

Mississippi

# Mississippi

## Violent Death Reporting System

# 2021

## Annual Report

MSDH Office of Injury and Violence Prevention

February 2026

## Acknowledgments

This work was supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS), Grant No. NU17CE010132-02-00, awarded to the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSVDRS). The contents presented in this work are solely those of the authors. They do not represent the official views of their affiliated organizations, or funding agencies.

### Suggested Citation:

Mississippi Violent Death Reporting System 2021 Annual Report. Office of Injury and Violence Prevention. Mississippi State Department of Health, Jackson, MS, 2025.

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## Introduction

The Mississippi Violent Death Reporting System (MSVDRS) is a state-based surveillance program that collects, analyzes, and disseminates comprehensive data on violent deaths to inform prevention strategies and policy development. Established in 2019 with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), MSVDRS integrates data from multiple sources including death certificates, coroner/medical examiner reports, toxicology findings, and law enforcement records, to provide a more complete understanding of the circumstances surrounding violent deaths in Mississippi.

Since its inception, the program has grown into a vital component of the Mississippi State Department of Health's Injury and Violence Prevention efforts. MSVDRS is staffed by a dedicated team consisting of Data Abstractors, Epidemiologist, and Program Director. Together, this team ensures high-quality data collection, accuracy in coding, and timely dissemination of findings to community stakeholders, policymakers, and public health practitioners. Through these coordinated efforts, MSVDRS enhances the state's capacity to identify trends, disparities, and risk factors associated with violent deaths, including homicides, suicides, firearm-related fatalities, and deaths of undetermined intent. The insights generated by this program are instrumental in guiding evidence-based interventions, strengthening prevention partnerships, and supporting the overarching goal of reducing violence and saving lives across Mississippi.

The purpose of this report is to present a comprehensive overview of violent death data collected through MSVDRS. By examining patterns, risk factors, and demographic characteristics, the report aims to inform statewide prevention initiatives, support local community responses, and provide policymakers with reliable data to guide decision-making. Ultimately, the report serves as a tool to advance violence prevention strategies, foster collaboration across agencies, and promote a healthier and safer Mississippi.

## Scope of this report

This annual report summarizes all violence-related deaths involving Mississippi residents that occurred in calendar year **2021** and were captured by CDC's Secure Access Management Services (SAMS) portal in the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS). By presenting detailed stratifications—such as age, sex, race and ethnicity, weapon type, location of injury, and county of residence—this annual update concentrates on four analytic domains:

- Overall violent deaths
- Homicides
- Suicides
- Firearm deaths

### Report Outputs

Output	Description
Counts	Absolute number of deaths within each category.
Percentage	Proportion of total deaths represented by a given characteristic.
Crude rates	Deaths per 100,000 population (numerator = deaths; denominator = 2021 population estimate).
Tables	Cross-tabulations by demographic and incident characteristics, displaying counts, percentages, and crude rates.
Figures and Maps	Bar/line charts, and county maps produced with R's ggplot2 package.

**Note:** Percentages are rounded, so column total in tables may not equal exactly 100.

### Data Sources

Counts, percentages, and state-level crude rates:

- extracted from the Rapid Reporting System in CDC's SAMS portal (the selection criteria are presented on the following page).

County-level crude rates:

- numerator: county death counts pulled from the 2019-2022 NVDRS SAS data set in the SAMS Secure Data Exchange;
- denominator: 2021 county population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest>).

The MSVDRS captures data on two types of violent deaths:

- **Occurrent deaths:** Deaths that occurred within Mississippi during the specified time, regardless of the residential status of the decedent (N=1,070).
- **Resident deaths:** Deaths individuals are Mississippi residents at the time of death, and the fatal injury occurred in Mississippi (N=1,029).

In this report, analyses of violent-death counts and rates by county of residence use **resident deaths** data. All other victim-level analyses are restricted to **occurent deaths** data.

### Report Characteristics

Characteristics	Categories shown in report
Sex	Male · Female
Age group	Standard NVDRS 5-year bands (0–4, 5–9, ..., 85+)
Race/Ethnicity	White · Black · American Indian/Alaska Native · Asian · Hispanic · Unspecified
Manner of death	Suicide · Homicide · Unintentional Firearm · Legal Intervention · Undetermined Intent · Other Unintentional
Weapon type	Firearm · Hanging/Strangulation/Suffocation · Poisoning · Cut/Pierce · Struck by/Against · Fall · Transport Vehicle · Drowning · Fire/Burn · Intentional Neglect · Other · Unknown
Injury location	Home/Apartment · Residential Institution · Public Road/Sidewalk · Transportation-related Area · Recreational/Cultural/Public Building · Commercial/Industrial/Farm · Natural/Countryside · Other Specified Place · Unknown/Missing
County of residence	All 82 counties in Mississippi

**Note:** Variables such as firearm type, education, marital status, veteran status, victim–suspect relationship, toxicology results, and detailed circumstances are either unavailable in SAMS Rapid Reporting for Mississippi or have cell sizes too small for reliable percentages or rate calculations; they are therefore excluded.

## Section I: Overall Violent Deaths

### Basic Characteristics of Violent Deaths

**Table 1** summarizes violent death victims in Mississippi in 2021 by demographic characteristics of sex, race/ethnicity, and age. The 2021 overall rate of violent deaths per 100,000 people in Mississippi is displayed in **Figure 1** by sex and race/ethnicity and in **Figure 2** by age group.

#### Key Findings:

- A total of 1,070 Mississippi residents (36.3 per 100,000) died due to violence in 2021.
- Males were 4.4 times more likely to die from violence than females (60.2 versus 13.6 per 100,000, respectively).
- Non-Hispanic (NH) American Indian or Alaska Native had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (49.7) followed by NH Blacks (48.4), NH Whites (29.4), Hispanics (14.6), and NH Asians (9.6).
- Adults ages 20 - 24 years had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (76.6), followed by adults ages: 30 - 34 (64.7), 25 - 29 (59.2), and 35 - 44 (55.6).

**Table 2**, **Table 3** and **Table 4** provide the manner, weapon used and location types of violent deaths in Mississippi in 2021. The violent deaths in 2021 are presented in **Figure 3** by manner of death and in **Figure 4** by weapons. The location of violent deaths is shown in **Figure 5**.

#### Key Findings:

- Homicide (30.4%) was the leading cause of violent death, followed by suicide (40.2%) and Unintentional poisoning (3.9%).
- Firearm (80.0%) was the leading weapon in violent death, followed by hanging, strangulation or suffocation (10.1%) and sharp instrument (2.6%).
- The most common location in violent firearm deaths was House, Apartment (59.0%).

**Table 5** shows the 10 counties with the highest overall violent death counts and their corresponding crude rates. **Figure 6** displays the Mississippi map of overall violent deaths rates in 2021 by county of residence.

#### Key Findings:

- For the 82 counties in Mississippi, the average rate of violent deaths by County of residence was 35.1 deaths per 100,000 with a range from 6.1 to 96.1 deaths per 100,000 (0 death excluded).
- In 2021, Washington (96.1), Leflore (87.1), Lawrence (76.2), Hinds (71.4), and Copiah (71.4) are the top 5 counties with the highest overall violent death rates (per 100,000).

