



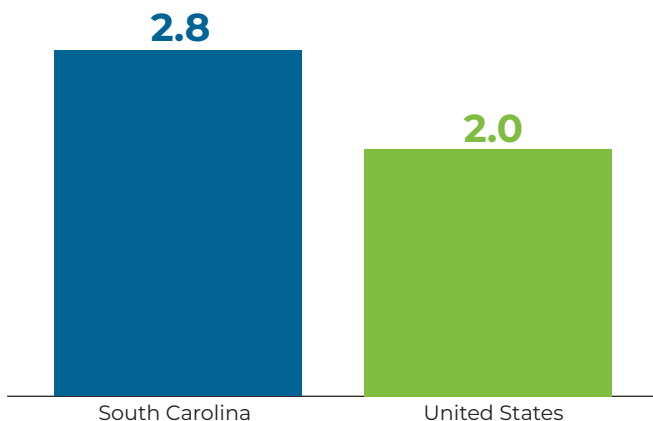
# Firearms & Safety

## Pediatric Firearm Deaths in South Carolina

Owning a firearm is a huge responsibility. Injuries involving firearms can be deadly and even non-fatal incidences can cause significant injury and disability. From 2003–2020, **540 South Carolinians aged 0-17 died** due to a firearm discharge.

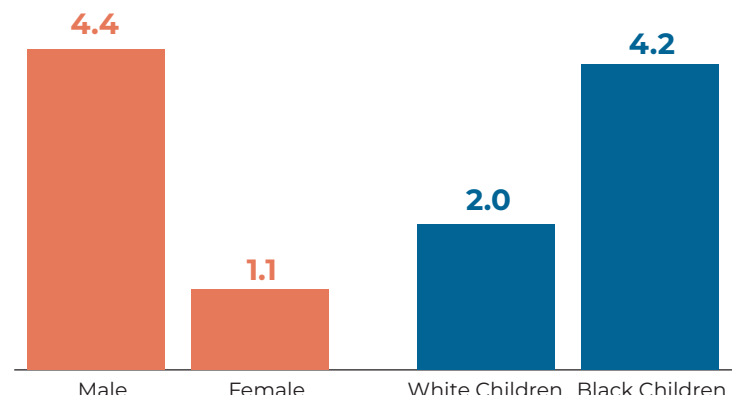
### FIREARM MORTALITY

**Pediatric Firearm Deaths**  
Rate per 100,000 population



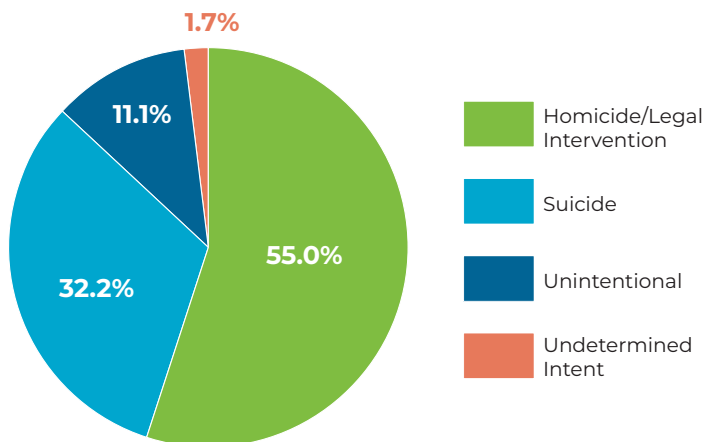
Source: CDC WISQARS, 2003-2020

**Pediatric Firearm Deaths, by Sex and Race**  
Rate per 100,000 population



Source: SC VDRS, 2003-2020

**Pediatric Firearm Deaths, by Manner**  
Percent



Source: SC VDRS, 2003-2020

The pediatric firearm death rate in South Carolina is **40% higher** than the national rate.

4 out of 5 pediatric firearm deaths in South Carolina were **male**.

The rate of pediatric firearm deaths for Black children was **two times higher** in South Carolina than White children in the state.

½ of all pediatric firearm deaths were **homicide**.

## CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DEATH

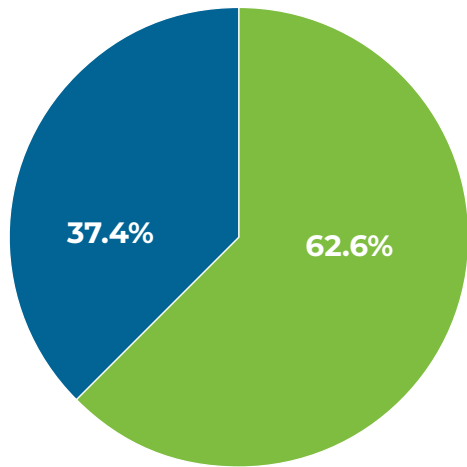


**33.1%** of pediatric firearm deaths where at least one precipitating circumstance was known were related to some type of **relationship problem**, including family, friend, partner, etc.



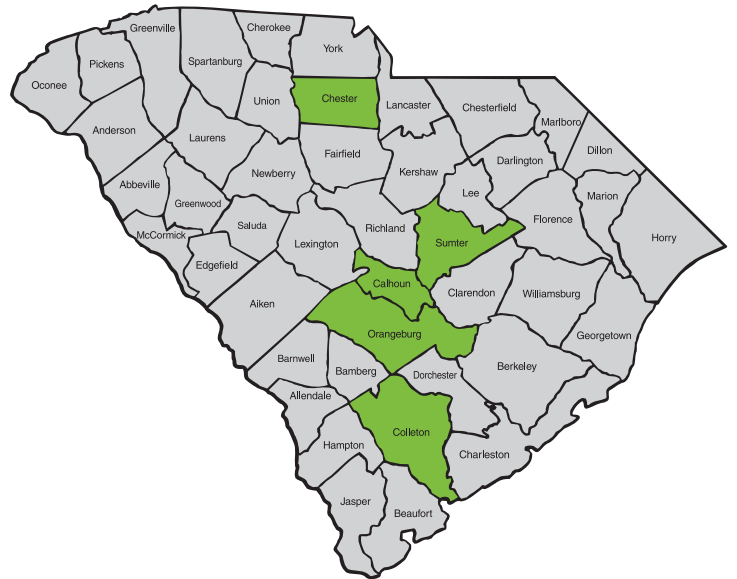
**19.5%** of pediatric firearm deaths, or nearly 1 in 5, where at least one precipitating circumstance was known were **precipitated by another serious crime** (e.g., drug dealing, robbery, etc.)

## DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION



■ Deaths in Ages 15-17
 ■ Deaths in Ages 0-14

**62.6%** of all pediatric firearm deaths occurred in those aged **15-17**, three times higher the percent seen in those aged 10-14 (20.7%)



**Calhoun, Colleton, Orangeburg, Sumter** and **Chester** counties had the highest rates of pediatric firearm deaths in the state.

**\$7,381**

The average **medical cost** of a pediatric firearm death in 2020 in South Carolina.



**29,223**

Years of **potential life lost** due to pediatric firearm injuries in South Carolina from 2003-2020.



### SOURCES:

1. SC VDRS, 2003-2020
2. CDC WISQARS, 2003-2020

Notes: Data includes both South Carolina residents and non-residents whose fatal injury occurred within the state.