

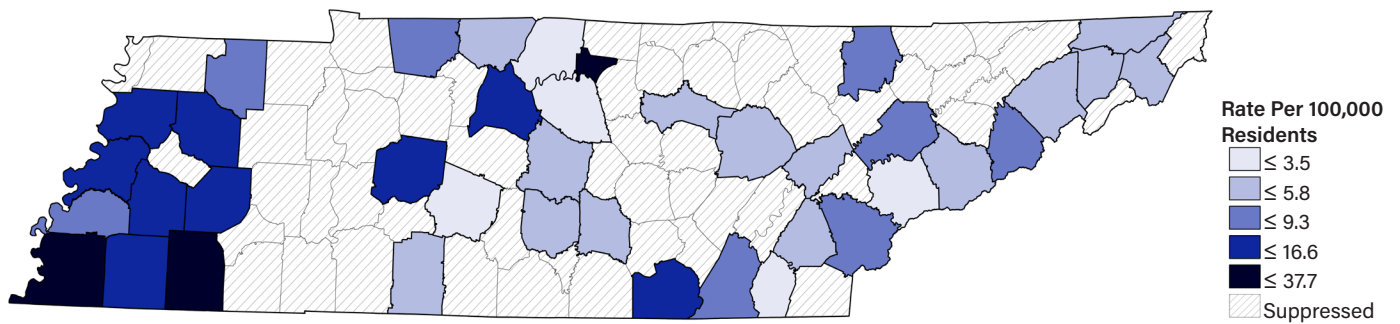


TENNESSEE VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM

Quick Facts: Homicide in Tennessee 2020-2023

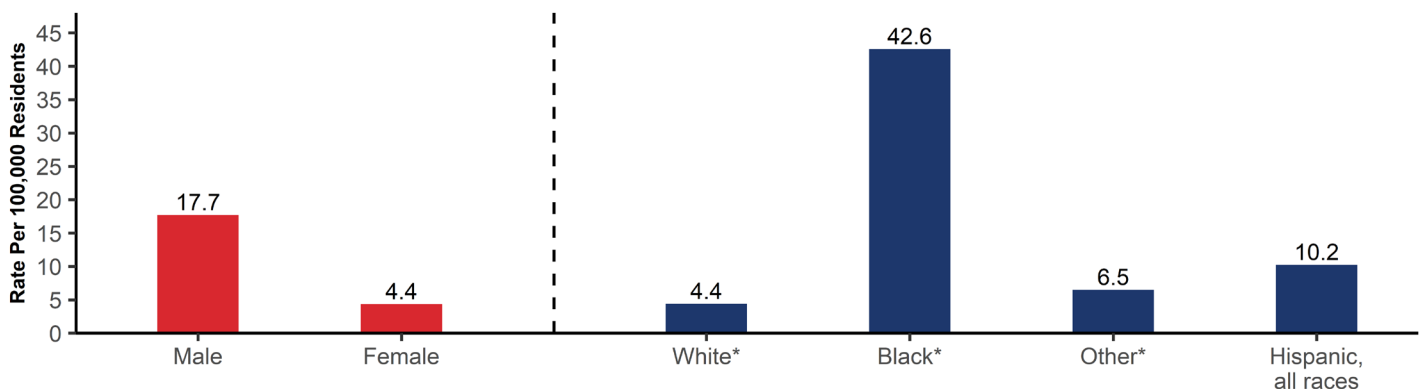
The Tennessee Violent Death Reporting System (TNVDRS) helps state and local officials understand why violent deaths occur by linking data from medical examiner, law enforcement, and vital statistics records. It is the only data system for homicide and suicide that pools data on violent deaths and their circumstances from multiple sources into one anonymous database. TNVDRS collects over 600 unique data elements to provide context on violent deaths occurring in our state including: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths of undetermined intent. For more information or to request additional data, please contact us at TN.VDRS@tn.gov

Homicide Rates by County of Injury



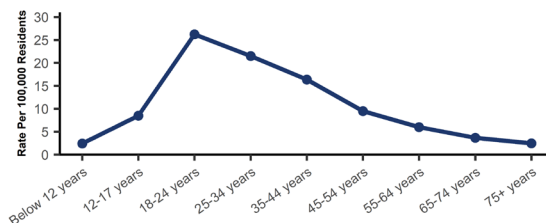
Of the 8,938 violent deaths in TN from 2020 to 2023, 3,060 were homicides (34.2%). Counties not shaded had fewer than 10 homicide deaths included in the TNVDRS. Shelby County had a statistically significant increase in homicide rate from 2022 to 2023, but the 2023 homicide rate is comparable to earlier years.

