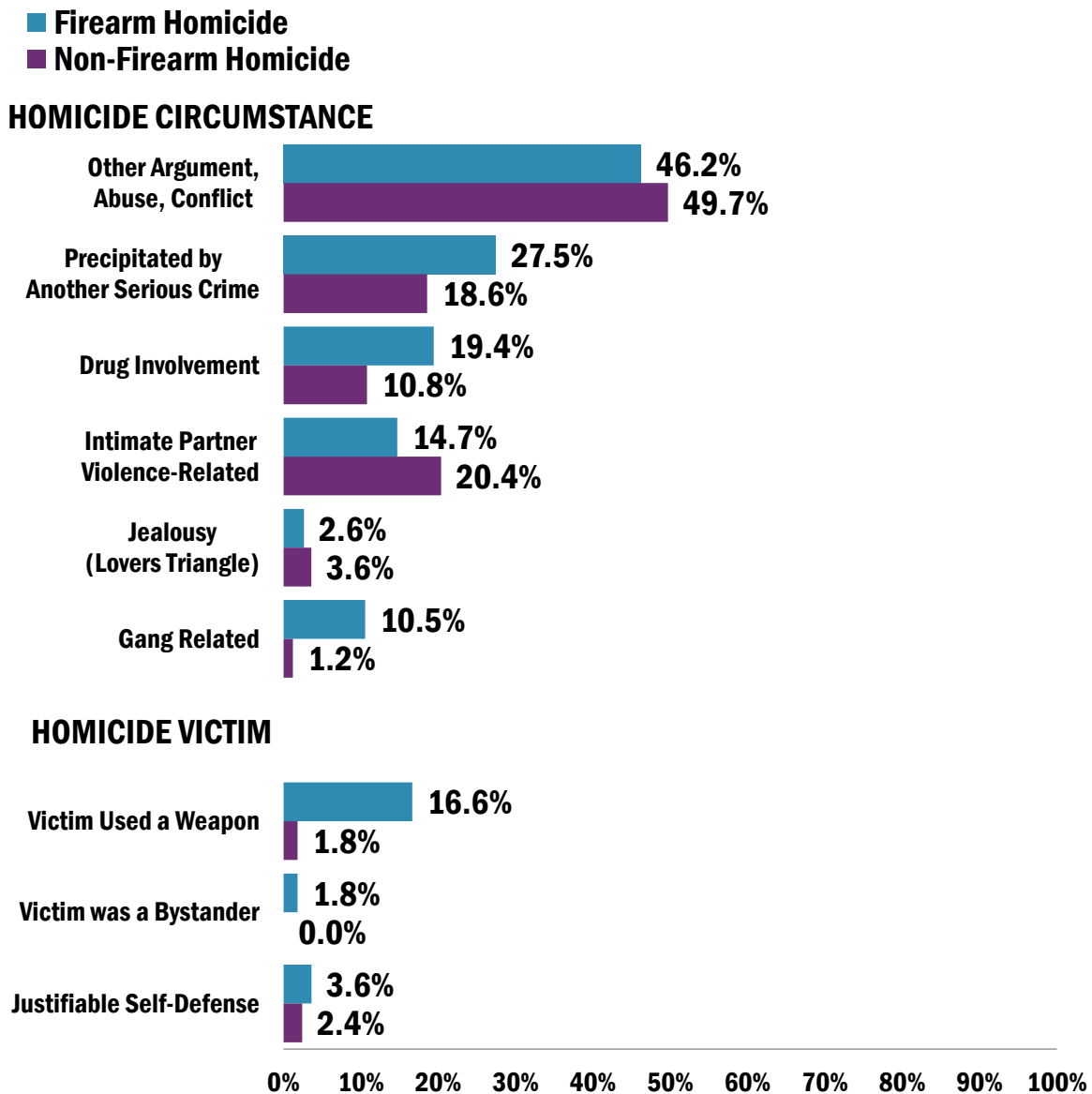
Table 43: Firearm homicide victim precipitating circumstances in North Carolina, 2022

Circumstance*	Firearm Homicide		Non-Firearm** Homicide	
	Number	%	Number	%
Event				
Other argument, abuse, conflict	333	46.2	83	49.7
Precipitated by another serious crime	198	27.5	31	18.6
Drug involvement	140	19.4	18	10.8
Intimate partner violence-related	106	14.7	34	20.4
Jealousy (lovers triangle)	19	2.6	6	3.6
Gang related	76	10.5	2	1.2
Brawl (mutual physical fight)	13	1.8	4	2.4
Mercy killing	0	0.0	0	0.0
Victim				
Victim used a weapon	120	16.6	3	1.8
Victim was a bystander	13	1.8	0	0.0
Justifiable self-defense	26	3.6	4	2.4
Intervener assisting crime victim	6	0.8	0	0.0

* Circumstances were available for 96.7% (721/746) of firearm homicide victims, and 98.2% (167/170) of non-firearm homicide victims. The percentage of circumstances for homicide victims is based on the number of cases reporting circumstances in North Carolina in 2022.

** Non-firearm includes sharp instrument, blunt instrument, personal weapons, hanging, strangulation or suffocation, fire or burns, intentional neglect, poisoning, motor vehicle including buses and motorcycles, and unknown.

Figure 30: Firearm and non-firearm* homicide victim circumstances in North Carolina, 2022



* Non-firearm includes sharp instrument, blunt instrument, personal weapons, hanging, strangulation or suffocation, fire or burns, intentional neglect, poisoning, motor vehicle including buses and motorcycles, and unknown.

Note: For Table 38 and Figure 27, firearm and non-firearm suicide victims may have more than one circumstance; Therefore, the responses add up to more than 100%. This figure does not include all circumstances.

