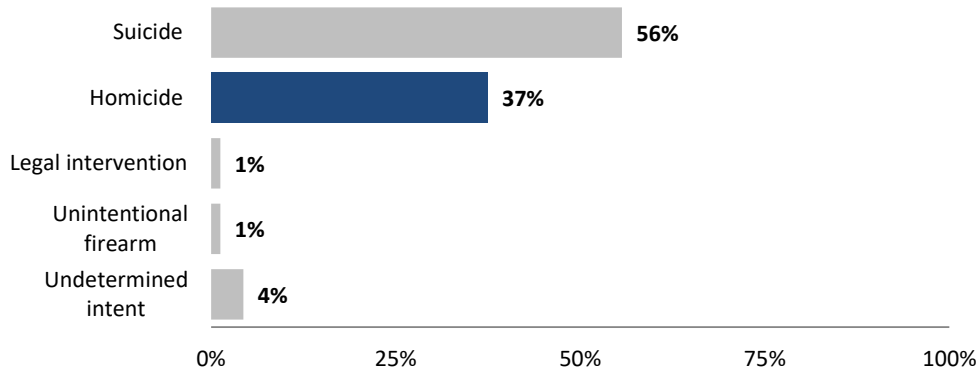


NC Violent Death Reporting System

HOMICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA, 2021

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>.

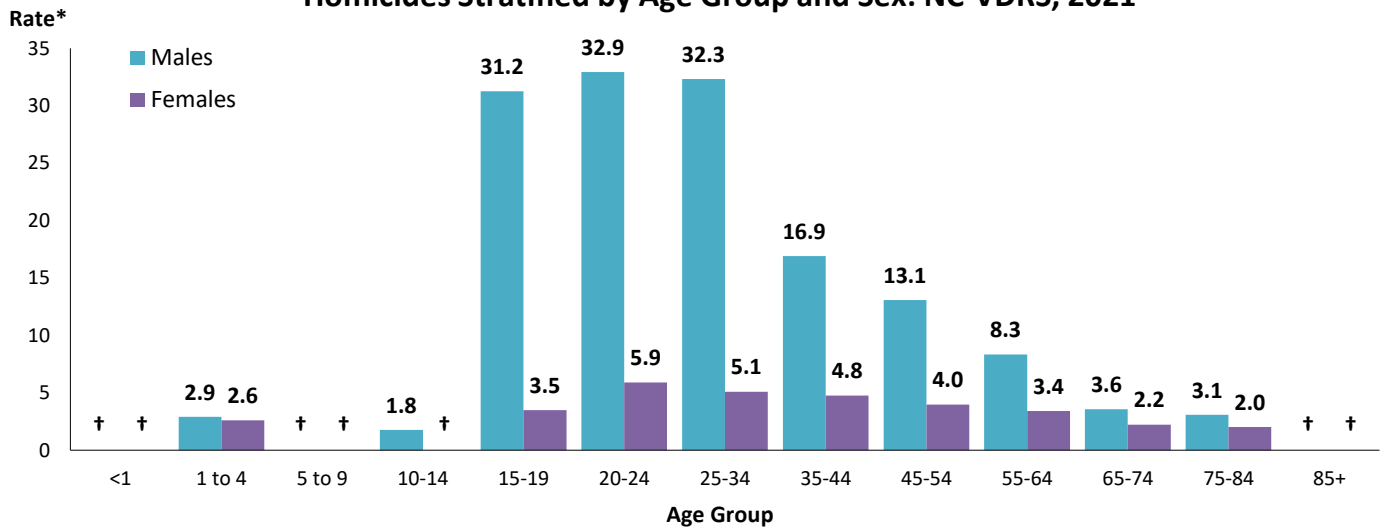
Violent Deaths by Manner of Death: NC-VDRS, 2021



- Of the 2,537 violent deaths in North Carolina, 950 (37.4%) were homicides.

- There were 1,412 suicides (55.7%), 32 deaths from legal intervention (1.3%), 32 unintentional firearm deaths (1.3%), and 111 deaths of undetermined intent (4.4%).

