

Swain County Violence Profile



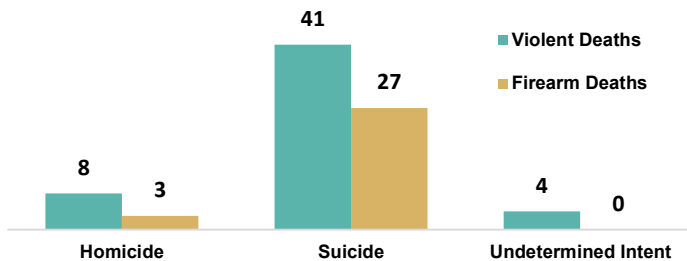
Swain County, located in western North Carolina, has a population of 13,876 and is predominantly rural. The largest city is Bryson City with a population of 1,480. The closest trauma center is Mission Hospitals (65 miles from Bryson City).

Violent Deaths

Swain County had 12 violent deaths* in 2022

38% of homicides and 66% of suicides in the past 10 years involved a firearm

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



Crime

In 2023, Swain County had a total crime count of 1,304 with 201 violent crimes*

Violent crime in Swain County has decreased by 23% in the past year

The most common violent crimes were aggravated assault (93.0%) and rape (5.0%)

Violent Crimes per 100,000 people

1061 312
Swain Statewide

Interpret crime rates with caution - crime counts may be inaccurate due to inclusion/exclusion of federally recognized tribal lands in Swain and Jackson counties.

*Violent Crimes include the offenses of homicide, aggravated assault, sexual assault, and robbery. Swain County had a reporting coverage of 100% of the population compared to statewide coverage of 98% (2021). Source: CJAC NIBRS 2023

For more detailed crime data visit: [NC Justice Data Portal](#)

Male, Non-Hispanic White, and young adult residents have the highest rates of violent death in Swain County

In Swain County, 33% of all homicide deaths involved an argument or conflict

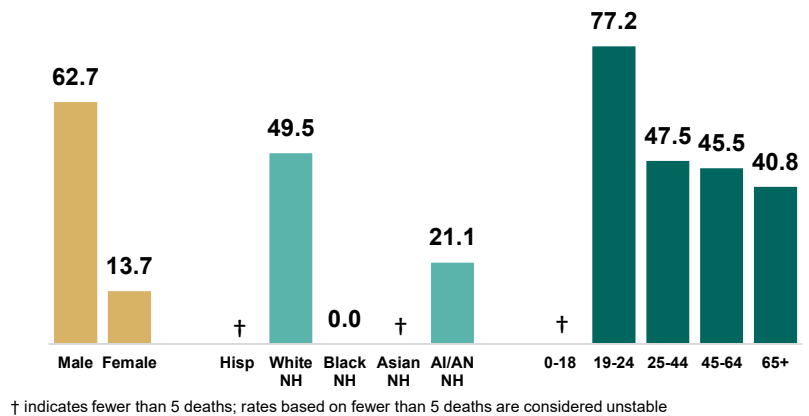
Homicide circumstances vary by sex of the victim

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; Swain County, 2013-2022

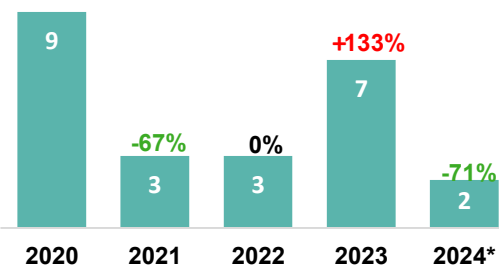


† indicates fewer than 5 deaths; rates based on fewer than 5 deaths are considered unstable

Source: VDRS 2013-2022.

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



Violent Injury

In 2024, a total of 2 Swain County residents visited the emergency department due to firearm injury

Emergency department visits due to firearm injury decreased by 71% in the past year among Swain 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](#)

Date updated: 06/11/2025