

Wilkes County Violence Profile



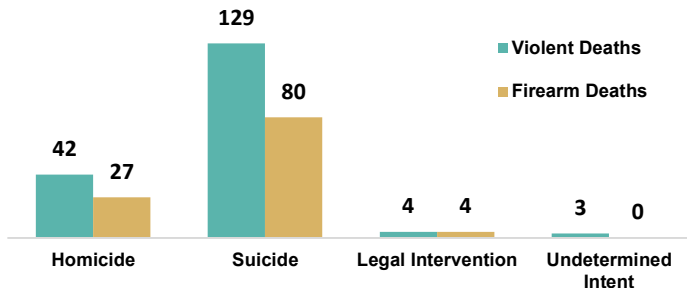
Wilkes County, located in northwestern North Carolina, has a population of 66,457 and is predominantly rural. The largest city is North Wilkesboro with a population of 4,307. The closest trauma center is Atrium WFBH (54 miles from North Wilkesboro).

Violent Deaths

Wilkes County had 19 violent deaths* in 2022

64% of homicides and 62% of suicides in the past 10 years involved a firearm

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



In Wilkes County, 55% of all homicide deaths involved an argument or conflict

Homicide circumstances vary by sex of the victim

In Wilkes County...

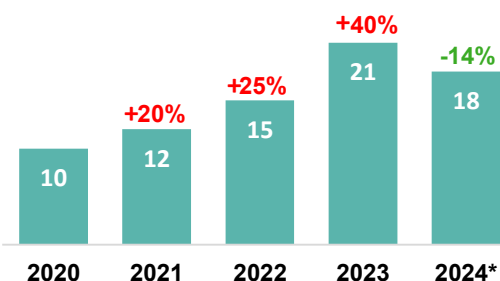
More than
1 in 4
male homicide deaths were precipitated by another crime

Nearly
2 in 3
female homicide deaths involved intimate partner violence

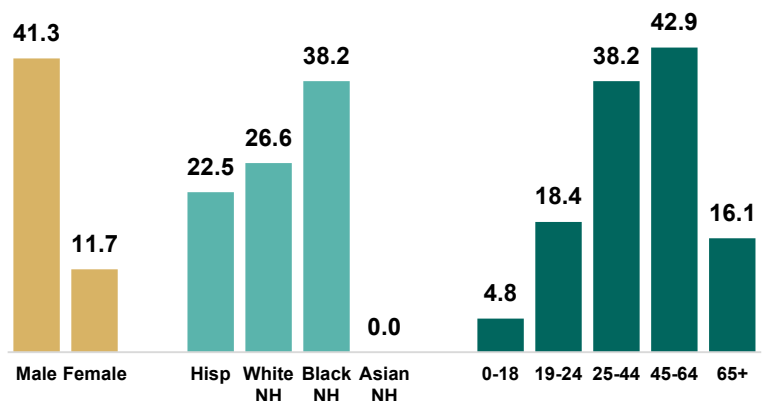
Source: VDRS 2013-2022.

*Violent deaths includes deaths due to homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm, legal intervention, and undetermined intent. Limited to NC residents. 95% 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; Wilkes County



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



Crime

In 2023, Wilkes County had a total crime count of 2,242 with 122 violent crimes*

Violent crime in Wilkes County has decreased by 8% in the past year

Violent Crimes per 100,000 people

186 312
Wilkes Statewide

The most common violent crimes were aggravated assault (68.9%) and rape (15.6%)

*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. Wilkes County had a reporting coverage of 100% 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](#)

Male, Non-Hispanic Black, and older adult residents have the highest rates of violent death in Wilkes County

Violent Injury

In 2024, a total of 18 Wilkes County residents visited the emergency department due to firearm injury

Emergency department visits due to firearm injury decreased by 14% in the past year among Wilkes 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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