Section IV

Toxicology Testing and Results for Firearm vs. Non-Firearm Homicide Deaths

Toxicology testing was performed on all homicide victims at the medical examiner's discretion to identify substances believed to have contributed to the death or circumstances surrounding the death. A positive test for a substance does not necessarily indicate that substance was present at a lethal level. Testing of North Carolina firearm homicide and non-firearm homicide victims in 2022 is shown in **Table 44**.

Key Findings:

- Alcohol was tested in 93.3% of firearm homicides. Of those victims tested, alcohol was present in 28.3% of firearm suicide victims, 28.5% of male victims and 27.2% of female victims. This is higher when compared to non-firearm homicides, where 72.9% of victims were tested for alcohol, and 22.4% of victims were found to have alcohol present.
- Testing for substances other than alcohol was infrequent in firearm homicides. Average of tests for substances other than alcohol in all firearm homicide victims was 2.1%, and of those tests, positive results were found 0.4% of the time. In non-firearm homicides, substances were tested 17.7% of the time on average, and of those tests, 2.7% were positive.
- Substances such as cocaine and opiates were found to be tested for more often in non-firearm homicides (3.4% vs. 23.5% for cocaine and 3.0% vs. 22.9% for opiates, for firearm and non-firearm homicides, respectively).
- Overall positive toxicology test results were less frequent for firearm homicide victims (3.5% vs. 5.1%).

Table 44: Firearm homicide victim toxicology testing and results in North Carolina, 2022

Toxicology Tests and Results	Firearm Homicide		Non-Firearm* Homicide	
	Total	%	Total	%
Alcohol				
Tested with results	696	93.3	124	72.9
Alcohol present in those tested	211	28.3	38	22.4
Amphetamines				
Tested with results	22	3.0	41	24.1
Amphetamines present in those tested	3	0.4	6	3.5
Antidepressant				
Tested with results	1	0.1	0	0.0
Antidepressant present in those tested	1	0.1	0	0.0
Cocaine				
Tested with results	25	3.4	40	23.5
Cocaine present in those tested	6	0.8	6	3.5
Opiates				
Tested with results	22	3.0	39	22.9
Opiates present in those tested	4	0.5	5	2.9
Anticonvulsants				
Tested with results	22	3	39	22.9
Anticonvulsants present in those tested	3	0	2	1.2
Benzodiazepine				
Tested with results	23	3	41	24.1
Benzodiazepine present in those tested	1	0	3	1.8
Other substances*				
Tested with results	8	0.5	11	3.2
Other drugs present in those tested	8	0.5	10	2.9

*Non-firearm includes sharp instrument, blunt instrument, personal weapons, hanging, strangulation or suffocation, fire or burns, intentional neglect, poisoning, motor vehicle including buses and motorcycles, and unknown.

**Other substances include carbon monoxide, barbiturates, antipsychotics, and marijuana.

Section IV

Unintentional Firearm Death

An unintentional firearm death is a death that results from the discharge of a firearm that killed a victim, but the firearm was not intentionally directed at the victim. Therefore, unintentional firearm death is considered separately from a firearm suicide or homicide. **Table 34** describes the unintentional firearm injury victims in North Carolina in 2022 by sex, race/ethnicity, and age. Caution should be used in interpreting rates; rates may be unstable due to the small number of unintentional firearm deaths. **Table 35** displays the type of firearm for unintentional firearm deaths in North Carolina in 2022. **Table 36** provides the number of unintentional firearm deaths in 2022 by North Carolina county of residence.

Key Findings:

- In 2022, 25 North Carolinians (0.2 per 100,000) died from an unintentional firearm injury.
- Most (88.0%) unintentional firearm victims were male, 32.0% were NH white, and 64.0% were NH Black.
- Most deaths from an unintentional firearm injury occurred among those ages 1 to 44. Those ages 20 to 24 had the highest proportion of unintentional firearm death (24.0%).
- The most common firearm involved in unintentional firearm deaths was a handgun (88.0%).

NC-VDRS collects data on the circumstances surrounding unintentional firearm deaths to help understand the underlying causes of death. All of the 25 unintentional firearm deaths had data available for at least one circumstance related to the death. Since each death may have more than one circumstance, the total number of circumstances may exceed the total number of deaths. **Table 37** summarizes the circumstances of unintentional firearm deaths in North Carolina in 2022.

Key Findings:

- The most common circumstance among mechanisms of unintentional firearm injuries resulting in death included: the victim unintentionally pulled the trigger (24.0%), the shooter thought the magazine was unloaded (16.0%), the shooter thought the gun was a toy (12.0%), occurred while holstering or unholstering (4.0%), occurred while operating the safety/lock (4.0%), or the shooter thought the gun safety was engaged (4.0%).
- Among contexts of unintentional firearm injuries resulting in death, the most common contexts included: the injury occurred while playing with a firearm (44.0%), while showing the firearm to others (16.0%), or while loading or unloading the firearm (8.0%).

Table 45: Demographics of unintentional firearm death victims in North Carolina, 2022

	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex				
Female	3	12.0	*	*
Male	22	88.0	0.4	0.2 - 0.6
Race/Ethnicity				
White**	8	32.0	0.1	0.0 - 0.2
Black**	16	64.0	0.7	0.4 - 1.1
Asian**	0	0.0	0.0	-
American Indian**	0	0.0	0.0	-
Hispanic	1	4.0	*	*
Other/Unknown	0	0.0	-	-
Age Group (Years)				
< 1	0	0.0	0.0	-
1-4	5	20.0	1.0	0.1 - 2.0
5-9	0	0.0	0.0	-
10-14	2	8.0	*	*
15-19	4	16.0	*	*
20-24	6	24.0	0.8	0.2 - 1.5
25-34	3	12.0	*	*
35-44	3	12.0	*	*
45-54	0	0.0	0.0	-
55-64	0	0.0	0.0	-
65-74	1	4.0	*	*
75-84	1	4.0	*	*
≥85	0	0.0	0.0	-
Total Deaths	25	100	0.2	0.1 - 0.3

Sex, race/ethnicity and age-specific crude rates per 100,000 NC population

95% CI = 95 % confidence interval for the rate

* Non-Hispanic

Note: The number of firearm-involved deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for females, Hispanics, and for ages 10-14, 15-19, 25-34, 35-44, 65-74 and 75-84.

