The most common locations of firearm-related deaths were apartment or home (67.4%); motor vehicle, excluding school bus and public transportation (14.6%); natural areas such as a field, river, beach, or woods (2.8%); street/road, sidewalk or alley (6.0%); other commercial establishment, such as a grocery store, retail outlet, or laundromat (3.0%); and parking lot or public parking garage (1.5%).

In 2020, there were 1,651 firearm-related deaths among North Carolina (NC) residents.

Firearms were involved in over two-thirds (68.1%) of all violent deaths in NC during 2020.

Specific causes of firearm-related deaths included suicide (52.8%), homicide (43.3%), legal intervention involving discharge of firearm (1.9%), unintentional discharge of firearm (1.4%), and undetermined intent (0.6%).

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.
Firearm-Related Death Rates by Sex and Race: NC-VDRS, 2020

- Most firearm-related deaths were among males (84.9%).
- The firearm-related death rate was highest among male victims ages 20-24 and 25-34 (44.9 and 58.3 per 100,000), while the rate among female victims was highest for ages 25-34 and 20-24 (6.7 and 7.6 per 100,000).

Firearm-Related Death Rates by Sex and Age: NC-VDRS, 2020

- Suicide was the most common type of firearm-related death among NH white and NH Asian victims (82.7% and 63.6%, respectively), while homicide was the most common type among NH Black, NH American Indian, and Hispanic victims (84.7%, 71.4%, and 58.7%).
- There were 28 total firearm-related deaths among NH American Indian residents, 22 among NH Asian, 597 among NH Black, 926 among NH white, and 76 among Hispanic residents in 2020.

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2020 FINAL DATA 06/20/2022
Please see the NC-VDRS 2020 Annual Report for additional data and technical information:
https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/DataSurveillance/ViolentDeathData.htm