**Table 1: Demographics of violent death victims in Mississippi, 2021**

	Number	%	Rate**	95% CI ***
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	206	19.3	13.6	11.7- 15.5
Male	864	80.7	60.2	56.2 - 64.2
<b>Race/Ethnicity †</b>				
White*	495	45.8	29.4	26.8 - 32.0
Black*	547	50.7	48.4	44.3- 52.4
Asian*	4	0.4	9.6	0.2 - 19.0
American Indian or Alaska Native*	13	1.2	49.7	22.7 - 76.8
Hispanic	15	1.4	14.6	7.2 - 21.9
Unspecified	6	0.6	-	-
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
<= 9	20	1.9	5.5	3.1 - 7.9
10-14	18	1.7	8.7	4.7 - 12.8
15 - 19	81	7.6	39.8	31.1 - 48.4
20 - 24	152	14.2	76.6	64.4 - 88.8
25 - 29	113	10.6	59.2	48.3 - 70.2
30 - 34	123	11.5	64.7	53.3 - 76.2
35 - 44	205	19.2	55.6	48.0 - 63.3
45 - 54	137	12.8	38.5	32.1- 45.0
55 - 64	99	9.3	26.0	20.9 - 31.1
65 - 74	72	6.7	23.7	18.2 - 29.2
75 - 84	43	4.0	30.1	21.1 - 39.1
85 +	7	0.7	14.8	3.8 - 25.7
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>1070</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>34.1 - 38.4</b>

\* Non-Hispanic (NH)

\*\* per 100,000 residents

\*\*\* 95% CI: 95% confidence interval for the rate using Wald (normal) approximation.

† Some decedents appear in multiple race/ethnicity categories, therefore, the sum of race/ethnicity counts may exceed the total number of deaths.

**Table 2: Deaths by manner in Mississippi, 2021**

	Number	%
Suicide	433	40.2
Homicide	550	51.1
Unintentional Firearm	31	2.9
Legal Intervention	14	1.3
Undetermined Intent	42	3.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1070</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 3: Deaths by weapon used in Mississippi, 2021**

	Number	%
Firearm	848	80.0
Poisoning	11	1.0
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	107	10.1
Sharp Instrument	28	2.6
Blunt Instrument	24	2.3
Fire or Burns	14	1.3
Other*	16	1.5
Unknown	12	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1060</b>	<b>100</b>

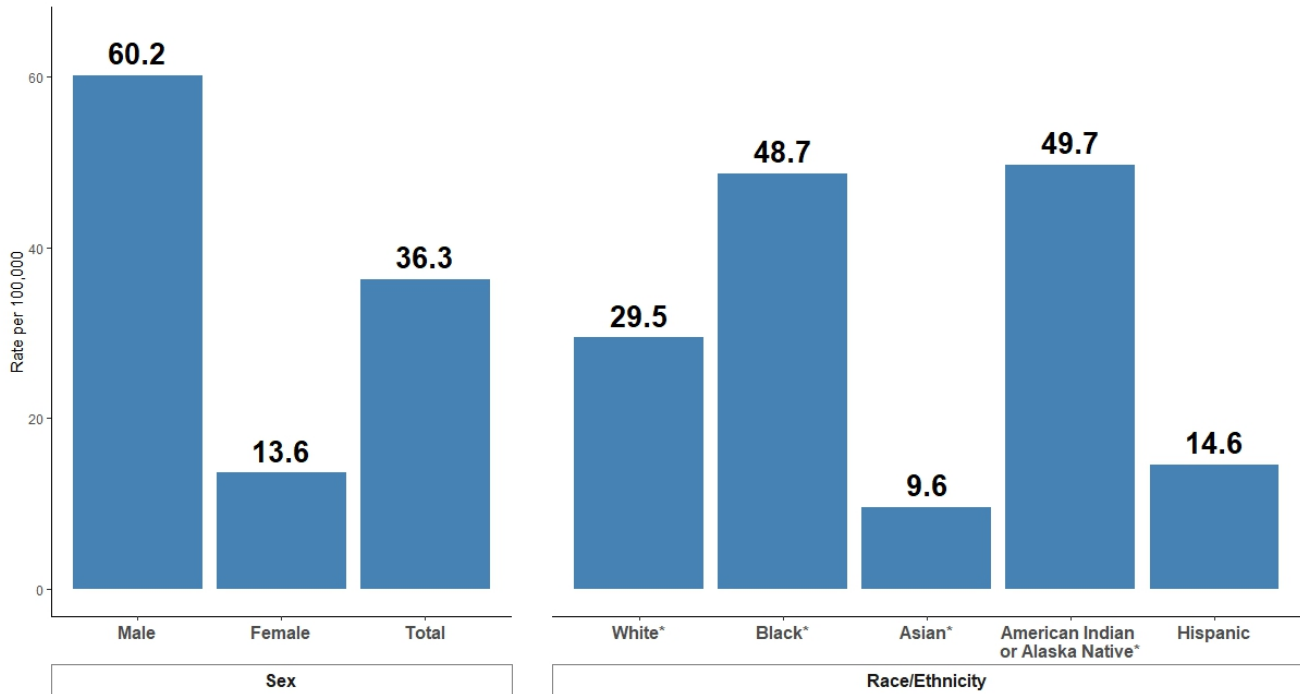
\* Other includes personal weapons, fall, motor vehicle, other transport vehicle, drowning, intentional neglect (e.g., starvation), violent shaking and others.

**Table 4: Deaths by type of location where injured in Mississippi, 2021**

	Number	%
House, Apartment	631	59.0
Street/Road, Sidewalk, Alley	152	14.2
Motor Vehicle (excluding school bus, and public transportation)	70	6.5
Hotel/Motel	23	2.2
Parking Lot/Public Parking Garage	33	3.1
Natural Area	31	2.9
Bar, Nightclub	16	1.5
Service Station	13	1.2
Other Commercial Establishment	17	1.6
Hospital or Medical facility	3	0.3
Jail, Prison, Detention facility	23	2.2
Park, Playground, Public use area	10	0.9
Highway, Freeway	7	0.7
Other*	29	2.7
Unknown	12	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1070</b>	<b>100</b>