Section IV

Table 46: Type of firearm in unintentional firearm deaths in North Carolina, 2022

	Number	%
Firearm Type*		
Handgun	22	88.0
Rifle	0	0.0
Shotgun	1	4.0
Other/Unknown	2	8.0
Total Firearms Involved in Unintentional Firearm Deaths	25	100.0

* Multiple firearm types were reported in zero unintentional firearm deaths; therefore, the total number of firearms does not exceed the number of unintentional firearm deaths (n=25).

Table 47: Unintentional firearm deaths in North Carolina by county of residence, 2022

County	Number	County	Number
Catawba	1	Iredell	1
Craven	1	Johnston	2
Cumberland	3	Macon	1
Davidson	1	Mecklenburg	5
Durham	1	Onslow	1
Edgecombe	1	Pitt	1
Gaston	1	Rowan	1
Guilford	1	Stanly	1
Halifax	1	Wake	1

Table 48: Circumstances of unintentional firearm deaths in North Carolina, 2022

Circumstances*	Number	%
Context		
Occurred while playing with gun	11	44.0
Gun fired while loading or unloading	2	8.0
Occurred while showing gun to others	4	16.0
Other context	8	32.0
Mechanism		
Unintentionally pulled trigger	6	24.0
Shooter thought gun was a toy	3	12.0
Shooter thought magazine was unloaded	4	16.0
Occurred while holstering/unholstering	1	4.0
Occurred while operating the safety/lock	1	4.0
Shooter thought gun safety was engaged	1	4.0
Other mechanism	3	12.0

*Circumstances were available for 25/25 (100.0%) of unintentional firearm deaths in North Carolina during 2022.

Note: Each death may have more than one circumstance, therefore the total number of circumstances may exceed the total number of deaths.

Section V: Legal Intervention

NC-VDRS compiles data on legal intervention deaths which are classified as homicide by the medical examiner but are defined by NVDRS as legal intervention. Legal intervention deaths represent victims killed by a police officer, military police officer or other peace officer acting in the line of duty. In addition, legal executions are not included in the national system but are reported in the state system as legal intervention deaths. **Table 49** summarizes the demographics of legal intervention victims in North Carolina in 2022. Caution should be used in interpreting the rates because of the small number of legal intervention deaths. **Table 50** shows the type of weapon used in legal intervention deaths of North Carolina residents in 2022. **Table 51** lists the number of legal intervention deaths in 2022 by North Carolina county of residence.

Key Findings:

- In 2022, 43 residents of North Carolina (0.4 per 100,000) died from legal intervention.
- Most victims were male (88.4%), and most were from 35 to 44 years of age (32.6%).
- All but eight legal intervention deaths occurred by firearm. Of the total firearms involved (n=39), handguns were the most frequently used (76.9%).

Table 49: Demographics of legal intervention death victims in North Carolina, 2022

	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex				
Female	5	11.6	0.1	0.0 - 0.2
Male	38	88.4	0.7	0.5 - 1.0
Race/Ethnicity				
White**	18	41.9	0.3	0.1 - 0.4
Black**	18	41.9	0.8	0.4 - 1.2
Asian**	0	0.0	0.0	-
American Indian**	0	0.0	0.0	-
Hispanic	6	14.0	0.5	0.1 - 0.9
Other/Unknown	1	2.3	-	-
Age Group (Years)				
15-19	3	7.0	*	*
20-24	9	20.9	*	*
25-34	7	16.3	0.5	0.1 - 0.8
35-44	14	32.6	1.0	0.5 - 1.6
45-54	4	9.3	*	*
55-64	5	11.6	0.4	0.0 - 0.7
65-74	1	2.3	*	*
75-84	0	0.0	0.0	-
≥85	0	0.0	0.0	-
Total Deaths	43	100	0.4	0.3 - 0.5

Sex, race/ethnicity and age-specific crude rates per 100,000 NC population

95% CI = 95 % confidence interval for the rate

** Non-Hispanic

Note: The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for ages 15-19, 20-24, 45-54 and 65-74.

Table 50: Type of weapon for legal intervention deaths in North Carolina, 2022

Weapon Type	Number	%
Firearm		
Handgun	30	63.8
Rifle	8	17.0
Shotgun	0	0.0
Unknown firearm type	1	2.1
Other, non-firearm weapons	8	17.0
Total Weapons Involved in Legal Intervention Deaths*	47	100

*Multiple firearm types were reported for four legal intervention fatalities in 2022; therefore, the total number of weapons exceeds the number of legal intervention deaths.

Table 51: Legal intervention deaths in North Carolina by county of residence, 2022

County	Number	County	Number
Bertie	1	Henderson	1
Brunswick	1	Hoke	1
Burke	1	Hyde	1
Cabarrus	1	Lincoln	1
Caldwell	2	Mecklenburg	3
Carteret	1	Onslow	1
Catawba	2	Orange	1
Chatham	1	Robeson	1
Cherokee	1	Rowan	2
Cumberland	3	Sampson	1
Davidson	1	Stanly	1
Durham	2	Surry	1
Forsyth	1	Union	2
Gaston	2	Wake	3
Granville	1	Yancey	1
Harnett	1		

Section V

Circumstances of Firearm Legal Intervention Deaths

Circumstance data were available for all 35 (100%) firearm legal intervention deaths in 2022. **Table 52** and **Figure 31** describe the circumstance(s) surrounding firearm legal intervention deaths in North Carolina in 2022.

