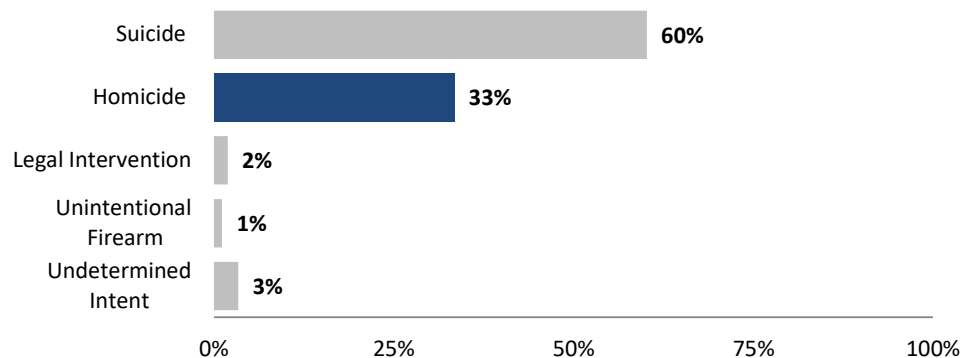


NC Violent Death Reporting System

HOMICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA, 2023

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

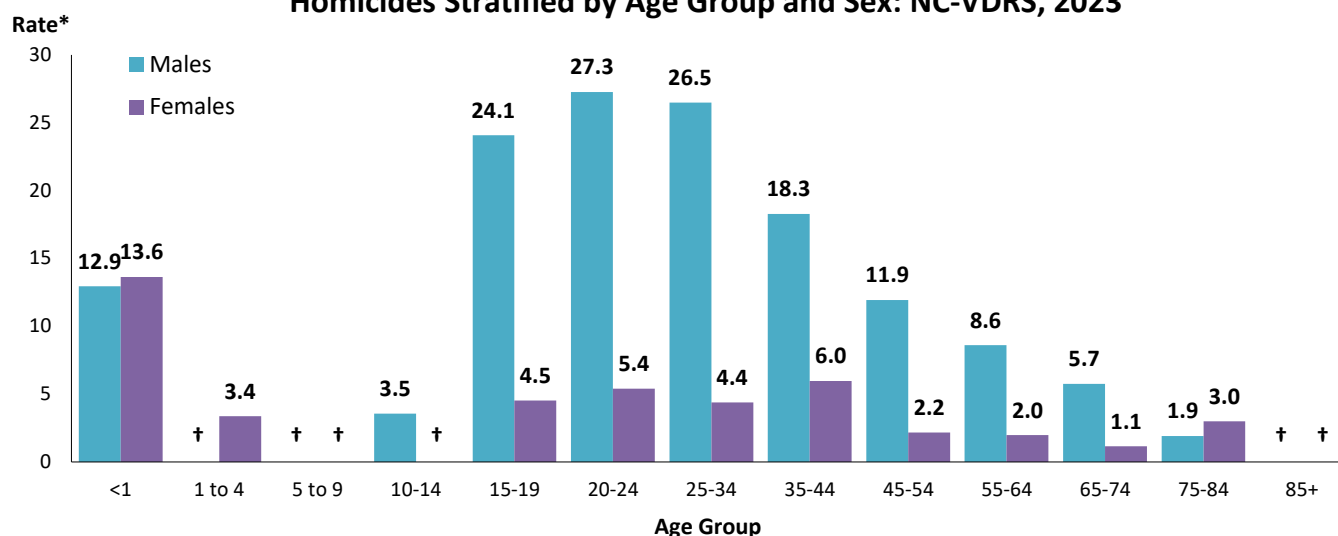
Violent Deaths by Manner of Death: NC-VDRS, 2023



- Of the 2,647 violent deaths in North Carolina, 886 (33.5%) were homicides.

- There were 1,593 suicides (60.2%), 50 deaths from legal intervention (1.9%), 29 unintentional firearm deaths (1.1%), and 89 deaths of undetermined intent (3.4%).

Homicides Stratified by Age Group and Sex: NC-VDRS, 2023



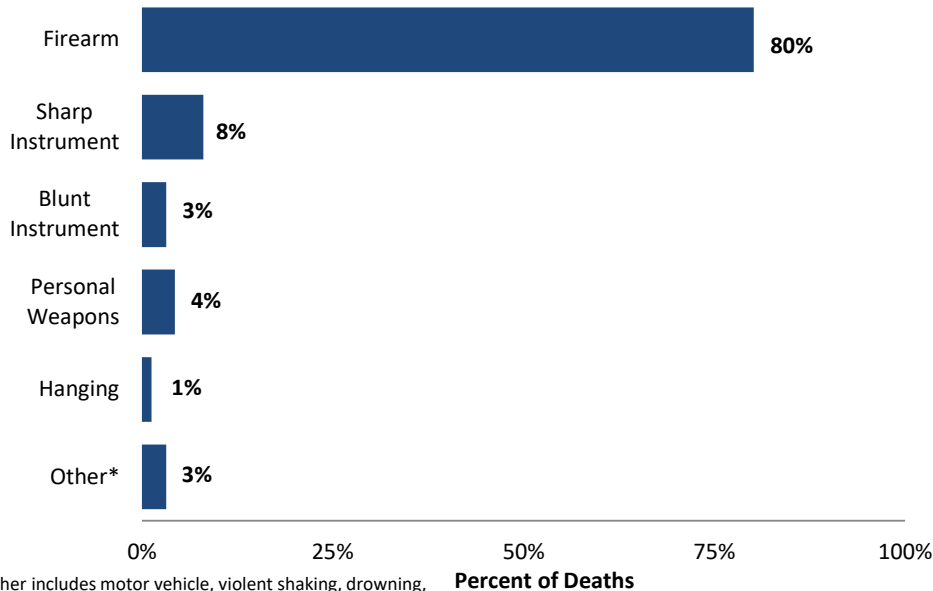
* Rate per 100,000 NC population

† Rate suppressed, 1-4 deaths. Rates based on small numbers of deaths are considered unstable and should not be used.

