



# Gun Violence & Safety: By the Numbers

A Public Health Fact Sheet from the Chatham County Public Health Department

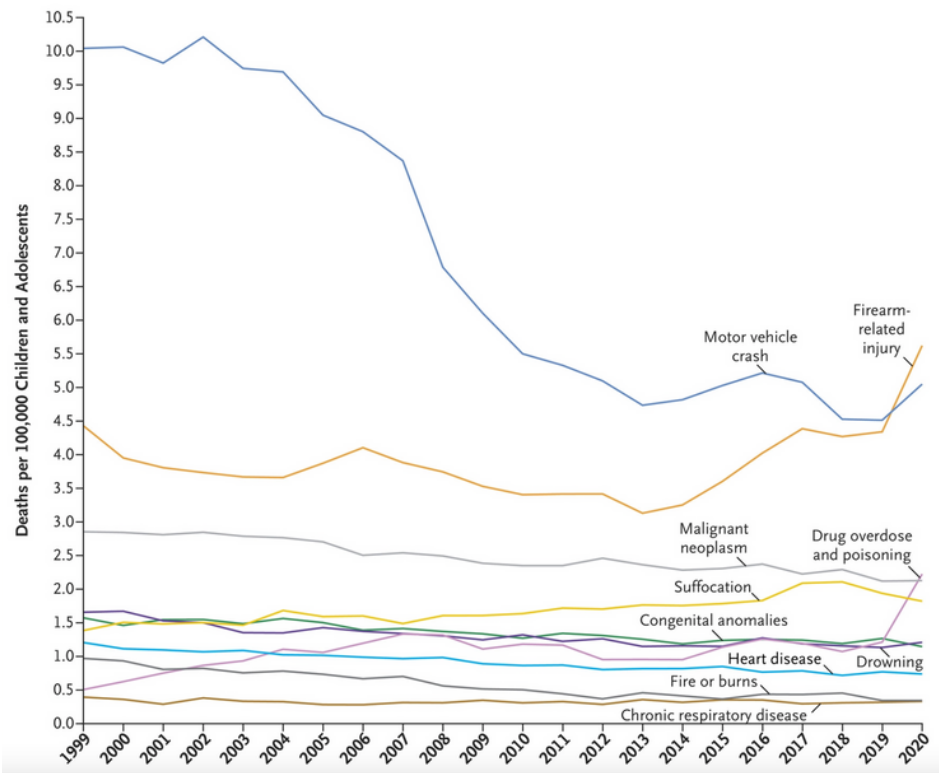
This short fact sheet is designed to provide an overview of the data around gun violence and firearm safety in the United States, North Carolina, and Chatham County to show how gun violence affects those in our country, our state, and our community. Gun violence is a devastating event with both immediate and long-term consequences.

## Introduction

Most of the data presented in this report was gathered for the 2021 Chatham County Community Assessment, a report that details health outcomes and information on other topics. The Assessment will be released on July 1, 2022. That report, once published, and past Assessments and reports can be found online at the Chatham County website at [www.chathamcountync.gov/healthreports](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/healthreports).

**Firearm-related injuries are now the #1 cause of death for individuals ages 1 to 19 in the United States, surpassing vehicle accidents, as of 2020.**

The rate of firearm-related deaths among individuals ages 1-19 in the United States rose by 29.5% from 2019 to 2020. These deaths included suicide, homicide, unintentional, and other deaths, and this increase was seen across most demographic groups and types of deaths.



Source: Goldstick JE, Cunningham RM, and Carter PM. Current Causes of Death in Children and Adolescents in the United States. *NEJM*. 2022; 386:1955-1956. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMc2201761