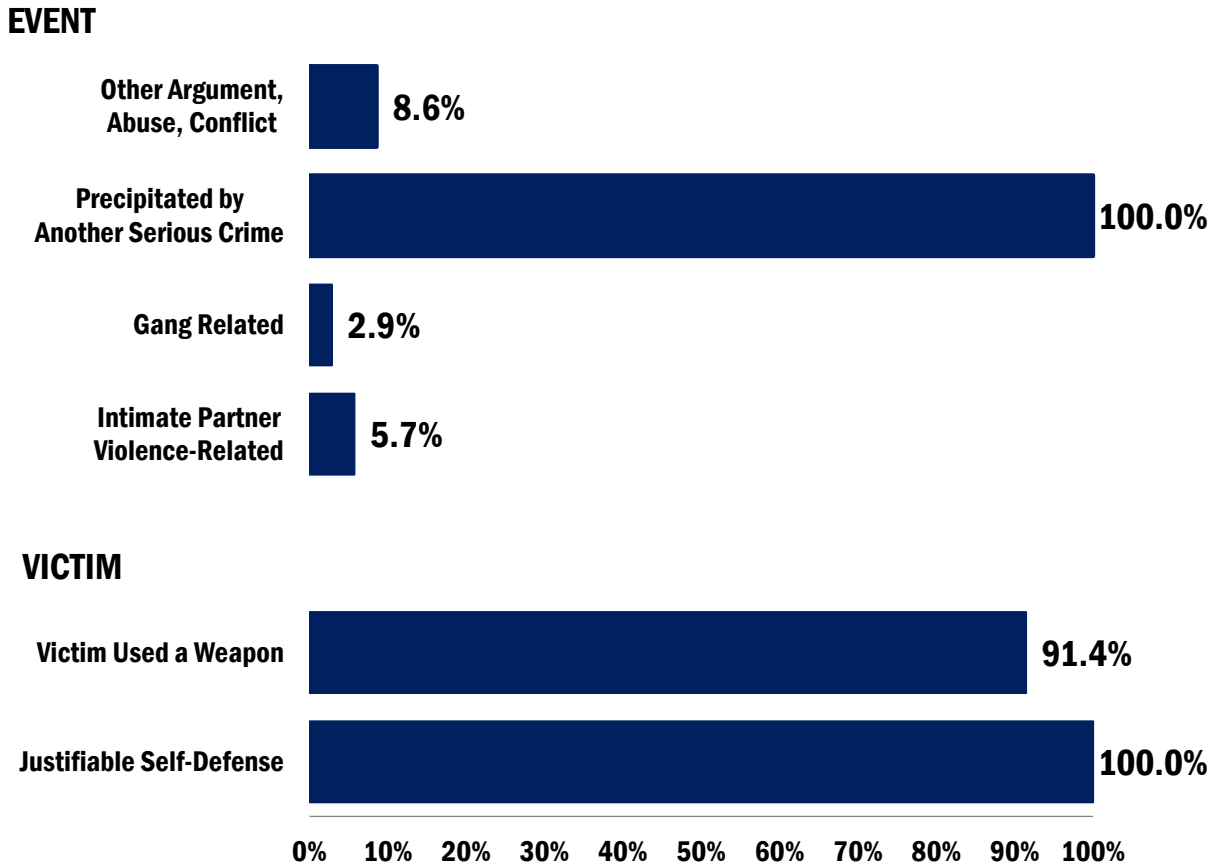
Key Findings:

- In 2022, 100% of firearm legal intervention deaths were precipitated by another serious crime, and 100% were considered justifiable self-defense.
- Less frequent circumstances among firearm legal intervention deaths were an argument, abuse, or conflict (8.6%), intimate partner violence (5.7%), and gang related (2.9%).

Table 52: Circumstances surrounding firearm legal intervention deaths in North Carolina, 2022

Circumstance*	Number	%
Event		
Other argument, abuse, conflict	3	8.6
Precipitated by another serious crime	35	100.0
Gang related	1	2.9
Intimate partner violence-related	2	5.7
Victim		
Victim used a weapon	32	91.4
Justifiable self-defense	35	100.0

Figure 31: Firearm law enforcement victim precipitating homicide circumstances in North Carolina, 2022



Section VI: Child Death

Table 53 characterizes violent deaths for children under the age of 18 years in North Carolina in 2022 by sex, race/ethnicity and age.

Key Findings:

- In 2022, 166 children in North Carolina (7.1 per 100,000) died as a result of violence.
- Male children were 3.1 times as likely to be victims of violent death as female children (10.7 vs. 3.4 per 100,000, respectively).
- The violent death rate for children per 100,000 was 4.3 times higher for NH Blacks (18.1 per 100,000) than for NH whites (4.2 per 100,000).
- The highest death rate was for children ages 15 to 17 (21.9 per 100,000). The lowest rate was for children ages 1-4 and 10-14 (4.8 per 100,000).

Manner of violent death for child victims in North Carolina in 2022 is displayed in **Figure 32**, and it is shown stratified by sex in **Table 54**, by race/ethnicity in **Table 55** and by age group in **Table 56**.

Key Findings:

- The most common causes of violent death for all child victims were homicide (57.8%) followed by suicide (28.9%).
- Homicide was the cause of violent death for the majority of NH Black children (74.2%).
- Homicide was the leading cause of violent death for infants less than one year (87.5%), for children ages one to four (60.9%), children ages five to nine (66.7%), and children ages 15 to 17 (59.8%).
- Suicide was the cause of violent death in the majority of NH white children (62.5%).
- Suicide was the leading cause of violent death for children ages 10 to 14 (53.1%).

Method of child violent death in North Carolina in 2022 is provided stratified by sex in **Table 57**, by race/ethnicity in **Table 58** and by age group in **Table 59**.

