

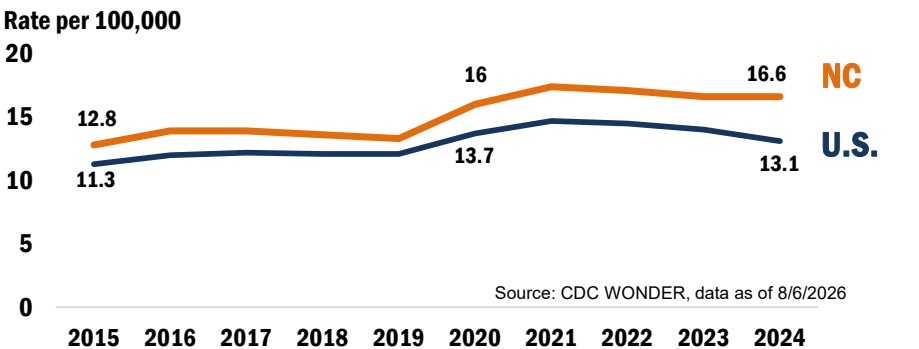
Firearm Injury and Death in North Carolina, 2024

5 people a day die from firearm injury in NC

There were **1,798** firearm-related deaths among North Carolina (NC) residents in 2024.

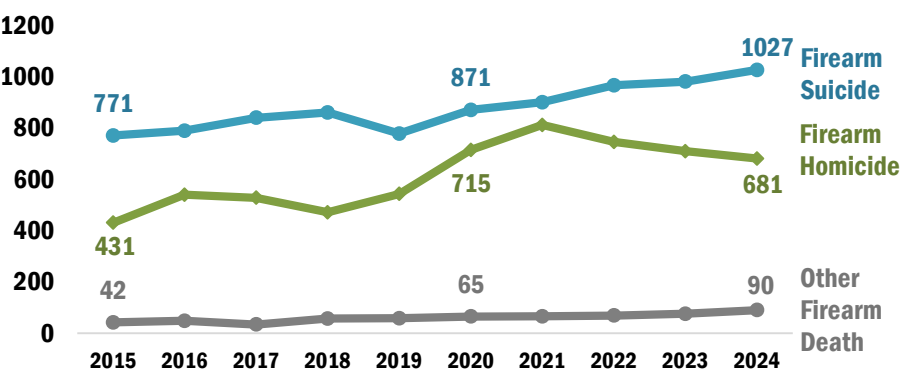
The number of firearm deaths in NC has increased by 45% over the past 10 years, **with a 30% increase since 2019** (1,379 deaths in 2019 to 1,798 deaths in 2024).

The rate of firearm injury death is higher in NC than across the U.S. NC has experienced an increase in firearm deaths since 2019.



More than half (57%) of NC firearm deaths in 2024 were suicides and 38% were homicides.

Number of Firearm Deaths by Manner, NC-VDRS, 2015-2024



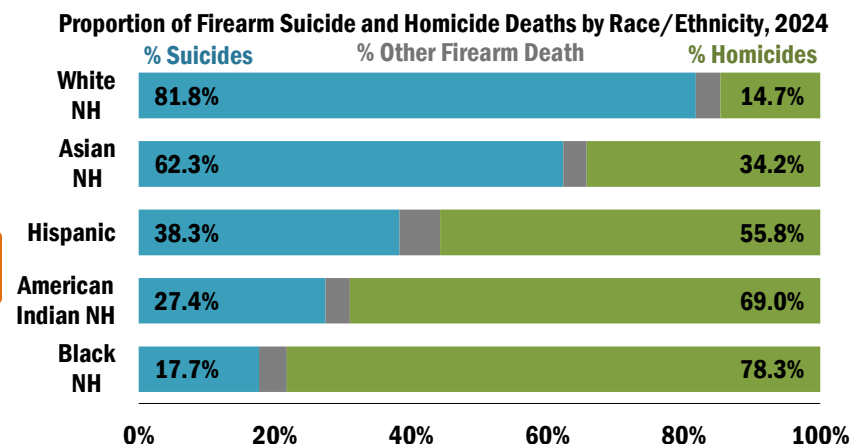
If you or someone you know needs support call or text **988** or chat **988lifeline.org**

- **Firearm suicides** have increased by 33% over the past 10 years to 1,027 deaths in 2024.
- **Firearm homicides** increased by 58% over the past 10 years, but have decreased from 2021 by 16%.
- **Other firearm death** includes unintentional firearm deaths (1.9% in 2024), legal intervention (2.2%), and other firearm deaths of undetermined intent (<1%).

Limited to NC residents
Source: NC Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS), 2015-2024

- The rate of firearm death was over five times higher for males than females (28.1 and five per 100,000 respectively).
- Rates of firearm death were highest among males ages 18-24 (46.1 per 100,000) and 25-34 (41.7 per 100,000).
- By race/ethnicity, rates of firearm-related death were highest among non-Hispanic (NH) American Indian males and NH Black males, followed by NH white males (64.9, 49.4, and 25.7 per 100,000 respectively).

The manner of firearm-related death differs by race/ethnicity. Most firearm deaths among NH Black, NH American Indian, and Hispanic residents were **homicides**, whereas most firearm-related deaths among NH Asian and NH white residents were **suicides**.