**North Carolina has had double-digit mass shootings in each of the last three years, including 22 in 2021.**

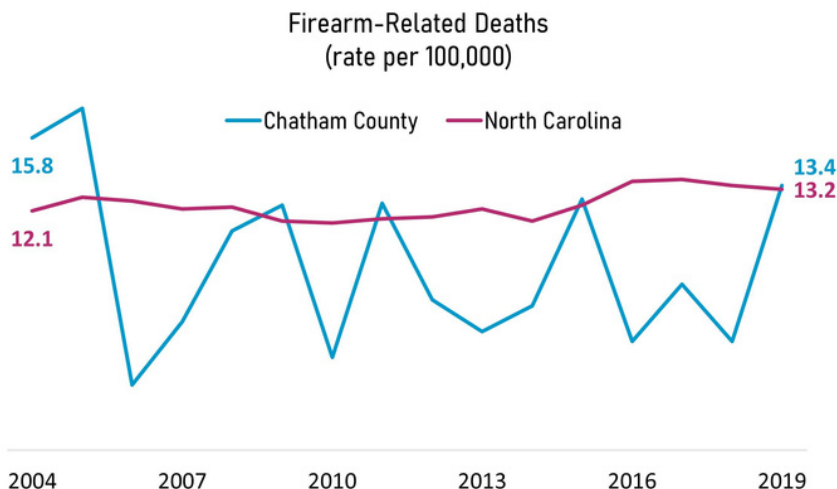
A mass shooting is defined as an event where four or more individuals are shot and/or killed in a single event at the same general time and location, not including the shooter. The deadliest mass shooting in North Carolina in 2020 occurred in Chatham County, when one person shot and killed six people in March 2020 in Moncure.

Year	2019	2020	2021
# of mass shootings	11	20	22

Fowler H. Gun deaths in the US surged in 2020, data shows. North Carolina's spike was even bigger. The Charlotte Observer. <https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/state/north-carolina/article250197690.html>. Published March 30, 2021. Accessed May 31, 2022.  
 NC Stats. Gun Violence Archive. <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/congress/nc>. Accessed May 31, 2022.

# From 2015-2019, 6,792 North Carolinians died from firearm-related injuries, with more than half coming from suicides and nearly 2 in 5 from homicides.

Data from the North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System shows that males were more than six times as likely as females and Black/African-Americans were as a whole more likely than White and Hispanic/Latino North Carolinians to die by firearm.

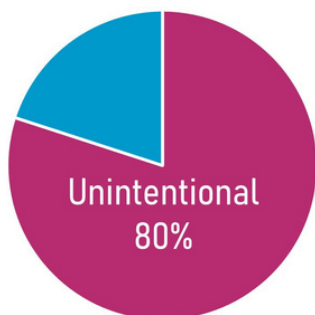


**From 2015-2019, 58 Chatham County residents died from firearm-related injuries. More than 8 in 10 of those deaths were by suicide, and Black/African Americans and males were more likely to die by firearm than their peers.**

Source: NC Violent Death Reporting System Data Dashboard. NC Injury and Violence Prevention Branch. <https://injuryfreenc.dph.ncdhhs.gov/DataSurveillance/ViolentDeathData.htm>. Accessed May 31, 2022.

**From 2016-2021, there were 70 firearm-related injury emergency department visits among Chatham County residents. 4 out of 5 of these visits were for unintentional injuries.**

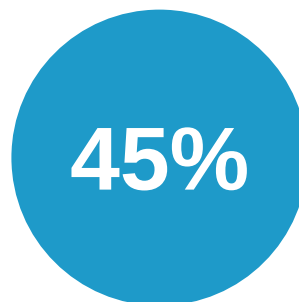
Firearm-related injury emergency department visits in Chatham County, 2016-2021



Source: North Carolina Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool

**Of the North Carolina adults that report having a gun in their homes, nearly half report keeping guns loaded and more than 1 in 4 report having a gun that is kept loaded and unlocked.**

Gun(s) kept loaded



Gun(s) kept loaded and unlocked



Source: Gun Ownership: 2019 BRFSS Survey Results: North Carolina. NC State Center for Health Statistics. <https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/data/brfss/2019/nc/nccr/GunStat.html>. Accessed May 31, 2022.

## Resources

The local Department of Veterans' Affairs, Project Child Safe, and Safe Kids Chatham all have free cable gun locks that individuals and organizations can request. Keeping guns locked away and separate from ammunition not only reduces risk of accidental discharge but reduces the chances of someone acting on suicidal ideation.

[Safe Gun Storage Tips](#) - Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, NC Division of Public Health

[Safe Kids Chatham County](#) - UNC Health Care Trauma Program

[Get a Gun Safety Kit](#) - Project ChildSafe

If you or someone you know is struggling with their mental health, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline ([suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)) at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), or text the [Crisis Text Line](#) (text HELLO to 741741). You can also contact the 24/7 Vaya Health Access to Care Line at 1-800-849-6127 (for individuals who are hearing-impaired, dial 711 to reach NC Relay).

**For more information, or if you have questions, contact:**

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