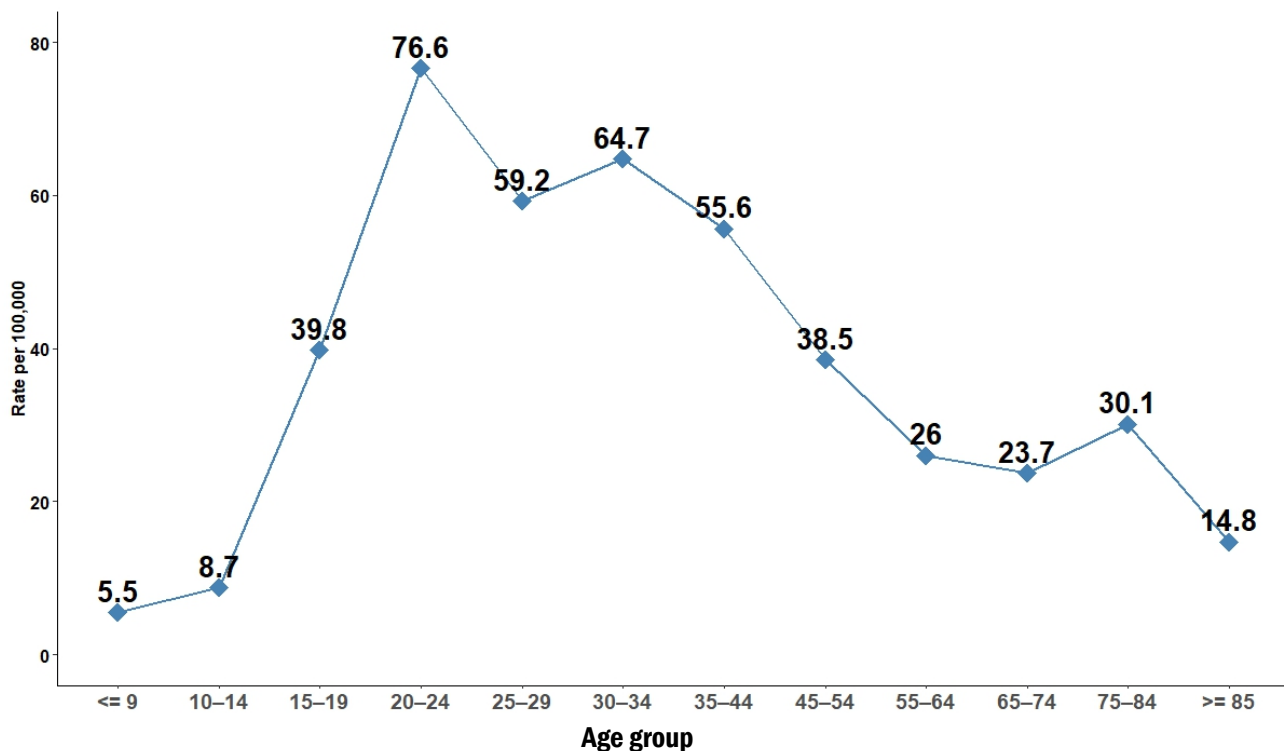
\* Other includes industrial or construction areas, abandoned house, building, or warehouse, sports or athletic area, elementary school, middle school, high school, college/university, public transportation or station, supervised residential facility, railroad tracks, bridge, cemetery, graveyard, or other burial ground, and others.

**Figure 1: Overall violent death rates (per 100,000 residents) by sex and race/ethnicity in Mississippi, 2021**

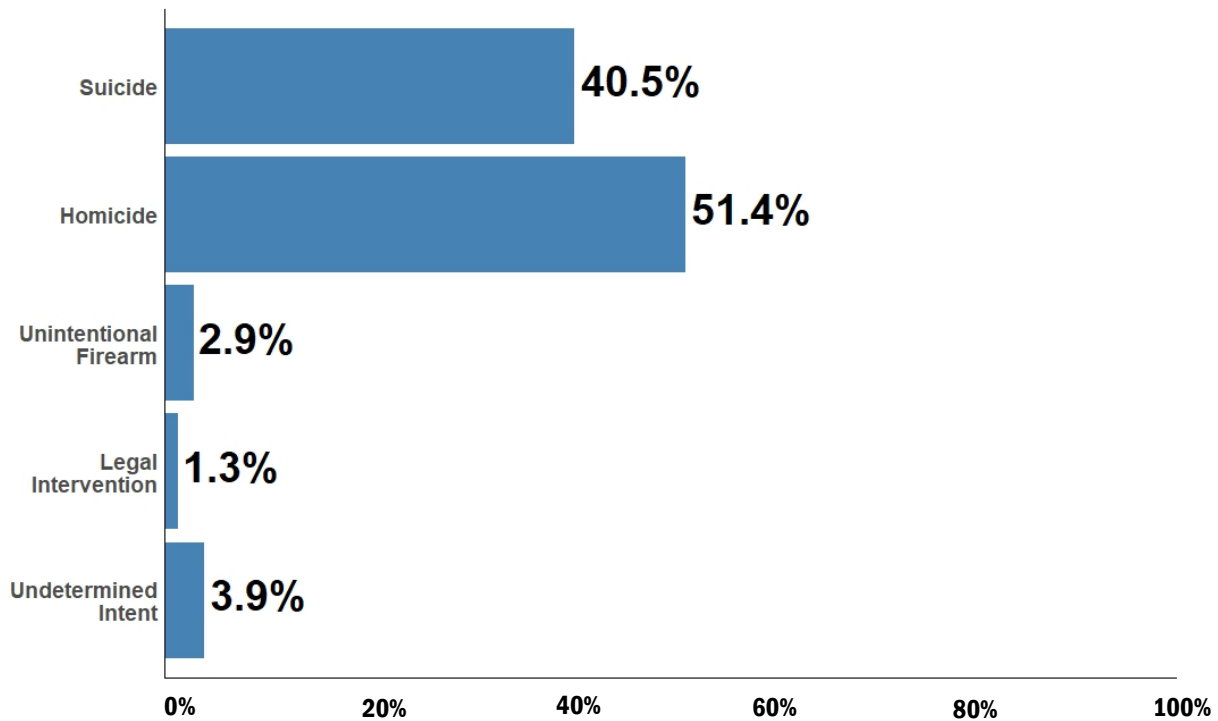


\* Non-Hispanic (NH)

