

# North Carolina

## Violent Death Reporting System

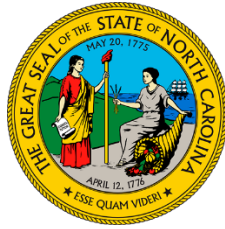
# 2023

## Annual Report



**North Carolina  
Injury & Violence  
Prevention Branch**

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
September 2025



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



## **Annual Report 2023**

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

**September 2025**

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# Executive Summary

## North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System, 2023

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 2023.

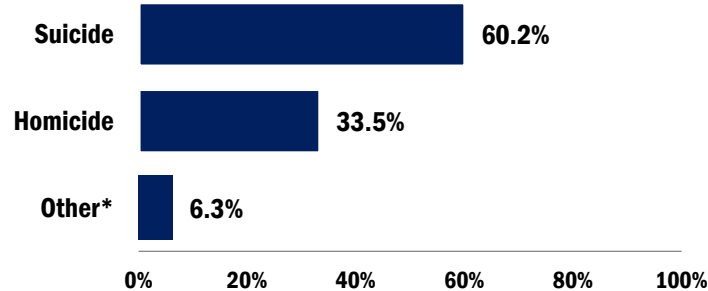
### Overall Violent Deaths

In 2023, 2,647 North Carolina residents (24.4 per 100,000) died as a result of violence. The leading causes of violent death were suicide (60.2%) followed by homicide (33.5%) (Figure i). Leading methods of violent death were firearm (66.8%), hanging, strangulation or suffocation (12.9%), and poisoning (9.6%). The most common firearms involved in firearm deaths were handguns (78.4%), rifles (7.6%), and shotguns (7.0%).

Males were 3.8 times as likely to die from violence as women (39.2 vs. 10.3 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 (52.0), NH Black (34.9), NH White (23.5), Hispanic (15.1), and NH Asian (12.2).

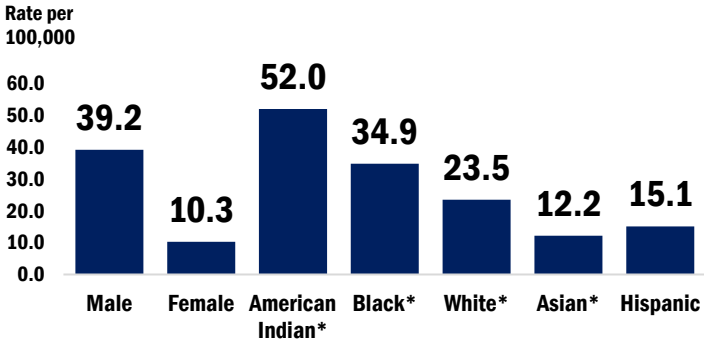
Adults from ages 15 to 54 years and ages 85 years and older had the highest violent death rates by age per 100,000 as follows: 20 to 24 (39.2), 25 to 34 (34.9), 35 to 44 (32.2), 85 and older (30.4), and 45 to 54 (28.8). The violent death rate trend by age differed by sex, with male victims showing higher rates than female victims across nearly all age groups (Figure iii).

Figure i: Manner of violent death in North Carolina, 2023



\* Other includes undetermined intent, legal intervention and unintentional firearm

Figure ii: Overall violent death rates by sex and race/ethnicity in North Carolina, 2023



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

## Executive Summary

### Suicides

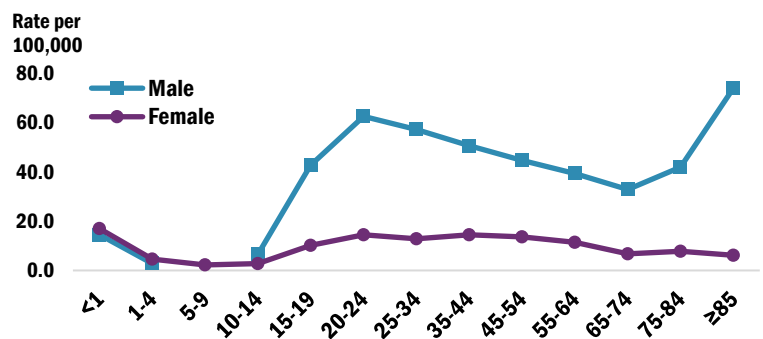
Suicide was the cause of death for 1,593 North Carolinians (16.6 per 100,000) in 2023. The most common method of suicide was firearm (61.6%), followed by hanging, strangulation, or suffocation (20.7%), and poisoning (12.6%). A handgun was the most common firearm, involved in 81.5% of suicide firearm deaths. Antidepressants were the most common substance category present in suicide poisonings (33.3%), followed by opiates (29.4%) and benzodiazepines (18.9%).

Men were 3.8 times more likely to die from suicide than women (26.8 versus 7.0 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure iv). Among suicide victims, 78.4% were male, and 78.5% were NH White. The suicide rate per 100,000 was highest among NH Whites (20.9), and NH American Indians (15.3), and lower among NH Blacks (9.7), Hispanics (9.6), and NH Asians (9.4).

The age group with the highest suicide rate per 100,000 was those 85 and older (27.6), followed by ages 20 to 24 (20.9), 75 to 84 (19.9) and 45 to 54 (19.9). 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 69.3 per 100,000 (Figure v).

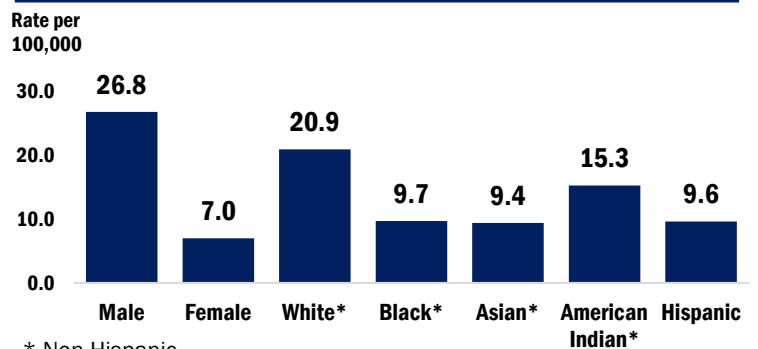
The most common circumstances of suicide were having ever been treated for mental illness (64.4%), current mental health problem (63.9%), a history of suicidal thoughts (43.8%), a recent crisis (40.9%), and current treatment for mental illness (32.7%). Most with a current mental health problem had depression (80.3%). Other common circumstances of suicide were problems with an intimate partner (27.8%), physical health problem (20.7%), an alcohol problem (19.8%), or other substance misuse problem (19.0%).

**Figure iii: Overall Violent Death Rates in North Carolina: Age Group by Sex, 2023**



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

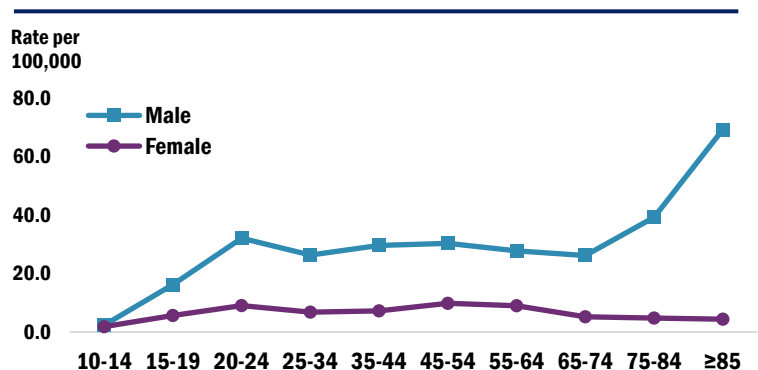
**Figure iv: Suicide rates by sex and race/ethnicity in North Carolina, 2023**



\* 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, 2023**



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

Of the 88.6% of suicide victims tested, 25.4% had alcohol present at the time of death. Most (76.9%) injuries resulting in suicide occurred in a house or apartment.

### Homicides

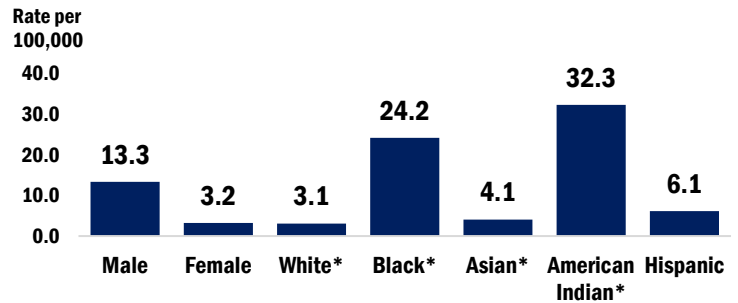
A total of 886 North Carolinians (8.2 per 100,000) were homicide victims in 2023. Firearm (80.1%) and sharp instruments (8.0%) were the most common homicide methods. Handguns accounted for 74.2% of firearms used in homicide firearm deaths.

Men accounted for 79.8% of homicide victims and were 4.1 times more likely to die from homicide than women (13.3 vs. 3.2 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure vi). Unlike suicide rates, homicide rates were higher among NH American Indian (32.3 per 100,000) and NH Black (24.2 per 100,000) than in NH White (3.1 per 100,000), and Hispanic (6.1 per 100,000) victims.

Homicide rates were highest in the following age groups: 20 to 24 years (16.6 per 100,000), 25 to 34 years (15.4 per 100,000), and 15 to 19 years (14.5 per 100,000). Males had a higher homicide rate across all age groups. (Figure vii). Among 25 to 34-year-olds, the homicide rate was 6.1 times greater among males than females.

The most common event circumstances surrounding homicides were an argument, abuse or conflict (52.9%), precipitated by another serious crime (23.4%), drug involvement (20.7%), and intimate partner violence-related (17.5%). Homicides occurred most often in a house or apartment (57.3%), a motor vehicle (13.7%), or a street, road, sidewalk or alley (9.4%).

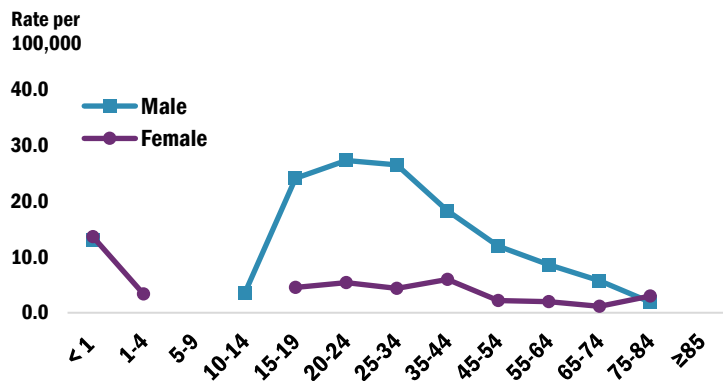
Figure vi: Homicide rates by sex and race/ethnicity in North Carolina, 2023



\* 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, 2023



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

### Firearm Violent Deaths

Most violent deaths involve a firearm. In 2023, there were 1,767 firearm deaths, accounting for 66.8% of all violent deaths. Most firearm violent deaths were suicides (55.5%), followed by homicides (40.2%) (Figure viii).

Males were more likely than females to experience a violent death with a firearm (28.4 per 100,000 versus 4.7 per 100,000, respectively). Handguns were the most common type of firearm used (78.4%).



## Executive Summary

Overall firearm death rates are highest among NH American Indian (39.5 per 100,000) and NH Black (27.4 per 100,000) victims, followed by NH White (14.5 per 100,000), Hispanic (9.0 per 100,000), and NH Asian (5.6 per 100,000) victims.

Firearm death rates were highest among ages 20 to 24 (30.5 per 100,000) and ages 85+ (25.3 per 100,000).

### Firearm Suicide

Firearms were used in 61.6% of the 1,593 suicides in 2023 (N=981). The most commonly used firearm type was a handgun (81.5%).

Males were 7.2 times more likely than females to die from firearm suicide (18.3 versus 2.6 per 100,000). NH White victims had the highest firearm suicide rate (13.2 per 100,000). This was 2.2 times greater than the firearm suicide rate among NH Black (6.0 per 100,000) victims.

Firearm suicide rates were highest among adults ages 85 and older and 75 to 84 (24.2 and 16.2 per 100,000). Among males, firearm suicide rates were highest for those 85 and older (63.0 per 100,000), whereas for females, the firearm suicide rate was highest among those ages 20-24 (4.3 per 100,000).

### Firearm Homicide

A total of 710 North Carolinians were victims of firearm homicide in 2023. Firearm homicides accounted for 80.1% of all homicide incidents. Handguns were the most common firearm type (74.2%).

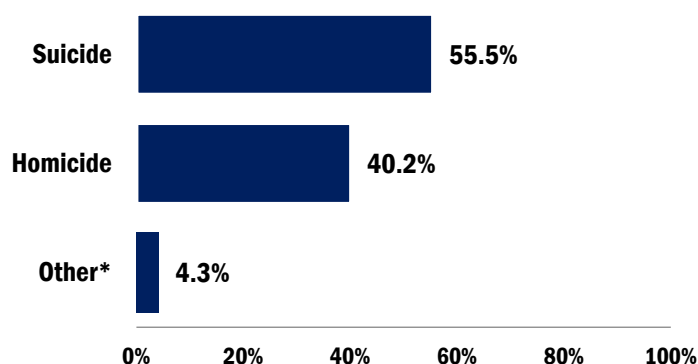
Males were 4.8 times more likely than females to be a victim of firearm homicide (12.5 and 2.6 per 100,000 respectively). Males ages 25 to 34 were 6.9 times more likely to die from firearm homicide than

females of the same age (22.7 and 3.3 per 100,000 respectively).

NH American Indian (32.5 per 100,000) and NH Black (23.8 per 100,000) victims had higher firearm homicide rates than Hispanic (5.8 per 100,000) and NH White (2.2 per 100,000).

Firearm homicide rates were highest among those ages 20 to 24 (15.4 per 100,000) and 15 to 19 (14.0 per 100,000).

**Figure viii: Manner of violent death among firearm deaths in North Carolina, 2023**



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

### Unintentional Firearm Deaths

In 2023, 29 North Carolinians (0.3 per 100,000) died from a firearm injury sustained in a shooting not intentionally directed at the victim. Handguns (75.9%) were most commonly involved in unintentional firearm deaths, followed by shotguns (24.1%). There were no rifles involved in any unintentional firearm deaths (0.0%).

In 2023, there were 34 firearm legal intervention deaths and 13 firearm deaths of undetermined intent.



### Legal Intervention

Fifty North Carolina residents died in 2023 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 (96.0%), all victims were from 15 to 74 years of age, and most were NH White or NH Black (56.0% and 28.0%, respectively). All but 16 legal intervention deaths occurred by firearm; of the total firearms involved (n=34), handguns were used most frequently (68.0%).

### Child Violent Deaths

In North Carolina in 2023, 173 children (7.4 per 100,000) ages 0 to 17 died from violence. Homicide (54.3%) and suicide (33.5%) were the leading causes of child violent death (Figure ix). Firearm (58.4%), hanging, strangulation, or suffocation (14.5%), poisoning (8.7%), and blunt instrument (5.8%) were the most common methods of child death.

Male children were 1.9 times as likely to be victims of violent death as female children (9.6 vs. 5.1 per 100,000, respectively). The violent death rate per 100,000 was 3.8 times higher for NH Black children (17.1 per 100,000) than for NH White children (4.4 per 100,000).

\*Personal weapons include hands, fists, and feet.

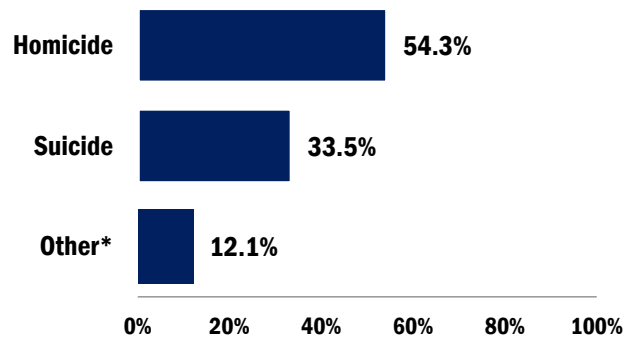
### Undetermined Intent

A total of 89 deaths of undetermined intent (0.8 per 100,000) were reported in North Carolina in 2023. The leading methods of undetermined intent deaths were poisoning (52.8%), and firearm (14.6%).

### Violent Deaths Over Time

The overall violent death rate in North Carolina remained fairly stable from 2014 to 2023, averaging 22.2 per 100,000 per year. The overall violent death rate was 19.5 per 100,000 in 2014, 21.4 per 100,000 in 2018, and 24.4 per 100,000 in 2023.

Figure ix: Manner of violent death among children in North Carolina, 2023



\* 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 2023.

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



## Executive Summary

### Introduction

In 2023, there were more than 49,316 suicides and 22,830 homicides nationwide, many of which were preventable. In North Carolina, more than 21,864 residents died from suicide or homicide in the 10-year period from 2014 to 2023. In that same period, suicide and homicide ranked as the state's eighth and 11<sup>th</sup> leading causes of death, respectively. Among specific age groups, violent death constitutes an even greater risk. In North Carolina in 2023, suicide was the second leading cause of death for young adults ages 15 to 24 and adults ages 25 to 34. Suicide was the fourth leading cause of death for children ages 10 to 44 and adults ages 35 to 44, and the sixth 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 10 to 14, young adults ages 15 to 24, and adults ages 25 to 34. In addition, violent death rates show disparities by sex, race, and ethnicity. For males in North Carolina in 2023, suicide was the seventh leading cause of death, compared to the 16<sup>th</sup> leading cause among females. Homicide was the ninth leading cause of death in NH Blacks, and suicide was the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in NH whites in North Carolina in 2023. Among Hispanics in North Carolina, homicide and suicide were respectively the eighth and fifth leading causes of death in 2023.

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 Prevention 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 NCDHHS 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, 2023, to December 31, 2023. The 2023 data file used for this report was generated in August 2025. Note that if changes are made to the 2023 data in NC-VDRS after this date, the 2023 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.

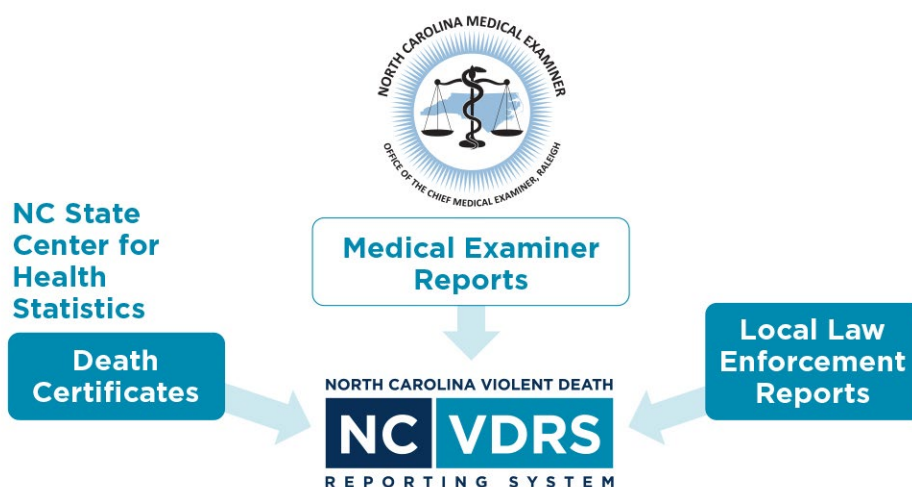
A glossary of the terms used in this report is shown in Appendix C.

## Methods

### Case Identification

This report provides a comprehensive summary of all violent deaths among residents of North Carolina during 2023. 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 2023) 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 2023. 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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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
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Asheboro Police Department	Davidson County Sheriff's Office
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Cleveland County Sheriff's Office	Goldsboro Police Department
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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

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Oak Island Police Department  
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Oxford Police Department  
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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  
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Raleigh Police Department  
Randleman Police Department  
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Reidsville Police Department  
Richmond County Sheriff's Office  
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Robeson County Sheriff's Office  
Rockingham County Sheriff's Office  
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Rowan County Sheriff's Office  
Roxboro Police Department  
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Stallings Police Department  
Stanly County Sheriff's Office  
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Stokes County Sheriff's Office  
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Vance County Sheriff's Office  
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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

NC-VDRS is fortunate to have a dedicated and professional staff. Program Manager Tammy Norwood oversees all operational aspects of the NC-VDRS and is chiefly responsible for data quality and program integrity. Data abstractors, Dana Dandeneau, April Allgood, Ahamefule Anyanwu, and Taylor Davis, spend many hours compiling the data and constructing sound narratives to make North Carolina's system one of the best in the nation. Without their daily efforts throughout the years, the data and reports would not be as accurate or complete.

# Section I: Overall Violent Deaths

## Basic Characteristics of Violent Deaths

**Table 1** describes violent death victims in North Carolina in 2023 by demographic characteristics of sex, race/ethnicity and age. The 2023 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 2,647 North Carolinians (24.4 per 100,000) died as a result of violence in 2023.
- Males were 3.8 times as likely to die from violence as females (39.2 versus 10.3 per 100,000, respectively).
- Non-Hispanic (NH) American Indians had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (52.0) followed by NH Blacks (34.9), NH Whites (23.5), Hispanics (15.1), and NH Asians (12.2).
- Adults ages 20 to 24 years had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (39.2), followed by adults ages: 25 to 34 (34.9), 35 to 44 (32.2), 85 and older (30.4).
- Among children under the age of 15, children less than one year old had the highest violent death rate (15.8 per 100,000).

**Table 2** lists the manner and method of violent deaths in North Carolina in 2023. NC violent deaths in 2023 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 (60.2%) followed by homicide (33.5%).
- The leading methods of violent death were firearm (66.8%), hanging, strangulation or suffocation (12.9%), and poisoning (9.6%).
- The most common firearm involved in violent firearm deaths was a handgun (78.4%).

**Table 4** characterizes adult violent death victims (18 years or older) in North Carolina in 2023 by the number of years of completed education, marital status and veteran status.

### Key Findings:

- Most adult victims at least completed high school (80.4%) while 38.2% completed at least some college.
- One-fourth of adult violent death victims were married, in a civil union, or a domestic partnership (24.9%). Nearly one-half of adult violent victims were never married (47.1%). Fewer victims were divorced (17.5%) or widowed (5.6%).
- Military veterans accounted for 13.8% of North Carolina adult violent death victims in 2023.

**Table 5** and **Figure 5** show the overall violent death rates in 2023 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 13 counties was too small to support a rate calculation (greater than zero, but less than 5).