Key Findings:

- The most common methods of violent death for all child victims were firearm (63.9%), hanging, strangulation or suffocation (10.8%), and personal weapons (i.e., abuse by a caretaker using hands, fists, or feet) (5.4%).
- Firearm was the leading method of child violent death for males (72.4%), NH Blacks (72.0%), and Hispanics (60.9%).
- Personal weapons (25.0%) were the leading method of violent death in infants less than one year. For children ages 1-4, firearms (34.8%), personal weapons (21.7%), poisoning (13.0%), and blunt instrument (13.0%) were the leading methods of death. There were three child deaths for ages 5-9, attributed to firearms (33.3%), blunt instrument (33.3%), and poisoning (33.3%). Firearms (59.4%) and hanging, strangulation, or suffocation (28.1%) were the top causes of violent child death for ages 10 to 14, as well as for ages 15 to 17 (82.6% and 7.6% respectively).

Table 53: Demographics of child (under age 18) violent deaths in North Carolina, 2022

	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex				
Female	39	23.5	3.4	2.3 - 4.5
Male	127	76.5	10.7	8.8 - 12.5
Race/Ethnicity				
White**	48	28.9	4.2	3.0 - 5.3
Black**	93	56.0	18.1	14.4 - 21.7
Asian**	1	0.6	*	*
American Indian**	1	0.6	*	*
Hispanic	23	13.9	5.6	3.3 - 7.8
Other/Unknown	0	0.0	-	-
Age Group (Years)				
<1	16	9.6	13.2	6.7 - 19.7
1-4	23	13.9	4.8	2.8 - 6.7
5-9	3	1.8	*	*
10-14	32	19.3	4.8	3.1 - 6.4
15-17	92	55.4	21.9	17.4 - 26.4
Total Deaths	166	100	7.1	6.0 - 8.2

Sex, race/ethnicity and age-specific crude rates per 100,000 NC population

95% CI = 95 % confidence interval for the rate

** Non-Hispanic

Note: The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for NH Asians, NH American Indians, and ages 5-9.

Table 54: Manner of child (under age 18) violent death in North Carolina by sex, 2022

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Manner of Death						
Homicide	78	61.4	18	46.2	96	57.8
Suicide	33	26.0	15	38.5	48	28.9
Undetermined intent	6	4.7	4	10.3	10	6.0
Unintentional firearm	8	6.3	2	5.1	10	6.0
Total Deaths	127	100	39	100	166	100

Section VI

Figure 32: Manner of child (under age 18) violent death in North Carolina, 2022

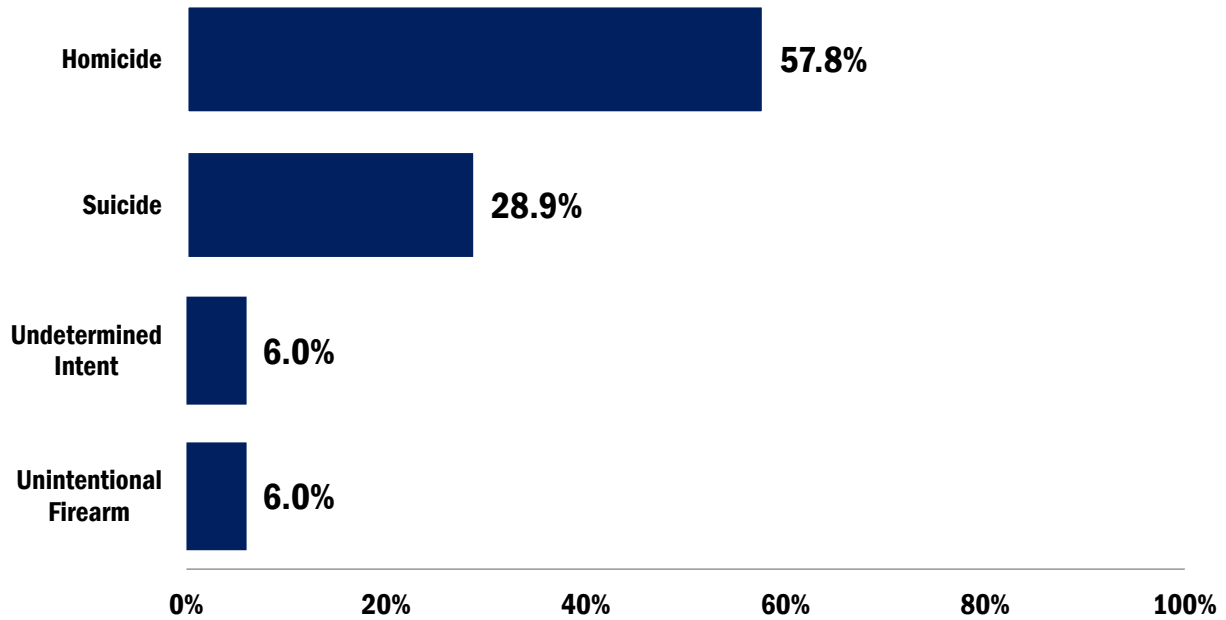


Table 55: Manner of child (under age 18) violent death in North Carolina by race/ethnicity, 2022

Manner of Death	White*		Black*		American Indian*		Asian*		Hispanic	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Homicide	12	25.0	69	74.2	1	100.0	0	0.0	14	60.9
Suicide	30	62.5	11	11.8	0	0.0	1	100.0	6	26.1
Undetermined intent	3	6.3	6	6.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.4
Unintentional firearm	3	6.3	6	6.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.4
Total Deaths	48	100	93	100	1	1.8	1	100	23	100

There were zero child violent deaths where the race/ethnicity was unknown or other.