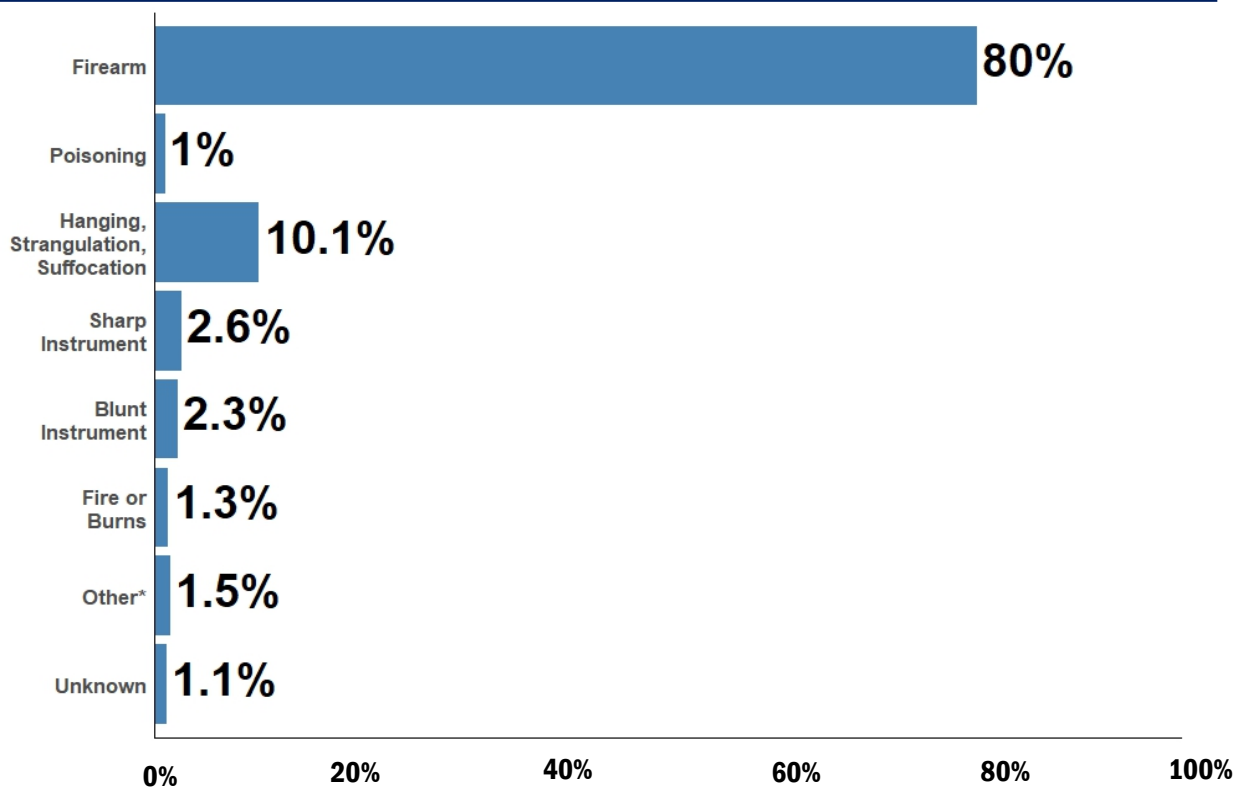
**Figure 2: Age-specific overall violent death rates (per 100,000 residents) by age group in Mississippi, 2021**



**Figure 3: Manner of violent death in Mississippi, 2021**

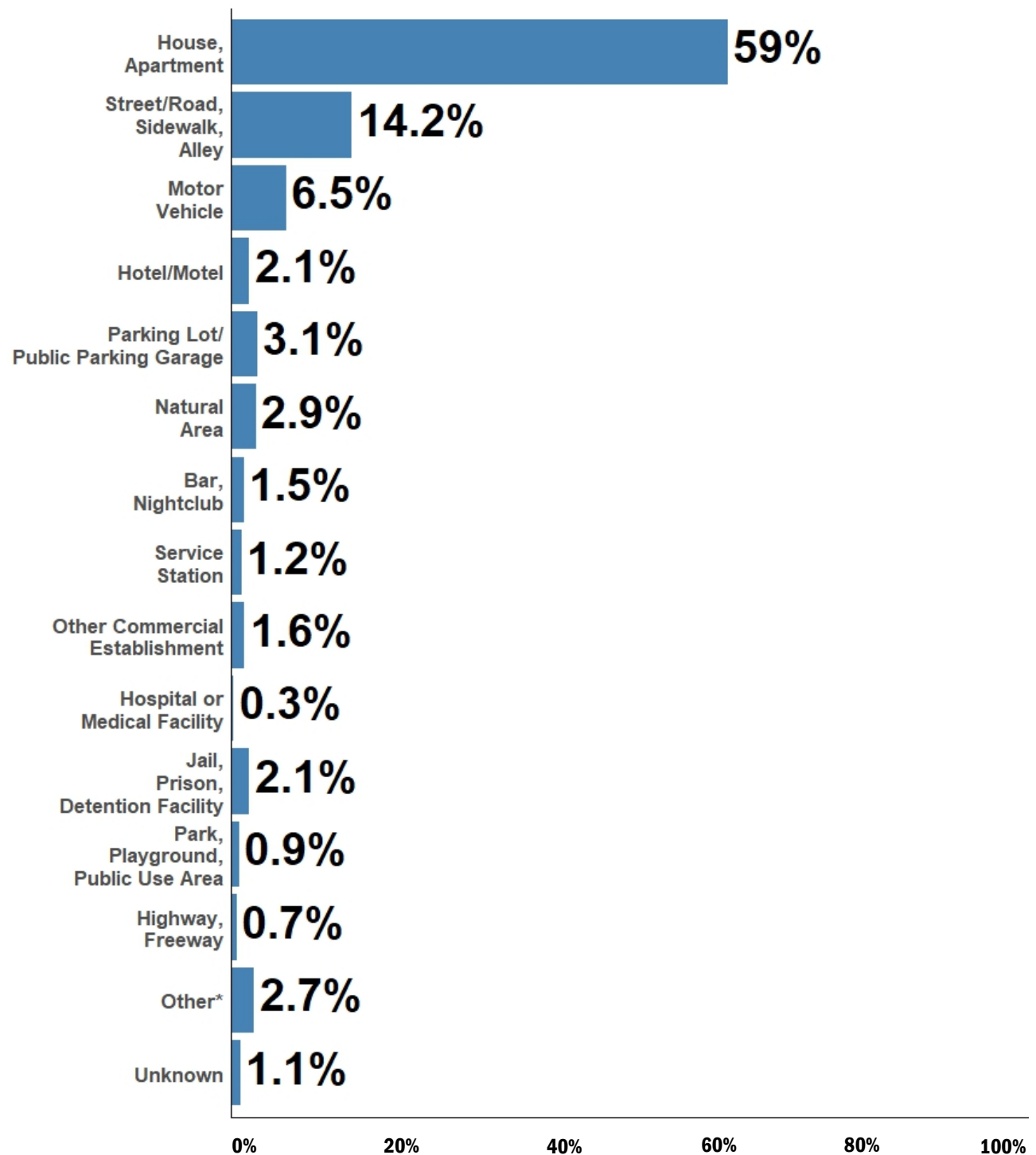


**Figure 4: Weapons of violent death in Mississippi, 2021**



\* Other includes personal weapons, fall, motor vehicle, other transport vehicle, drowning, intentional neglect (e.g., starvation), violent shaking and others.