**Key Findings:**

- For the 87 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 28.8 deaths per 100,000 with a range from 0.0 to 74.7 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, 2023**

	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	569	21.5	10.3	9.4 - 11.1
Male	2,078	78.5	39.2	37.5 - 40.9
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
White*	1,547	58.4	23.5	22.4 - 24.7
Black*	793	30.0	34.9	32.4 - 37.3
Asian*	48	1.8	12.2	8.7 - 15.7
American Indian*	58	2.2	52.0	38.6 - 65.4
Hispanic	187	7.1	15.1	12.9 - 17.3
Other/Unknown	14	0.5	--	--
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
< 1	19	0.7	15.8	8.7 - 22.8
1-4	18	0.7	3.7	2.0 - 5.4
5-9	10	0.4	1.6	0.6 - 2.5
10-14	31	1.2	4.7	3.0 - 6.3
15 - 19	194	7.3	26.8	23.0 - 30.6
20 - 24	285	10.8	39.2	34.6 - 43.7
25 - 34	509	19.2	34.9	31.9 - 38.0
35 - 44	446	16.9	32.2	29.2 - 35.2
45 - 54	390	14.7	28.8	26.0 - 31.7
55 - 64	342	12.9	24.9	22.3 - 27.5
65 - 74	213	8.1	18.8	16.3 - 21.3
75 - 84	136	5.1	22.8	18.9 - 26.6
85 +	54	2.0	30.4	22.3 - 38.5
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>2,647</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>23.5 - 25.4</b>

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

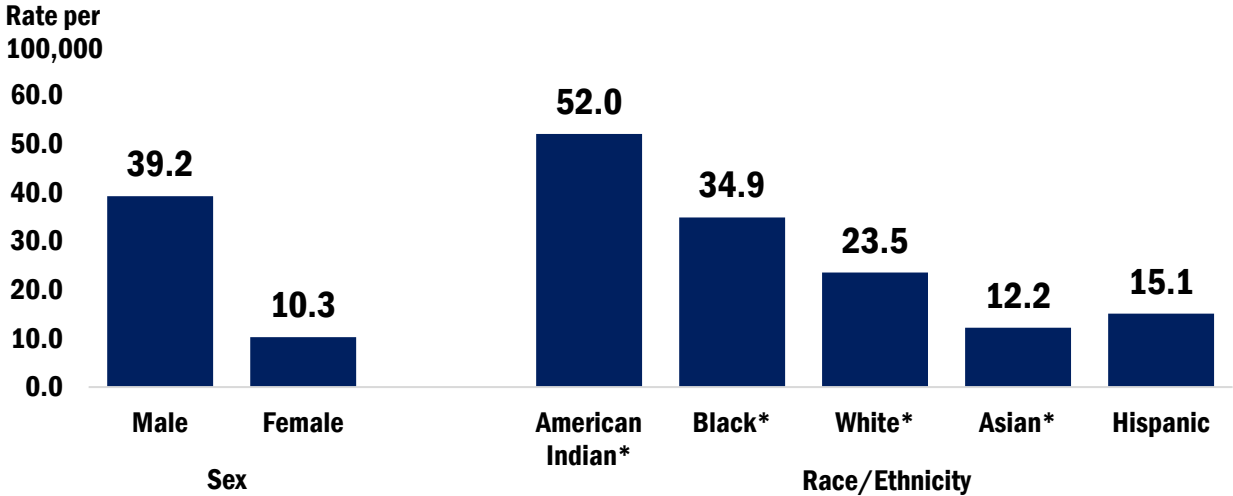
95% CI = 95 % Confidence Interval for the Rate

\* Non-Hispanic

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

**Section I**

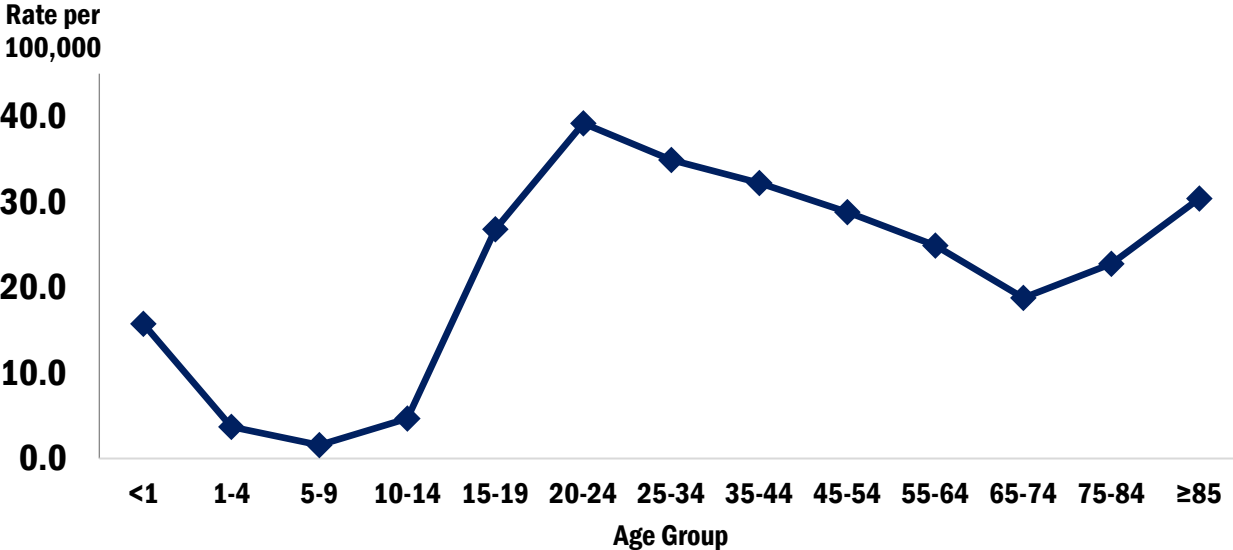
**Figure 1: Crude overall violent death rates by sex and race/ethnicity in North Carolina, 2023**



\* 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, 2023**



**Note:** The number of violent deaths for all age groups was high enough to support a rate calculation.

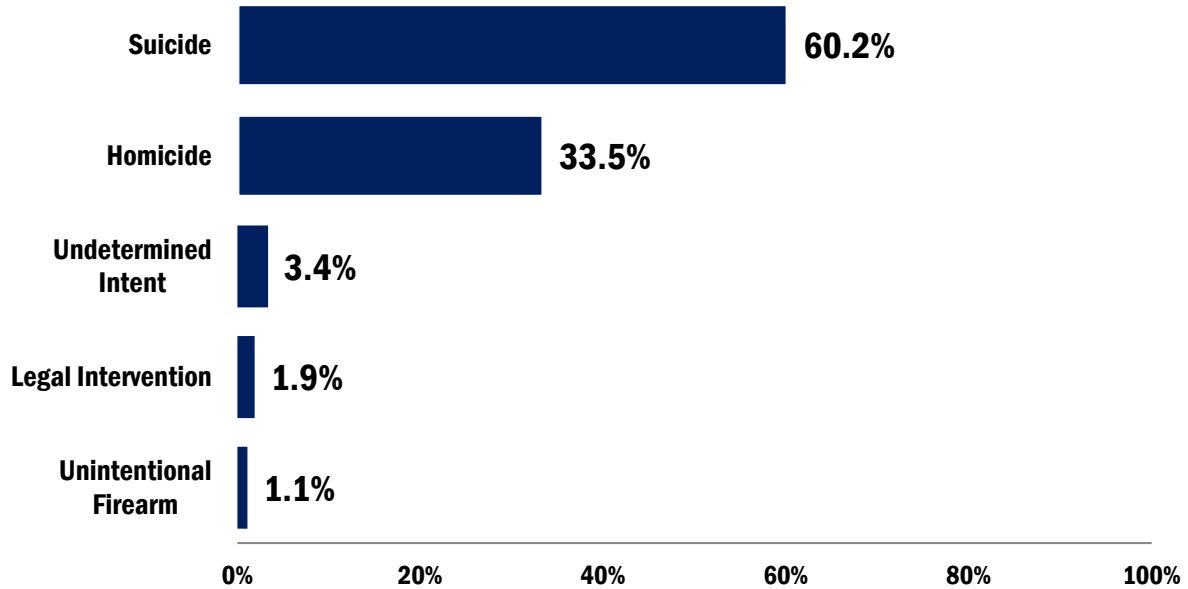
**Table 2: Manner and method of violent death in North Carolina, 2023**

	Number	%
<b>Manner of Death</b>		
Suicide	1,593	60.2
Homicide	886	33.5
Undetermined intent	89	3.4
Legal intervention	50	1.9
Unintentional firearm	29	1.1
<b>Method of Death</b>		
Firearm	1,767	66.8
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	341	12.9
Poisoning	253	9.6
Sharp instrument	97	3.7
Blunt instrument	32	1.2
Personal weapons	40	1.5
Fall	26	1.0
Motor vehicle	40	1.5
Fire or burns	16	0.6
Other transport vehicle	7	0.3
Drowning	10	0.4
Intentional neglect	9	0.3
Violent shaking	3	0.1
Other/Unknown	6	0.2
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>2,647</b>	<b>100</b>

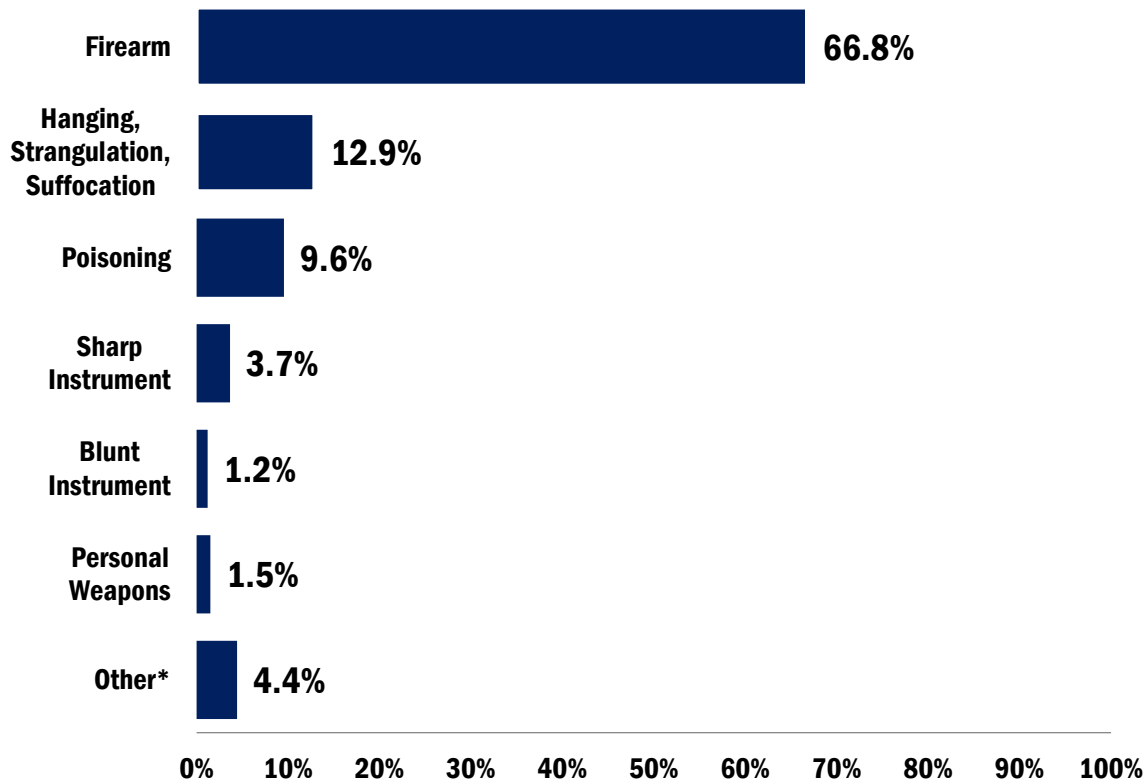


## Section I

**Figure 3: Manner of violent death in North Carolina, 2023**



**Figure 4: Method of violent death in North Carolina, 2023**



\* 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, 2023**

	Number	%
<b>Firearm Type*</b>		
Handgun	1,395	78.4
Shotgun	125	7.0
Rifle	135	7.6
Other/Unknown type	125	7.0
<b>Total Firearms Involved, All Violent Deaths</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Multiple firearm types were reported for 13 violent firearm deaths; therefore, the total number of firearms exceeds the number of firearm deaths (n=1,767).

**Table 4: Completed education, marital status and veteran status of adult violent death victims (ages 18 or older) in North Carolina, 2023**

	Number	%
<b>Education Level</b>		
8th grade or less	76	3.1
9th – 12th grade	393	15.9
High school or GED graduate	1,042	42.1
Some college credit	363	14.7
Associate degree	199	8.0
Bachelor’s degree	272	11.0
Master’s degree	86	3.5
Doctorate degree	26	1.1
Unknown	17	0.7
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Never married	1,165	47.1
Married*	615	24.9
Divorced	433	17.5
Widowed	139	5.6
Married, but separated	105	4.2
Single, not otherwise specified	0	0.0
Unknown	17	0.7
<b>Veteran Status</b>		
Non-veteran	2,107	85.2
Veteran	341	13.8
Unknown	26	1.1

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

## Section I

**Table 5: Overall violent deaths by county of residence in North Carolina, 2023**

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Alamance	28	15.6	Franklin	19	24.7	Pamlico	4	*
Alexander	7	19.2	Gaston	54	22.8	Pasquotank	11	26.5
Alleghany	3	*	Gates	3	*	Pender	12	17.5
Anson	6	27.4	<b>Graham</b>	5	62.1	<b>Perquimans</b>	5	37.4
<b>Ashe</b>	13	48.0	Granville	19	30.6	Person	13	32.7
Avery	5	28.5	Greene	3	*	Pitt	41	23.4
Beaufort	8	18.0	Guilford	169	30.7	Polk	5	24.9
<b>Bertie</b>	11	65.0	<b>Halifax</b>	20	42.3	Randolph	28	19.0
<b>Bladen</b>	11	37.3	Harnett	33	23.3	<b>Richmond</b>	19	44.9
Brunswick	33	20.6	Haywood	12	19.1	<b>Robeson</b>	73	62.2
Buncombe	76	27.5	Henderson	28	23.5	Rockingham	26	28.1
Burke	22	24.9	Hertford	6	30.8	Rowan	42	27.7
Cabarrus	43	17.9	Hoke	15	27.6	Rutherford	8	12.2
Caldwell	23	28.5	Hyde	1	*	<b>Sampson</b>	27	45.3
Camden	2	*	Iredell	53	26.5	<b>Scotland</b>	14	40.7
Carteret	23	33.0	Jackson	5	11.2	Stanly	14	21.3
Caswell	7	30.7	Johnston	31	12.8	<b>Stokes</b>	18	39.5
Catawba	34	20.7	Jones	1	*	Surry	16	22.4
Chatham	7	8.6	Lee	16	23.9	<b>Swain</b>	6	43.1
<b>Cherokee</b>	12	40.1	Lenoir	19	34.6	Transylvania	8	23.8
Chowan	4	*	Lincoln	14	14.6	Tyrrell	0	0.0
Clay	1	*	McDowell	13	29.0	Union	40	15.6
Cleveland	33	32.6	Macon	12	31.2	<b>Vance</b>	16	37.8
Columbus	16	31.9	Madison	3	*	Wake	190	16.0
Craven	36	35.2	Martin	4	*	Warren	5	26.5
<b>Cumberland</b>	155	45.9	Mecklenburg	215	18.5	<b>Washington</b>	8	74.7
Currituck	8	25.3	Mitchell	1	*	Watauga	5	9.1
Dare	9	23.6	<b>Montgomery</b>	11	42.2	<b>Wayne</b>	43	36.2
Davidson	46	26.3	Moore	31	29.0	Wilkes	16	24.2
Davie	7	15.7	Nash	29	30.0	Wilson	26	32.9
<b>Duplin</b>	21	42.4	New Hanover	48	20.1	Yadkin	12	31.8
Durham	84	24.9	Northampton	4	*	Yancey	6	31.7
<b>Edgecombe</b>	18	36.9	Onslow	48	22.5			
Forsyth	109	27.7	Orange	24	15.9			

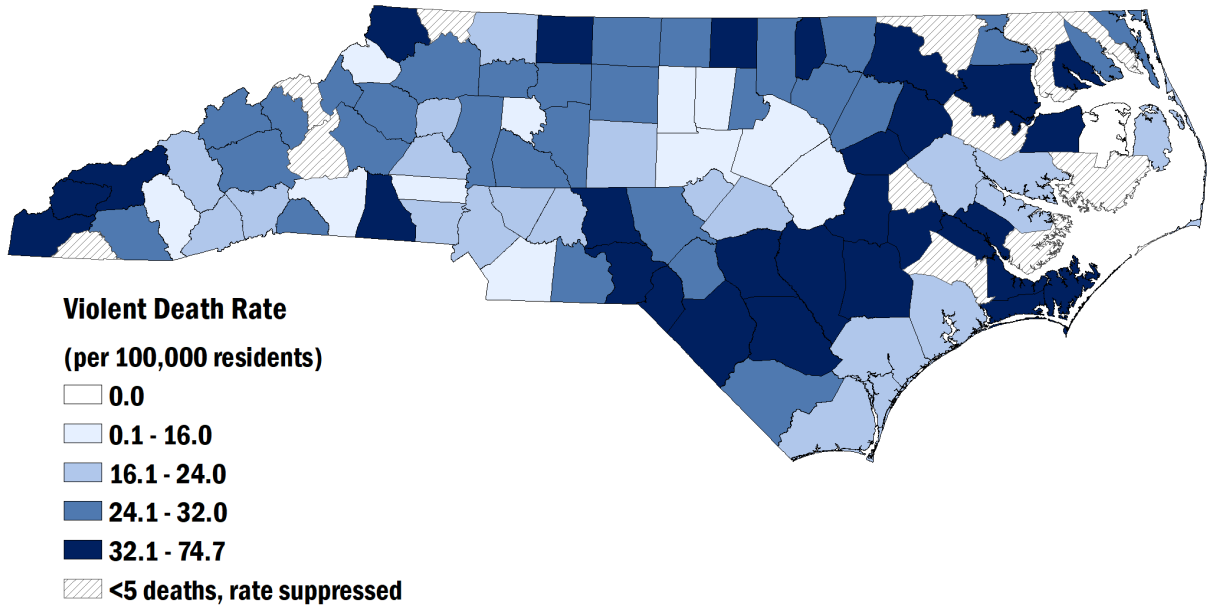
Crude rate per 100,000 population in NC county

\* 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, 2023**

**North Carolina 2023 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 2023 stratified by race/ethnicity and sex.

#### **Key Findings:**

- NH Whites (58.4%) and males (78.5%) represented the majority of violent death victims, as shown in Table 1.
- NH Whites accounted for 56.9% of male violent death victims and 64.0% of female victims, while NH Blacks comprised 31.6% of male victims and 23.9% of female victims.
- Among males, NH American Indian males had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (91.9) followed by NH Black males (61.5), NH White males (36.6), Hispanic males (23.2), and NH Asian males (16.6).
- Among females, NH American Indian females had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (15.6) followed by NH Black females (11.3), NH White females (10.9), NH Asian females (8.0), and Hispanic females (6.6).
- The violent death rate was higher for males than for females of the same race/ethnicity by 5.8 times for NH American Indians, 5.5 for NH Blacks, 3.5 times for Hispanics, 3.4 times for NH Whites, and 2.1 times for NH Asians.

### ***Age and Sex of Violent Death Victims***

**Table 7** stratifies the North Carolina violent death victims in 2023 by age group and sex. **Figure 7** illustrates the 2023 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 (20.0%) and 35 to 44 (16.6%) years old followed by males ages 45 to 54 (14.2%), 55 to 64 (12.6%), and 20 to 24 (11.3%).
- Among females, most violent death victims were ages 35 to 44 (17.9%) years old followed by females ages 45 to 54 and 25 to 34 (16.5%), 55 to 64 (14.2%), and 20 to 24 (9.0%).
- Among males, the violent death rate per 100,000 by age group was highest for ages 85 and older (74.0) followed by ages 20 to 24 (62.5) and 25 to 34 (57.2).
- For females, the violent death rate trend by age reached a peak of 17.0 per 100,000 for infants under 1 year old, followed by ages 35 to 44 and 20 to 24 (14.5).
- Males were more likely to experience violent death than females by 12.1 times for ages 85 and older, 5.4 times for ages 75 to 84, 4.9 times for ages 65 to 74, 4.5 times for ages 25 to 34, and 4.3 times for ages 20 to 24.

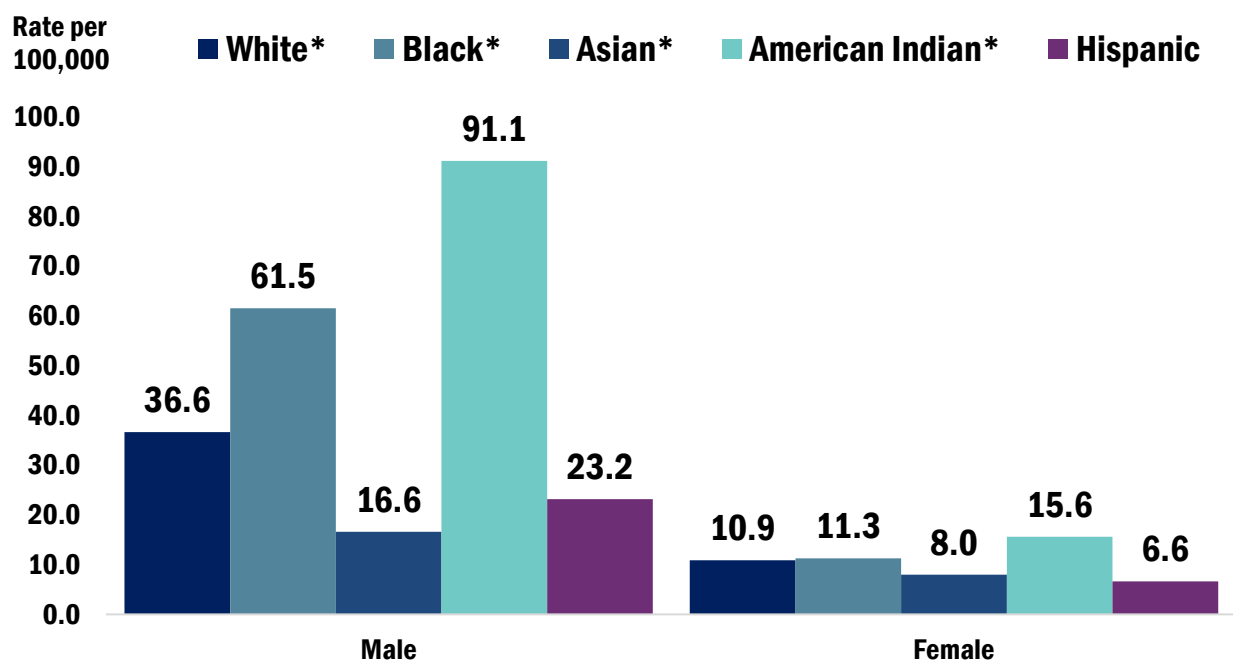
**Table 6: Race/ethnicity of violent death victims in North Carolina by sex, 2023**

Race/Ethnicity	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
White*	1,183	56.9	36.6	364	64.0	10.9
Black*	657	31.6	61.5	136	23.9	11.3
Asian*	32	1.5	16.6	16	2.8	8.0
American Indian*	49	2.4	91.1	9	1.6	15.6
Hispanic	147	7.1	23.2	40	7.0	6.6
Other/Unknown	10	0.5	-	4	0.7	-
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>2,078</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10.5</b>

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, 2023**

\* Non-Hispanic (NH)

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

## Section I

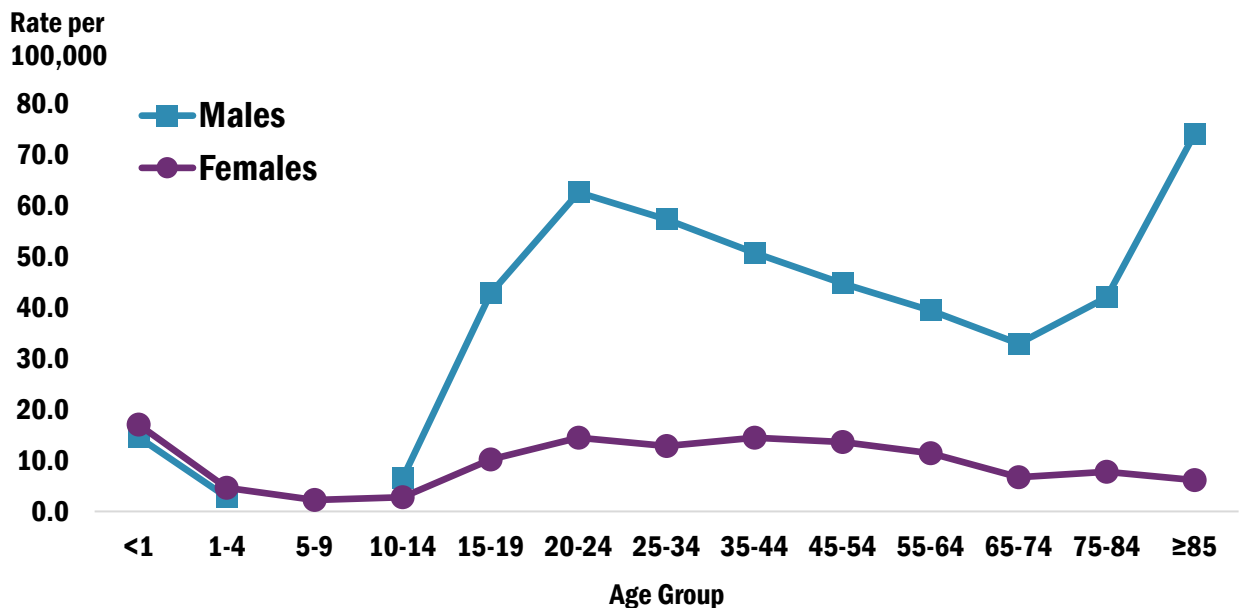
**Table 7: Age group of violent death victims in North Carolina by sex, 2023**

Age Group (years)	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
<1	9	0.4	14.6	10	1.8	17.0
1-4	7	0.3	2.8	11	1.9	4.6
5-9	3	0.1	*	7	1.2	2.2
10-14	22	1.1	6.5	9	1.6	2.8
15-19	158	7.6	42.7	36	6.3	10.2
20-24	234	11.3	62.5	51	9.0	14.5
25-34	415	20.0	57.2	94	16.5	12.8
35-44	344	16.6	50.7	102	17.9	14.5
45-54	296	14.2	44.7	94	16.5	13.6
55-64	261	12.6	39.4	81	14.2	11.4
65-74	172	8.3	32.9	41	7.2	6.7
75-84	110	5.3	41.9	26	4.6	7.8
≥85	47	2.3	74.0	7	1.2	6.1
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>2,078</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10.3</b>

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 ages 5-9.

**Figure 7: Age-specific crude overall violent death rates in North Carolina, stratified by age group and sex, 2023**



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



## Section II: Suicide

### Basic Characteristics of Suicides

**Table 8** describes suicides in 2023 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 2023 is illustrated by race/ethnicity and sex in **Figure 8** and by age group in **Figure 9**.