Rates by Age, Sex, and Race/Ethnicity

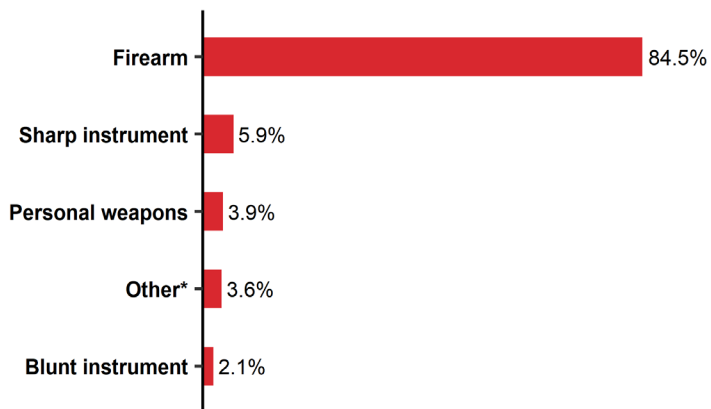


The mortality rate of homicide was 4.0 times higher for males than females (17.7 per 100,000 compared to 4.4 per 100,000), as shown above. We can also see that black individuals had a higher rate than white individuals or individuals in other racial groups (42.6 per 100,000 compared to 4.4 and 6.5). These groupings include Hispanic white and Hispanic black decedents respectively due to the available population groups for rate calculation. The homicide mortality rate for Hispanic decedents of all races was 10.2 per 100,000.

Decedents over 75 years and below 12 years had similarly low homicide mortality rates at 2.4 per 100,000. The figure to the right shows that the highest rate is among decedents aged 18 to 24, at 26.2 per 100,000.



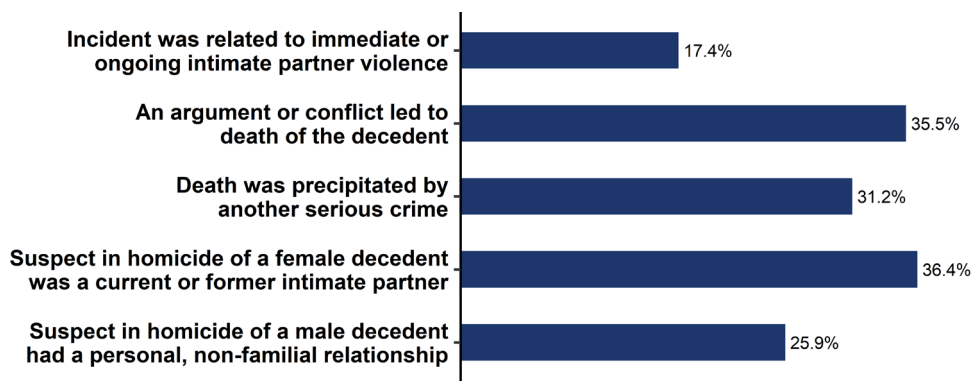
Method of Death



The majority of homicide deaths are due to firearm (84.5%), followed by sharp instrument (5.9%). In 52.1% of firearm homicides, the firearm used was a handgun; the most common handgun was a semi-automatic pistol. Female homicide decedents who died due to firearm or sharp instrument were more likely to have wounds in the head than male homicide decedents. Non-Hispanic black decedents who died due to firearm or sharp instrument were more likely to have wounds on the extremities than non-Hispanic white decedents.

TNVDRS had available toxicology information for 94.9% of homicide decedents; decedents were likely to have no substances present (20.1%), or to have positive results for marijuana (52.6%) or ethanol (25.6%).

Selected Homicide Circumstances



The above figure shows the most common circumstances associated with each incident; sufficient data to collect circumstance information was available for 95.5% of decedents. Female decedents were more likely to die due to intimate partner violence. Decedents across sex and race/ethnicity were equally likely to have an argument leading to death. Male decedents were more likely to die in an incident precipitated by another serious crime; the most common precipitating crime was assault/homicide. When information about a suspect is known, female decedents are more likely to be killed by a current or former intimate partner, while male decedents are more likely to be killed by a suspect they have a non-familial relationship with.



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