Figure 5: Location types of violent death in Mississippi, 2021



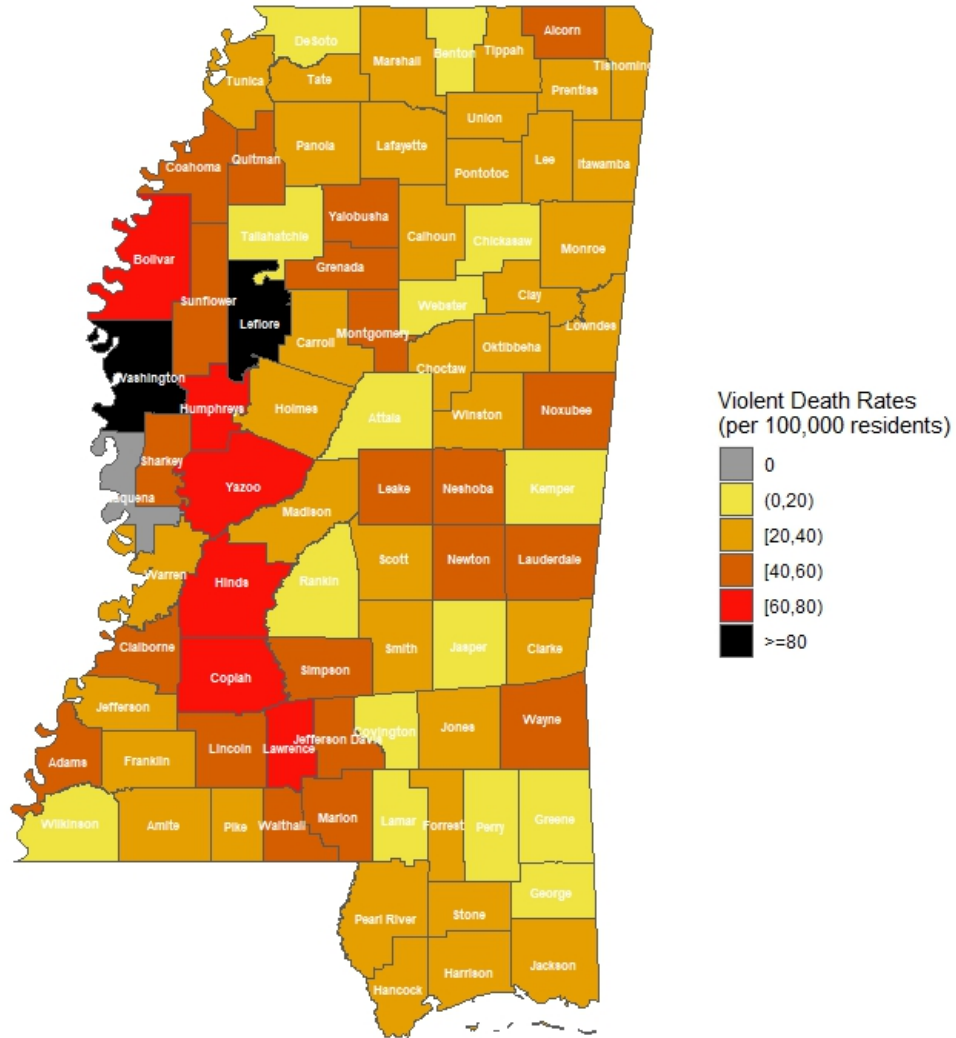
\* Other includes industrial or construction areas, abandoned house, building, or warehouse, sports or athletic area, elementary school, middle school, high school, college/university, public transportation or station, supervised residential facility, railroad tracks, bridge, cemetery, graveyard, or other burial ground, and others.

**Table 5: Top 10 counties with the highest counts of overall violent deaths, along with the crude rates (per 100,000 residents) by county of residence in Mississippi, 2021 \***

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Hinds	159	71.4	Jones	26	39.0
Harrison	56	26.7	Madison	25	22.8
Washington	42	96.1	Rankin	25	15.8
Lauderdale	39	54.1	Leflore	25	87.1
Jackson	38	26.4	DeSoto	22	11.7

\* The county-level crude rates were residence-based, which reflect where decedents lived rather than where incidents occurred.

**Figure 6: Map of overall violent death rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi by county of residence, 2021**



## ***Race/Ethnicity and Sex of Violent Death Victims***

**Table 6** and **Figure 7** show the characteristics of violent death victims in Mississippi in 2021 by race/ethnicity and sex.

### **Key Findings:**

- NH Blacks (50.7%) and males (80.7%) accounted for the majority of violent death victims, as indicated in Table 1.
- NH Whites constituted 44.0% of male violent death victims and 53.4% of female victims, whereas NH Blacks accounted for 52.0% of male victims and 45.2% of female victims.
- For males, the violent death rate per 100,000 was highest for NH American Indian or Alaska Native males (102.1), followed by NH Black males (85.0), NH White males (46.2), Hispanic males (21.2), and NH Asian males (20.2).
- For females, the violent death rate per 100,000 was highest for NH White females (53.4), followed by NH Black females (45.2), and Hispanic females (1.4). There is no NH Asian female or NH American Indian or Alaska Native female violent death victims.
- The violent death rates among males exceed those among females of the same race/ethnicity by 5.4 for NH Blacks, 3.6 times for NH Whites, and 3.3 times for Hispanics.

## ***Age and Sex of Violent Death Victims***

**Table 7** lists the Mississippi violent death victims in 2021 by age group and sex. **Figure 8** depicts the 2021 rate of violent deaths per 100,000 in Mississippi by age group and sex.