#### Key Findings:

- In 2023, a total of 1,593 North Carolinians (16.9 per 100,000) died from suicide.
- Males were 3.8 times as likely to die from suicide as females (26.8 vs. 7.0 per 100,000).
- NH Whites had the highest suicide rate (20.9 per 100,000) followed by NH American Indians (15.3 per 100,000), NH Black (9.7 per 100,000), Hispanic (9.6 per 100,000), and NH Asian (9.4 per 100,000) victims.
- Adults ages 85 and older had the highest rate of suicide (27.6 per 100,000) followed by those 20 to 24 (20.9 per 100,000), and ages 45-54 and 75-84 (19.9 per 100,000).

**Table 9** and **Figure 10** summarize the method of death for suicide victims in North Carolina in 2023. **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 (61.6%), hanging, strangulation or suffocation (20.7%), and poisoning (12.6%).
- Men more often died from suicide by a firearm (68.5%) or hanging, strangulation or suffocation (19.8%) and less frequently died from suicide by poisoning (6.7%).
- Women more commonly died from suicide by firearm (36.6%) or poisoning (34.0%), compared to hanging, strangulation or suffocation (23.8%).
- Considering only suicide firearm deaths, a handgun was the most common firearm used in 81.5% of all deaths; handguns accounted for 80.5% of male deaths and 88.1% of female deaths.
- Most suicide poisoning deaths involved antidepressants (33.3%). The second most common substance was opiates (29.4%, either illicit or prescription), followed by benzodiazepines (18.9%) and anticonvulsants (17.9%).

**Table 12** characterizes the 1,535 adult suicide victims (age 18 or older) in North Carolina in 2023 by education level, marital status and veteran status.

#### Key Findings:

- The majority (86.3%) of adult suicide victims at least graduated high school or received their GED.
- Suicide victims were most often never married (36.4%) and less frequently married, in a civil union or domestic partnership (30.2%), divorced (20.5%), or widowed (6.4%).
- Military veterans accounted for 18.8% of adult suicide victims.

## Section II

**Table 13** and **Figure 11** show the suicide rates in 2023 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 25 counties was too small to support a rate calculation. Furthermore, county suicide rates are influenced by small populations with 11 of the 20 counties with the highest suicide rates having less than 50,000 residents in 2023.

### Key Findings:

- For the 75 counties where the number of suicides was sufficient to support a rate calculation, the average suicide rate by North Carolina county of residence was 19.3 deaths per 100,000 with a range from 0.0 to 44.1 deaths per 100,000.

**Table 8: Demographics of suicide victims (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina, 2023**

	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	344	21.6	7.0	6.2 - 7.7
Male	1,249	78.4	26.8	25.3 - 28.3
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
White*	1,250	78.5	20.9	19.8 - 22.1
Black*	194	12.2	9.7	8.3 - 11.0
Asian*	32	2.0	9.4	6.1 - 12.6
American Indian*	15	0.9	15.3	7.5 - 23.0
Hispanic	96	6.0	9.6	7.7 - 11.5
Other/Unknown	6	0.4	-	-
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
10-14	14	0.88	2.1	1.0 - 3.2
15 - 19	80	5.02	11.1	8.6 - 13.5
20 - 24	152	9.54	20.9	17.6 - 24.2
25 - 34	241	15.13	16.5	14.4 - 18.6
35 - 44	252	15.82	18.2	16.0 - 20.5
45 - 54	269	16.89	19.9	17.5 - 22.3
55 - 64	248	15.57	18.1	15.8 - 20.3
65 - 74	169	10.61	14.9	12.7 - 17.2
75 - 84	119	7.47	19.9	16.3 - 23.5
≥85	49	3.08	27.6	19.9 - 35.3
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>1,593</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>15.8 - 17.4</b>

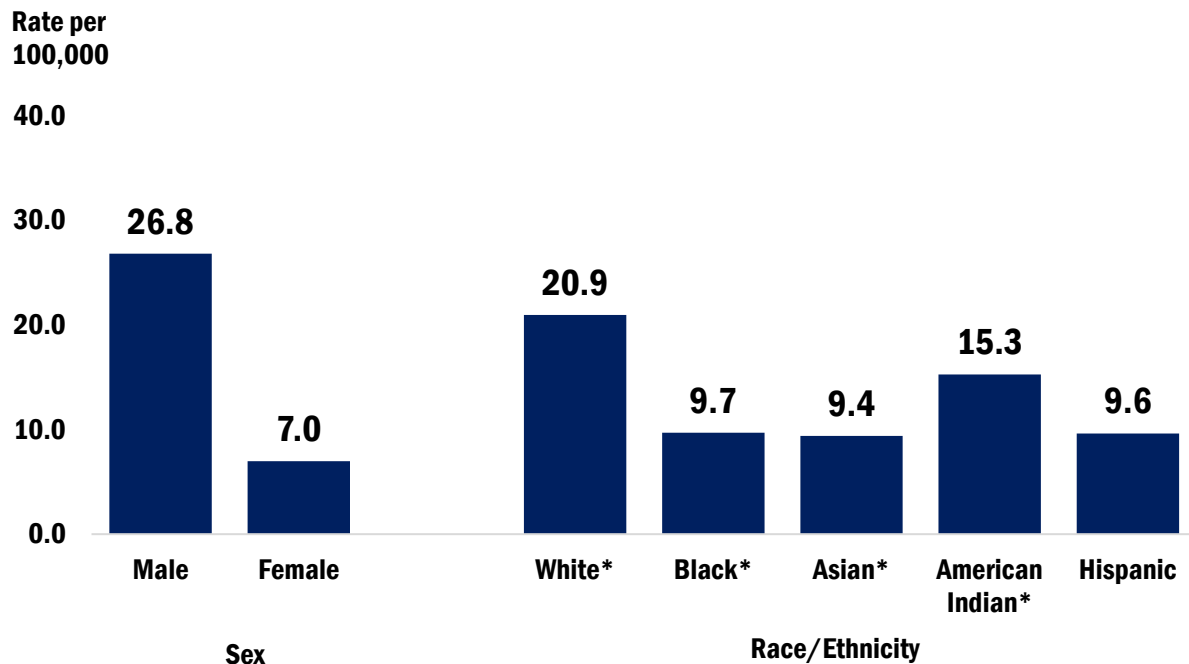
Sex, race/ethnicity and age-specific crude rates per 100,000 NC population

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.

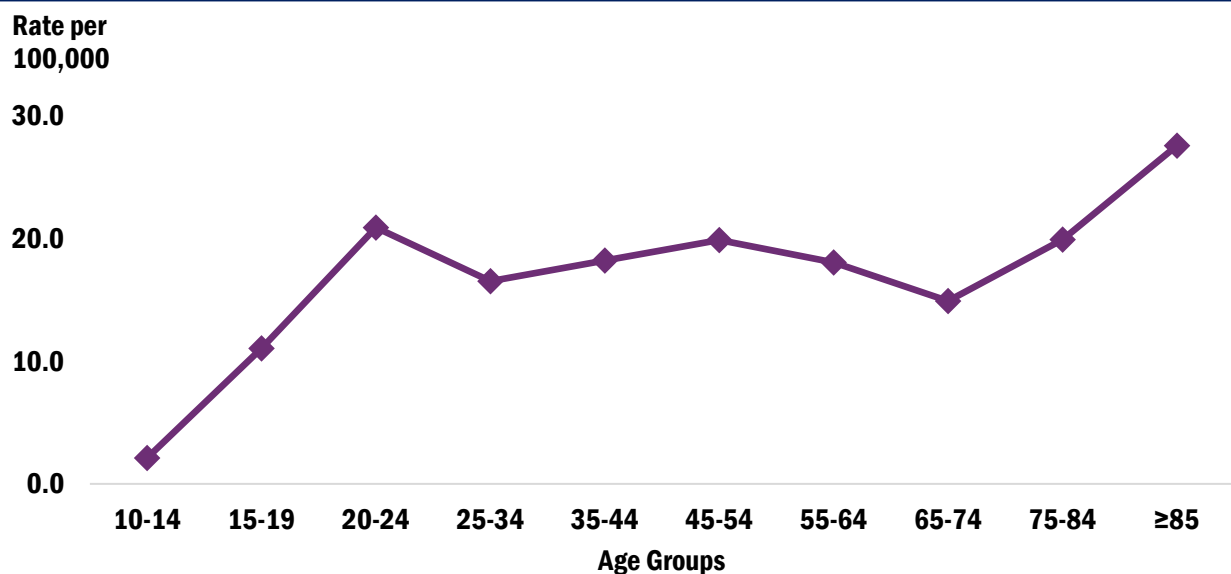
**Figure 8: Crude suicide rates (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by sex and race/ethnicity, 2023**



\* 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, 2023**



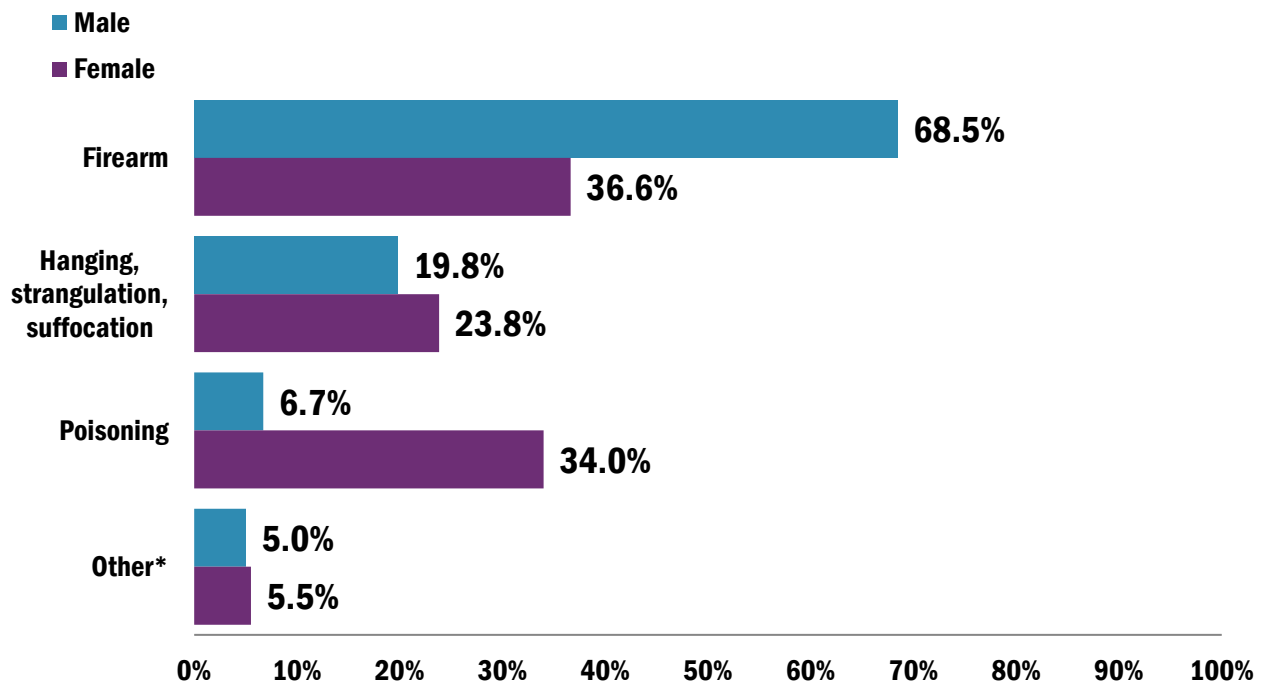
Note: The number of suicide deaths for all ages was high enough to support a rate calculation.

## Section II

**Table 9: Method of death for suicide victims (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by sex, 2023**

Method of Death	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm	855	68.5	126	36.6	981	61.6
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	247	19.8	82	23.8	329	20.7
Poisoning	84	6.7	117	34.0	201	12.6
Sharp instrument	20	1.6	5	1.5	25	1.6
Fall	16	1.3	2	0.6	18	1.1
Drowning	2	0.2	3	0.9	5	0.3
Motor vehicle including buses, motorcycles	12	1.0	5	1.5	17	1.1
Fire or burns	4	0.3	4	1.2	8	0.5
Other	9	0.7	0	0.0	9	0.6
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,593</b>	<b>100</b>

**Figure 10: Method of death for suicide victims (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by sex, 2023**



\* 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, 2023**

Firearm Type*	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Handgun	689	80.5	111	88.1	800	81.5
Shotgun	98	11.4	7	5.6	105	10.7
Rifle	50	5.8	4	3.2	54	5.5
Other/Unknown	19	2.2	4	3.2	23	2.3
<b>Total Firearms Involved in Suicides</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Multiple firearm types were reported in one firearm suicide death; therefore, the total number of firearms exceeds the number of suicide firearm deaths (n=981).

**Table 11: Fatal substances in suicide poisoning deaths (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by sex, 2023**

Category of Fatal Substance*	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Opiate**	21	25.0	36	30.8	57	28.4
Antidepressant	23	27.4	42	35.9	65	32.3
Benzodiazepines	15	17.9	23	19.7	38	18.9
Anticonvulsants	8	9.52	27	23.08	35	17.41
Alcohol	9	10.7	11	9.4	20	10.0
Carbon monoxide	9	10.7	2	1.7	11	5.5
Antipsychotics	7	8.33	7	5.98	14	6.97
Muscle relaxant	4	4.76	9	7.69	13	6.47
Barbiturates	2	2.4	2	1.7	4	2.0
Amphetamine	5	6.0	5	4.3	10	5.0
Cocaine	4	4.8	5	4.3	9	4.5
Other poison***	27	32.1	41	35.0	68	33.8

\* Category of substance that directly caused or was suspected to cause suicide poisoning. There were 91 suicide poisonings (45.3%) where more than one substance caused the death in 2023, with as many as five fatal substances present in a given case (1.5%).

\*\* 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, 2023**

	Number	%
<b>Education Level</b>		
8th grade or less	38	2.5
9th - 12th grade	163	10.6
High school or GED graduate	585	38.1
Some college credit	258	16.8
Associates degree	154	10.0
Bachelor's degree	234	15.2
Master's degree	74	4.8
Doctorate degree	19	1.2
Unknown	10	0.7
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Never married	558	36.4
Married*	463	30.2
Divorced	315	20.5
Married, but separated	91	5.9
Widowed	98	6.4
Single, not otherwise specified	0	0.0
Unknown	10	0.7
<b>Veteran Status</b>		
Non-veteran	1,234	80.4
Veteran	288	18.8
Unknown	13	0.9

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

**Table 13: Suicides (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by county of residence, 2023**

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Alamance	20	12.6	Franklin	12	17.6	Pamlico	2	*
Alexander	6	18.3	Gaston	34	16.3	Pasquotank	6	16.3
Alleghany	3	*	Gates	3	*	Pender	8	13.2
Anson	2	*	Graham	4	*	Perquimans	3	*
<b>Ashe</b>	11	44.1	<b>Granville</b>	16	28.8	Person	8	22.6
Avery	4	*	Greene	0	0.0	Pitt	25	16.1
Beaufort	5	12.5	Guilford	72	14.8	Polk	4	*
Bertie	2	*	<b>Halifax</b>	10	23.8	Randolph	24	18.4
Bladen	1	*	Harnett	18	14.8	Richmond	8	21.6
Brunswick	25	16.8	Haywood	9	15.7	Robeson	14	13.9
Buncombe	52	20.8	<b>Henderson</b>	26	24.1	Rockingham	10	12.1
Burke	17	21.3	Hertford	2	*	Rowan	28	20.9
Cabarrus	33	15.8	Hoke	5	10.9	Rutherford	6	10.2
<b>Caldwell</b>	20	27.6	Hyde	1	*	Sampson	12	23.2
Camden	1	*	<b>Iredell</b>	43	24.3	Scotland	5	16.6
<b>Carteret</b>	18	28.1	Jackson	5	12.3	Stanly	13	22.4
<b>Caswell</b>	6	29.2	Johnston	23	10.9	<b>Stokes</b>	11	26.8
Catawba	28	19.1	Jones	1	*	Surry	10	15.7
Chatham	6	8.1	Lee	7	11.9	Swain	4	*
<b>Cherokee</b>	12	43.7	Lenoir	11	22.7	<b>Transylvania</b>	8	26.0
Chowan	1	*	Lincoln	11	12.9	Tyrrell	0	0.0
Clay	1	*	McDowell	8	19.7	Union	26	11.5
<b>Cleveland</b>	22	24.6	<b>Macon</b>	10	28.8	Vance	4	*
Columbus	5	11.2	Madison	3	*	Wake	125	11.9
<b>Craven</b>	24	26.5	Martin	2	*	Warren	1	*
<b>Cumberland</b>	84	29.0	Mecklenburg	115	11.3	Washington	1	*
<b>Currituck</b>	8	28.7	Mitchell	1	*	Watauga	4	*
Dare	8	23.0	<b>Montgomery</b>	7	30.0	Wayne	20	19.4
Davidson	34	21.9	<b>Moore</b>	24	25.5	Wilkes	13	21.9
Davie	5	12.5	Nash	15	17.6	Wilson	16	23.0
Duplin	10	23.2	New Hanover	34	15.7	<b>Yadkin</b>	10	29.7
Durham	32	10.7	Northampton	2	*	<b>Yancey</b>	5	29.2
Edgecombe	7	16.3	Onslow	39	21.4			
Forsyth	52	15.0	Orange	21	15.3			

Crude rate per 100,000 population in NC county

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

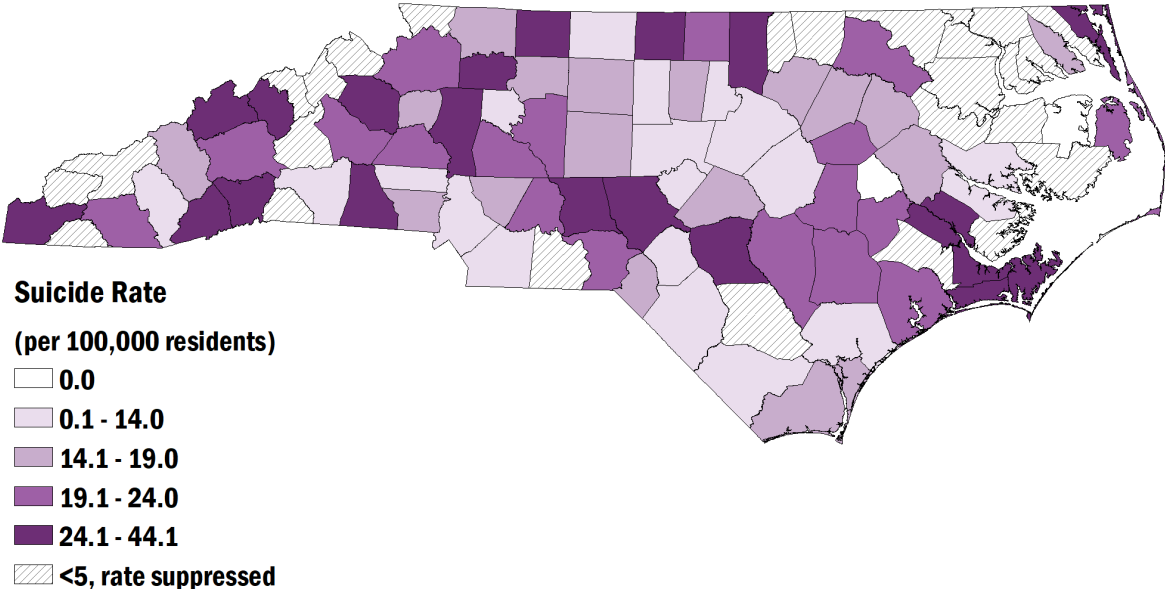
Top 20 counties with the highest crude overall violent death rates are shown in bold.



**Section II**

**Figure 11: Map of suicide rates (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by county of residence, 2023**

**North Carolina 2023 suicide rate: 16.6 deaths per 100,000 residents**



## ***Race/Ethnicity and Sex of Suicide Victims***

**Table 14** and **Figure 12** describe suicide victims in North Carolina in 2023 by race and sex.

### **Key Findings:**

- Of all suicide victims, 78.5% were NH White and 78.4% were male, as shown in **Table 8**.
- Most male suicide victims were NH White (78.3%) as compared to NH Black (12.4%). Similarly, most female suicide victims were NH White (79.1%) as compared to NH Black (11.3%).
- For males, the suicide rate per 100,000 from highest to lowest by race/ethnicity was NH White males (33.5), NH American Indian males (27.5), NH Black males (16.7), Hispanic males (14.6), and NH Asian males (14.5).
- For females, the suicide rate per 100,000 from highest to lowest by race/ethnicity was NH White females (8.9), NH Asian females (4.6), Hispanic females (4.3), and NH Black females (3.6). There was not enough data to calculate a rate for NH American Indian females.
- The suicide rate was higher for males than for females of the same race by 4.6 times for NH Blacks, 3.8 times for NH Whites, 3.4 times for Hispanics, and 3.2 times for NH Asians.

## ***Age and Sex of Suicide Victims***

**Table 15** portrays the suicide victims in North Carolina in 2023 by age group and sex. **Figure 13** plots the 2023 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: 35 to 44 and 45 to 54 (16.1%), 25 to 34 (15.3%), and 55 to 64 (14.7%).
- Similarly, among females most suicide victims were ages 25 to 64 with a rank order by age group of: 45 to 54 (19.8%), 55 to 64 (18.6%), 35 to 44 (14.8%), 25 to 34 (14.5%)
- For males, the suicide rate peaked among those ages 85 and older (69.3 per 100,000).
- The suicide rate by age group for females peaked at 45 to 54 (9.8 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 (69.3 versus 4.4 per 100,000, respectively).

## Section II

**Table 14: Race of suicide victims (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by sex, 2023**

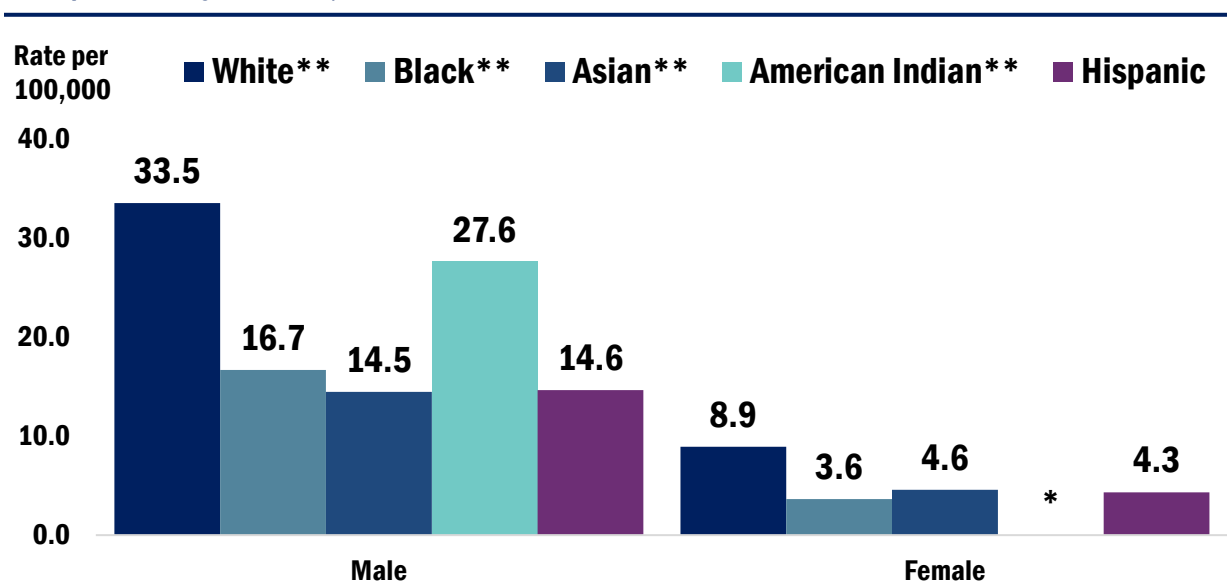
Race/Ethnicity	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
White**	978	78.3	33.5	272	79.1	8.9
Black**	155	12.4	16.7	39	11.3	3.6
Asian**	24	1.9	14.5	8	2.3	4.6
American Indian**	13	1.0	27.6	2	0.6	*
Hispanic	75	6.0	14.6	21	6.1	4.3
Other/Unknown	4	0.3	-	2	0.6	-
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7.9</b>

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

\* The number of female American Indian suicide deaths was not 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, 2023**



\* The number of female American Indian suicide deaths was not high enough to support a rate calculation.

