

# Polk County Violence Profile



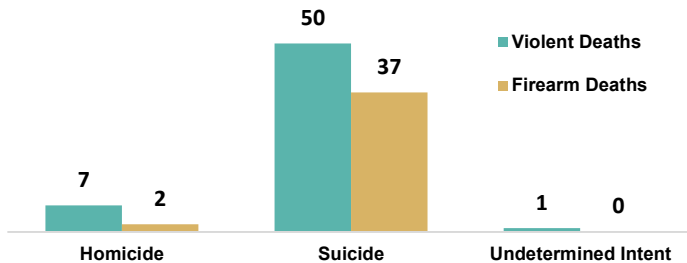
Polk County, in southwestern North Carolina, has a population of 20,156 and is predominantly rural. The largest city is Tryon (pop. 1,634). The closest trauma centers are Mission Hospitals and Atrium Health Cleveland (both 45 miles from Tryon).

## Violent Deaths

Polk County had 7 violent deaths\* in 2022

**29% of homicides and 74% of suicides in the past 10 years involved a firearm**

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



## Crime

In 2023, Polk County had a total crime count of 954 with 26 violent crimes\*

**Violent crime in Polk County has increased by 73% in the past year**

Violent Crimes per 100,000 people

**135** **312**  
Polk Statewide

The most common violent crimes were aggravated assault (73.1%) and murder & non-negligent manslaughter (7.7%)

\*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. Polk County had a reporting coverage of 100% of the population compared to the statewide coverage of 98% (2021). Source: C.J.A.C. NIBRS 2023. For more detailed crime data visit: [NC Justice Data Portal](#)

**Male, Non-Hispanic White, and older adult residents have the highest rates of violent death in Polk County**

In Polk County, 29% of all homicide deaths involved an argument or conflict

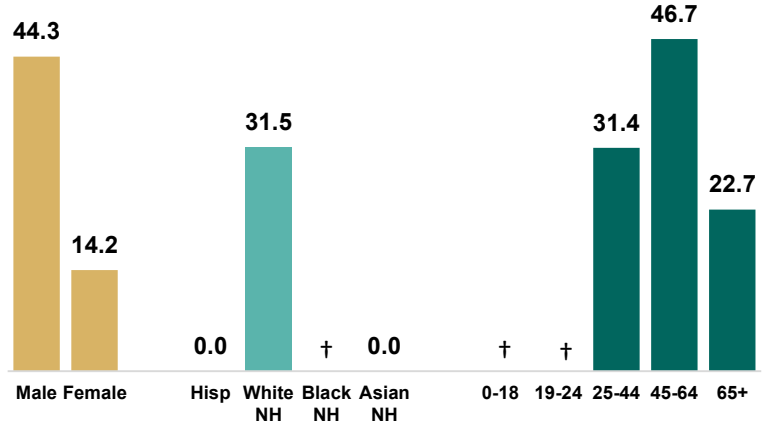
**Homicide circumstances vary by sex of the victim**

In North Carolina...

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

More than  
**2 in 5**  
female homicide deaths involved intimate partner violence

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

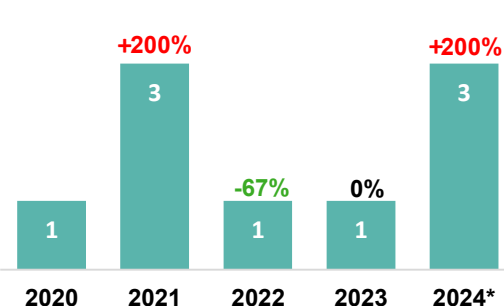


† indicates fewer than 5 deaths; rates based on fewer than 5 deaths are considered unstable

Source: VDRS 2013-2022.

\*Violent deaths includes deaths due to homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm, legal intervention, and undetermined intent. Limited to NC residents. 100% 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; Polk County



## Violent Injury

In 2024, a total of 3 Polk County residents visited the emergency department due to firearm injury

**Emergency department visits due to firearm injury increased by 200% in the past year among Polk County residents**

\*provisional data. Source: NC DETECT, ED Visits 2020-2024\*

For more detailed firearm injury data visit: [NC FASTER Reports | NC DETECT](#)



Office of Violence Prevention  
NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

For more county profiles and resources visit: [ncdps.gov/ovp](#)

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