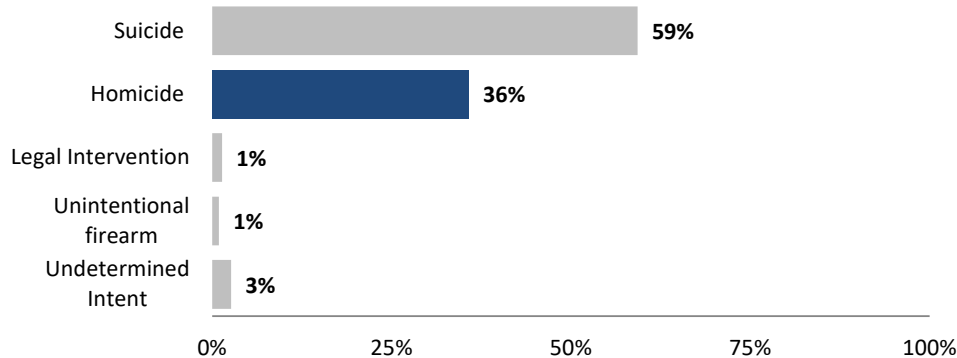


NC Violent Death Reporting System

HOMICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA, 2020

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 triangulates 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://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm>.

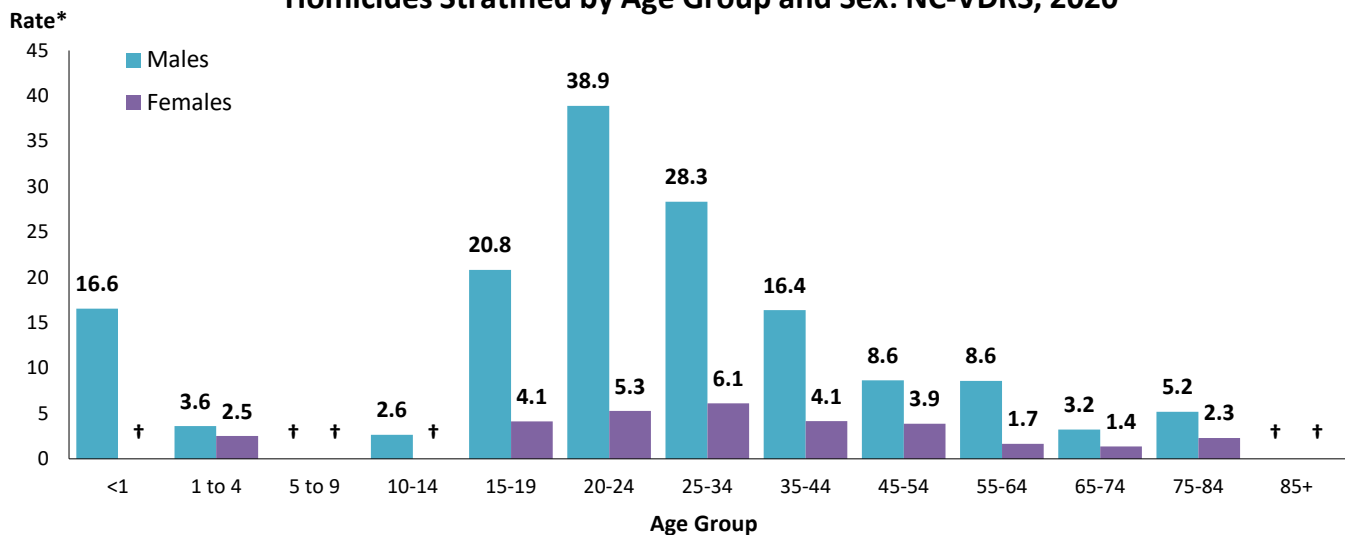
Violent Deaths by Manner of Death: NC-VDRS, 2020



- Of the 2,424 violent deaths in North Carolina, 867 (35.8%) were homicides.

- There were 1,437 suicides (59.3%), 33 deaths from legal intervention (1.4%), 23 unintentional firearm deaths (0.9%), and 64 deaths of undetermined intent (2.6%).