\*\* Non-Hispanic

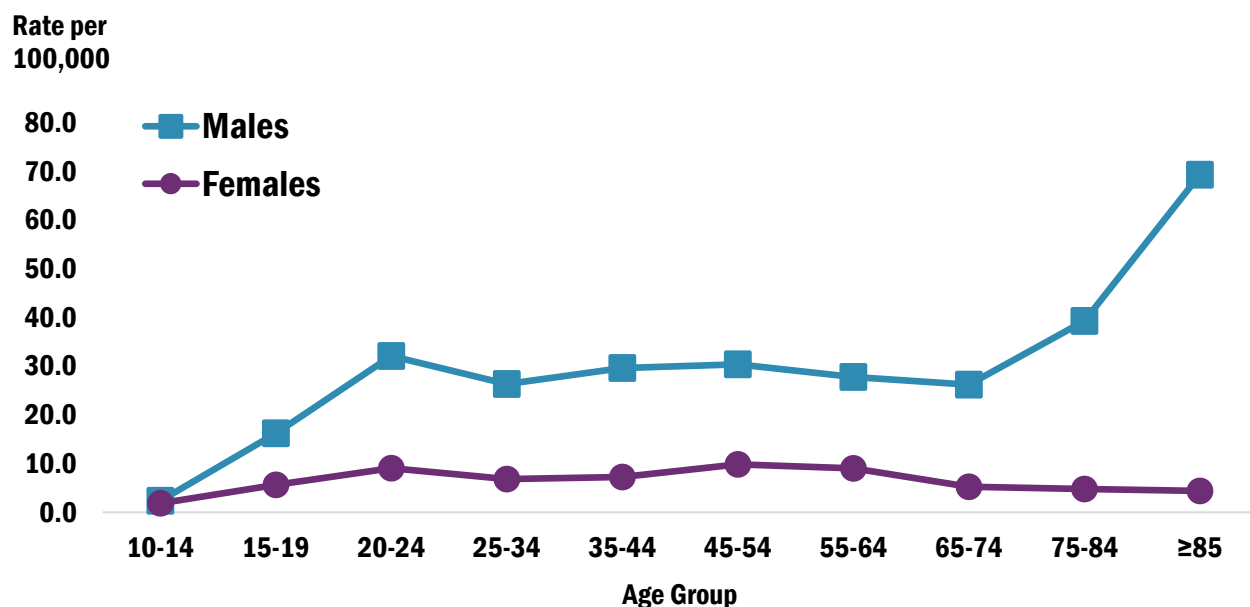
**Table 15: Age group of suicide victims (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by sex, 2023**

Age Group (Years)	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
10-14	8	0.6	2.4	6	1.7	1.8
15-19	60	4.8	16.2	20	5.8	5.7
20-24	120	9.6	32.1	32	9.3	9.1
25-34	191	15.3	26.3	50	14.5	6.8
35-44	201	16.1	29.6	51	14.8	7.2
45-54	201	16.1	30.4	68	19.8	9.8
55-64	184	14.7	27.8	64	18.6	9.0
65-74	137	11.0	26.2	32	9.3	5.2
75-84	103	8.2	39.3	16	4.7	4.8
≥85	44	3.5	69.3	5	1.5	4.4
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7.0</b>

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, 2023**



**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 2023, 97.2% 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 2023. **Table 17** lists the mental health problem at the time of the suicide for both males and females in 2023.

#### **Key Findings:**

- The most common circumstances of suicide for male victims were ever being treated for mental illness (60.2%), current mental health problem (59.6%), experienced a recent crisis (42.3%), intimate partner problem (28.4%), current depressed mood (28.0%), and current treatment for mental health illness (27.2%).
- The most common circumstances of suicide for female victims were ever being treated for mental illness (79.0%), current mental health problem (78.7%), current treatment for mental illness (51.9%), experienced a recent crisis (35.9%), and current depressed mood (29.2%), and intimate partner problem (25.7%).
- A suicide note was left by 27.3% of male victims and 40.5% of female victims. Intent to commit suicide was disclosed by 25.8% of male victims and 25.4% of female victims. A total of 14.3% of male victims and 36.4% of female victims reported a history of suicide attempts, while 41.5% of male victims and 51.9% of female victims had a history of suicidal thoughts.

A substance problem other than alcohol was a circumstance of suicide for 18.2% of males and 21.6% of females. Other common circumstances of suicide for males and females, respectively, were alcohol problem (21.1% and 15.2%), physical health problem (21.0% and 19.5%), job problem (8.7% and 6.7%), recent criminal-related legal problem (8.4% and 1.8%), and financial problem (5.9% and 5.0%).

At the time of suicide, the most common mental health problems were depression or dysthymia (83.0%), anxiety disorder (17.3%), bipolar disorder (11.5%), post-traumatic stress disorder (4.3%), and schizophrenia (3.7%).

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 2023 is shown by sex in **Table 18** and by age and race/ethnicity in **Table 19**.

#### **Key Findings:**

- Alcohol was tested in 88.6% of all suicides. Testing was relatively infrequent for other substances. Of those victims tested, alcohol was present in 25.4% of all suicide victims, 26.1% of male victims and 22.7% of female victims.
- Ages 20 to 64 had the highest percentage of suicide victims with alcohol present, with a range from 29.4% to 41.3% of those age groups testing positive for alcohol. Alcohol was present in those victims tested by race as follows: Hispanics (39.5%), NH American Indians (33.3%), NH Whites (28.8%), NH Blacks (22.9%), and NH Asians (21.4%).

**Table 20** lists the location of the injury resulting in death for suicide victims in North Carolina in 2023.

**Key Findings:**

- The majority (76.9%) of injuries resulting in death occurred in a house or home.

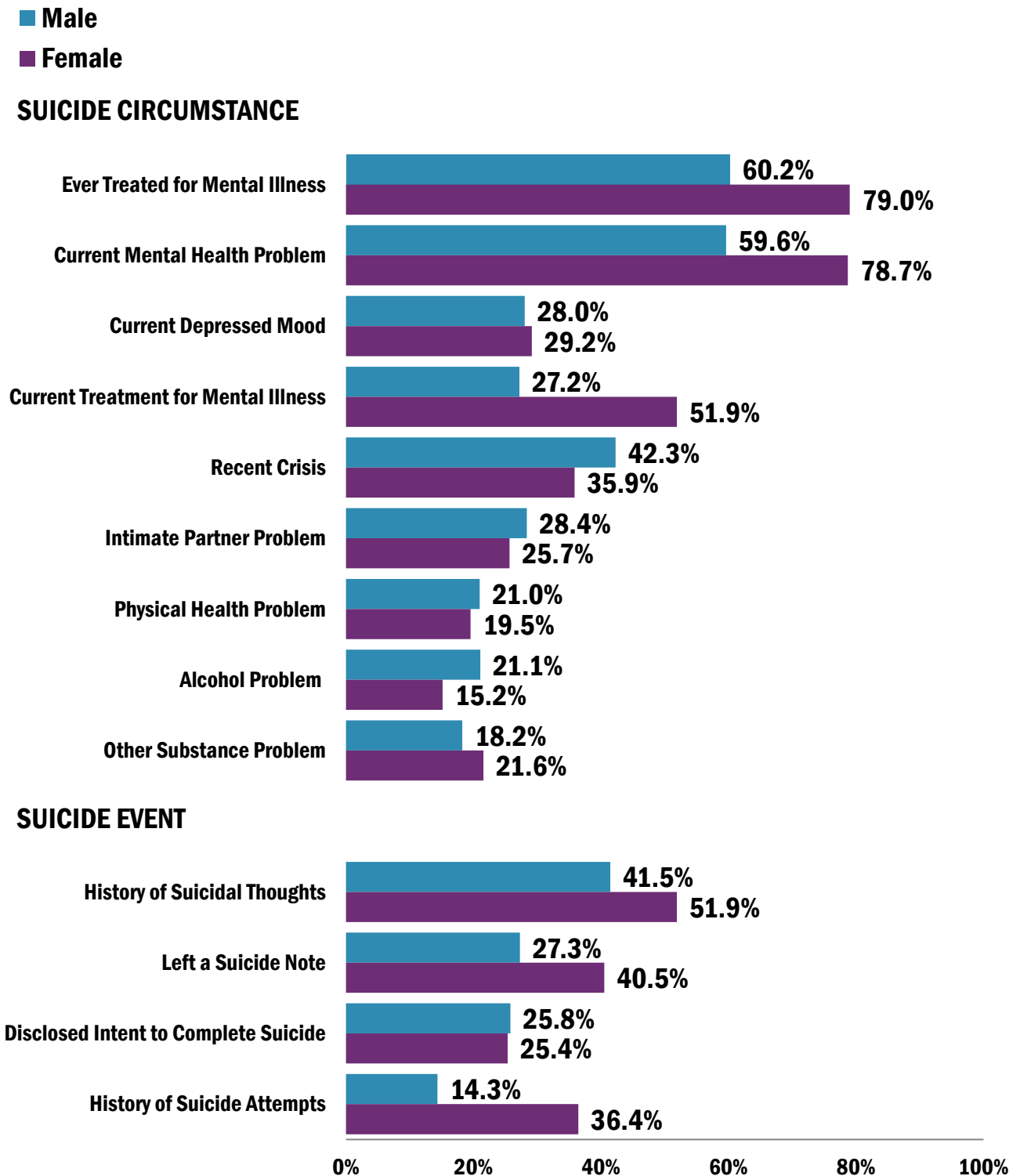
**Table 16: Circumstances of suicide victims (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by Sex, 2023**

Circumstance*	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Mental Health</b>						
Ever treated-mental health	726	60.2	271	79.0	997	64.4
Current mental health problem	719	59.6	270	78.7	989	63.9
Current depressed mood	338	28.0	100	29.2	438	28.3
Current treatment MH	328	27.2	178	51.9	506	32.7
<b>Substance Misuse/Addiction</b>						
Alcohol problem	254	21.1	52	15.2	306	19.8
Other substance problem	220	18.2	74	21.6	294	19.0
Other addiction problem	2	0.2	1	0.3	3	0.2
<b>Interpersonal</b>						
Intimate partner problem	342	28.4	88	25.7	430	27.8
Other relationship problem	31	2.6	17	5.0	48	3.1
Perpetrator of intimate partner violence	68	5.6	7	2.0	75	4.8
Death of family/friend	80	6.6	31	9.0	111	7.2
Suicide death of family/friend in past 5 years	31	2.6	5	1.5	36	2.3
<b>Life Stressor</b>						
Physical health problem	253	21.0	67	19.5	320	20.7
Job problem	105	8.7	23	6.7	128	8.3
Criminal/legal problem	101	8.4	6	1.8	107	6.9
Financial problem	71	5.9	17	5.0	88	5.7
Legal problem, other	57	4.7	14	4.1	71	4.6
School problem	14	1.2	11	3.2	25	1.6
Recent crisis	510	42.3	123	35.9	633	40.87
<b>Suicide Event</b>						
Left a suicide note	329	27.3	139	40.5	468	30.2
Suicide disclosed	311	25.8	87	25.4	398	25.7
History of suicide attempt	173	14.3	125	36.4	298	19.2
History of suicidal thoughts	500	41.5	178	51.9	678	43.8

\* Circumstances were available for 96.6% (1,206/1,249) of male victims, 99.7% (343/344) of female victims, and 97.2% (1,549/1,593) of all suicide victims. The percentage of circumstances for suicide victims is based on the number of cases reporting circumstances in North Carolina in 2023.

## Section II

**Figure 14: Circumstances of suicide victims (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina by Sex, 2023**



**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, 2023**

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Current Mental Health Problem *</b>						
Depression / Dysthymia	582	80.9	239	88.5	821	83.0
Bipolar Disorder	63	8.8	51	18.9	114	11.5
Schizophrenia	29	4.0	8	3.0	37	3.7
Anxiety Disorder	114	15.9	57	21.1	171	17.3
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	34	4.7	9	3.3	43	4.3
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or Hyper-Reactivity Disorder	18	2.5	6	2.2	24	2.4
Eating Disorder	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other/Unknown	89	12.4	25	9.3	114	11.5

\* For 719 males, 270 females, and 989 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, 2023**

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Alcohol</b>						
Tested with results	1,104	88.4	308	89.5	1,412	88.6
Alcohol present in those tested	326	26.1	78	22.7	404	25.4
<b>Amphetamines</b>						
Tested with results	91	7.3	95	27.6	186	11.7
Amphetamines present in those tested	15	1.2	10	2.9	25	1.6
<b>Antidepressant</b>						
Tested with results	29	2.3	50	14.5	79	5.0
Antidepressant present in those tested	29	2.3	49	14.2	78	4.9
<b>Cocaine</b>						
Tested with results	90	7.2	95	27.6	185	11.6
Cocaine present in those tested	11	0.9	5	1.5	16	1.0
<b>Opiates</b>						
Tested with results	92	7.4	101	29.4	193	12.1
Opiates present in those tested	27	2.2	40	11.6	67	4.2
<b>Other substances*</b>						
Tested with results	219	2.9	225	10.9	444	4.6
Other drugs present in those tested	78	1.0	101	4.9	179	1.9

\* 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, 2023**

	Alcohol tested with results		Alcohol present in those tested	
	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
10-14	12	85.7	2	16.7
15 - 19	71	88.8	5	7.0
20 - 24	136	89.5	40	29.4
25 - 34	206	85.5	85	41.3
35 - 44	226	89.7	71	31.4
45 - 54	243	90.3	83	34.2
55 - 64	221	89.1	82	37.1
65 - 74	147	87.0	27	18.4
75 - 84	104	87.4	7	6.7
≥85	46	93.9	2	4.3
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
White*	1,099	87.9	316	28.8
Black*	179	92.3	41	22.9
Asian*	28	87.5	6	21.4
American Indian*	15	100.0	5	33.3
Hispanic	86	89.6	34	39.5
Other/Unknown	5	83.3	2	40.0

\*Non-Hispanic

**Table 20: Injury location for suicide victims (ages 10 or older) in North Carolina, 2023**

	Number	%
<b>Injury Location</b>		
House/Home	1,225	76.9
Motor vehicle (excluding school bus and public transportation)	111	7.0
Natural area (e.g., field, river, beach, woods)	66	4.1
Hotel/motel	32	2.0
Jail, prison, detention facility	17	1.1
Park, playground, public use area	10	0.6
Other commercial establishment (e.g., grocery store, retail outlet, laundromat)	10	0.6
Street/road, sidewalk, alley	7	0.4
Parking lot/public parking garage	15	0.9
Highway/freeway	11	0.7
Hospital or medical facility	3	0.2
Synagogue, church, temple	2	0.1
Other specified*	43	2.7
Other/Unknown	41	2.6
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>1,593</b>	<b>100</b>

\*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 2023 for North Carolina residents by demographics of sex, race/ethnicity, and age. The homicide rate in 2023 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 2023, 886 North Carolinians (8.2 per 100,000) were victims of homicide.
- Males were 4.1 times as likely to be victims of a homicide as females (13.3 versus 3.2 per 100,000, respectively).
- NH American Indians (32.3 per 100,000) had higher homicide rates than NH Blacks (24.2 per 100,000), Hispanics (6.1 per 100,000), NH Asians (4.1 per 100,000), and NH Whites (3.1 per 100,000).
- Homicide rates per 100,000 were highest for adults ages 20 to 24 years (16.6 per 100,000) and ages 25 to 34 years (15.4 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 (13.3 per 100,000).

The method of death for homicide victims in North Carolina in 2023 is shown in **Table 22** and **Figure 17**. The type of firearm involved in homicide firearm deaths in North Carolina in 2023 is listed in **Table 23**.

#### **Key Findings:**

- The leading methods of homicide were firearm (80.1%), sharp instrument (8.0%), personal weapons (4.3%), blunt instrument (3.2%), and hanging, strangulation, and suffocation (1.2%).
- Most male and female homicide victims died by firearm (82.2% and 72.1% respectively), or sharp instrument (8.4% and 6.7% respectively).
- Considering only homicide firearm deaths, a handgun was the most common firearm used (75.6%).

**Table 24** describes adult homicide victims (18 years or older) in North Carolina in 2023 by education level, marital status and veteran status.

#### **Key Findings:**

- Among adult homicide victims, 48.4% graduated high school or received their GED, 21.7% completed at least some college credit, and 29.3% completed up to 12<sup>th</sup> grade but did not graduate.
- About two thirds of homicide victims were never married (67.3%) as compared to married, civil union, or domestic partnership (14.7%), divorced (11.7%), widowed (4.3%), or married but separated (1.5%).
- Military veterans accounted for 5.1% of adult homicide victims.

**Table 25** and **Figure 18** display the homicide rates in 2023 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 40 counties was too small to support a rate calculation. Eleven of the 20 counties with the highest rates had less than 50,000 residents in 2023.

**Key Findings:**

- For the 60 counties where the number of homicides was sufficient to support a rate calculation, the average homicide rate by North Carolina County of residence was 10.6 deaths per 100,000 with a range from 0.0 to 53.2 deaths per 100,000.

**Table 21: Demographics of homicide victims in North Carolina, 2023**

	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	179	20.2	3.2	2.8 - 3.7
Male	707	79.8	13.3	12.4 - 14.3
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
White*	202	22.8	3.1	2.6 - 3.5
Black*	550	62.1	24.2	22.2 - 26.2
Asian*	16	1.8	4.1	2.1 - 6.1
American Indian*	36	4.1	32.3	21.7 - 42.8
Hispanic	76	8.6	6.1	4.8 - 7.5
Other/Unknown	6	0.7	-	-
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
< 1	16	1.8	13.3	6.8 - 19.8
1-4	12	1.4	2.5	1.1 - 3.9
5-9	6	0.7	0.9	0.2 - 1.7
10-14	14	1.6	2.1	1.0 - 3.2
15-19	105	11.9	14.5	11.7 - 17.3
20-24	121	13.7	16.6	13.7 - 19.6
25-34	224	25.3	15.4	13.4 - 17.4
35-44	166	18.7	12.0	10.2 - 13.8
45-54	94	10.6	6.9	5.5 - 8.4
55-64	71	8.0	5.2	4.0 - 6.4
65-74	37	4.2	3.3	2.2 - 4.3
75-84	15	1.7	2.5	1.2 - 3.8
≥85	5	0.6	2.8	0.3 - 5.3
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>7.6 - 8.7</b>

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

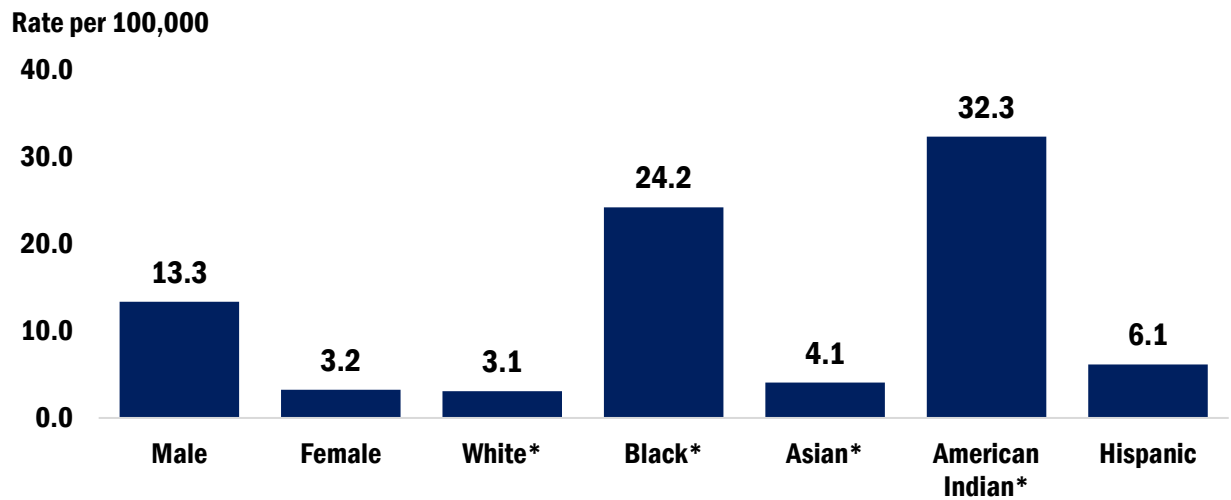
95% CI = 95 % confidence interval for the rate

\* Non-Hispanic

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

### Section III

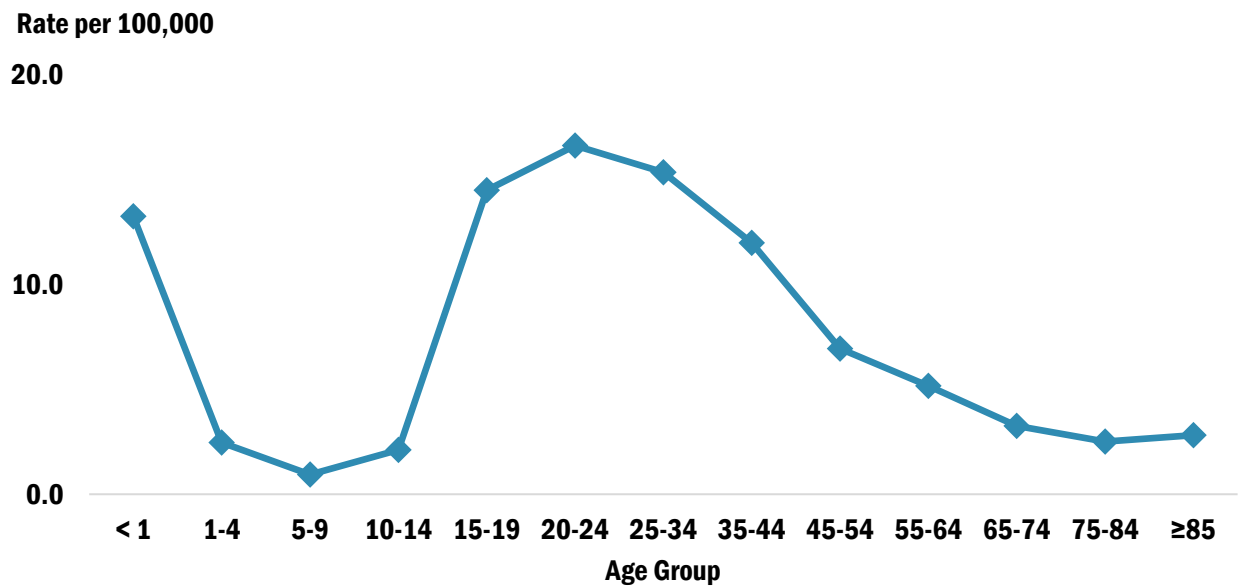
**Figure 15: Crude homicide rates in North Carolina by sex and race/ethnicity, 2023**



\* 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, 2023**



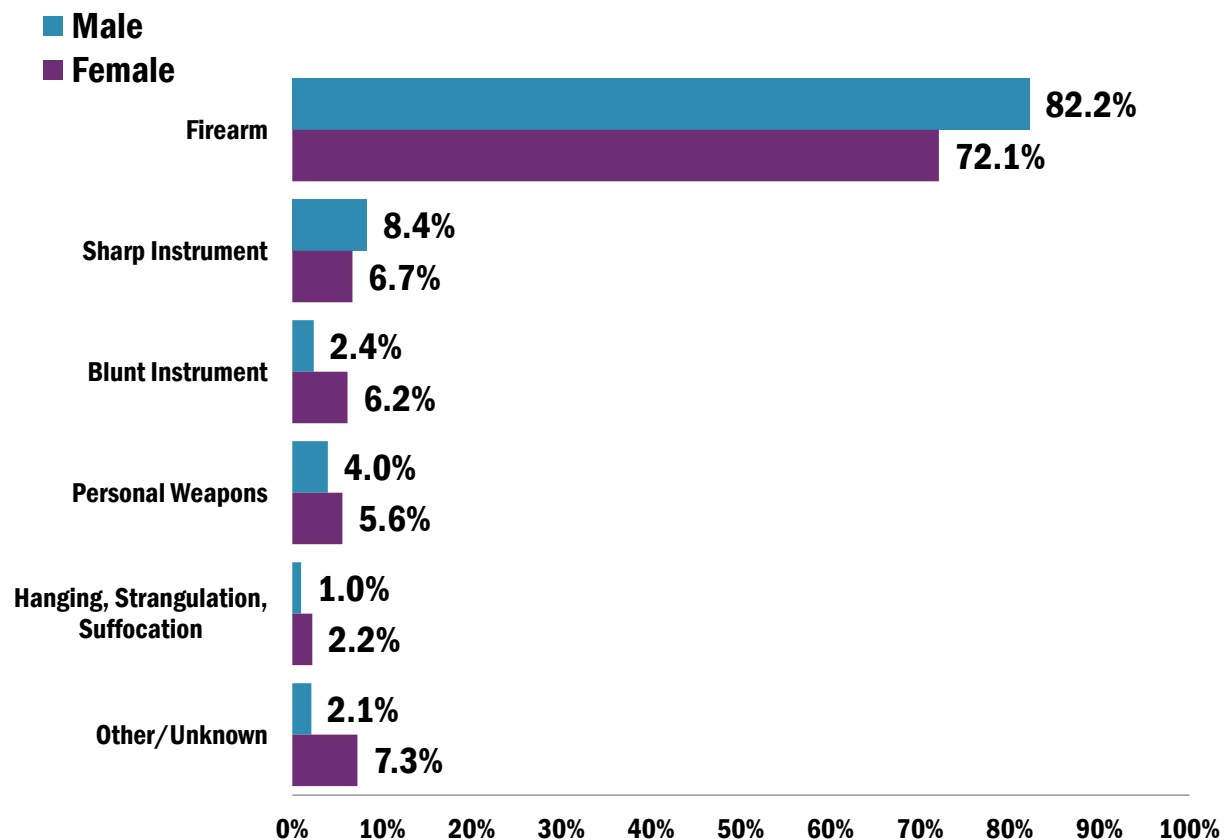
**Note:** The number of homicide deaths for all ages was high enough to support a rate calculation.

