Firearm-Related Deaths: National and State-Level Data

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The North Carolina Medical Examiner System

• OCME investigates sudden, violent, and unexpected deaths in North Carolina.
  • Accident
  • Homicide
  • Natural
  • Suicide

• OCME investigates 12,000 deaths per year.
  • Approximately 14% of the total number of deaths in North Carolina

• OCME collects data from autopsy reports, death certificates, investigation reports, and toxicology reports.
  • OCME data can be used to:
    • Identify trends
    • Inform public health initiatives
    • Develop prevention strategies
Firearm-Related Deaths in the United States

ON AN AVERAGE DAY, 91 AMERICANS ARE KILLED WITH GUNS

This number increased to 99 per day in 2015!


There were **356,831** firearm-related deaths from 2005 to 2015. Of these deaths, **212,770** were suicides.

### Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>% Total</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>86.1</td>
<td>18.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>% Total</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>73.1</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999 – 2015: CDC WONDER online database. Analysis by the North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999 – 2015: CDC WONDER online database. Analysis by the North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.
Firearm-Related Deaths in the United States, 2015

• There were 36,252 firearm-related deaths in 2015.

• Highest Rates of Firearm-Related Deaths (All Manners of Death)
  • Alaska (24.0 per 100,000)
  • Louisiana (20.4)
  • Montana (19.8)
  • Alabama (19.7)
  • Mississippi (19.7)

• Highest Numbers of Firearm-Related Deaths (All Manners of Death)
  • Texas (3,203)
  • California (3,095)
  • Florida (2,559)
  • Pennsylvania (1,485)
  • Georgia (1,448)

• North Carolina ranked 21st in the nation with a rate of 12.8 per 100,000.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics. December 2016.
Firearm-Related Deaths in the United States, 2015

Age-Adjusted Death Rates

United States 11.1
- 3 - 8.9
- 8.9 - 11.4
- 11.4 - 12.7
- 12.8 - 16.9
- 17.3 - 23.4

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics. December 2016.
Firearm-Related Deaths in the United States, 2015

There were 22,018 suicides in 2015. Homicides represented the second largest group with 12,968 deaths.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>85.6</td>
<td>19.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>11.3</td>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>72.5</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>20.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>8.4</td>
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Firearm-Related Deaths in the United States, 2015

Firearm-Related Deaths in the United States by Age Group, 2015

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999 – 2015: CDC WONDER online database. Analysis by the North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.
Firearm-Related Deaths in North Carolina
There were 719 firearm-related deaths in North Carolina in the first 6 months of 2016. Of these deaths, 437 were suicides.
2016 PROVISIONAL DATA

Firearm-Related Deaths in North Carolina

Firearm-Related Deaths by Gender and Manner of Death, January – June 2016

- **Number of Deaths**
  - **Manner of Death**
    - Accident
    - Homicide
    - Suicide
    - Undetermined
    - Pending

- **Firearm-Related Deaths**
  - **Gender**
    - Female
    - Male

- **Source**: North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (2016)
2016 PROVISIONAL DATA

Firearm-Related Deaths in North Carolina

Firearm-Related Deaths by Race and Manner of Death, January – June 2016

Source: North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (2016)
2016 PROVISIONAL DATA

Firearm-Related Deaths in North Carolina

Firearm-Related Deaths by Gender and Age Group, January – June 2016

Source: North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (2016)
Data Requests

If you would like to request OCME data, please visit our website at www.ocme.dhhs.nc.gov. If you have any questions, please contact Alison Miller at alison.miller@dhhs.nc.gov.

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Thank you!