* Non-Hispanic

Table 56: Manner of child (under age 18) violent death in North Carolina by age group, 2022

	<1		1-4		5-9		10-14		15-17	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Manner of Death										
Homicide	14	87.5	14	60.9	2	66.7	11	34.4	55	59.8
Suicide	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	17	53.1	31	33.7
Undetermined intent	2	12.5	4	17.4	1	33.3	2	6.3	1	1.1
Unintentional firearm	0	0.0	5	21.7	0	0.0	2	6.3	3	3.3
Total Deaths	16	100	23	100	3	100	32	100	92	100

Table 57: Method of child (under age 18) violent death in North Carolina by sex, 2022

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Method of Death*						
Firearm	92	72.4	14	35.9	106	63.9
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	11	8.7	7	18.0	18	10.8
Personal weapons	7	5.5	2	5.1	9	5.4
Poisoning	4	3.2	5	12.8	9	5.4
Sharp instrument	2	1.6	1	2.6	3	1.8
Blunt instrument	3	2.4	4	10.3	7	4.2
Intentional neglect	3	2.4	3	7.7	6	3.6
Other/Unknown	5	3.9	3	7.7	8	4.8
Total Deaths	127	100	39	100	166	100

* Only the first method is included in this table. Five children had multiple methods of death.

Section VI

Table 58: Method of child (under age 18) violent death in North Carolina by race/ethnicity, 2022

Method of Death*	White**		Black**		American Indian**		Asian**		Hispanic	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm	24	50.0	67	72.0	1	100	0	0.0	14	60.9
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	13	27.1	3	3.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	8.7
Personal weapons	2	4.2	5	5.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	8.7
Poisoning	5	10.4	4	4.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Sharp instrument	0	0.0	2	2.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.4
Blunt instrument	1	2.1	6	6.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Intentional neglect	1	2.1	4	4.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.4
Other/Unknown	2	4.2	2	2.1	0	0.0	1	100.0	3	13.0
Total Deaths	48	100	93	100	1	100	1	100	23	100

* Only the first method is included in this table. Five children had multiple methods of death.

** Non-Hispanic

Table 59: Method of child (under age 18) violent death in North Carolina by age group, 2022

Method of Death	<1		1-4		5-9		10-14		15-17	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm	2	12.5	8	34.8	1	33.3	19	59.4	76	82.6
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	1	6.3	1	4.4	0	0.0	9	28.1	7	7.6
Personal weapons	4	25.0	5	21.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Poisoning	1	6.3	3	13.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	4	4.4
Sharp instrument	1	6.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	2.2
Blunt instrument	3	18.8	3	13.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Intentional neglect	2	12.5	2	8.7	0	0.0	2	6.3	0	0.0
Other/Unknown	2	12.5	1	4.4	0	0.0	2	6.2	3	3.3
Total Deaths	16	100	23	100	3	100	32	100	92	100

* Only the first method is included in this table. Five children had multiple methods of death.

** Non-Hispanic

Section VII: Undetermined Intent

The NC-VDRS defines an undetermined intent death as a death with some evidence of intent but without enough information to definitively classify the death as purposeful. **Table 60** provides the characteristics of undetermined intent deaths in North Carolina in 2022 by sex, race/ethnicity and age.

Key Findings:

- In 2022, 64 undetermined intent deaths (0.6 per 100,000) were reported in North Carolina.
- Males and females had undetermined death rates of 0.7 per 100,000 and 0.5 per 100,000, respectively.
- NH whites accounted for 59.4% of undetermined intent victims.
- Among victims whose death was of undetermined intent, one-fifth of deaths were among those ages 35 to 44 (20.3%); the highest undetermined intent death rate by age group was among those ages 35 to 44 years (1.0 per 100,000).

Table 61 summarizes the method of undetermined intent deaths in North Carolina in 2022. **Table 62** shows the category of the fatal substance that caused the undetermined intent poisoning deaths in North Carolina in 2022.

Key Findings:

- The leading methods of undetermined intent deaths were poisoning (60.9%), firearm (14.1%), and blunt instrument (6.3%).
- Most undetermined intent poisoning deaths involved an opiate (either illicit or prescription) (61.5%), benzodiazepines (25.6%), anticonvulsants (20.5%), or amphetamines (20.5%).
- A handgun was involved in five of the nine undetermined intent firearm deaths that occurred in North Carolina in 2022.
- Multiple firearm types were reported for no undetermined intent fatalities in 2022. Therefore, the total number of firearms is equal to the number of undetermined intent firearm deaths.

Table 63 provides the number of undetermined intent deaths in 2022 by North Carolina County of residence.

Section VII

Table 60: Demographics of undetermined intent death victims in North Carolina, 2022

	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
Sex				
Female	29	45.3	0.5	0.3 - 0.7
Male	35	59.4	0.7	0.4 - 0.9
Race/Ethnicity				
White**	38	59.4	0.6	0.4 - 0.8
Black**	21	32.8	0.9	0.5 - 1.3
Asian**	1	1.6	0.0	-
American Indian**	0	0.0	*	*
Hispanic	4	6.3	*	*
Other/Unknown	0	0.0	-	-
Age Group (Years)				
< 1	2	3.1	*	*
1-4	4	6.3	*	*
5-9	1	1.6	0.0	-
10-14	2	3.1	*	*
15-19	2	3.1	*	*
20-24	3	4.7	*	*
25-34	12	18.8	0.8	0.4 - 1.3
35-44	13	20.3	1.0	0.4 - 1.5
45-54	12	18.8	0.9	0.4 - 1.4
55-64	9	14.1	0.7	0.2 - 1.1
65-74	2	3.1	*	*
75-84	1	1.6	*	*
≥85	1	1.6	0.0	-
Total Deaths	64	100	0.6	0.5 - 0.7

Sex, race/ethnicity and age-specific crude rates per 100,000 NC population

95% CI = 95 % confidence interval for the rate

** Non-Hispanic

Note: The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for NH American Indians, Hispanics, for infants less than one, and for ages 1-4, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 65-74, and 75-84.