### **Key Findings:**

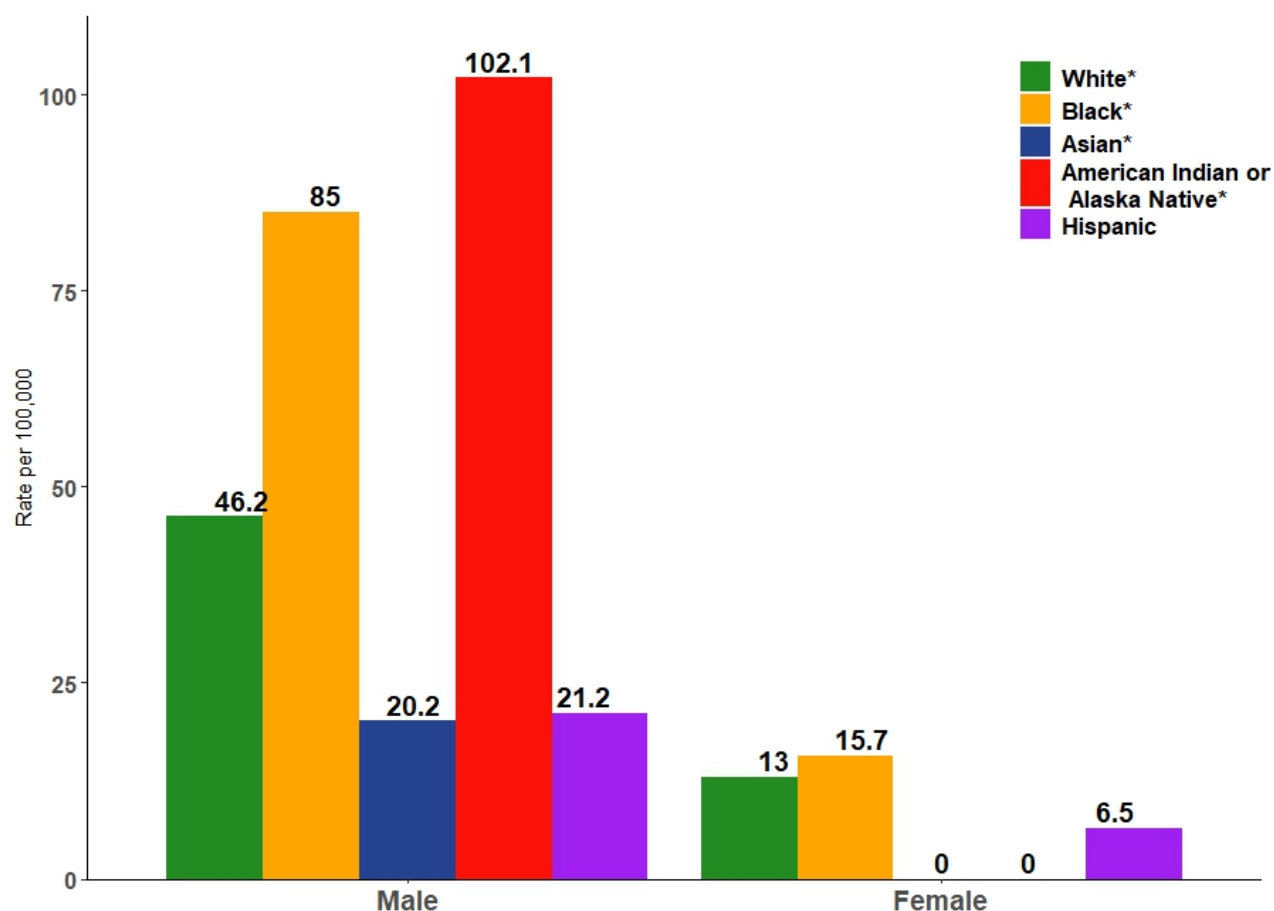
- Among male violent death victims, the largest share was ages 35 - 44 (18.5%), followed by males ages 20 - 24 (14.6%) years old, 45 - 54 (13.1%), 30 - 34 (11.5%), 25 - 29 (11.2%), and 55 - 64 (9.4%).
- Among female violent death victims, the largest share was ages 35 - 44 (21.8%) years old, followed by females ages 20 - 24 (12.6%), 30 - 34 (11.7%), 45 - 54 (11.7%), 65 - 74 (9.7%), and 55 - 64 (8.7%).
- For males, ages 20 - 24 group had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (125.5), followed by ages 30 - 34 (106.3) and 25 - 29 (101.9).
- For females, ages 20 - 24 group had the highest violent death rate per 100,000 (26.5), followed by ages 30 - 34 (24.8) and 35 - 44 (23.8).
- Compared with females, males had much higher violent death rates: 11.7 times higher among ages 85 and older, 6.1 times higher among ages 25 - 29, 5.8 times higher among ages 75 - 84, 5.0 times higher among ages 45 - 54, and 4.9 times higher among ages 55 - 64.

**Table 6: Race/ethnicity of violent death victims in Mississippi by sex, 2021**

Race/Ethnicity	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate**	Number	%	Rate**
White*	384	44.0	46.2	111	53.4	13.0
Black*	453	52.0	85.0	94	45.2	15.7
Asian*	4	0.5	20.2	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native*	13	1.5	102.1	0	0	0
Hispanic	12	1.4	21.2	3	1.4	6.5
Unspecified	6	0.7	-	0	0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13.7</b>

\* Non-Hispanic (NH)

\*\* per 100,000 residents

**Figure 7: Overall violent death rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi, stratified by race/ethnicity and sex, 2021**

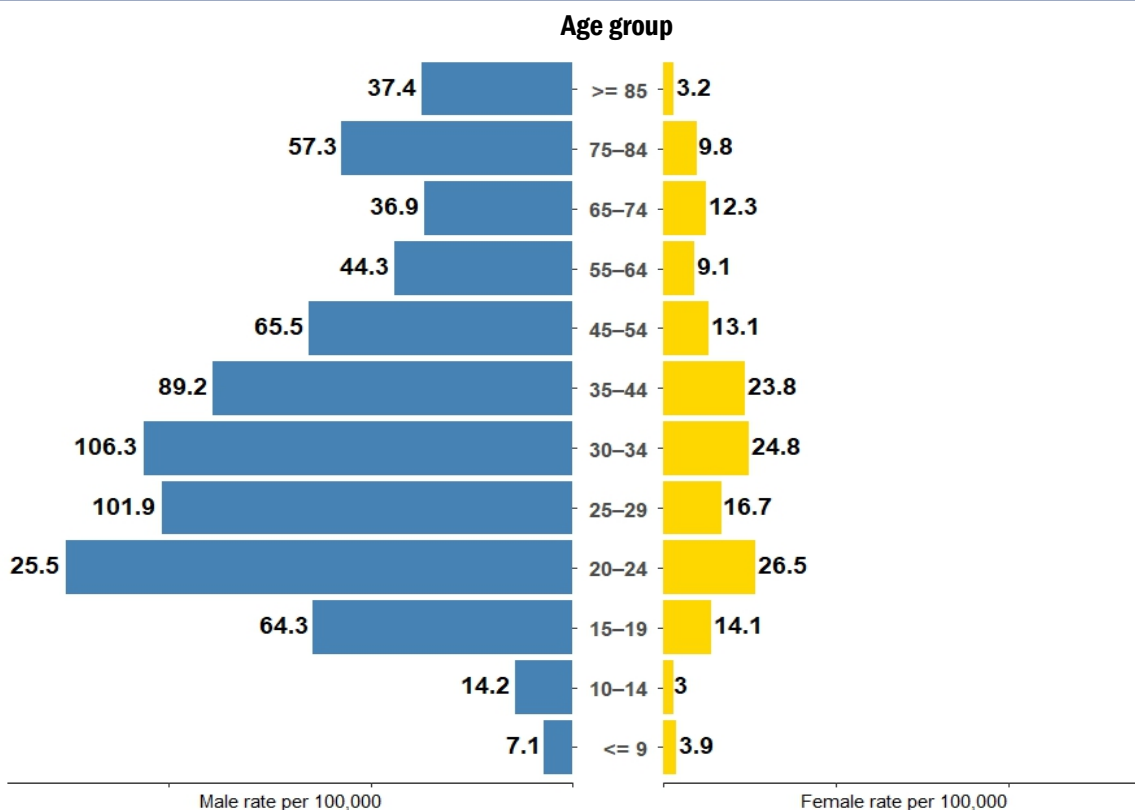
\* Non-Hispanic (NH)

**Table 7: Age group of violent death victims in Mississippi by sex, 2021**

Age Group (years)	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate*	Number	%	Rate*
<=9	13	1.5	7.1	7	3.4	3.9
10-14	15	1.7	14.2	3	1.5	3.0
15-19	67	7.8	64.3	14	6.8	14.1
20-24	126	14.6	125.5	26	12.6	26.5
25-29	97	11.2	101.9	16	7.8	16.7
30-34	99	11.5	106.3	24	11.7	24.8
35-44	160	18.5	89.2	45	21.8	23.8
45-54	113	13.1	65.5	24	11.7	13.1
55-64	81	9.4	44.3	18	8.7	9.1
65-74	52	6.0	36.9	20	9.7	12.3
75-84	35	4.1	57.3	8	3.9	9.8
≥85	6	0.7	37.4	1	0.5	3.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13.7</b>

\* per 100,000 residents

**Figure 8: Overall violent death rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi stratified by age group and sex, 2021**



## Section II: Homicide

### Basic Characteristics of Homicides

**Table 8** summarizes the homicides in 2021 for Mississippi residents by demographics of sex, race/ethnicity, and age. The homicide rate in 2021 in Mississippi per 100,000 people is displayed by race/ethnicity and sex in **Figure 9** and by age group in **Figure 10**.