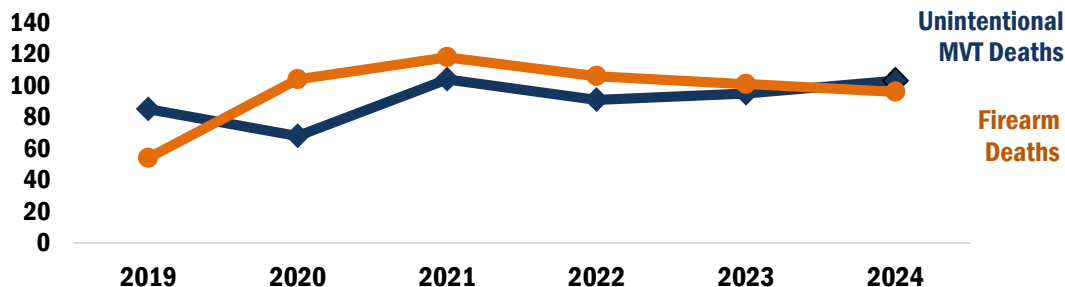


Who is most affected?

Long-standing patterns in public policy, investment, and resource distribution have contributed to differing firearm-related outcomes over many decades. When interpreting data, it is crucial to keep this historical context in mind and recognize that many contributing factors are preventable and stem from broader systems.

Child **firearm deaths** surpassed the number of child deaths from **motor vehicle traffic (MVT) crashes** for the first time in NC in 2020 and remain a leading cause of child injury death.

Number of Child Deaths



Limited to NC residents ages 0-17

Source: NC-VDRS, 2019-2024

Analysis by the DPH Injury Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics Unit

96 children ages 0-17 died from a firearm injury in NC in 2024. Child firearm injury deaths increased 78% from 2019 to 2024.

Firearm deaths are preventable

Storing firearms safely, locked and unloaded, can greatly reduce the risk of firearm-related injury and death.



1/3 of youth suicides and unintentional deaths are prevented by securing firearms.

Monuteaux, Azrael, Miller, JAMA Pediatr. 2019

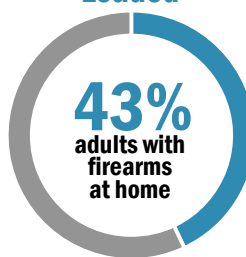


Storing ammunition in a locked location separate from firearms can reduce the risk of firearm injury, especially in households with children.

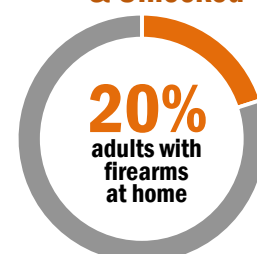
More than 3.5 Million (41%) of NC adults have a firearm in or around the home.

Over two-fifths of adults store their firearm(s) **loaded** and One in five adults store their firearm(s) **both loaded and unlocked**.

Firearms Stored
Loaded



Firearms Stored **Loaded & Unlocked**



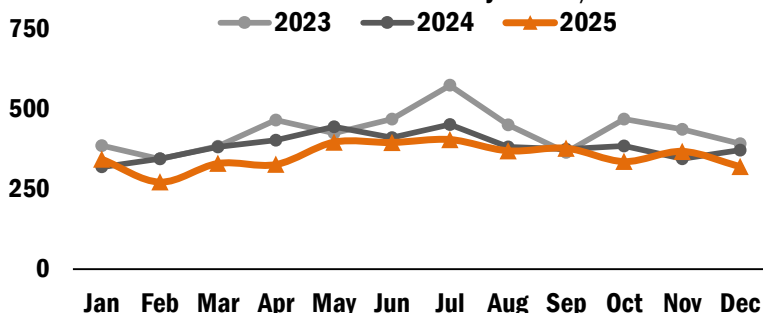
Firearm deaths are just the tip of the iceberg

For every one firearm death, there were two emergency department (ED) visits coded for firearm injury in NC.

NC-FASTER (Firearm Injury Surveillance Through Emergency Rooms) provides surveillance data in near real-time on ED visits for nonfatal firearm injuries based on diagnosis codes and free-text chief complaint information.

2025 Firearm injury ED visits slightly decreased from 2024, but remain overall similar to previous years.

Number of NC-FASTER Firearm ED Visits by Month, 2023-2025



In 2025, males, young adults (18-24), and NH Black residents experienced a higher than expected burden of firearm-related injury ED visits.

- 81%** • Males made up 81% of ED visits vs. 49% of the state population.
- 26%** • 18-to-24-year-olds made up 26% of ED visits but only 10% of the population.
- 55%** • NH Black residents made up 55% of ED visits vs. 21% of the population.

NC-FASTER quarterly fact sheets with provisional data on nonfatal firearm injury ED visits are available on the NC DETECT website.

Injury and Violence Prevention Branch Resources
[Preventing Firearm Injury and Death](#)
[Suicide Prevention Resources](#)

National Resources

[The Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#)

[The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#)

State Resources and Partners

[NC Office of Violence Prevention](#)

[NC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner](#)

[Division of Child and Family Well-being](#)



**NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

Division of Public Health
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch