

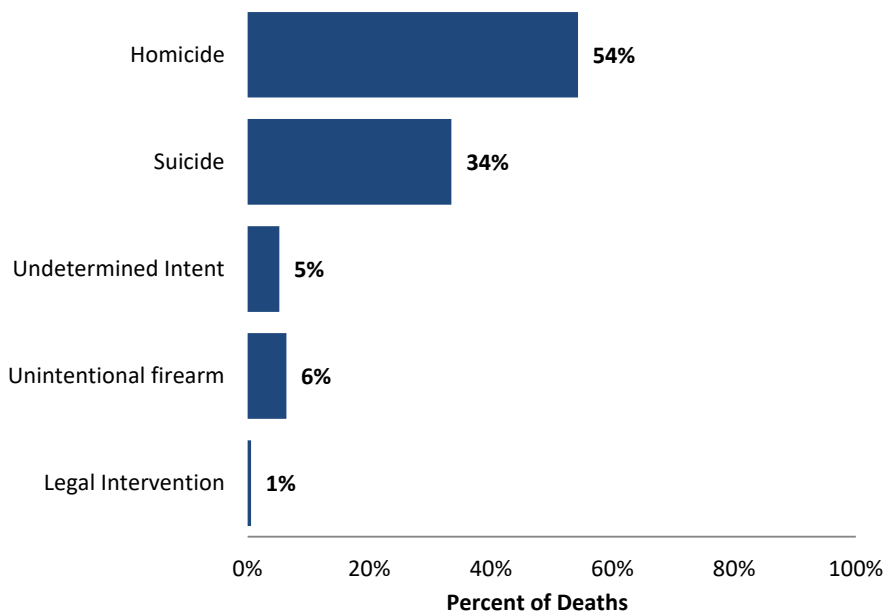
NC Violent Death Reporting System

CHILD VIOLENT DEATH IN NORTH CAROLINA, 2023

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on violent deaths that occur in North Carolina including: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths of undetermined intent. NC-VDRS uses information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports to understand and aid in the prevention of violent deaths. For more information, please visit <https://injuryfreenc.dph.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm>.

Manner of Child Violent Deaths (ages 0-17):

NC-VDRS, 2023



- In 2023, there were 173 violent deaths among North Carolina children ages 0-17.

- There were 94 homicides (54.3%), 58 suicides (33.5%), 11 unintentional firearm deaths (6.4%), one death resulting from legal intervention (0.6%), and nine deaths in which the Medical Examiner's Office could not determine the manner of death (5.2%).

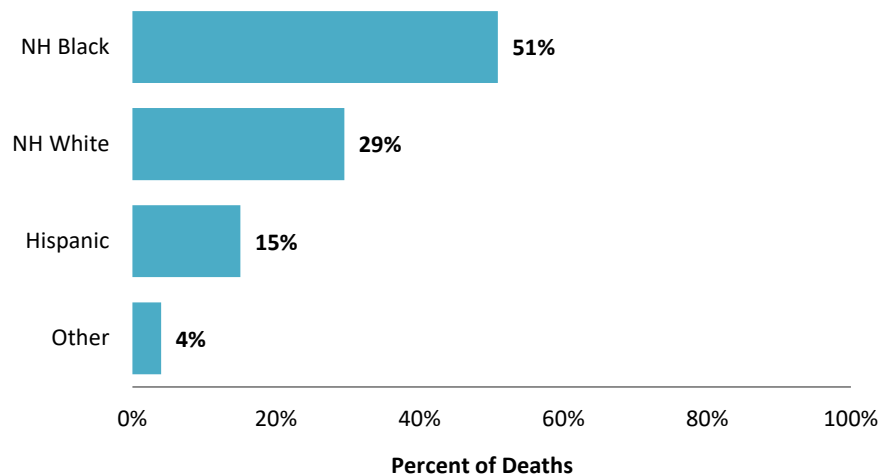
- Most of the child victims were male (66.5%).

Percent of Child Violent Deaths by Race/Ethnicity*:

NC-VDRS, 2023

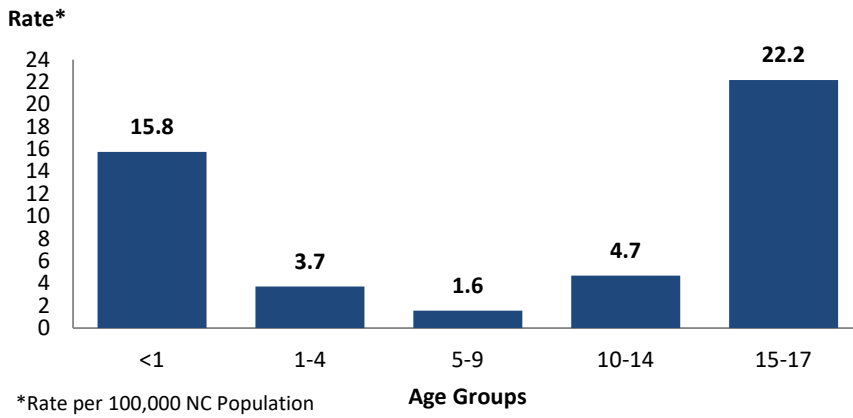
- Non-Hispanic (NH) Black victims accounted for the greatest percent of child violent deaths (50.9%), followed by NH White victims (29.5%).