#### Key Findings:

- In 2021, 550 Mississippi (18.6 per 100,000) were victims of homicide.
- Males were 4.4 times more likely to die from homicide than females (30.9 versus 7.1 per 100,000, respectively).
- NH Blacks (37.7 per 100,000) had highest homicide rates, followed by Hispanics (9.7 per 100,000), NH American Indians (7.7 per 100,000), and NH Whites (6.8 per 100,000). There were two homicides among NH Asians in 2021, which was too small to compute a rate.
- Adults ages 20 - 24 years had the highest homicide rate (54.4 per 100,000), followed by 30 -34 years (39.5 per 100,000). Among children younger than 14, the rate was highest in children ages 10 - 14 years (5.3 per 100,000).

The method of death for homicide victims in Mississippi in 2021 is shown in **Table 9** and **Figure 11**.

#### Key Findings:

- Firearm (88.7%) is the leading methods of homicide, followed by sharp instrument (4.0%), blunt instrument (3.3%), and fire or burns (0.9%).
- Among homicide victims, 91.9% of males and 75.7% of females were died with firearm, whereas 2.7% of males and 9.4% of females were killed with sharp instrument

**Table 10** and **Figure 12** depict the homicide victims in Mississippi in 2021 by types of location where injured.

#### Key Findings:

- The most common locations in violent deaths for homicide victims were House, Apartment (46.0%) and Street/Road, Sidewalk, Alley (24.4%).

**Table 11** shows the 10 counties with the highest homicide counts and their corresponding crude rates. **Figure 13** displays the Mississippi map of homicide rates in 2021 by county of residence.

#### Key Findings:

- For the 82 counties in Mississippi, the average rate of death for homicide victims by County of residence was 18.1 deaths per 100,000 with a range from 3.2 to 80.1 deaths per 100,000 (0 death excluded).
- In 2021, Washington (80.1), Leflore (65.3), Hinds (54.3), Bolivar (49.5), and Claiborne (44.9) are the top 5 counties with the highest homicide rates.

**Table 8: Demographics of homicide victims in Mississippi, 2021**

	Number	%	Rate**	95% CI***
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	107	19.5	7.1	5.7 - 8.4
Male	443	80.5	30.9	28.0 - 33.7
<b>Race/Ethnicity †</b>				
White*	115	20.7	6.8	5.6 - 8.1
Black*	427	76.8	37.7	34.2 - 41.3
Asian*	0	0	-	-
American Indian*	2	0.36	7.7	0 - 18.3
Hispanic	10	1.8	9.7	3.7 - 15.7
Other/Unknown	2	0.36	-	-
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
<= 9	10	1.8	2.8	1.0 - 4.5
10-14	11	2.0	5.3	2.2 - 8.5
15-19	56	10.2	27.5	20.3 - 34.7
20-24	108	19.6	54.4	44.2 - 64.7
25-29	64	11.6	33.5	25.3 - 41.8
30-34	75	13.6	39.5	30.5 - 48.4
35-44	119	21.6	32.3	26.5 - 38.1
45-54	55	10.0	15.5	11.4 - 19.6
55-64	33	6.0	8.7	5.7 - 11.6
65-74	13	2.4	4.3	2.0 - 6.6
75-84	5	0.9	3.5	0.4 - 6.6
>=85	1	0.2	2.1	0 - 6.2
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>17.1 - 20.2</b>

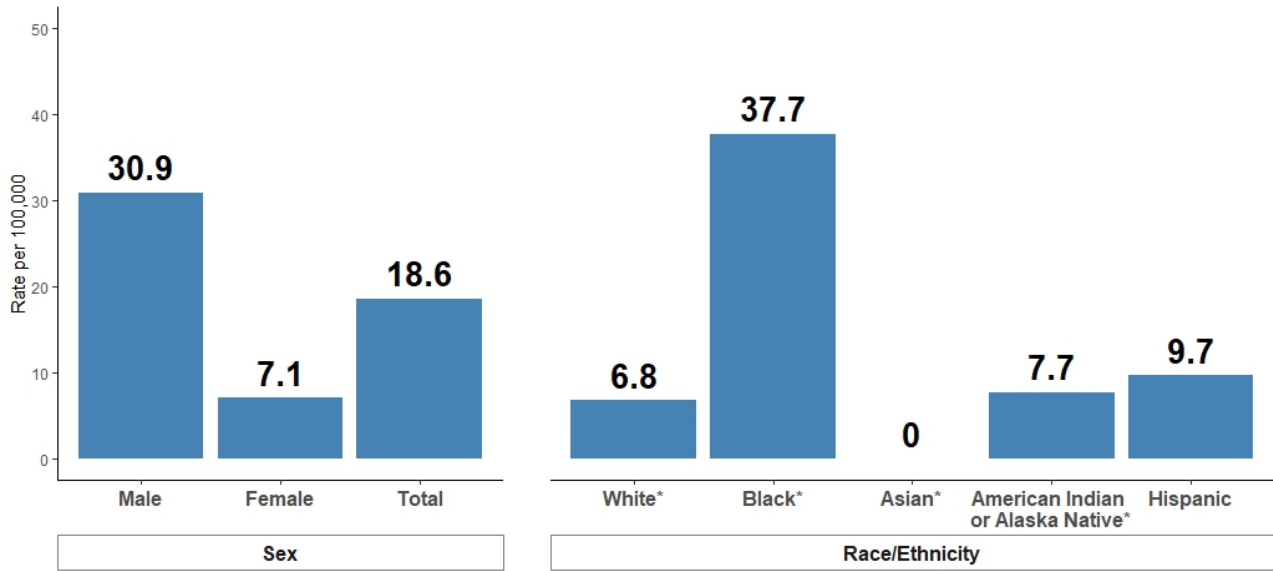
\* Non-Hispanic (NH)

\*\* per 100,000 residents.

\*\*\* 95% CI: 95% confidence interval for the rate using Wald (normal) approximation.