**Table 22: Method of death for homicide victims in North Carolina by sex, 2023**

Method of Death	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm	581	82.2	129	72.1	710	80.1
Sharp instrument	59	8.4	12	6.7	71	8.0
Blunt instrument	17	2.4	11	6.2	28	3.2
Personal weapons	28	4.0	10	5.6	38	4.3
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	7	1.0	4	2.2	11	1.2
Fire or burns	1	0.1	1	0.6	2	0.2
Intentional neglect	6	0.9	2	1.1	8	0.9
Other*/ Unknown	8	1.1	10	5.6	18	2.0
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>100</b>

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

**Figure 17: Method of death for homicide victims in North Carolina by sex, 2023**



## Section III

**Table 23: Type of firearm involved in homicide firearm deaths in North Carolina by Sex, 2023**

Firearm Type*	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Handgun	446	75.6	89	67.9	535	74.2
Shotgun	9	1.5	4	3.1	13	1.8
Rifle	54	9.2	22	16.8	76	10.5
Other/Unknown	81	13.7	16	12.2	97	13.5
<b>Total Firearms Involved in Homicides</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Multiple firearm types were reported for nine male homicide deaths and two female homicide deaths; therefore, the total number of firearms exceeds the number of homicide firearm deaths (n=710).

**Table 24: Completed education, marital status and veteran status of adult homicide victims (age 18 or older) in North Carolina, 2023**

	Number	%
<b>Education Level</b>		
8th grade or less	32	4.0
9th – 12th Grade	200	25.3
High school or GED graduate	383	48.4
Some college credit	94	11.9
Associates degree	38	4.8
Bachelor’s degree	23	2.9
Master’s degree	11	1.4
Doctorate degree	6	0.8
Unknown	5	0.63
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Never married	533	67.3
Married*	116	14.7
Divorced	93	11.7
Married, but separated	12	1.5
Widowed	34	4.3
Unknown	4	0.5
<b>Veteran Status</b>		
Non-veteran	745	94.1
Veteran	40	5.1
Unknown	7	0.9

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

**Table 25: Homicides in North Carolina by county of residence, 2023**

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Alamance	7	3.9	Franklin	5	6.5	Pamlico	1	*
Alexander	1	*	Gaston	17	7.2	Pasquotank	3	*
Alleghany	0	0.0	Gates	0	0.0	Pender	4	*
Anson	4	*	Graham	0	0.0	Perquimans	2	*
Ashe	1	*	Granville	3	*	Person	3	*
Avery	1	*	Greene	3	*	Pitt	14	8.0
Beaufort	2	*	<b>Guilford</b>	86	15.6	Polk	1	*
<b>Bertie</b>	9	53.2	<b>Halifax</b>	8	16.9	Randolph	4	*
<b>Bladen</b>	10	33.9	Harnett	12	8.5	<b>Richmond</b>	11	26.0
Brunswick	5	3.1	Haywood	1	*	<b>Robeson</b>	50	42.6
Buncombe	16	5.8	Henderson	2	*	<b>Rockingham</b>	13	14.1
Burke	3	*	Hertford	4	*	Rowan	9	5.9
Cabarrus	7	2.9	<b>Hoke</b>	8	14.7	Rutherford	1	*
Caldwell	2	*	Hyde	0	0.0	<b>Sampson</b>	14	23.5
Camden	1	*	Iredell	6	3.0	<b>Scotland</b>	7	20.4
Carteret	4	*	Jackson	0	0.0	Stanly	1	*
Caswell	1	*	Johnston	6	2.5	<b>Stokes</b>	7	15.4
Catawba	5	3.0	Jones	0	0.0	Surry	6	8.4
Chatham	0	0.0	Lee	6	8.9	Swain	1	*
Cherokee	0	0.0	Lenoir	7	12.8	Transylvania	0	0.0
Chowan	2	*	Lincoln	2	*	Tyrrell	0	0.0
Clay	0	0.0	McDowell	2	*	Union	11	4.3
Cleveland	11	10.9	Macon	1	*	<b>Vance</b>	12	28.4
<b>Columbus</b>	11	21.9	Madison	0	0.0	Wake	52	4.4
Craven	11	10.7	Martin	2	*	Warren	3	*
<b>Cumberland</b>	65	19.2	Mecklenburg	86	7.4	<b>Washington</b>	5	46.7
Currituck	0	0.0	Mitchell	0	0.0	Watauga	1	*
Dare	1	*	Montgomery	4	*	<b>Wayne</b>	19	16.0
Davidson	8	4.6	Moore	4	*	Wilkes	3	*
Davie	2	*	Nash	12	12.4	Wilson	6	7.6
<b>Duplin</b>	9	18.2	New Hanover	13	5.4	Yadkin	1	*
<b>Durham</b>	49	14.5	Northampton	2	*	Yancey	0	0.0
<b>Edgecombe</b>	9	18.4	Onslow	8	3.7			
<b>Forsyth</b>	51	13.0	Orange	3	*			

Crude rate per 100,000 population in NC county

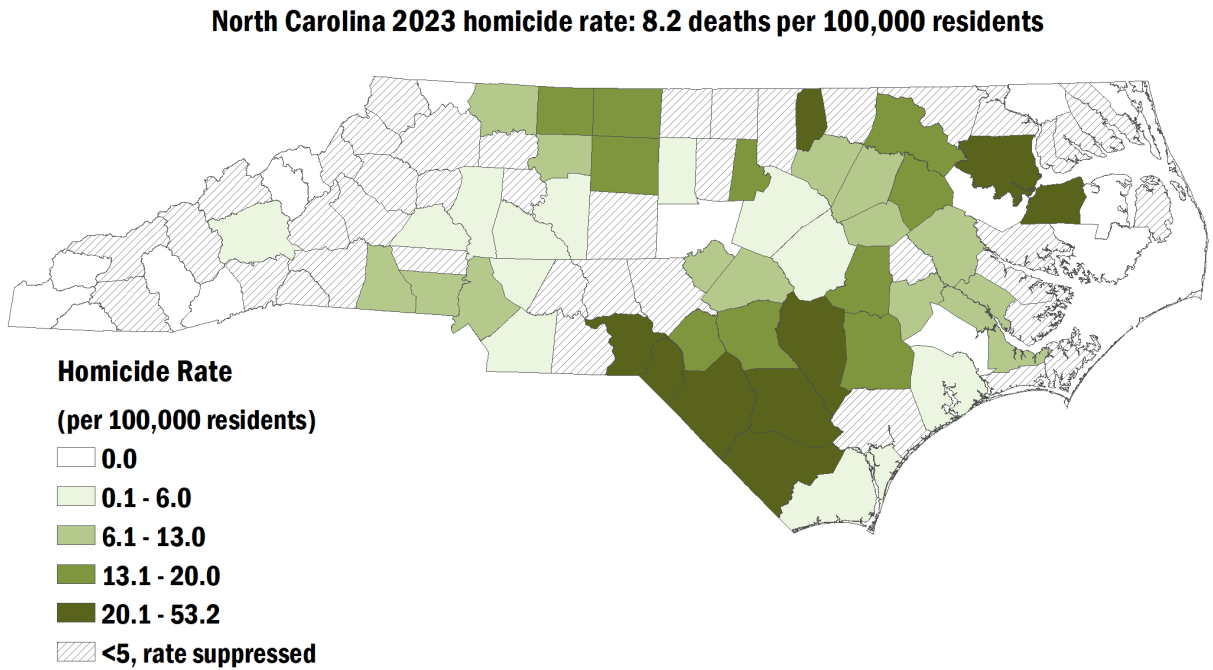
\* Number of deaths was too small to support rate calculation.

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



### Section III

**Figure 18: Map of homicide rates in North Carolina by county of residence, 2023**



## ***Race/Ethnicity and Sex of Homicide Victims***

Table 26 and Figure 19 describe the 2023 North Carolina homicide victims by sex and race/ethnicity.

### **Key Findings:**

- Of all homicide victims 79.8% were male, 62.1% were NH Black, and 22.8% were NH White as shown in **Table 19**.
- Most male homicide victims were NH Black (65.3%) as compared to NH White (20.2%), Hispanic (8.3%), NH American Indian (4.2%), and NH Asian (1.1%). Almost half of female homicide victims were NH Black (49.2%) followed by NH White (33.0%), Hispanic (9.5%), NH Asian (4.5%) and NH American Indian (3.4%).
- The homicide rates per 100,000 were 12.6 times higher for NH American Indian males (55.8 per 100,000) and 9.8 times higher for NH Black males (43.3 per 100,000), than NH White males (4.4 per 100,000).
- NH American Indian females were 5.9 times as likely (10.4 per 100,000) and NH Black females 4.1 times as likely (7.3 per 100,000) to be homicide victims compared to NH White females (1.8 per 100,000, respectively).
- The homicide rate was 5.9 times higher for NH Black males than for NH Black females. The homicide rate was 2.5 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 2023 are categorized in **Table 27**. The 2023 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 (27.2%), 35 to 44 (17.5%), 20 to 24 (14.4%), 15 to 19 (12.6%), and 45 to 54 (11.2%).
- Among females, most homicide victims were ages 15 to 54 years with a rank order by age group of: 35 to 44 (23.5%), 25 to 34 (17.9%), 20 to 24 (10.6%), 15 to 19 (8.9%), and 45 to 54 (8.4%).
- Males had higher homicide rates than females across ages 15 to 74 years. Females had higher rates than males across infants under one year old and ages 75 to 84 years.
- The homicide rate by age for males peaked among ages 20 to 24 years (27.3 per 100,000) and then declined to 1.9 per 100,000 for ages 75 to 84.

## Section III

**Table 26: Race/ethnicity of homicide victims in North Carolina by sex, 2023**

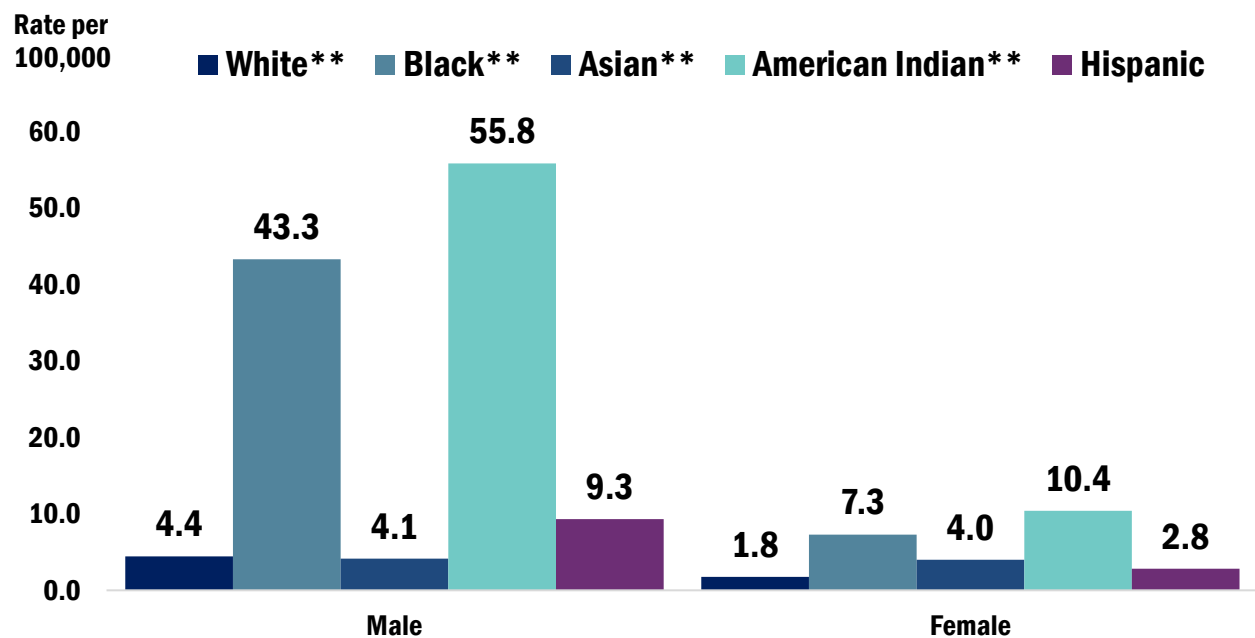
Race/Ethnicity	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
White**	143	20.2	4.4	59	33	1.8
Black**	462	65.3	43.3	88	49.2	7.3
Asian**	8	1.1	4.1	8	4.5	4.0
American Indian**	30	4.2	55.8	6	3.4	10.4
Hispanic	59	8.3	9.3	17	9.5	2.8
Other/Unknown	5	0.7	-	1	0.6	-
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3.3</b>

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

\*\* Non-Hispanic

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

**Figure 19: Crude homicide rates in North Carolina stratified by race/ethnicity and sex, 2023**



\*\* Non-Hispanic

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

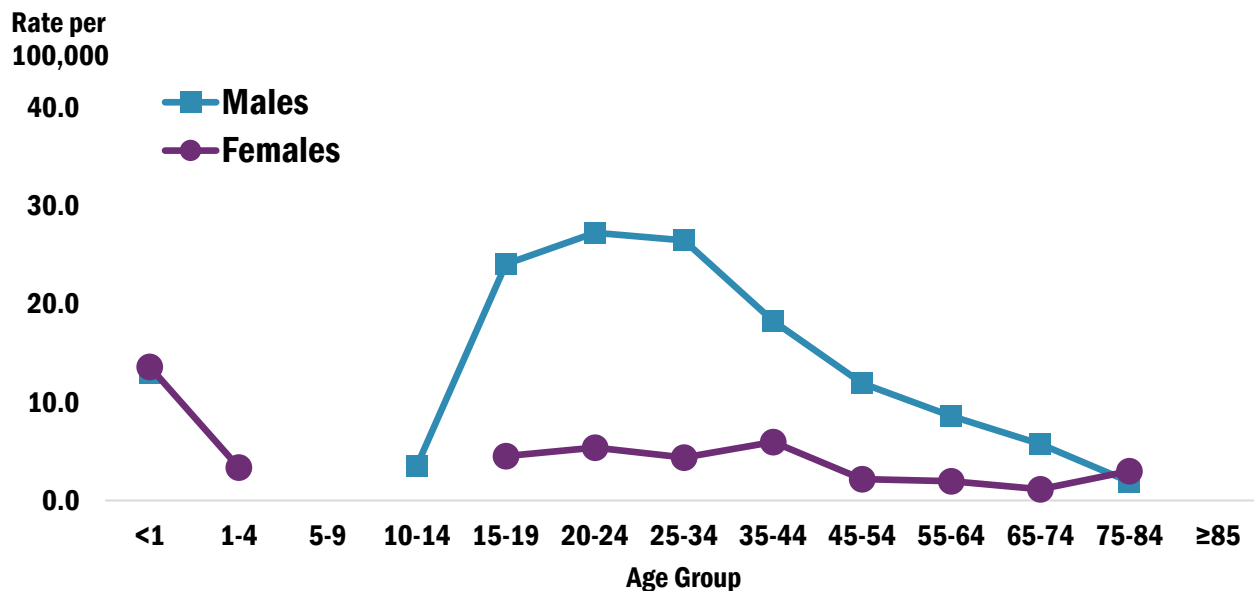
**Table 27: Age group of homicide victims in North Carolina by sex, 2023**

Age Group (Years)	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate	Number	%	Rate
<1	8	1.1	12.9	8	4.5	13.6
1-4	4	0.6	*	8	4.5	3.4
5-9	2	0.3	*	4	2.2	*
10-14	12	1.7	3.5	2	1.1	*
15-19	89	12.6	24.1	16	8.9	4.5
20-24	102	14.4	27.3	19	10.6	5.4
25-34	192	27.2	26.5	32	17.9	4.4
35-44	124	17.5	18.3	42	23.5	6.0
45-54	79	11.2	11.9	15	8.4	2.2
55-64	57	8.1	8.6	14	7.8	2.0
65-74	30	4.2	5.7	7	3.9	1.1
75-84	5	0.7	1.9	10	5.6	3.0
≥85	3	0.4	*	2	1.1	*
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3.2</b>

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

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

**Figure 20: Age-specific crude homicide rates in North Carolina stratified by age group and sex, 2023**



**Note:** The number of homicide deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for males ages 1-4, 5-9, and 85 and older, and for females ages 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 2023, 96.4% 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 2023. **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 2023.

#### **Key Findings:**

- The most common event circumstances surrounding homicides for males were an argument, abuse, or conflict (56.1%), precipitated by another serious crime (25.3%), drug involvement (22.9%), intimate partner violence-related (10.8%), and gang-related (9.3%).
- For females, the most common event circumstances surrounding homicides were intimate partner violence-related (42.7%), an argument, abuse or conflict (41.0%), precipitated by another serious crime (16.3%), drug involvement (12.4%), and gang-related (5.1%).
- The most common crimes that precipitated homicide for male victims were robbery (44.3%), burglary (16.4%), assault or homicide (15.9%), drug trade (15.4%), and motor vehicle theft (3.5%).
- The most common crimes that precipitated homicide for female victims included robbery (26.5%), burglary (20.6%), rape or sexual assault and assault or homicide (17.6%), and motor vehicle theft (14.7%).
- Common victim circumstances surrounding homicides were: the victim used a weapon (16.4%), justifiable self-defense (5.5%), and the victim was a bystander (1.8%).

**Table 30** summarizes the location of the injury resulting in death for homicide victims in North Carolina in 2023.

#### **Key Findings:**

- Most injuries resulting in death occurred in a house or home (57.3%).
- Other common locations where injuries resulting in death occurred were: a motor vehicle (13.7%), a street, road, sidewalk or alley (9.4%), other commercial establishments such as a grocery store or laundromat (5.4%), natural areas such as a field or woods (2.7%), a bar or nightclub (2.0%), a hotel/motel (1.8%), and a parking lot or public parking garage (1.8%).

**Table 28: Circumstances of homicides victims in North Carolina by sex, 2023**

Circumstance*	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Event</b>						
Other argument, abuse, conflict	379	56.1	73	41.0	452	52.9
Precipitated by another serious crime	171	25.3	29	16.3	200	23.4
Drug involvement	155	22.9	22	12.4	177	20.7
Intimate partner violence-related	73	10.8	76	42.7	149	17.5
Jealousy (lovers triangle)	17	2.5	5	2.8	22	2.6
Gang related	63	9.3	9	5.1	72	8.4
Brawl (mutual physical fight)	10	1.5	0	0.0	10	1.2
Mercy killing	2	0.3	0	0.0	2	0.2
<b>Victim</b>						
Victim used a weapon	131	19.4	9	5.1	140	16.4
Victim was a bystander	5	0.7	10	5.6	15	1.8
Justifiable self-defense	44	6.5	3	1.7	47	5.5
Intervener assisting crime victim	6	0.9	0	0.0	6	0.7

\* Circumstances were available for 95.6% (676/707) of male victims, 99.4% (178/179) of female victims and 96.4% (854/886) of all homicide victims. The percentage of circumstances for homicide victims is based on the number of cases reporting circumstances in North Carolina in 2023.

**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, 2023**

Crime*	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Robbery	89	44.3	9	26.5	98	41.7
Burglary	33	16.4	7	20.6	40	17.0
Drug trade	31	15.4	0	0.0	31	13.2
Motor vehicle theft	7	3.5	5	14.7	12	5.1
Assault, homicide	32	15.9	6	17.6	38	16.2
Rape, sexual assault	0	0.0	6	17.6	6	2.6
Arson	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Gambling	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.4
Other	8	4.0	1	2.9	9	3.8

\* For 171 males, 29 females and 200 total victims whose homicide was precipitated by another serious crime.

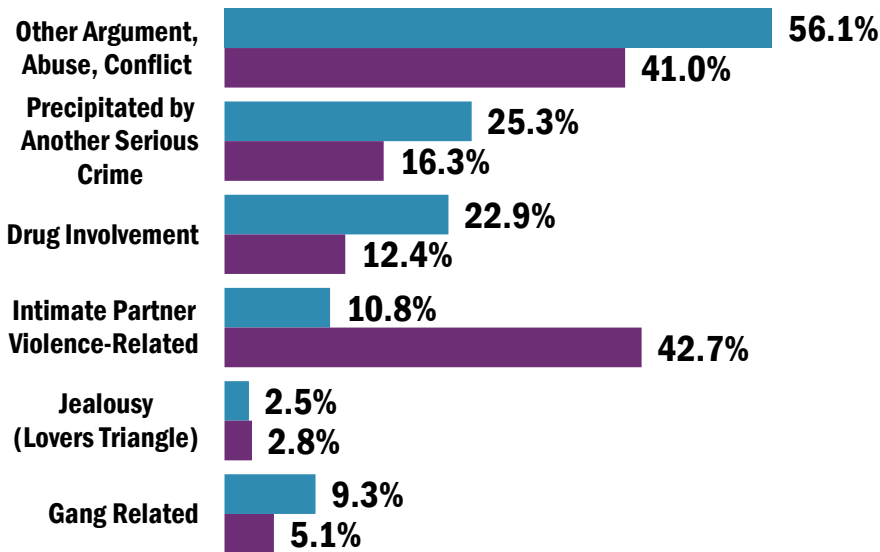
**Note:** Each homicide may be precipitated by more than one crime. Accordingly, the total number of crimes may exceed the total number of homicides, or responses may exceed 100%.

## Section III

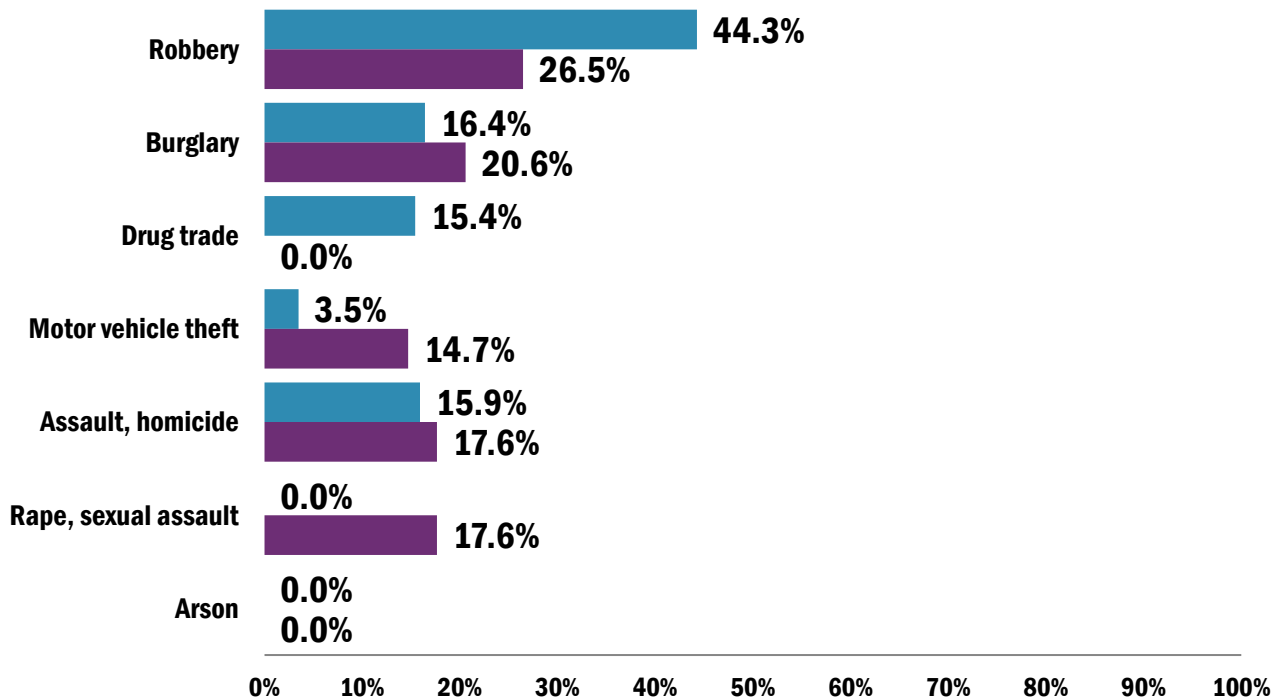
**Figure 21: Circumstances of homicide victims and crimes precipitating homicides in North Carolina by sex, 2023**

- 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, 2023**

	Number	%
<b>Injury Location</b>		
House/Home	508	57.3
Motor vehicle (excluding school bus and public transportation)	121	13.7
Street/road, sidewalk, alley	83	9.4
Other commercial establishment (e.g., grocery store, retail outlet, laundromat)	48	5.4
Natural area (e.g., field, river, beaches, woods)	24	2.7
Bar, nightclub	18	2.0
Hotel/motel	16	1.8
Parking lot/public parking garage	16	1.8
Park, playground, public use area	8	0.9
Supervised residential facility (e.g., shelter, halfway house, group home)	6	0.7
Unknown	4	0.5
Abandoned house, building, or warehouse	3	0.3
Other	3	0.3
Industrial or construction areas (e.g., factory, warehouse)	3	0.3
Other/Unknown	25	2.8
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>100</b>



## Section IV: Firearm Deaths

**Table 31** and **Figure 22** display the manner of firearm deaths among North Carolina residents in 2023.

**Table 32** characterizes firearm deaths by firearm type.

### Key Findings:

- Half of firearm deaths were suicides (55.5%), followed by homicides (40.2%).
- Handguns were involved in 78.4% of all firearm deaths.

