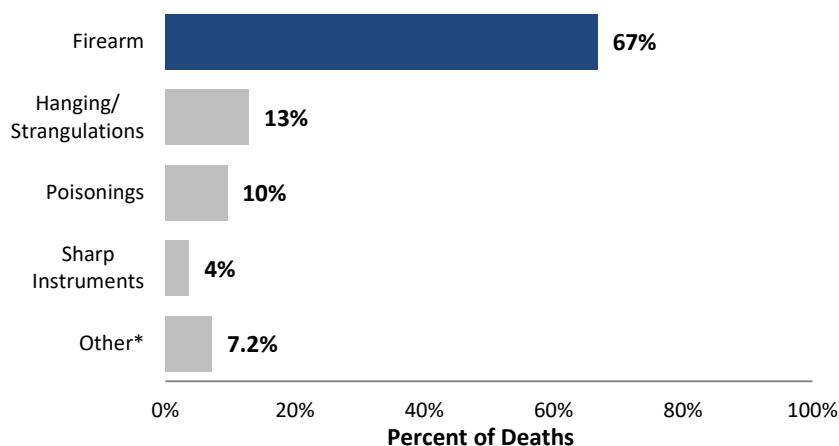


# NC Violent Death Reporting System

## FIREARM DEATHS 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>.

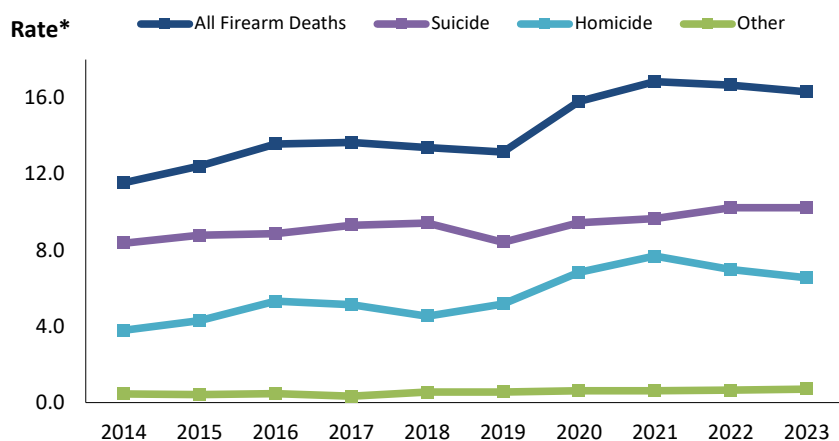
### Violent Deaths by Method: NC-VDRS, 2023



\*Other includes motor vehicle, blunt instruments, violent shaking, drowning, fire/burns, intentional neglect, unknown method, and other causes of death.

- In 2023, there were 1,767 firearm-related deaths among North Carolina (NC) residents.
- Firearms were involved in over two-thirds (66.8%) of all violent deaths in NC during 2023.
- Specific causes of firearm-related deaths included suicide (55.5%), homicide (40.2%), legal intervention involving discharge of firearm (1.9%), unintentional discharge of firearm (1.6%), and undetermined intent (0.7%).

### Firearm-Related Death Rates by Year: NC-VDRS, 2014-2023

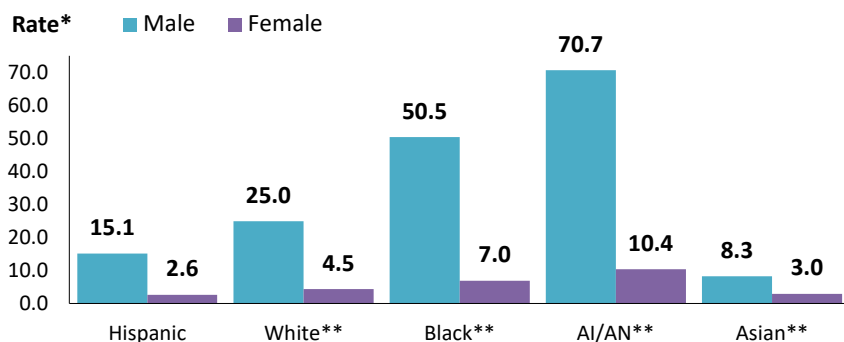


\* Rate per 100,000 NC population

- The rate of firearm-related deaths per 100,000 population increased by 41.3% from 2014 (11.5) to 2023 (16.3). From 2019 (13.1) to 2023 (16.3), the rate increased by 24.0%.
- The rate of firearm-related suicides varied from a low of 8.4 per 100,000 in 2014 to a high of 10.2 per 100,000 in 2023.
- The rate of firearm-related homicides varied from a low of 3.8 per 100,000 in 2014 to a high of 7.7 per 100,000 in 2021.

- The most common locations of firearm-related deaths were home (67.7%); motor vehicle, excluding school bus and public transportation (11.9%); street/road, sidewalk or alley (4.7%); natural areas such as a field, river, beach, or woods (4.1%); other commercial establishment, such as a grocery store, retail outlet, or laundromat (2.9%); and parking lot or public parking garage (1.4%).