- Rates of child violent death were highest among NH Black victims (17.1 deaths per 100,000 population) followed by Hispanic and NH White victims (5.9 and 4.4 per 100,000, respectively).



*Other includes non-Hispanic Asian (N=1) and American Indian (N=3) victims.

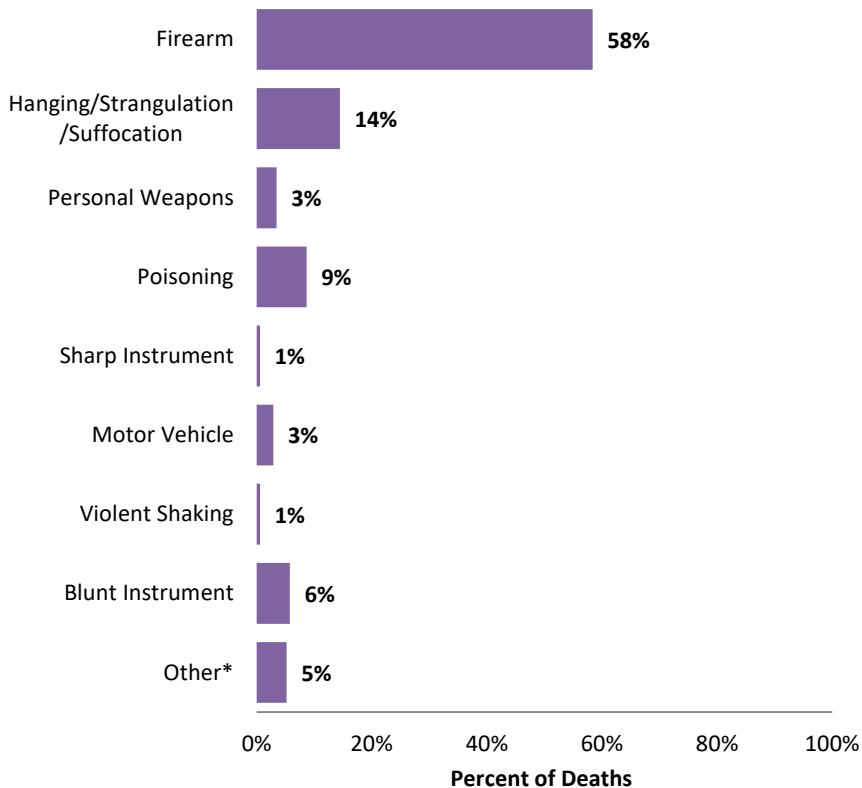
Child Violent Death Rates* by Age: NC-VDRS,



- The highest child violent death rate occurred among children ages 15-17 (22.2 deaths per 100,000 population).

- Children less than one years of age had the second highest rate of violent deaths (15.8 deaths per 100,000 population).

Method of Child Violent Death: NC-VDRS, 2023



- Firearms were involved in 58.4% of all child violent deaths (n=101). This percentage was propelled by the high number of firearm related deaths among children ages 15-17 (n=68).

- Hanging was the second most common cause of violent death among children (14.5%).

- Blunt instruments were the most common causes of death among children under the age of five, while firearms were the most common weapon among children ages 5 and older.

* Other includes: non-powder gun, drowning, unknown, fall, fire or burns, intentional neglect, (e.g., starving a baby or oneself), and other transport vehicle, (e.g., trains, planes, boats)

More information on child violence prevention can be found at:

State Resource Partners

Division of Social Services:

Child Protective Services

Contact: (919) 733-4622

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/child-welfare-services/child-protection-services>

National Resources

Children's Bureau

Contact: Carlis Williams (404) 562-2900

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb>

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NCDHHS Division of Public Health / www.dph.ncdhhs.gov / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425

NC Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432

State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / www.ncdhhs.gov

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2023 FINAL DATA 06/16/2025

Please see the NC-VDRS 2023 Annual Report for additional data and technical information:

<https://injuryfreenc.dph.ncdhhs.gov/DataSurveillance/ViolentDeathData.htm>



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

NORTH CAROLINA VIOLENT DEATH
NC VDRS
REPORTING SYSTEM