**Table 33** characterizes violent deaths involving a firearm in 2023 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:

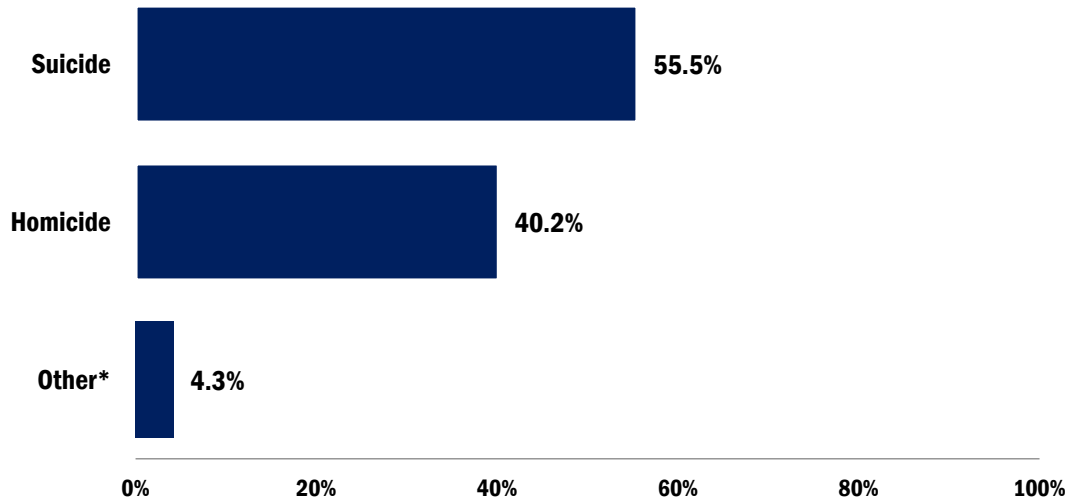
- In 2023, 1,767 North Carolinians died due to an injury from a firearm (16.3 per 100,000), representing 66.8% of all violent deaths.
- Males were 6.0 times more likely to die from firearm violence than females (28.4 versus 4.7 per 100,000, respectively).
- NH American Indian residents had the highest firearm violent death rate per 100,000 (39.5), followed by NH Black (27.4), NH White (14.5), Hispanic (9.0), and NH Asian residents (5.6).
- By age group, younger adults ages 20 to 24 had the highest firearm death rate per 100,000 (30.5), followed by those ages 25 to 34 (22.8), and 35 to 44 and 15 to 19 (20.7).

**Table 34** provides counts and rates of firearm deaths by North Carolina county of residence in 2023.

**Table 31: Manner of Firearm Death in North Carolina, 2023**

Manner	Number	%
Suicide	981	55.5
Homicide	710	40.2
Legal intervention	34	1.9
Unintentional	29	1.6
Undetermined	13	0.7
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>1767</b>	<b>100</b>

**Figure 22: Manner of Firearm Death in North Carolina, 2023**



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

**Table 32: Type of firearm involved in firearm death in North Carolina, 2023**

Firearm Type*	Number	%
Handgun	1395	78.4
Rifle	135	7.6
Shotgun	125	7.0
Other/Unknown	125	7.0
<b>Total Firearms Involved in Firearm Deaths</b>	<b>1780</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Multiple firearm types were reported in 13 violent deaths; therefore, the total number of firearms exceeds the number of suicide firearm deaths (n=1,767).

## Section IV

**Table 33: Demographics of Firearm Deaths in North Carolina, 2023**

	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	262	14.8	4.7	4.2 - 5.3
Male	1505	85.2	28.4	27.0 - 29.9
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
White**	956	54.1	14.5	13.6 - 15.5
Black**	623	35.3	27.4	25.2 - 29.5
Asian**	22	1.2	5.6	3.3 - 7.9
American Indian**	44	2.5	39.5	27.8 - 51.1
Hispanic	112	6.3	9.0	7.4 - 10.7
Other/Unknown	10	0.6	-	-
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
< 1	3	0.2	*	*
1-4	4	0.2	*	*
5-9	5	0.3	0.8	0.1 - 1.5
10-14	21	1.2	3.2	1.8 - 4.5
15-19	150	8.5	20.7	17.4 - 24.0
20-24	222	12.6	30.5	26.5 - 34.5
25-34	333	18.8	22.8	20.4 - 25.3
35-44	286	16.2	20.7	18.3 - 23.1
45-54	234	13.2	17.3	15.1 - 19.5
55-64	217	12.3	15.8	13.7 - 17.9
65-74	145	8.2	12.8	10.7 - 14.9
75-84	102	5.8	17.1	13.8 - 20.4
≥85	45	2.5	25.3	17.9 - 32.7
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>1767</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>15.5 - 17.1</b>

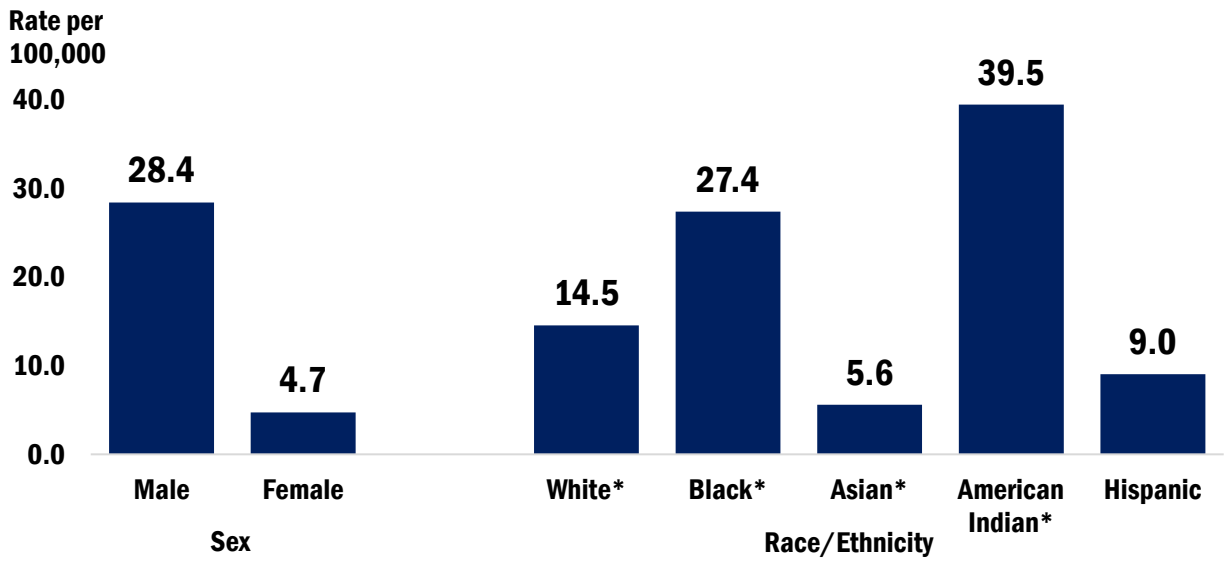
Sex, race/ethnicity and age-specific crude rates per 100,000 NC population

95% CI = 95 % confidence interval for the rate

\* Non-Hispanic

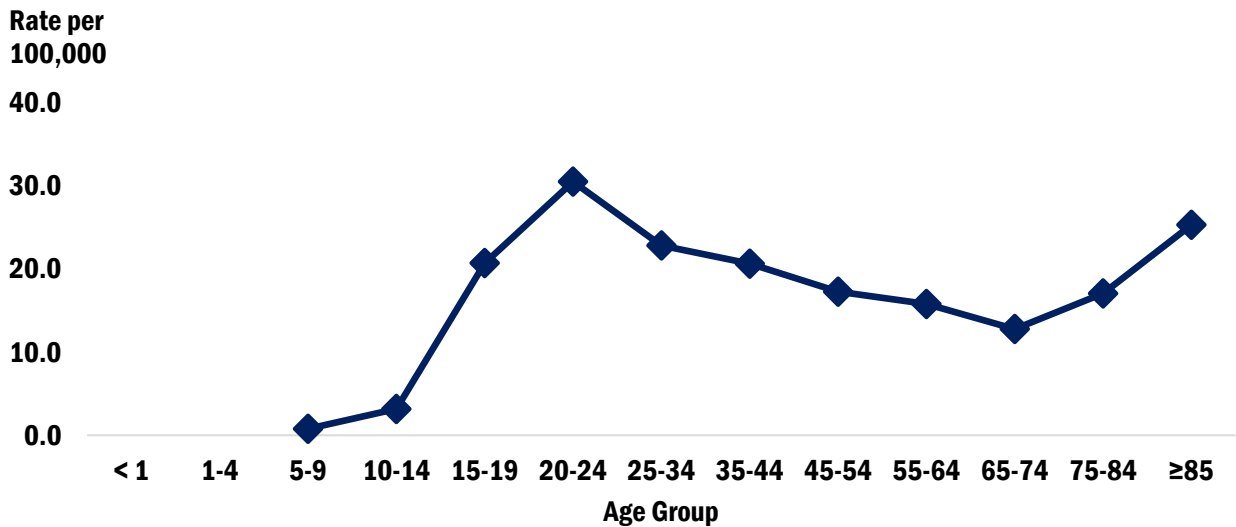
**Note:** The number of firearm-involved deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for infants less than one year and children ages 1-4.

**Figure 23: Crude firearm death rates in North Carolina by sex and race/ethnicity, 2023**



\* Non-Hispanic

**Figure 24: Age-specific crude firearm death rates in North Carolina stratified by age group, 2023**



**Note:** The number of deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for infants less than one year and children ages 1-4.

## Section IV

**Table 34: Firearm death counts and rates by North Carolina county residence, 2023**

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Alamance	15	8.4	Franklin	14	18.2	Pamlico	2	*
Alexander	3	*	Gaston	38	16.0	Pasquotank	6	14.5
Alleghany	3	*	Gates	3	*	Pender	11	16.1
<b>Anson</b>	6	27.4	Graham	3	*	Perquimans	1	*
<b>Ashe</b>	10	37.0	<b>Granville</b>	16	25.7	Person	7	17.6
Avery	4	*	Greene	2	*	Pitt	27	15.4
Beaufort	5	11.2	Guilford	119	21.6	Polk	3	*
<b>Bertie</b>	8	47.3	<b>Halifax</b>	18	38.1	Randolph	21	14.2
<b>Bladen</b>	10	33.9	Harnett	22	15.6	<b>Richmond</b>	14	33.1
Brunswick	16	10.0	Haywood	4	*	<b>Robeson</b>	57	48.6
Buncombe	48	17.4	Henderson	18	15.1	Rockingham	15	16.2
Burke	15	17.0	<b>Hertford</b>	6	30.8	Rowan	27	17.8
Cabarrus	26	10.8	Hoke	12	22.0	Rutherford	6	9.2
Caldwell	19	23.6	Hyde	1	*	<b>Sampson</b>	21	35.2
Camden	1	*	Iredell	38	19.0	<b>Scotland</b>	12	34.9
Carteret	16	23.0	Jackson	5	11.2	Stanly	10	15.2
Caswell	3	*	Johnston	14	5.8	<b>Stokes</b>	12	26.4
Catawba	21	12.8	Jones	1	*	Surry	10	14.0
Chatham	4	*	Lee	9	13.4	Swain	2	*
<b>Cherokee</b>	11	36.7	Lenoir	11	20.0	Transylvania	5	14.9
Chowan	4	*	Lincoln	9	9.4	Tyrrell	0	0.0
Clay	1	*	McDowell	9	20.0	Union	26	10.1
Cleveland	23	22.7	Macon	6	15.6	<b>Vance</b>	12	28.4
<b>Columbus</b>	13	25.9	Madison	2	*	Wake	109	9.2
<b>Craven</b>	28	27.3	Martin	3	*	Warren	3	*
<b>Cumberland</b>	111	32.9	Mecklenburg	142	12.2	Washington	4	*
Currituck	5	15.8	Mitchell	1	*	Watauga	3	*
Dare	4	*	<b>Montgomery</b>	9	34.5	Wayne	29	24.4
Davidson	34	19.5	Moore	18	16.8	Wilkes	10	15.1
Davie	7	15.7	Nash	18	18.6	Wilson	15	19.0
<b>Duplin</b>	15	30.3	New Hanover	29	12.1	Yadkin	8	21.2
Durham	49	14.5	Northampton	4	*	Yancey	2	*
<b>Edgecombe</b>	13	26.6	Onslow	33	15.4			
Forsyth	81	20.6	Orange	8	5.3			

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 2023 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 2023, 981 North Carolinians died from a suicide involving a firearm, representing 61.6% of all suicides.
- Males were 7.2 times as likely to die of a firearm suicide as females (18.3 versus 2.6 per 100,000, respectively).
- NH Whites had the highest firearm suicide rate (13.2 per 100,000), followed by NH American Indians (10.2 per 100,000), NH Blacks (6.0 per 100,000), Hispanics (4.6 per 100,000), and NH Asians (3.5 per 100,000).
- Adults ages 85 and older had the highest firearm suicide rates per 100,000 (24.2), followed by adults ages 75 to 84 (16.2), 20 to 24 (14.0), 55 to 64 (11.4), and 45 to 54 (11.3).
- Males ages 20 to 24 were 5.5 times as likely to die of a firearm suicide than females of the same age group (23.2 and 4.3 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 2023.

### Key Findings:

- In 2023, handguns accounted for 81.5% of all firearm suicides.
- One firearm suicide victim had used more than one firearm.
- The three highest county firearm suicide rates in 2023 were Cherokee (40.0 per 100,000), Ashe (36.1 per 100,000), and Caldwell (23.5 per 100,000).

## Section IV

**Table 35: Demographics of firearm suicide in North Carolina, 2023**

	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	126	12.8	2.6	2.1 - 3.0
Male	855	87.2	18.3	17.1 - 19.6
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
White*	790	80.5	13.2	12.3 - 14.2
Black*	120	12.2	6.0	4.9 - 7.1
Asian*	12	1.2	3.5	1.5 - 5.5
American Indian*	10	1.0	10.2	3.9 - 16.5
Hispanic	46	4.7	4.6	3.3 - 5.9
Other/Unknown	3	0.3	-	-
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
10-14	5	0.5	0.8	0.1 - 1.4
15-19	44	4.5	6.1	4.3 - 7.9
20-24	102	10.4	14.0	11.3 - 16.8
25-34	124	12.6	8.5	7.0 - 10.0
35-44	131	13.4	9.5	7.8 - 11.1
45-54	153	15.6	11.3	9.5 - 13.1
55-64	157	16.0	11.4	9.6 - 13.2
65-74	125	12.7	11.0	9.1 - 13.0
75-84	97	9.9	16.2	13.0 - 19.5
≥85	43	4.4	24.2	17.0 - 31.4
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>9.6 - 10.9</b>

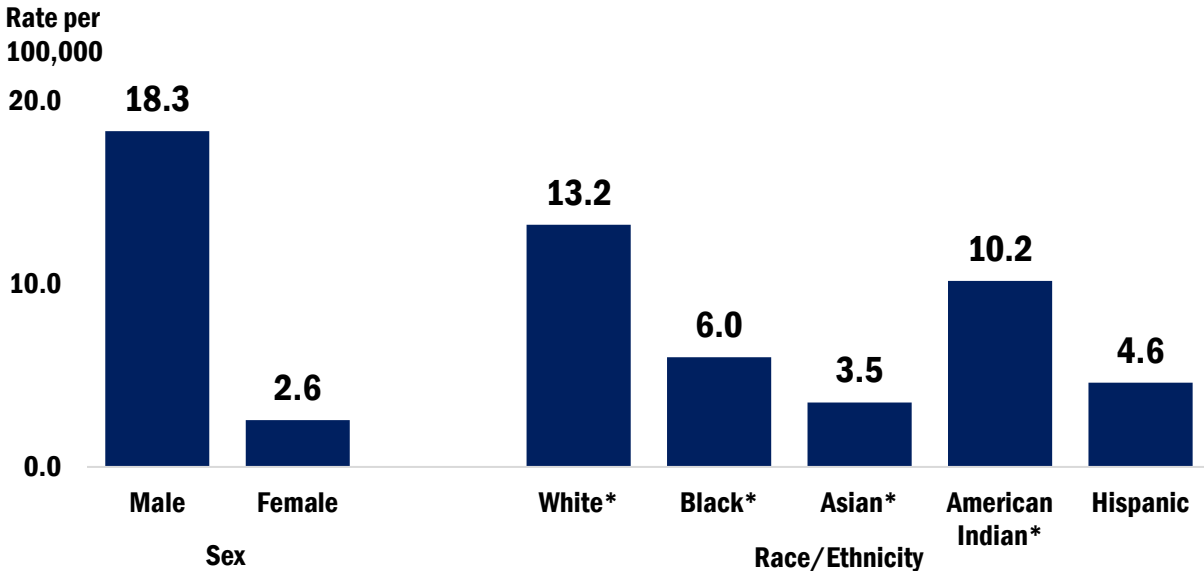
Sex, race/ethnicity and age-specific crude rates per 100,000 NC population

95% CI = 95 % confidence interval for the rate

\* Non-Hispanic

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

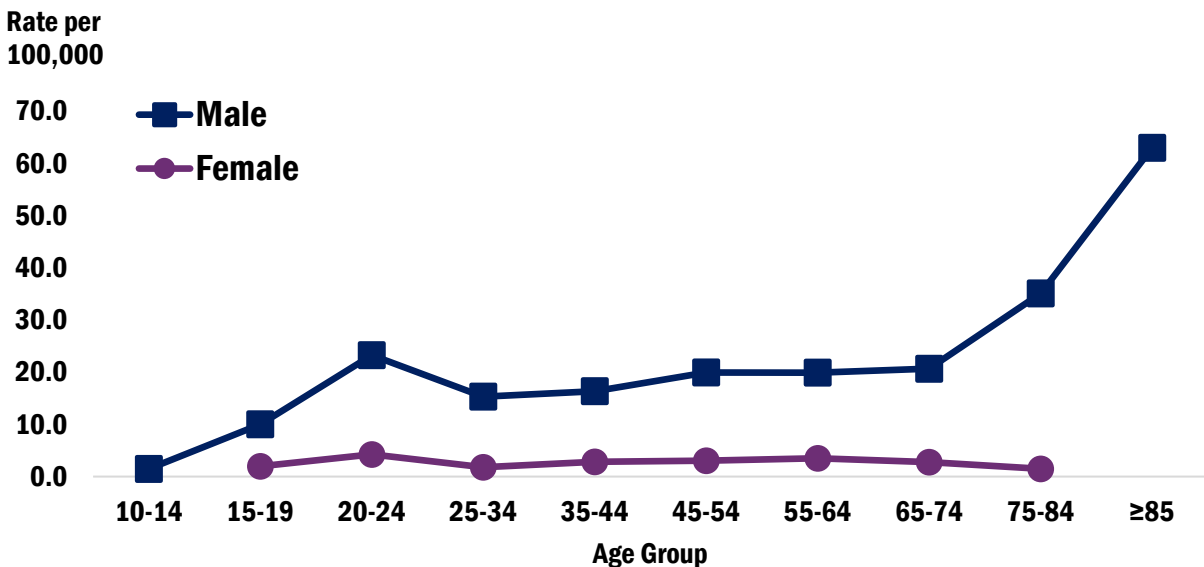
**Figure 25: Crude firearm suicide rates in North Carolina by sex and race/ethnicity, 2023**



\* Non-Hispanic

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

**Figure 26: Age-specific crude firearm suicide rates in North Carolina stratified by age group and sex, 2023**



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



## Section IV

**Table 36: Firearm suicide firearm type in North Carolina, 2023**

Firearm Type*	Number	%
Handgun	800	81.5
Rifle	54	5.5
Shotgun	105	10.7
Other/Unknown	23	2.3
<b>Total Firearms Involved in Firearm Suicides</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Multiple firearm types were reported in one firearm suicide deaths; therefore, the total number of firearms exceeds the number of suicide firearm deaths (n=981).

**Table 37: Ten highest firearm suicide rates in North Carolina by county of residence, 2023**

County	Rate	County	Rate
Cherokee	40.0	Montgomery	21.4
Ashe	36.1	Yadkin	20.8
Caldwell	23.5	Craven	19.9
Granville	23.4	Stokes	19.5
Halifax	21.4	Carteret	18.8

### 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 97.0% of firearm suicides and 97.6% of non-firearm suicides in 2023. **Table 38** and **Figure 27** describe the circumstances for firearm and non-firearm suicide victims ages 10 or older in North Carolina in 2023.

#### 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 (56.5% and 76.9%) or to have been experiencing a current mental health problem (56.3% and 75.9%).
- Firearm suicide victims were slightly more likely to have a current depressed mood (29.6% and 26.1%), but less likely to be receiving current mental health treatment (24.5% and 45.7%).
- Victims of firearm suicide were less likely to have had a substance use problem other than alcohol (13.1%) compared to suicide victims who used another means (28.3%).
- Firearm suicide victims were slightly more likely to have experienced an intimate partner problem (29.7% versus 24.6%).
- Victims of firearm suicide were more likely to have been experiencing a physical health problem (25.1% versus 13.6%), and more likely to have experienced a recent or imminent crisis within two weeks of their death (43.2% and 37.2%).
- Firearm suicide victims were much less likely to have a history of suicide attempt(s) than other suicide victims (11.6% versus 31.5%), and less likely to have a history of suicidal thoughts (38.6% versus 52.1%).