- For most age groups, the rate of homicides is higher for males than females. Homicides among females peaked among those aged 35-44, with a rate of 6.0 per 100,000. For males, the homicide rate peaked among those aged 20-24, with a rate of 27.3 per 100,000. The rate of homicides was approximately 4.1 times greater for males than females overall, and the rate for 15- to 24-year-olds was 5.2 times greater for males than females.

- Homicide patterns differed by race. Although non-Hispanic (NH) Whites composed nearly two-thirds (60.7%) of the total population, they accounted for 22.8% of homicides (n=202 deaths), while NH Black homicide victims accounted for 62.1% or 550 deaths. In 2023, the rate of homicides for NH Black residents was 24.2 per 100,000, compared to a rate of 3.1 per 100,000 for NH Whites. NH American Indians also had a high rate of homicide, 32.3 per 100,000 (n=36 deaths).

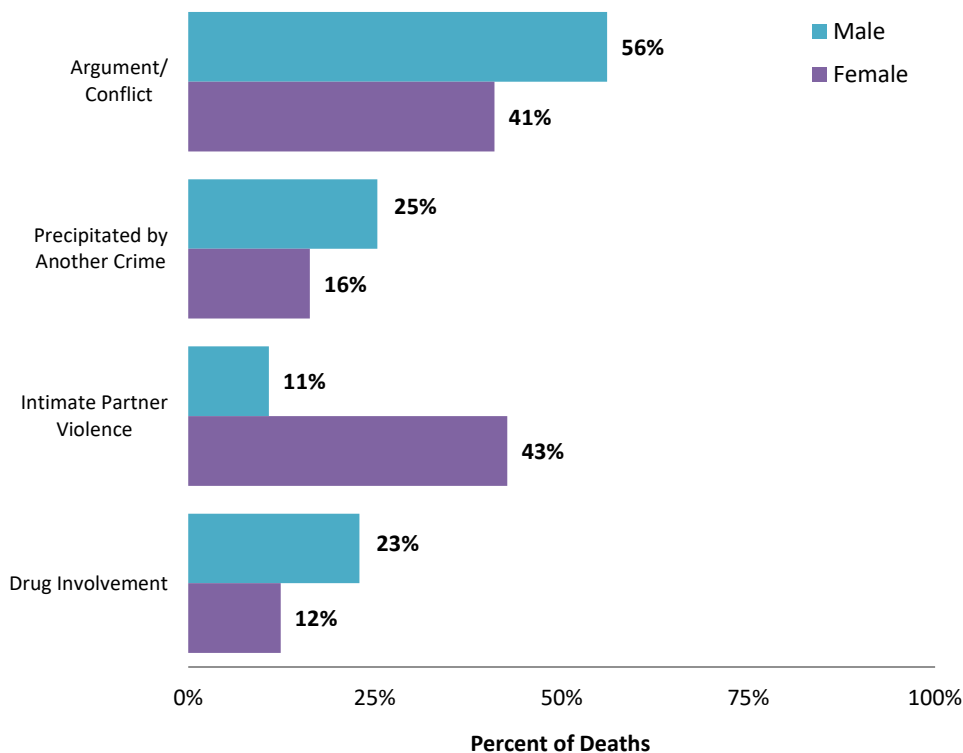
Method of Homicide Deaths: NC-VDRS, 2023



- Firearms were used in 80.1% of homicides, while sharp instruments were used in 8.0% of all homicides.

- Of the remaining methods used in homicides (12%), each was used in 4.3% of homicides or less.

Circumstances of Homicides: NC-VDRS, 2023



- Argument, abuse, or conflict (unrelated to intimate partner violence [IPV]) was noted as a contributing factor in 56.1% of male and 41.0% of female homicides with reported circumstances.

- Of the homicides that were precipitated by another crime, such as robbery, burglary, or drug trafficking, 25.3% were male and 16.3% were female.

- IPV was indicated as a contributing factor in 17.5% of homicides overall, 10.8% were male homicides, and 42.7% were female homicides.

- Drug involvement was identified as a contributing factor in 20.7% of all homicides, 22.9% of male homicides, and 12.4% of female homicides.

*96.4% of cases had circumstance information. One female and 31 males were missing circumstance information.

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



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

NORTH CAROLINA VIOLENT DEATH
NC VDRS
REPORTING SYSTEM

NCDHHS Division of Public Health / www.dph.ncdhhs.gov / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425
NC Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432
State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / www.ncdhhs.gov
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2023 FINAL DATA 6/16/2025
Please see the NC-VDRS 2023 Annual Report for additional data and technical information:
<https://injuryfreenc.dph.ncdhhs.gov/DataSurveillance/ViolentDeathData.htm>