Table 61: Method of undetermined intent deaths in North Carolina, 2022

	Number	%
Method of Death		
Poisoning	39	60.9
Firearm	9	14.1
Blunt instrument	4	6.3
Drowning	3	4.7
Fall	3	4.7
Sharp instrument	2	3.1
Personal weapons	1	1.6
Motor vehicle including buses, motorcycles	1	1.6
Intentional neglect (e.g., starving a baby)	1	1.6
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	1	1.6
Shaking (e.g, shaken baby syndrome)	0	0.0
Other transport vehicle (e.g., trains, planes, boats)	0	0.0
Other/Unknown	0	0.0
Total Deaths	64	100.0

Table 62: Fatal substances in undetermined intent poisoning deaths in North Carolina by sex, 2022

Category of Fatal Substance*	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Opiate**	13	72.2	11	52.4	24	61.5
Anticonvulsants	2	11.11	6	28.57	8	20.5
Antidepressant	1	5.6	3	14.3	4	10.3
Benzodiazepines	4	22.2	6	28.6	10	25.6
Alcohol	2	11.1	4	19.1	6	15.4
Amphetamine	4	22.2	4	19.1	8	20.5
Cocaine	5	27.8	0	0.0	5	12.8
Muscle relaxant	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other poison***	0	0.0	4	19.1	4	10.3

* Category of substance that directly caused or was suspected to cause undetermined intent poisoning deaths. There were 22 undetermined intent poisonings (92.3%) where more than one substance caused the death in 2022, with as many as five fatal substances present in a given case.

** Opiate includes both prescription opioids and illicit substances, such as heroin

*** Other poison includes substances that did not fall into any of the summary categories

Section VII

Table 63: Undetermined intent deaths in North Carolina by county of residence, 2022

County	Number	County	Number	County	Number
Alexander	1	Haywood	2	Swain	2
Brunswick	1	Hoke	1	Wake	6
Buncombe	2	Iredell	1	Watauga	2
Carteret	1	Johnston	1	Northampton	1
Catawba	1	Lenoir	1		
Chatham	1	Mecklenburg	8		
Cumberland	3	Pamlico	1		
Dare	1	Pasquotank	1		
Davie	1	Pender	1		
Duplin	1	Person	1		
Durham	3	Pitt	2		
Edgecombe	1	Randolph	1		
Forsyth	1	Rockingham	4		
Granville	1	Rowan	3		
Guilford	2	Rutherford	2		
Halifax	1	Scotland	1		

Section VIII: Violent Death Trend Over Time

Table 64 shows the number and the rate of violent deaths over time in North Carolina from 2013 to 2022, including overall violent deaths, suicides for people ages 10 or older, and homicides. **Figure 33** plots the overall violent death, suicide and homicide rates in North Carolina from 2013 to 2022.

Key Findings:

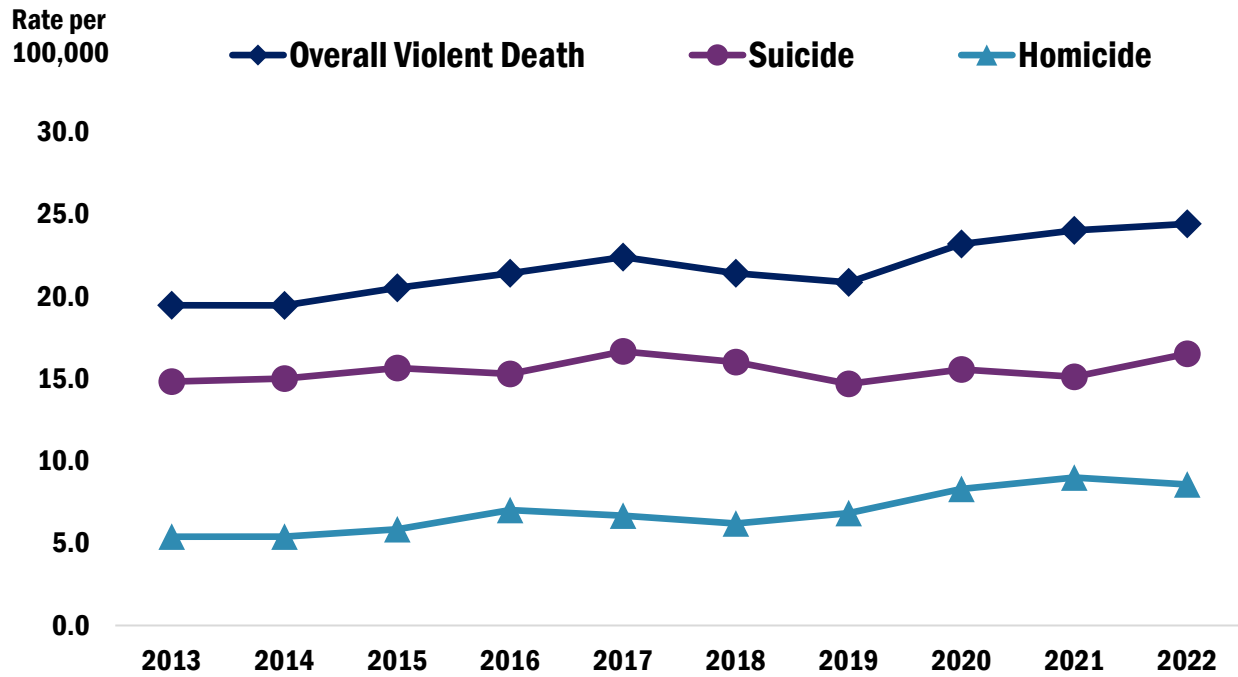
- The overall violent death rate in North Carolina has steadily increased from 2013 (19.5 per 100,000) to 2022 (24.4 per 100,000).
- From 2013 to 2022 in North Carolina, the death rates have remained steady for suicides (range of 14.7 to 16.7 per 100,000 by year) and slightly increased for homicides (range of 5.4 to 8.6 per 100,000 by year).