## Section IV

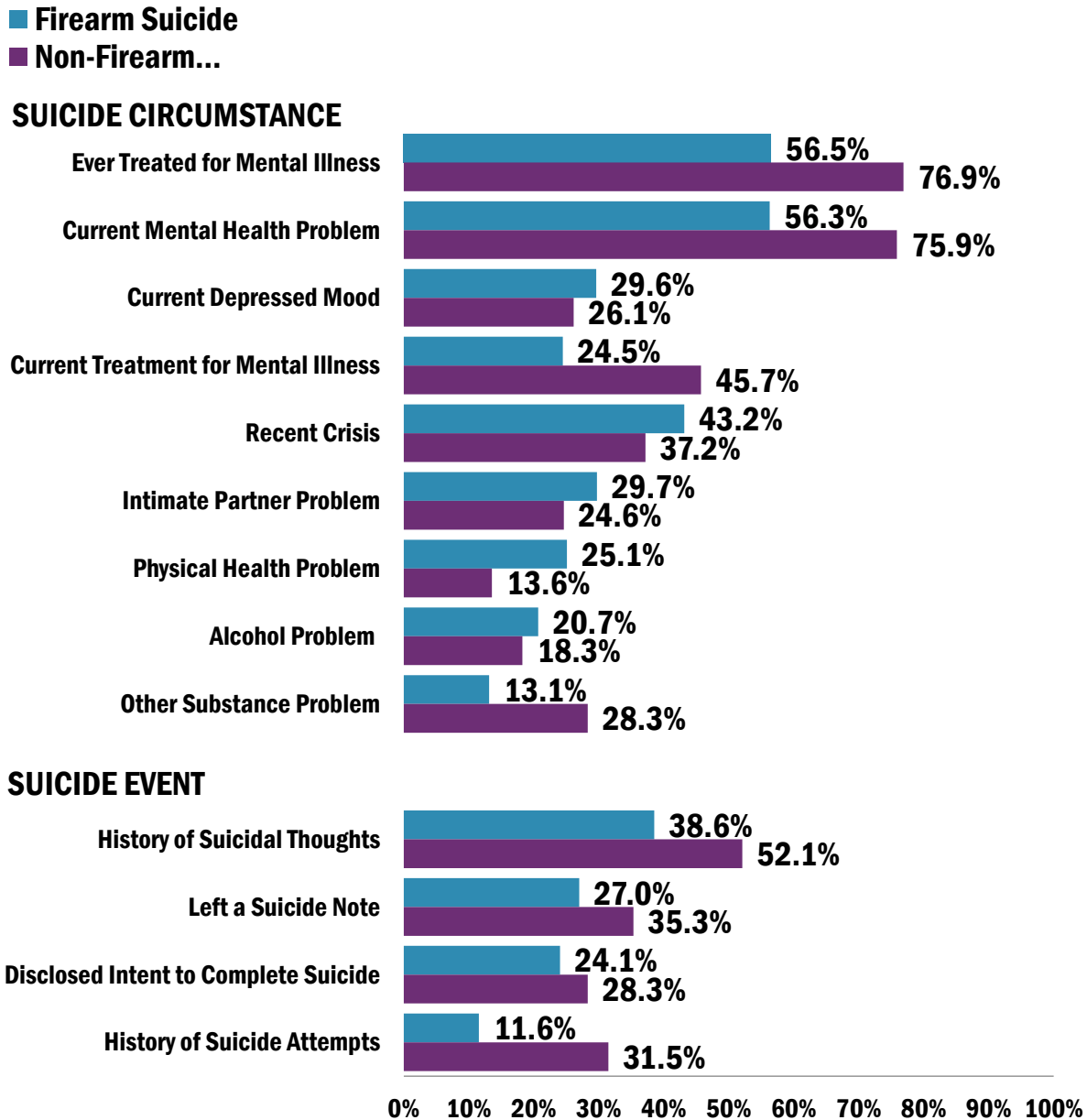
**Table 38: Circumstances of firearm suicide compared to non-firearm\* suicide in North Carolina, 2023**

Circumstance*	Firearm Suicide		Non-Firearm** Suicide	
	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Mental Health</b>				
Ever treated-mental health	538	56.5	459	76.9
Current mental health problem	536	56.3	453	75.9
Current depressed mood	282	29.6	156	26.1
Current treatment MH	233	24.5	273	45.7
<b>Substance Misuse/Addiction</b>				
Alcohol problem	197	20.7	109	18.3
Other substance problem	125	13.1	169	28.3
Other addiction problem	3	0.3	0	0.0
<b>Interpersonal</b>				
Intimate partner problem	283	29.7	147	24.6
Other relationship problem	30	3.2	18	3.0
Perpetrator of intimate partner violence	60	6.3	15	2.5
Death of family/friend	79	8.3	32	5.4
Suicide death of family/friend in past 5 years	25	2.6	11	1.8
<b>Life Stressor</b>				
Physical health problem	239	25.1	81	13.6
Job problem	79	8.3	49	8.2
Criminal/legal problem	64	6.7	43	7.2
Financial problem	59	6.2	29	4.9
Legal problem, other	42	4.4	29	4.9
School problem	11	1.2	14	2.4
Recent crisis	411	43.2	222	37.2
<b>Suicide Event</b>				
Left a suicide note	257	27.0	211	35.3
Suicide disclosed	229	24.1	169	28.3
History of suicide attempt	110	11.6	188	31.5
History of suicidal thoughts	367	38.6	311	52.1

\* Circumstances were available for 97.0% (952/981) of firearm suicide victims, and 97.6% (597/612) 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 2023.

\*\*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, 2023**



\*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.

## Section IV

### 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 2023 is shown in **Table 39**.

#### Key Findings:

- Alcohol was tested in 89.4% of firearm suicides. Of those victims tested, alcohol was present in 26.3% of firearm suicide victims (27.4% of male victims and 19.1% of female victims). This is similar to non-firearm suicides, where 87.4% of victims were tested for alcohol, and 23.9% 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 0.4% of victims. In non-firearm suicides, substances were tested in 14.6% of victims on average, and of those tests, 5.2% 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. 26.5% for cocaine and 2.1% vs. 28.1% for opiates, for firearm and non-firearm suicides, respectively).
- Overall positive toxicology test results were less frequent for firearm suicide victims (3.3% vs. 6.8%).

**Table 39: Toxicology testing and results by firearm or non-firearm\* suicide in North Carolina, 2023**

	Firearm Suicide		Non-Firearm* Suicide	
	Total	%	Total	%
<b>Alcohol</b>				
Tested with results	877	89.4	535	87.4
Alcohol present in those tested	258	26.3	146	23.9
<b>Amphetamines</b>				
Tested with results	24	2.5	162	26.5
Amphetamines present in those tested	6	0.6	19	3.1
<b>Antidepressant</b>				
Tested with results	3	0.3	76	12.4
Antidepressant present in those tested	3	0.3	75	12.3
<b>Cocaine</b>				
Tested with results	23	2.3	162	26.5
Cocaine present in those tested	2	0.2	14	2.3
<b>Opiates</b>				
Tested with results	21	2.1	172	28.1
Opiates present in those tested	2	0.2	65	10.6
<b>Anticonvulsants</b>				
Tested with results	21	2	170	27.8
Anticonvulsants present in those tested	1	0	53	8.7
<b>Benzodiazepine</b>				
Tested with results	24	2	178	29.1
Benzodiazepine present in those tested	11	1	64	10.5
<b>Other substances*</b>				
Tested with results	4	0.2	64	2.1
Other drugs present in those tested	4	0.2	63	2.1

\* 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 2023 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 2023, 710 North Carolinians were killed in a firearm homicide, representing 80.1% of total homicides.
- Males were 4.8 times more likely to die from firearm homicide than females (12.5 versus 2.6 per 100,000, respectively).
- NH American Indian residents had the highest firearm homicide rate (32.5 per 100,000), followed by NH Blacks (23.8 per 100,000), Hispanic (5.8 per 100,000), NH Asian (2.9 per 100,000), and NH White (2.2 per 100,000).
- Young adults ages 20 to 24 years had the highest firearm homicide rate (15.4 per 100,000), followed by those ages 15 to 19 (14.0 per 100,000), and 25 to 34 (13.0 per 100,000).
- Males ages 25 to 34 were 6.9 times more likely to die from a firearm homicide than females of the same age (22.7 and 3.3 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 2023.

#### **Key Findings:**

- Handguns accounted for 74.2% of all firearm homicides in 2023.
- More than one firearm was used in eleven homicide deaths.
- The three highest county firearm homicide rates in 2023 were Bertie (47.3 per 100,000), Robeson (37.5 per 100,000), and Bladen (30.5 per 100,000).

**Table 40: Demographics of firearm homicides in North Carolina, 2023**

	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	129	18.2	2.6	2.2 - 3.1
Male	581	81.8	12.5	11.5 - 13.5
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
White*	129	18.2	2.2	1.8 - 2.5
Black*	476	67.0	23.8	21.6 - 25.9
Asian*	10	1.4	2.9	1.1 - 4.8
American Indian*	32	4.5	32.5	21.3 - 43.8
Hispanic	58	8.2	5.8	4.3 - 7.3
Other/Unknown	5	0.7	-	-
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
< 1	3	0.4	*	*
1-4	1	0.1	*	*
5-9	2	0.3	*	*
10-14	13	1.8	2.0	0.9 - 3.0
15-19	101	14.2	14.0	11.2 - 16.7
20-24	112	15.8	15.4	12.6 - 18.3
25-34	189	26.6	13.0	11.1 - 14.8
35-44	145	20.4	10.5	8.8 - 12.2
45-54	72	10.1	5.3	4.1 - 6.5
55-64	48	6.8	3.5	2.5 - 4.5
65-74	18	2.5	1.6	0.9 - 2.3
75-84	4	0.6	*	*
≥85	2	0.3	*	*
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.9 - 7.9</b>

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

95% CI = 95 % confidence interval for the rate

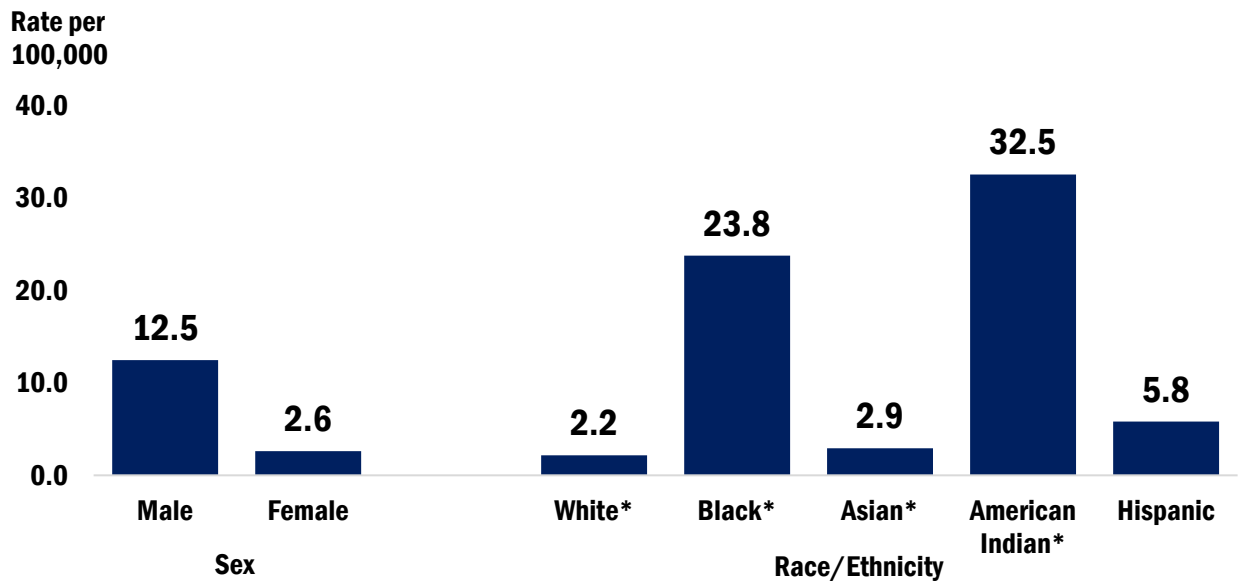
\* Non-Hispanic

**Note:** The number of firearm-involved deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for ages 9 and younger, 75-84, and 85 and older.



## Section IV

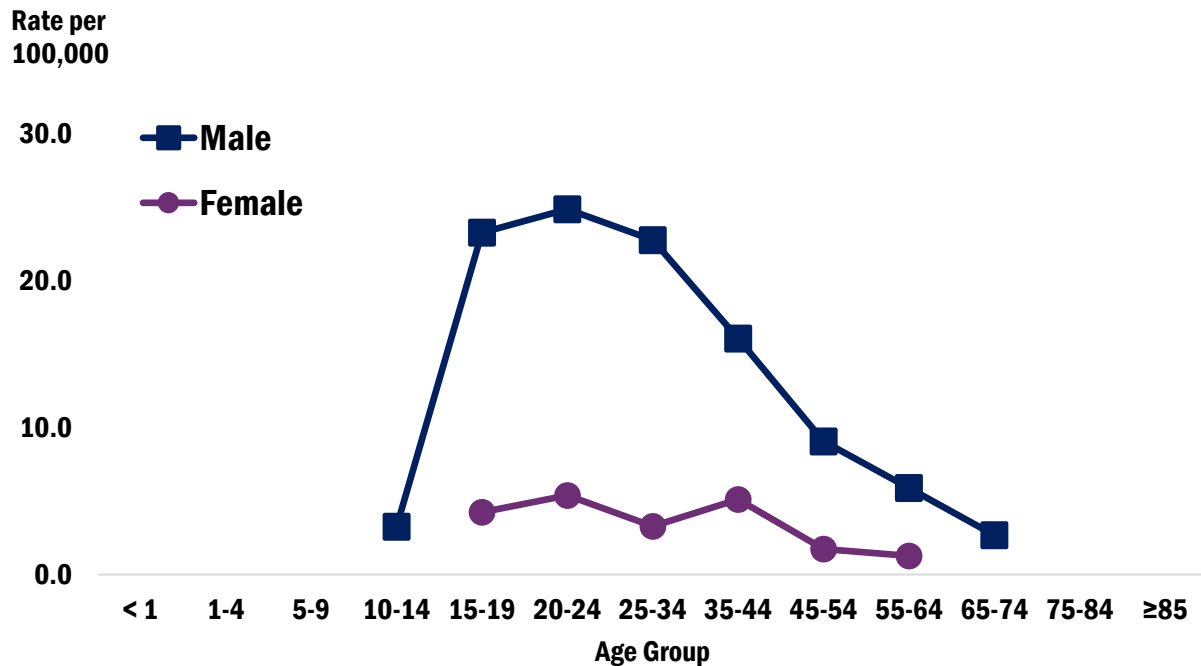
**Figure 28: Crude firearm homicide rates in North Carolina by sex and race/ethnicity, 2023**



\* Non-Hispanic

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

**Figure 29: Age-specific crude firearm homicide rates in North Carolina stratified by age group and sex, 2023**



**Note:** The number of firearm homicide deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for males ages 9 and younger and 75 and older, and for females ages 14 and younger and 65 and older.

**Table 41: Type of firearm used in firearm homicide in North Carolina, 2023**

	Number	%
<b>Firearm Type*</b>		
Handgun	535	74.2
Rifle	76	10.5
Shotgun	13	1.8
Other/Unknown	97	13.5
<b>Total Firearms Involved in Firearm* Homicides</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Multiple firearm types were reported in eleven firearm homicide deaths; therefore, the total number of firearms exceeds the number of homicide firearm deaths (n=710).

**Table 42: Ten highest rates of firearm homicide by North Carolina county of residence, 2023**

County	Rate	County	Rate
Bertie	47.3	Sampson	20.1
Robeson	37.5	Columbus	18.0
Bladen	30.5	Scotland	17.5
Vance	26.0	Halifax	16.9
Richmond	21.3	Duplin	16.2

## 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 95.9% of firearm homicides, and for 98.3% of non-firearm homicides in 2023. **Table 43** and **Figure 30** describe the circumstances for firearm and non-firearm homicide in North Carolina in 2023.

#### Key Findings:

- Firearm homicides were less likely to have followed an argument, abuse, or conflict than homicides involving other means (51.8% versus 57.2%).
- Firearm homicides were more likely to have been precipitated by another serious crime (25.7% versus 14.5%).
- Drug dealing, drug trade, or drug use (drug involvement) was suspected to have played a role in precipitating the incident in 23.5% of firearm homicides compared to 9.8% in other homicides. Firearm homicides were more likely to have been gang-related (10.6% versus 0.0%).
- Firearm homicides were nearly as likely to have been related to intimate partner violence (17.2% versus 18.5%).

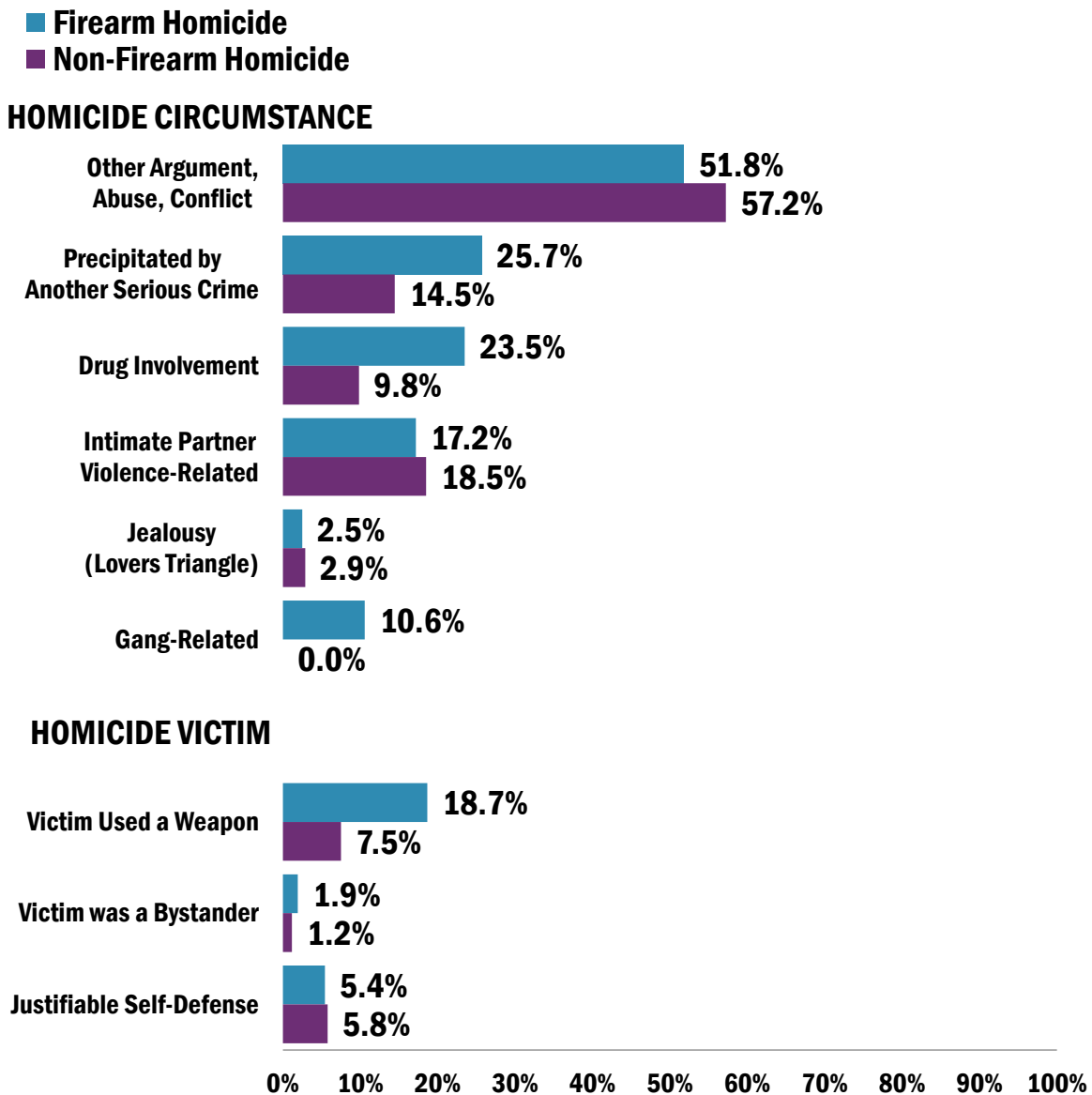
**Table 43: Firearm homicide victim precipitating circumstances in North Carolina, 2023**

Circumstance*	Firearm Homicide		Non-Firearm** Homicide	
	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Event</b>				
Other argument, abuse, conflict	353	51.8	99	57.2
Precipitated by another serious crime	175	25.7	25	14.5
Drug involvement	160	23.5	17	9.8
Intimate partner violence-related	117	17.2	32	18.5
Jealousy (lovers triangle)	17	2.5	5	2.9
Gang-related	72	10.6	0	0.0
Brawl (mutual physical fight)	10	1.5	0	0.0
Mercy killing	0	0.0	2	1.2
<b>Victim</b>				
Victim used a weapon	127	18.7	13	7.5
Victim was a bystander	13	1.9	2	1.2
Justifiable self-defense	37	5.4	10	5.8
Intervener assisting crime victim	4	0.6	2	1.2

\* Circumstances were available for 95.9% (681/710) of firearm homicide victims, and 98.3% (173/176) 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 2023.

\*\* 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, 2023**



\* 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 2023 is shown in **Table 44**.

#### Key Findings:

- Alcohol was tested in 94.1% of firearm homicides. Of those victims tested, alcohol was present in 29.6% of firearm homicide victims, 29.1% of male victims and 31.8% of female victims. This is higher when compared to non-firearm homicides, where 87.5% of victims were tested for alcohol, and 24.4% 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 2.5%, and of those tests, positive results were found 0.7% of the time. In non-firearm homicides, substances other than alcohol were tested 23.3% of the time on average, and of those tests, 3.6% were positive.
- Substances such as cocaine and opiates were found to be tested for more often in non-firearm homicides (3.7% vs. 31.8% for cocaine and 3.5% vs. 31.3% for opiates, for firearm and non-firearm homicides, respectively).
- Overall positive toxicology test results were less frequent for firearm homicide victims (3.9% vs. 6.2%).

**Table 44: Firearm homicide victim toxicology testing and results in North Carolina, 2023**

Toxicology Tests and Results	Firearm Homicide		Non-Firearm* Homicide	
	Total	%	Total	%
<b>Alcohol</b>				
Tested with results	668	94.1	154	87.5
Alcohol present in those tested	210	29.6	43	24.4
<b>Amphetamines</b>				
Tested with results	26	3.7	57	32.4
Amphetamines present in those tested	6	0.9	9	5.1
<b>Antidepressant</b>				
Tested with results	0	0.0	1	0.6
Antidepressant present in those tested	0	0.0	1	0.6
<b>Cocaine</b>				
Tested with results	26	3.7	56	31.8
Cocaine present in those tested	7	1.0	8	4.6
<b>Opiates</b>				
Tested with results	25	3.5	55	31.3
Opiates present in those tested	9	1.3	10	5.7
<b>Anticonvulsants</b>				
Tested with results	26	4	56	31.8
Anticonvulsants present in those tested	3	0	5	2.8
<b>Benzodiazepine</b>				
Tested with results	26	4	57	32.4
Benzodiazepine present in those tested	3	0	7	4.0
<b>Other substances*</b>				
Tested with results	11	0.8	5	1.4
Other drugs present in those tested	10	0.7	4	1.1

\*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 2023 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 2023. **Table 36** provides the number of unintentional firearm deaths in 2023 by North Carolina county of residence.

#### **Key Findings:**

- In 2023, 29 North Carolinians (0.3 per 100,000) died from an unintentional firearm injury.
- Most (79.3%) unintentional firearm victims were male, 41.4% were NH White, and 34.5% were NH Black.
- All deaths from an unintentional firearm injury occurred among those ages 1 to 64. Those ages 55 to 64 had the highest proportion of unintentional firearm death (17.0%).
- The most common firearm involved in unintentional firearm deaths was a handgun (75.9%).

NC-VDRS collects data on the circumstances surrounding unintentional firearm deaths to help understand the underlying causes of death. All of the 29 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 2023.

#### **Key Findings:**

- The most common circumstance among mechanisms of unintentional firearm injuries resulting in death included: the victim unintentionally pulled the trigger (24.1%), the shooter thought the magazine was unloaded (13.8%), and the shooter thought the gun was a toy and the shooter thought the magazine was unloaded (10.3%).
- Among contexts of unintentional firearm injuries resulting in death, the most common contexts included: the injury occurred while playing with a firearm (41.4%), while showing the firearm to others (24.1%), or occurred while on a hunting trip (17.2%).

**Table 45: Demographics of unintentional firearm death victims in North Carolina, 2023**

	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	6	20.7	0.1	0.0 - 0.2
Male	23	79.3	0.4	0.3 - 0.6
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
White**	12	41.4	0.2	0.1 - 0.3
Black**	10	34.5	0.4	0.2 - 0.7
Asian**	0	0.0	0.0	-
American Indian**	0	0.0	0.0	-
Hispanic	5	17.2	0.4	0.0 - 0.8
Other/Unknown	1	3.4	-	-
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
< 1	0	0.0	0.0	-
1-4	3	10.3	*	*
5-9	2	6.9	*	*
10-14	3	10.3	*	*
15-19	4	13.8	*	*
20-24	4	13.8	*	*
25-34	2	6.9	*	*
35-44	3	10.3	*	*
45-54	3	10.3	*	*
55-64	5	17.2	0.4	0.0 - 0.7
65-74	0	0.0	0.0	-
75-84	0	0.0	0.0	-
≥85	0	0.0	0.0	-
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.2 - 0.4</b>

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 unintentional firearm deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for ages 1-54.



## Section IV

**Table 46: Type of firearm in unintentional firearm deaths in North Carolina, 2023**

	Number	%
<b>Firearm Type*</b>		
Handgun	22	75.9
Rifle	0	0.0
Shotgun	7	24.1
Other/Unknown	0	0.0
<b>Total Firearms Involved in Unintentional Firearms Deaths</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* 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=29).

**Table 47: Unintentional firearm deaths in North Carolina by county of residence, 2023**

County	Number	County	Number
Brunswick	1	Johnston	1
Burke	1	Lincoln	1
Carteret	1	Mecklenburg	4
Chowan	1	Nash	1
Cumberland	1	Pamlico	1
Durham	1	Robeson	2
Edgecombe	1	Rockingham	1
Forsyth	1	Rowan	1
Guilford	1	Rutherford	1
Halifax	1	Scotland	1
Harnett	1	Union	1
Iredell	1	Wake	2

**Table 48: Circumstances of unintentional firearm deaths in North Carolina, 2023**

Circumstances*	Number	%
<b>Context</b>		
Occurred while playing with gun	12	41.4
Occurred while on hunting trip	5	17.2
Occurred while showing gun to others	7	24.1
Occurred while target shooting	1	3.5
Other context	9	31.0
<b>Mechanism</b>		
Gun discharged when dropped	1	3.5
Shooter thought gun was unloaded, unspecified reason	3	10.3
Unintentionally pulled trigger	7	24.1
Shooter thought gun was a toy	3	10.3
Shooter thought magazine was unloaded	4	13.8
Occurred while holstering/unholstering	1	3.5
Shooter thought gun safety was engaged	1	3.5
Other mechanism	6	20.7

\*Circumstances were available for 29/29 (100.0%) of unintentional firearm deaths in North Carolina during 2023.

