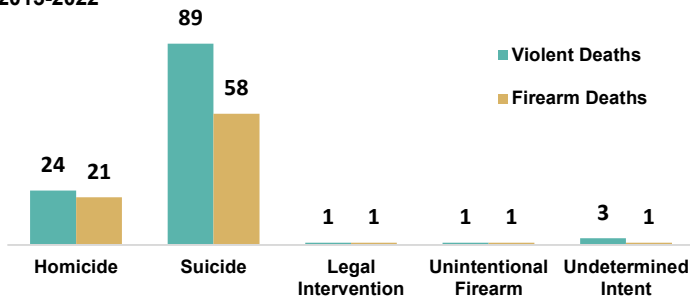# McDowell County Violence Profile

McDowell County, located in western North Carolina, has a population of 45,169 and is predominantly rural. The largest city is Marion with a population of 7,373. The closest trauma center is Mission Hospitals (36 miles from Marion).

Crime

In 2023, McDowell County had a total crime count of 2,183 with 59 violent crimes*

Violent crime in McDowell County has decreased by 27% in the past year

Violent Crimes per 100,000 people

135 McDowell **312** Statewide

The most common violent crimes were aggravated assault (76.3%) and rape (11.9%)

*Violent Crimes include the offenses of homicide (murder and non-negligent manslaughter and negligent manslaughter), aggravated assault, rape (including sodomy and sexual assault with an object) and robbery. McDowell County had a reporting coverage of 98% of the population compared to the statewide coverage of 98% (2021). Source: CJAC NIBRS 2023
For more detailed crime data visit: **NC Justice Data Portal**

Violent Deaths

McDowell County had 10 violent deaths* in 2022

88% of homicides and 65% of suicides in the past 10 years involved a firearm

All Violent Deaths and Firearm Deaths by Manner; McDowell County, 2013-2022

- Violent Deaths
- Firearm Deaths

Manner	Violent Deaths	Firearm Deaths
Homicide	24	21
Suicide	89	58
Legal Intervention	1	1
Unintentional Firearm	1	1
Undetermined Intent	3	1

In McDowell County, 71% of all homicide deaths involved an argument or conflict

Homicide circumstances vary by sex of the victim
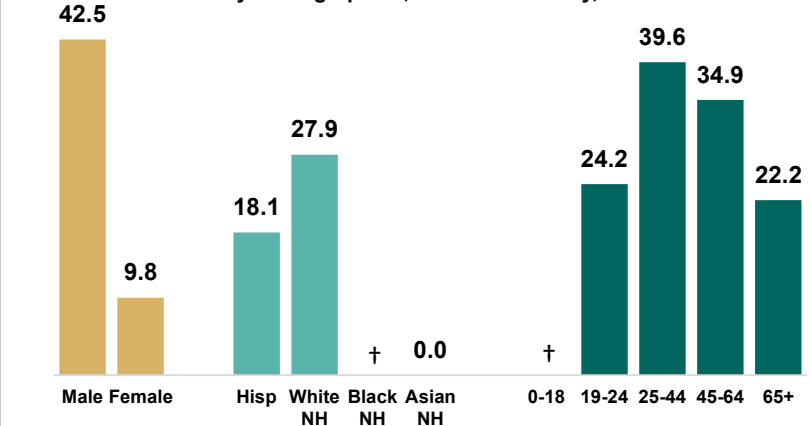
In North Carolina…

More than **1 in 4** male homicide deaths were precipitated by another crime

More than **1 in 3** female homicide deaths involved intimate partner violence

Male, Non-Hispanic White, and middle-aged adult residents have the highest rates of violent death in McDowell County

Violent Death Rate by Demographics; McDowell County, 2013-2022

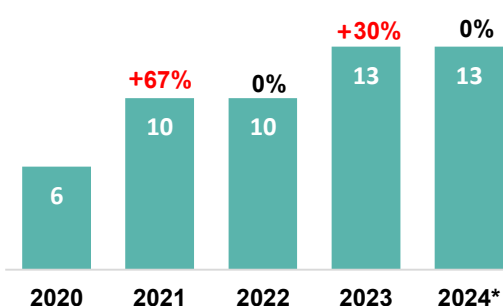| Group	Rate
Male	42.5
Female	9.8
Hisp	18.1
White NH	27.9
Black NH	†
Asian NH	0.0
0-18	†
19-24	24.2
25-44	39.6
45-64	34.9
65+	22.2

† indicates fewer than 5 deaths; rates based on fewer than 5 deaths are considered unstable

Source: VDRS 2013-2022.
*Violent deaths includes deaths due to homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm, legal intervention, and undetermined intent. Limited to NC residents. 92% of homicide victims had circumstance information. Suicide deaths are only reported for ages ≥10.   For more detailed violent death data visit: **NC-VDRS Data Dashboard**

Firearm-related Injury Emergency Department Visits by Year; McDowell County

Year	Visits	Change
2020	6	
2021	10	+67%
2022	10	0%
2023	13	+30%
2024*	13	0%

Violent Injury

In 2024, a total of 13 McDowell County residents visited the emergency department due to firearm injury

Emergency department visits due to firearm injury remained the same compared to the previous year among McDowell County residents

provisional data. Source: NC DETECT, ED Visits 2020-2024
For more detailed firearm injury data visit: **NC FASTER Reports | NC DETECT**