Homicides Stratified by Age Group and Sex: NC-VDRS, 2020



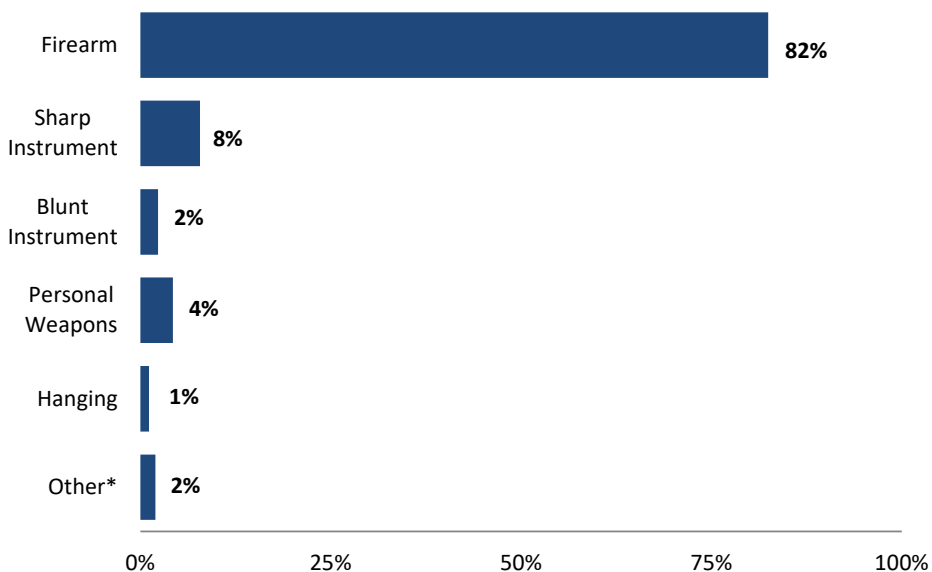
* Rate per 100,000 NC population

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

- For every age group, there were more homicides for males than females. Homicides among females peaked among those aged 25-34, with a rate of 6.1 per 100,000. For males, the homicide rate peaked among those aged 20-24, with a rate of 38.9 per 100,000. The rate of homicides was approximately 4.2 times greater for males than females overall, and the rate for 15- to 24 year-olds was 6.4 times greater for males than females.

- Homicide patterns differed by race. Although non-Hispanic (NH) whites composed nearly two-thirds (63.3%) of the total population, they accounted for 25.5% of homicides (n=221 deaths), while NH Black homicide victims accounted for 64.1% or 556 deaths. In 2020, the rate of homicides for NH Black residents was 23.7 per 100,000, compared to a rate of 3.3 per 100,000 for NH whites. NH American Indians also had a high rate of homicide, 20.9 per 100,000 (n=26 deaths).

Method of Homicide Deaths: NC-VDRS, 2020

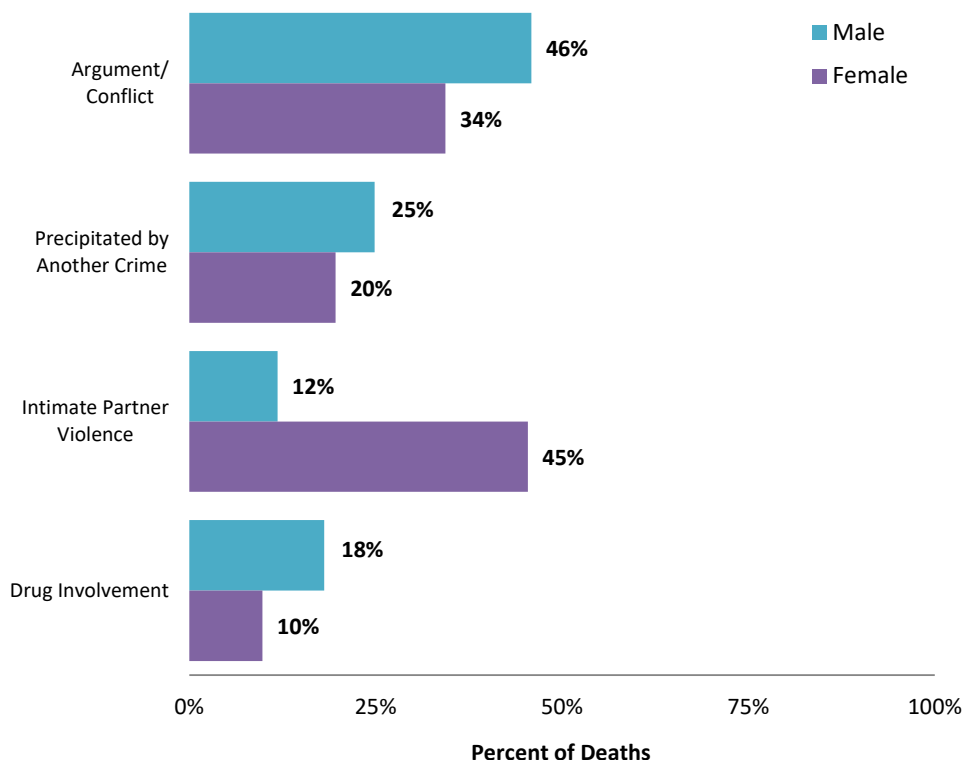


*Other includes motor vehicle, violent shaking, drowning, fire/burns, intentional neglect, unknown method, and other causes of death.

Percent of Deaths

- Firearms were used in 82.5% of homicides, while sharp instruments were used in 7.8% of all homicides.
- Of the remaining methods used in homicides (10%), each were used in 4.3% of homicides or less.

Circumstances of Homicides: NC-VDRS, 2020



*88.9% of cases had circumstance information. Ten females and 86 males were missing circumstance information.

- Argument, abuse, or conflict (unrelated to intimate partner violence (IPV)) was noted as a contributing factor in 45.9% of male and 34.4% of female homicides with reported circumstances.
- Of the homicides that were precipitated by another crime, such as robbery, burglary, or drug trafficking, 24.8% were male and 19.6% were female.
- IPV was indicated as a contributing factor in 18.9% of homicides overall, 11.8% were male homicides, and 45.4% were female homicides.
- Drug involvement was identified as a contributing factor in 16.3% of all homicides, 18.1% of male homicides, and 9.8% of female homicides.

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 Division of Public Health / www.publichealth.nc.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

NC DHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

2020 FINAL DATA 6/20/2022

Please see the NC-VDRS 2020 Annual Report for additional data and technical information:

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



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Public Health