**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 2023. 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 2023. **Table 51** lists the number of legal intervention deaths in 2023 by North Carolina county of residence.

### Key Findings:

- In 2023, 50 residents of North Carolina (0.5 per 100,000) died from legal intervention.
- Most victims were male (96.0%), and most were from 25 to 34 years of age (44.0%).
- A majority of legal intervention deaths occurred by firearm (68.0%). Of the total firearms involved (n=35), handguns were the most frequently used (77.1%).

**Table 49: Demographics of legal intervention death victims in North Carolina, 2023**

	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	2	4.0	*	*
Male	48	96.0	0.9	0.6 - 1.2
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
White**	28	56.0	0.4	0.3 - 0.6
Black**	14	28.0	0.6	0.3 - 0.9
Asian**	0	0.0	0.0	-
American Indian**	4	8.0	*	*
Hispanic	3	6.0	*	*
Other/Unknown	1	2.0	-	-
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
15-19	3	6.0	*	*
20-24	5	10.0	0.7	0.1 - 1.3
25-34	22	44.0	1.5	0.9 - 2.1
35-44	7	14.0	0.5	0.1 - 0.9
45-54	6	12.0	0.4	0.1 - 0.8
55-64	5	10.0	0.4	0.0 - 0.7
65-74	2	4.0	*	*
75-84	0	0.0	0.0	-
≥85	0	0.0	0.0	-
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.3 - 0.6</b>

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 legal intervention deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for females, NH American Indians, Hispanics, ages 15-19, and ages 65-74.

**Table 50: Type of weapon for legal intervention deaths in North Carolina, 2023**

Weapon Type	Number	%
Firearm		
Handgun	27	50.9
Rifle	5	9.4
Shotgun	0	0.0
Unknown firearm type	3	5.7
Other, non-firearm weapons	18	34.0
<b>Total Weapons Involved in Legal Intervention Deaths*</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Multiple firearm types were reported for three legal intervention fatalities in 2023; therefore, the total number of weapons exceeds the number of legal intervention deaths (n=50).

**Table 51: Legal intervention deaths in North Carolina by county of residence, 2023**

County	Number	County	Number
Alamance	1	Hoke	2
Buncombe	3	Iredell	2
Burke	1	Johnston	1
Cabarrus	2	Lenoir	1
Caldwell	1	McDowell	1
Cumberland	2	Mecklenburg	7
Davidson	2	Moore	1
Duplin	1	New Hanover	1
Forsyth	1	Robeson	4
Franklin	1	Rowan	1
Gaston	1	Wake	3
Guilford	4	Wayne	2
Harnett	1	Wilson	3

## Section V

### ***Circumstances of Firearm Legal Intervention Deaths***

Circumstance data were available for all 34 (100%) firearm legal intervention deaths in 2023. **Table 52** and **Figure 31** describe the circumstance(s) surrounding firearm legal intervention deaths in North Carolina in 2023.

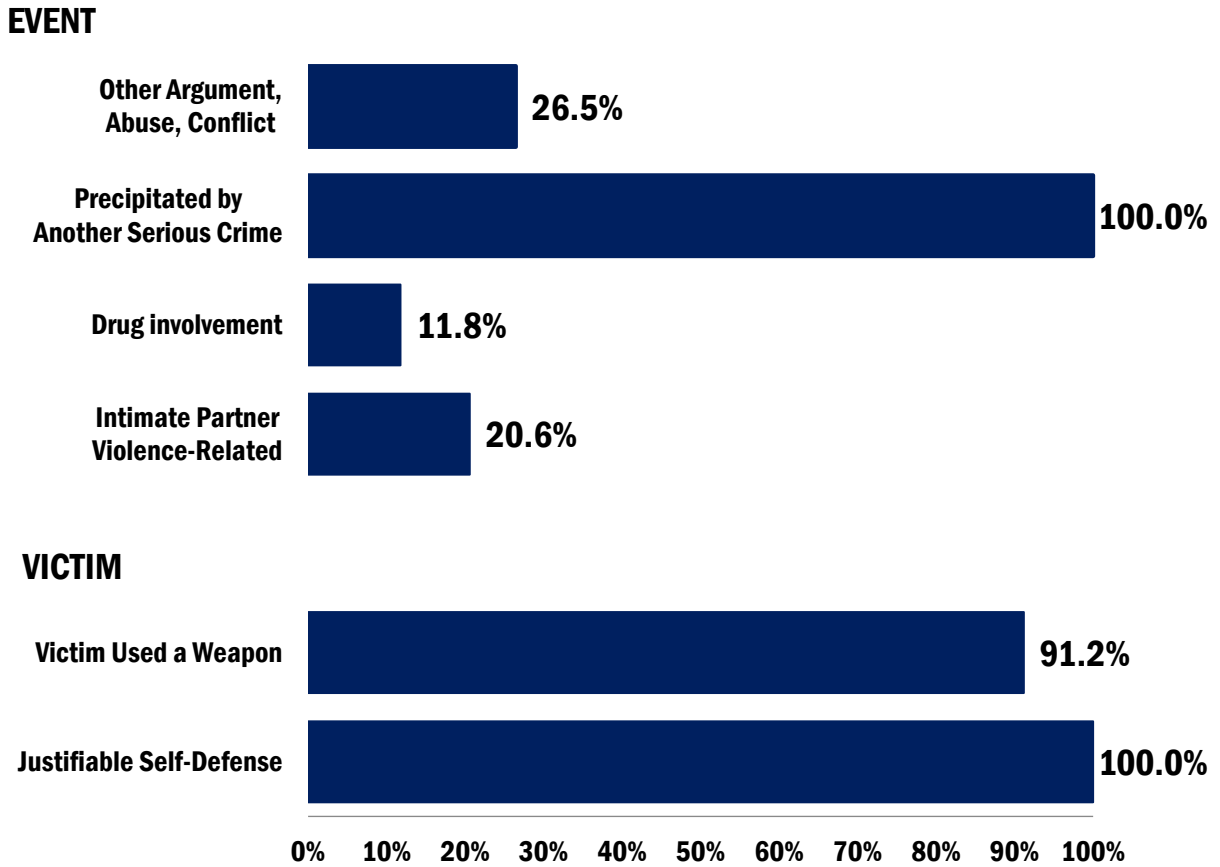
#### **Key Findings:**

- In 2023, 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 (26.5%), intimate partner violence (20.6%), and drug involvement (11.8%).

**Table 52: Circumstances surrounding firearm legal intervention deaths in North Carolina, 2023**

<b>Circumstance*</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Event</b>		
Other argument, abuse, conflict	9	26.5
Precipitated by another serious crime	34	100.0
Drug involvement	4	11.8
Intimate partner violence-related	7	20.6
<b>Victim</b>		
Victim used a weapon	31	91.2
Justifiable self-defense	34	100.0

**Figure 31: Firearm law enforcement victim precipitating homicide circumstances in North Carolina, 2023**



## Section VI: Child Death

**Table 53** characterizes violent deaths for children under the age of 18 years in North Carolina in 2023 by sex, race/ethnicity and age.

### Key Findings:

- In 2023, 173 children in North Carolina (7.4 per 100,000) died as a result of violence.
- Male children were 1.9 times as likely to be victims of violent death as female children (9.6 vs. 5.1 per 100,000, respectively).
- The violent death rate for children per 100,000 was 3.8 times higher for NH Blacks (17.1 per 100,000) than for NH Whites (4.4 per 100,000).
- The highest death rate was for children ages 15 to 17 (22.2 per 100,000). The lowest rate was for children ages 5-9 (1.6 per 100,000).

Manner of violent death for child victims in North Carolina in 2023 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 (54.3%) followed by suicide (33.5%).
- Homicide was the cause of violent death for the majority of NH Black children (75.0%).
- Homicide was the leading cause of violent death for infants less than one year (84.2%), for children ages one to four (66.7%), children ages five to nine (60.0%), and children ages 15 to 17 (48.4%).
- Suicide was the cause of violent death in the majority of NH White children (58.8%) and Hispanic children (50.0%).
- Homicide and Suicide were tied for the leading cause of violent death for children ages 10 to 14 (45.2%).

Method of child violent death in North Carolina in 2023 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 (58.4%), hanging, strangulation or suffocation (14.5%), and poisoning (8.7%).
- Firearm was the leading method of child violent death for males (69.2%), females (36.2%), NH Whites (39.2%), NH Blacks (71.6%), and Hispanics (46.2%).
- Blunt instruments (31.6%) and personal weapons (26.3%) were the leading method of violent death in infants less than one year. For children ages 1-4, firearms and poisoning (22.0%), and blunt instrument (16.7%) were the leading methods of violent death. Firearms were the leading method of violent deaths for children ages 5-9 (50.0%), 10-14 (67.7%), and 15-19 (71.6%).

**Table 53: Demographics of child (under age 18) violent deaths in North Carolina, 2023**

	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	58	33.5	5.1	3.8 - 6.4
Male	115	66.5	9.6	7.9 - 11.4
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
White**	51	29.5	4.4	3.2 - 5.7
Black**	88	50.9	17.1	13.5 - 20.6
Asian**	1	0.6	*	*
American Indian**	3	1.7	*	*
Hispanic	26	15.0	5.9	3.6 - 8.2
Other/Unknown	4	2.3	-	-
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
<1	19	11.0	15.8	8.7 - 22.8
1-4	18	10.4	3.7	2.0 - 5.4
5-9	10	5.8	1.6	0.6 - 2.5
10-14	31	17.9	4.7	3.0 - 6.3
15-17	95	54.9	22.2	17.7 - 26.6
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.3 - 8.5</b>

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 child deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for NH Asians and NH American Indians.

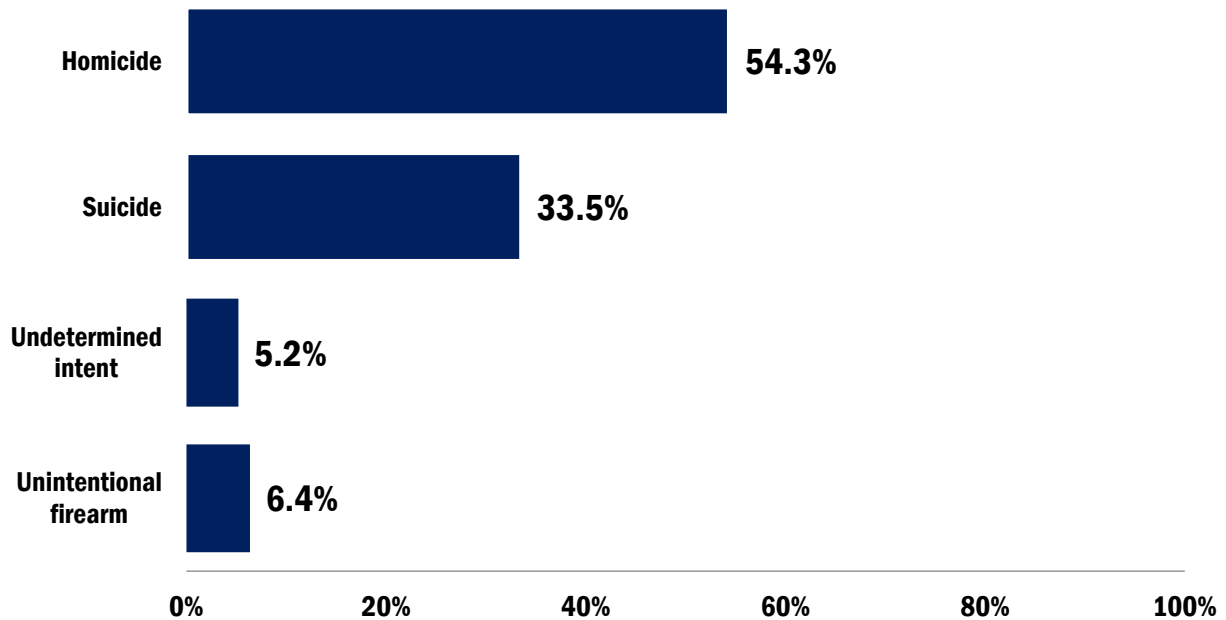
**Table 54: Manner of child (under age 18) violent death in North Carolina by sex, 2023**

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Manner of Death</b>						
Homicide	65	56.5	29	50.0	94	54.3
Suicide	38	33.0	20	34.5	58	33.5
Undetermined intent	4	3.5	5	8.6	9	5.2
Unintentional firearm	7	6.1	4	6.9	11	6.4
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>100</b>



## Section VI

**Figure 32: Manner of child (under age 18) violent death in North Carolina, 2023**



**Table 55: Manner of child (under age 18) violent death in North Carolina by race/ethnicity, 2023**

Manner of Death	White*		Black*		American Indian*		Asian*		Hispanic	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Homicide	15	29.4	66	75.0	2	66.7	1	100.0	9	34.6
Suicide	30	58.8	12	13.6	1	33.3	0	0.0	13	50.0
Undetermined intent	2	3.9	6	6.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.9
Unintentional firearm	3	5.9	4	4.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	11.5
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>

There were four 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, 2023**

	<1		1-4		5-9		10-14		15-17	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Manner of Death</b>										
Homicide	16	84.2	12	66.7	6	60.0	14	45.2	46	48.4
Suicide	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	45.2	44	46.3
Undetermined intent	3	15.8	3	16.7	2	20.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Unintentional firearm	0	0.0	3	16.7	2	20.0	3	9.7	3	3.2
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 57: Method of child (under age 18) violent death in North Carolina by sex, 2023**

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Method of Death*</b>						
Firearm	80	69.6	21	36.2	101	58.4
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	13	11.3	12	20.7	25	14.5
Personal weapons	4	3.5	2	3.5	6	3.5
Poisoning	2	1.7	13	22.4	15	8.7
Sharp instrument	1	0.9	0	0.0	1	0.6
Blunt instrument	4	3.5	6	10.3	10	5.8
Intentional neglect	4	3.5	2	3.5	6	3.5
Other/Unknown	7	6.1	2	3.4	9	5.2
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Zero children had multiple methods of death.

## Section VI

**Table 58: Method of child (under age 18) violent death in North Carolina by race/ethnicity, 2023**

Method of Death*	White**		Black**		American Indian**		Asian**		Hispanic	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm	20	39.2	63	71.6	3	100.0	0	0.0	12	46.2
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	14	27.5	5	5.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	23.1
Personal weapons	4	7.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	7.7
Poisoning	5	9.8	6	6.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	11.5
Sharp instrument	0	0.0	1	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Blunt instrument	2	3.9	8	9.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Intentional neglect	1	2.0	3	3.4	0	0.0	1	100.0	1	3.9
Other/Unknown	5	9.8	2	2.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	7.7
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Zero children had multiple methods of death.

\*\* Non-Hispanic

**Table 59: Method of child (under age 18) violent death in North Carolina by age group, 2023**

Method of Death	<1		1-4		5-9		10-14		15-17	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm	3	15.8	4	22.2	5	50.0	21	67.7	68	71.6
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	0	0.0	1	5.6	0	0.0	8	25.8	16	16.8
Personal weapons	5	26.3	1	5.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Poisoning	3	15.8	4	22.2	1	10.0	1	3.2	6	6.3
Sharp instrument	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.1
Blunt instrument	6	31.6	3	16.7	1	10.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Intentional neglect	1	5.3	2	11.1	2	20.0	1	3.2	0	0.0
Other/Unknown	1	5.3	3	16.7	1	10.0	0	0.0	4	4.2
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Zero 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 2023 by sex, race/ethnicity and age.

### Key Findings:

- In 2023, 89 undetermined intent deaths (0.8 per 100,000) were reported in North Carolina.
- Males and females had undetermined death rates of 1.0 per 100,000 and 0.7 per 100,000, respectively.
- NH Whites accounted for 61.8% of undetermined intent victims.
- Among victims whose death was of undetermined intent, one-fifth of deaths were among those ages 25 to 34 (22.5%); the highest undetermined intent death rate by age group was among those ages 25 to 34 years (1.4 per 100,000).

**Table 61** summarizes the method of undetermined intent deaths in North Carolina in 2023. **Table 62** shows the category of the fatal substance that caused the undetermined intent poisoning deaths in North Carolina in 2023.

### Key Findings:

- The leading methods of undetermined intent deaths were poisoning (52.8%), firearm (14.6%), fall and fire or burns (6.7%).
- Most undetermined intent poisoning deaths involved an opiate (either illicit or prescription) (53.2%), antidepressants (27.7%), and benzodiazepines (25.5%).
- A handgun was involved in 11 of the 13 undetermined intent firearm deaths that occurred in North Carolina in 2023.
- Multiple firearm types were reported for no undetermined intent fatalities in 2023. 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 2023 by North Carolina County of residence.

## Section VII

**Table 60: Demographics of undetermined intent death victims in North Carolina, 2023**

	Number	%	Rate	95% CI
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	38	42.7	0.7	0.5 - 0.9
Male	51	61.8	1.0	0.7 - 1.2
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
White**	55	61.8	0.8	0.6 - 1.1
Black**	25	28.1	1.1	0.7 - 1.5
Asian**	0	0.0	0.0	-
American Indian**	2	2.2	*	*
Hispanic	7	7.9	1.6	0.4 - 2.8
Other/Unknown	0	0.0	-	-
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
< 1	3	3.4	*	*
1-4	3	3.4	*	*
5-9	2	2.2	*	*
10-14	0	0.0	0.0	-
15-19	2	2.2	*	*
20-24	3	3.4	*	*
25-34	20	22.5	1.4	0.8 - 2.0
35-44	18	20.2	1.3	0.7 - 1.9
45-54	18	20.2	1.3	0.7 - 1.9
55-64	13	14.6	0.9	0.4 - 1.5
65-74	5	5.6	0.4	0.1 - 0.8
75-84	2	2.2	*	*
≥85	0	0.0	0.0	-
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.7 - 1.0</b>

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 undetermined intent deaths was too small to support a rate calculation for NH American Indians, for ages 9 and younger, 15-24, and 75-84.

**Table 61: Method of undetermined intent deaths in North Carolina, 2023**

	Number	%
<b>Method of Death</b>		
Poisoning	47	52.8
Firearm	13	14.6
Fall	6	6.7
Fire or burns	6	6.7
Drowning	5	5.6
Blunt instrument	3	3.4
Motor vehicle including buses, motorcycles	1	1.1
Personal weapons	1	1.1
Sharp instrument	1	1.1
Other transport vehicle (e.g., trains, planes, boats)	1	1.1
Intentional neglect (e.g., starving a baby)	1	1.1
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	1	1.1
Other/Unknown	3	3.4
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 62: Fatal substances in undetermined intent poisoning deaths in North Carolina by sex, 2023**

Category of Fatal Substance*	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Opiate**	9	52.9	16	53.3	25	53.2
Anticonvulsants	4	23.53	6	20	10	21.3
Antidepressant	2	11.8	11	36.7	13	27.7
Benzodiazepines	3	17.7	9	30.0	12	25.5
Alcohol	4	23.5	6	20.0	10	21.3
Amphetamine	3	17.7	3	10.0	6	12.8
Cocaine	3	17.7	4	13.3	7	14.9
Muscle relaxant	0	0	1	3.33	1	2.13
Other poison***	4	23.5	7	23.3	11	23.4

\* Category of substance that directly caused or was suspected to cause undetermined intent poisoning deaths. There were 26 undetermined intent poisonings (80.9%) where more than one substance caused the death in 2023, 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, 2023**

County	Number	County	Number	County	Number
Ashe	1	Graham	1	Robeson	3
Beaufort	1	Guilford	6	Rockingham	2
Brunswick	2	Halifax	1	Rowan	3
Buncombe	5	Harnett	1	Sampson	1
Cabarrus	1	Haywood	2	Scotland	1
Catawba	1	Iredell	1	Swain	1
Chatham	1	Lee	3	Union	2
Craven	1	Macon	1	Wake	8
Cumberland	3	McDowell	2	Warren	1
Davidson	2	Mecklenburg	3	Washington	2
Duplin	1	Moore	2	Wayne	2
Durham	2	Nash	1	Wilson	1
Edgecombe	1	Onslow	1	Yadkin	1
Forsyth	4	Pasquotank	2	Yancey	1
Franklin	1	Person	2		
Gaston	2	Pitt	2		

## Section VIII: Violent Death Trend Over Time

**Table 64** shows the number and the rate of violent deaths over time in North Carolina from 2014 to 2023, 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 2014 to 2023.

### Key Findings:

- The overall violent death rate in North Carolina has steadily increased from 2014 (19.5 per 100,000) to 2023 (24.4 per 100,000).
- From 2014 to 2023 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 8.2 per 100,000 by year).

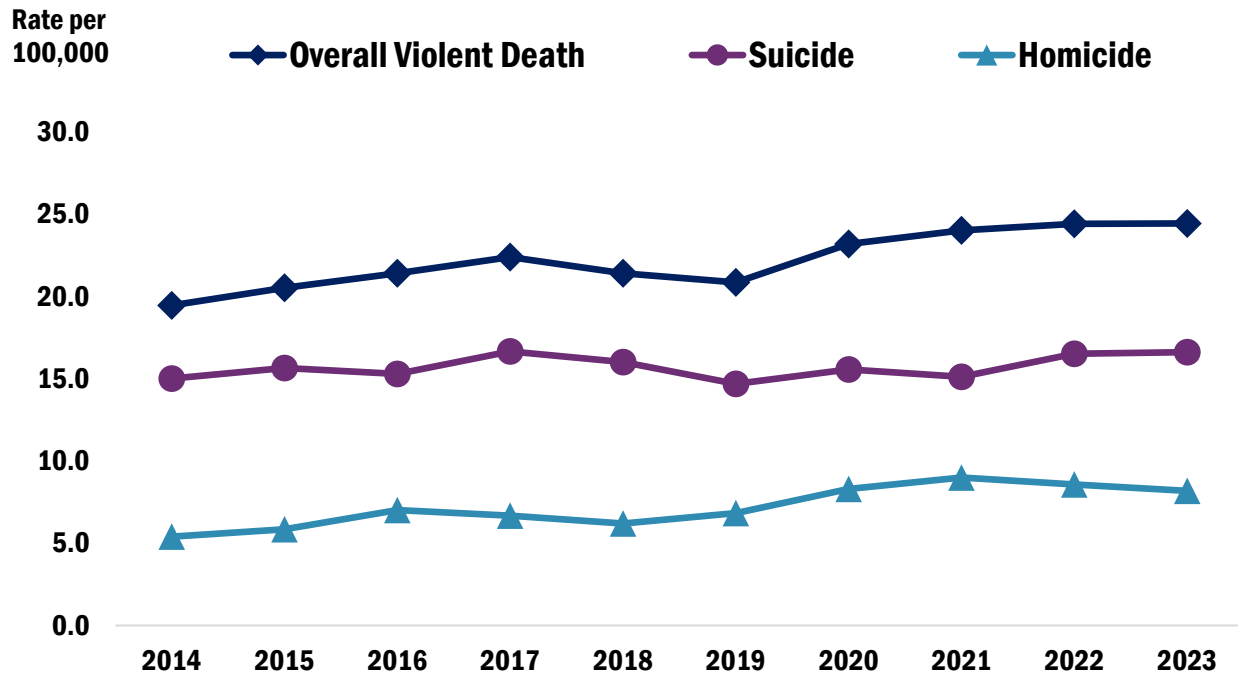
**Table 64: Trends of violent deaths over time in North Carolina, 2014-2023**

Year	Overall Violent Deaths		Suicides (Ages ≥10)		Homicides	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
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
2023	2,647	24.4	1,593	16.6	886	8.2



## Section VIII

**Figure 33: Violent death rate trend data for most recent 10 years in North Carolina, 2014 - 2023**



## Appendix A: Population Data for Rate Calculations

### Appendix A: North Carolina 2023 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)
<b>Sex</b>			
Female	5,538,969	4,929,850	1,143,136
Male	5,296,522	4,660,186	1,193,487
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>			
White*	6,573,391	5,970,259	1,149,124
Black*	2,274,873	2,002,885	515,419
Asian*	393,382	340,862	93,349
American Indian*	111,460	98,341	24,408
Hispanic	1,238,421	998,375	441,238
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>			
< 1	120,602	-	120,602
1-4	485,853	-	485,853
5-9	639,000	-	639,000
10-14	662,550	662,550	662,550
15-17	428,618	428,618	428,618
15-19	723,674	723,674	-
20-24	727,133	727,133	-
25-34	1,457,721	1,457,721	-
35-44	1,384,128	1,384,128	-
45-54	1,353,246	1,353,246	-
55-64	1,373,095	1,373,095	-
65-74	1,133,459	1,133,459	-
75-84	597,388	597,388	-
≥85	177,642	177,642	-
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>10,835,491</b>	<b>9,590,036</b>	<b>2,336,623</b>

\* 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 (2023).

### **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  
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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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