Homicides Stratified by Age Group and Sex: NC-VDRS, 2021



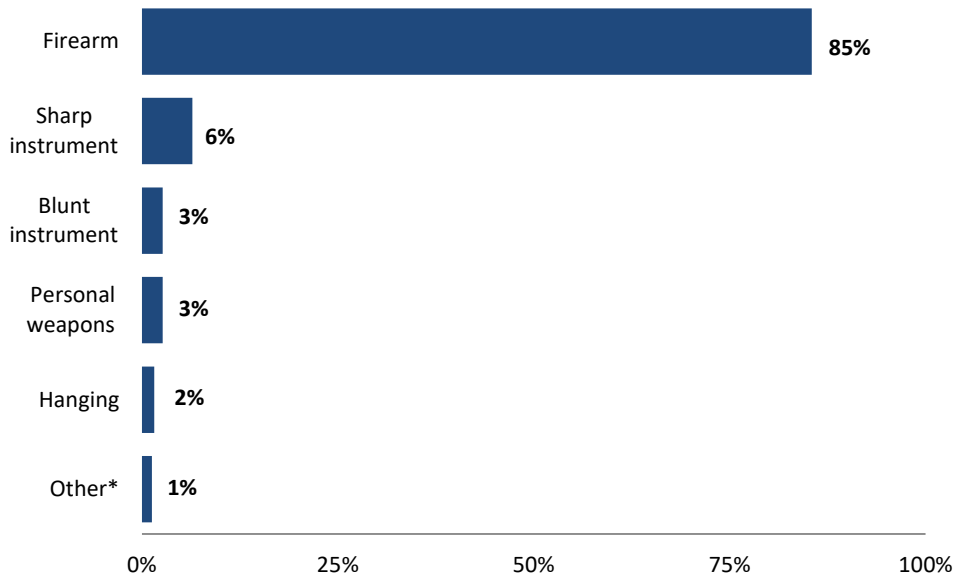
* Rate per 100,000 NC population

† 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 5.1 per 100,000. For males, the homicide rate peaked among those aged 20-24, with a rate of 32.9 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 6.8 times greater for males than females.

- Homicide patterns differed by race. Although non-Hispanic (NH) whites composed nearly two-thirds (63.6%) of the total population, they accounted for 25.8% of homicides (n=245 deaths), while NH Black homicide victims accounted for 62.8% or 597 deaths. In 2021, the rate of homicides for NH Black residents was 26.6 per 100,000, compared to a rate of 3.7 per 100,000 for NH whites. NH American Indians also had a high rate of homicide, 24.5 per 100,000 (n=27 deaths).

Method of Homicide Deaths: NC-VDRS, 2021

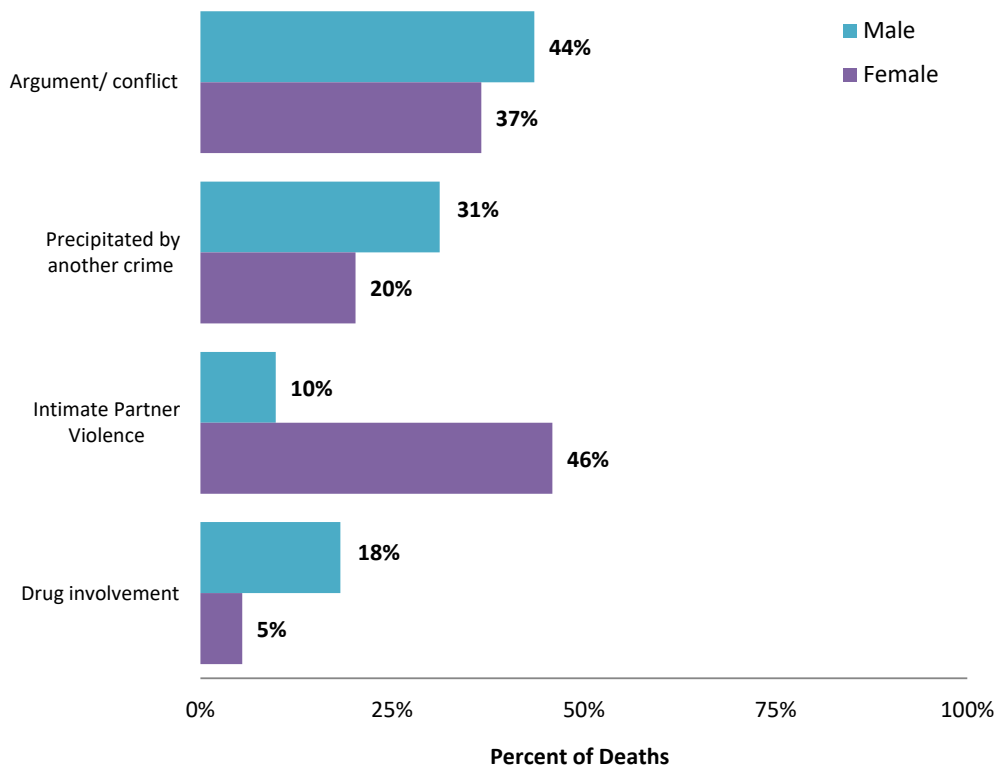


- Firearms were used in 85.5% of homicides, while sharp instruments were used in 6.4% of all homicides.

- Of the remaining methods used in homicides (8%), each were used in 2.6% of homicides or less.

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

Circumstances of Homicides: NC-VDRS, 2021



- Argument, abuse, or conflict (unrelated to intimate partner violence [IPV]) was noted as a contributing factor in 43.5% of male and 36.6% of female homicides with reported circumstances.

- Of the homicides that were precipitated by another crime, such as robbery, burglary, or drug trafficking, 31.2% were male and 20.2% were female.

- IPV was indicated as a contributing factor in 17.2% of homicides overall, 9.8% were male homicides, and 45.9% were female homicides.

- Drug involvement was identified as a contributing factor in 15.6% of all homicides, 18.3% of male homicides, and 5.5% of female homicides.

*94.2% of cases had circumstance information. Four females and 51 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 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
NCDHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

2021 FINAL DATA 8/14/2023

Please see the NC-VDRS 2021 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
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