Table 64: Trends of violent deaths over time in North Carolina, 2013-2022

Year	Overall Violent Deaths		Suicides (Ages ≥10)		Homicides	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2013	1,915	19.5	1,273	14.8	531	5.4
2014	1,932	19.5	1,303	15.0	536	5.4
2015	2,058	20.5	1,375	15.6	586	5.8
2016	2,173	21.4	1,362	15.3	712	7.0
2017	2,298	22.4	1,503	16.7	685	6.7
2018	2,222	21.4	1,463	16.0	643	6.2
2019	2,186	20.8	1,358	14.7	716	6.8
2020	2,423	23.2	1,436	15.6	867	8.3
2021	2,537	24.0	1,412	15.1	950	9.0
2022	2,610	24.4	1,562	16.5	916	8.6

Section VIII

Figure 33: Violent death rate trend data for most recent 10 years in North Carolina, 2013 – 2022



Appendix A: Population Data for Rate Calculations

Appendix A: North Carolina 2022 population data by sex, race/ethnicity, and age group

	Total Population	Population Ages 10 or Older (for Suicide Rates)	Child Population (<18 Years of Age)
Sex			
Female	5,466,317	4,861,147	1,139,681
Male	5,229,648	4,598,322	1,189,216
Race/Ethnicity			
White*	6,528,842	5,926,173	1,154,705
Black*	2,253,225	1,982,643	514,646
Asian*	373,645	323,039	89,741
American Indian*	110,652	97,642	24,480
Hispanic	1,151,001	926,561	414,253
Age Group (Years)			
< 1	121,147	-	121,147
1-4	480,588	-	480,588
5-9	634,761	-	634,761
10-14	671,956	671,956	671,956
15-17	420,445	420,445	420,445
15-19	713,354	713,354	-
20-24	716,260	716,260	-
25-34	1,438,317	1,438,317	-
35-44	1,357,905	1,357,905	-
45-54	1,349,648	1,349,648	-
55-64	1,370,103	1,370,103	-
65-74	1,107,390	1,107,390	-
75-84	561,439	561,439	-
≥85	173,097	173,097	-
Total Population	10,695,965	9,459,469	2,328,897

* Non-Hispanic

Appendix B: Advisory Board

The list of advisory board members below represents the membership and their positions during the year of this report and during the data collection close-out period (2022).

NC-VDRS Advisory Board

Steering Committee:

Anna E. Waller, ScD

Research Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, Director, Carolina Center for Health Informatics, and Adjunct Faculty, Department of Health Behavior, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Beth Moracco, PhD, MPH

*Associate Professor, Department of Health Behavior, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
Director, Injury Prevention Research Center, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill*

Siarra Scott, MPH, CHES

Director, Office of Violence Prevention, NC Department of Public Safety

Advisory Board Members

Patrice Andrews

Chief of Police, Durham Police Department

Michelle Aurelius

NC Chief Medical Examiner, Office of Chief Medical Examiner

Matthew Avery

NC State Center for Health Statistics, Division of Public Health

Becky Ceartas

Executive Director, North Carolinians Against Gun Violence Education Fund, Inc.

Ronelle Hinton

Captain, Criminal Investigation Division, Durham Police Department

Elizabeth Gifford

Assistant Research Professor, Terry Sanford Public Policy, Duke University

Phillip Graham

Senior Director, Center on Social Determinants, Risk Behaviors, and Prevention Science, RTI International

Kella Hatcher

Executive Director, Child Fatality Task Force

Rodney Jenkins

Public Health Director, Durham County Department of Public Health

Kathleen Jones-Vessey

Public Health Epidemiologist, Women's and Children's Health Section, Division of Public Health

Stephen Marshall

Professor, Department of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Glorina Stallworth

Branch Head, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, Division of Public Health

Kevin Strom

Director, Center for Policing Research and Investigation Science (CPRIS), RTI International

Appendix C: Glossary

Adult	Person was 18 years of age or older on date of death.
Child	Person was younger than 18 years of age on date of death.
Homicide	A death resulting from the intentional use of force or power, threatened or actual, against another person, group or community.
Legal intervention	Decedent was killed by a police officer, military police officer or other peace officer acting in the line of duty. In North Carolina, legal intervention includes legal executions.
NVDRS	National Violent Death Reporting System
NC-VDRS	North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System
Occurrent death	Death occurred in North Carolina during the specified time frame. Decedent may or may not have been a resident at the time of death.
Peace officer	Person with specified legal authority to use deadly force.
Rates	Calculated as number of deaths x 100,000/population.
Resident death	Victim was a North Carolina resident at the time of death and the death occurred in North Carolina. All deaths reported in this report are resident deaths.
Suicide	A death resulting from the intentional use of force against oneself. Suicides are classified among violent deaths only for people age 10 or older.
Unintentional firearm	A death resulting from a penetrating injury or gunshot wound from a weapon that uses a powder charge to fire a projectile and from a shooting that was not directed intentionally at the decedent.
Undetermined intent	A death resulting from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating the manner of death was not sufficient to determine intent.
Violent death	Intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or against a group or community. Intentional deaths meeting this definition include suicides, homicides and legal interventions.



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

**State of North Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health • Injury and Violence Prevention Branch**

**www.ncdhhs.gov • www.publichealth.nc.gov
www.dph.ncdhhs.gov/programs/chronic-disease-and-injury/injury-and-violence-prevention-branch**

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NORTH CAROLINA VIOLENT DEATH



R E P O R T I N G S Y S T E M

North Carolina Division of Public Health

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