## Firearm-Related Death Rates by Sex and Race: NC-VDRS, 2023



\* Rate per 100,000 NC population; \*\* Non-Hispanic

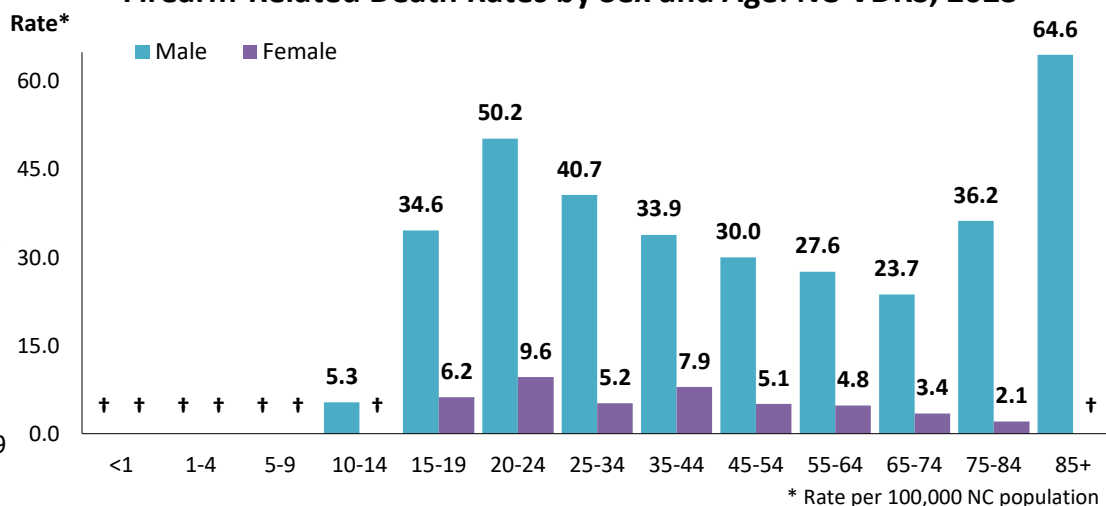
- Firearm-related death rates were lower for females than males across all racial/ethnic groups.

- Non-Hispanic (NH) American Indian (70.7), NH Black (50.5), and NH White (25.0) male victims had the highest firearm-related death rates per 100,000 population during 2023.

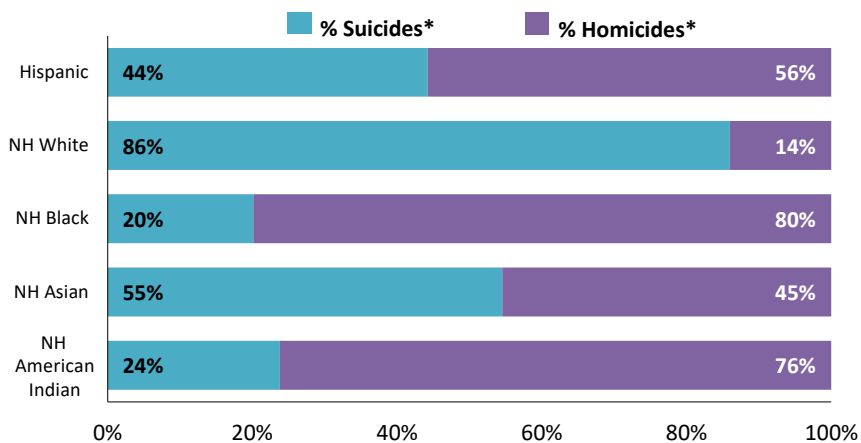
- NH American Indian (10.4) and NH Black female victims (7.0) had a higher firearm-related death rate per 100,000 population than NH

## Firearm-Related Death Rates by Sex and Age: NC-VDRS, 2023

- Most firearm-related deaths were among males (85.2%).
- The firearm-related death rate was highest among male victims ages 85 and older and 20-24 (64.6 and 50.2 per 100,000), while the rate among female victims was highest for ages 20-24 and 35-44 (9.6 and 7.9 per 100,000).



## Suicide and Homicide Firearm-Related Deaths by Race/Ethnicity: NC-VDRS, 2023



- Suicide was the most common type of firearm-related death among NH White and NH Asian victims (86.0% and 54.5%, respectively), while homicide was the most common type among NH Black, Hispanic, and NH American Indian victims (79.9%, 55.8%, and 76.2%).

- There were 44 total firearm-related deaths among NH American Indian residents, 22 among NH Asian, 623 among NH Black, 956 among NH White, and 112 among Hispanic residents in 2023.

\*Among suicide and homicide firearm-related deaths

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5 NU17CE924955-02-00 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

NCDHHS Division of Public Health / [www.dph.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.dph.ncdhhs.gov) / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425  
NC Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432

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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