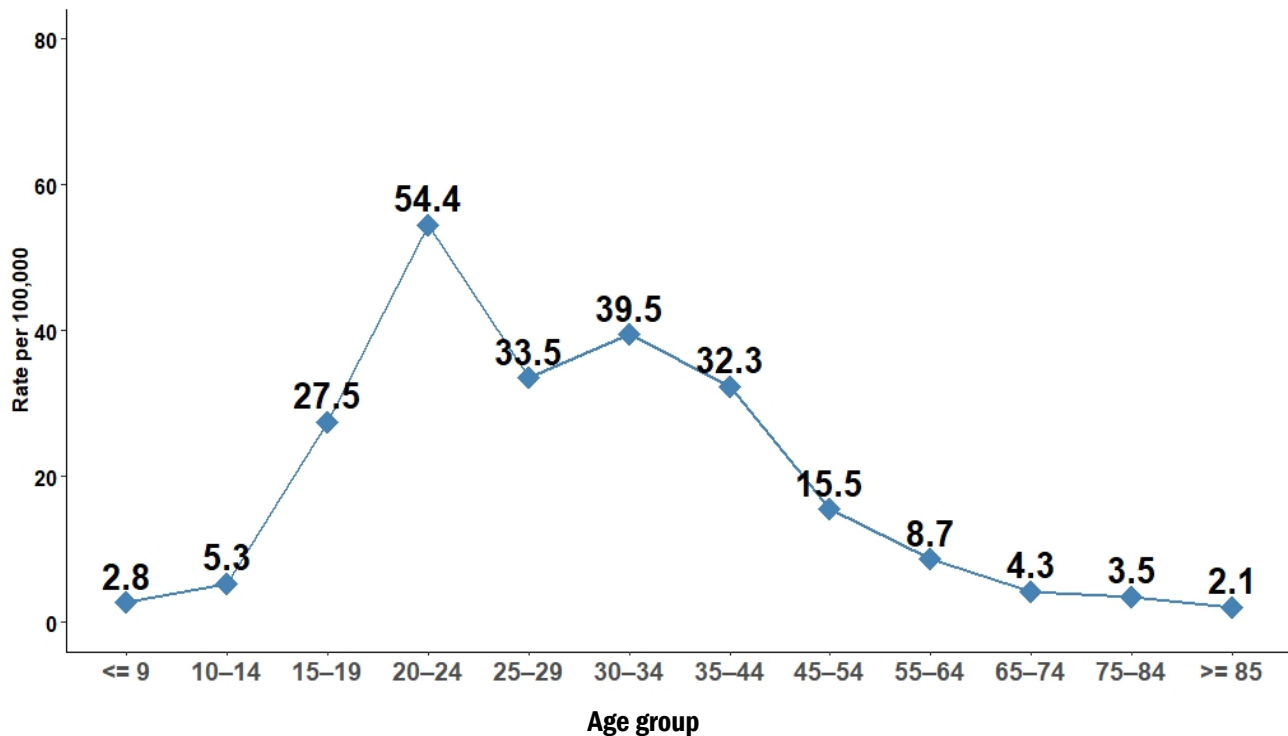
† Some decedents appear in multiple race/ethnicity categories, therefore, the sum of race/ethnicity counts may exceed the total number of deaths.

**Figure 9: Homicide rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi by sex and race/ethnicity, 2021**



\* Non-Hispanic (NH)

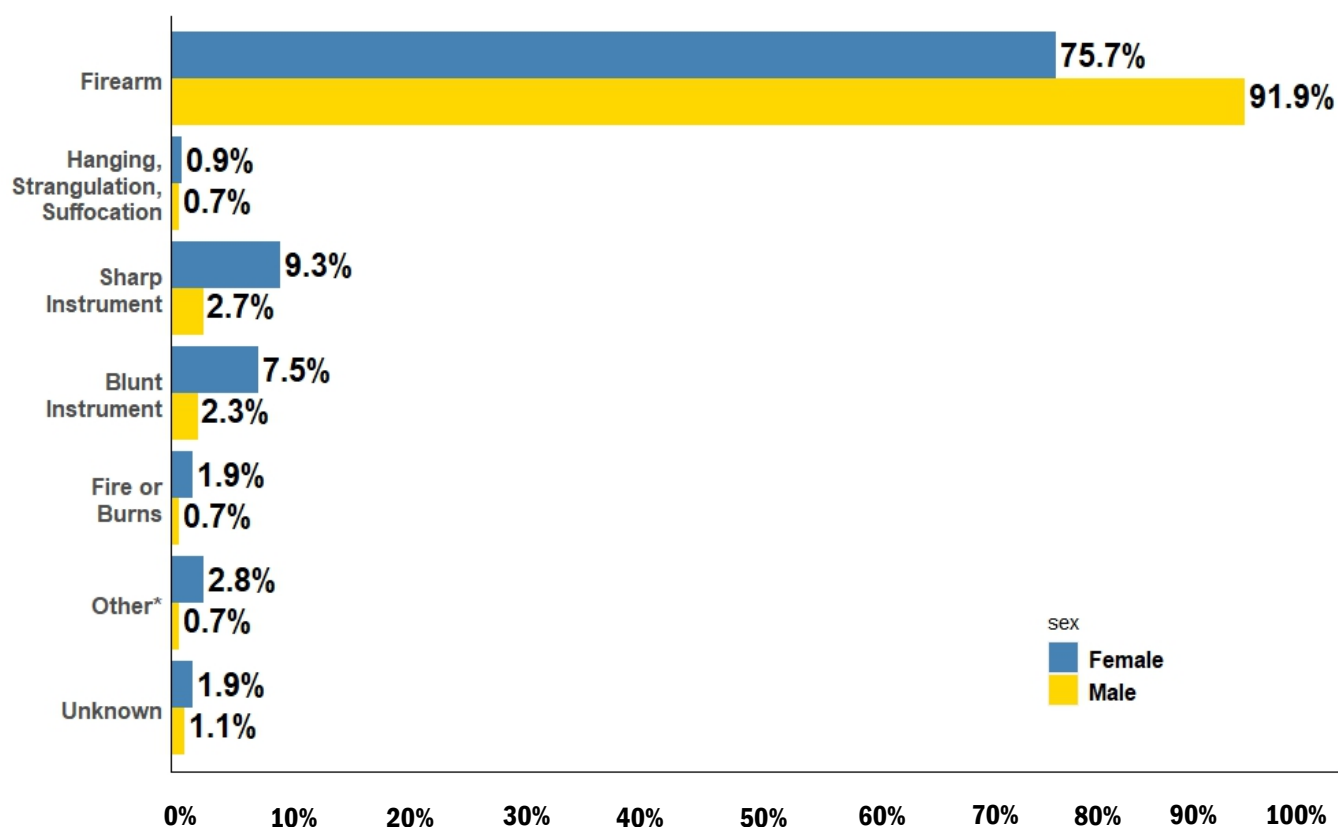
**Figure 10: Age-specific homicide rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi by age group, 2021**



**Table 9: Methods of death for homicide victims in Mississippi by sex, 2021**

Method of Death	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm	406	91.9	81	75.7	487	88.7
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	3	0.7	1	0.9	4	0.7
Sharp instrument	12	2.7	10	9.4	22	4.0
Blunt instrument	10	2.3	8	7.5	18	3.3
Fire or burns	3	0.7	2	1.9	5	0.9
Other*	3	0.7	3	2.8	6	1.1
Unknown	5	1.1	2	1.9	7	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Other includes personal weapons, poisoning, fall, motor vehicle, other transport vehicle, drowning, intentional neglect (e.g., starvation), violent shaking and others.

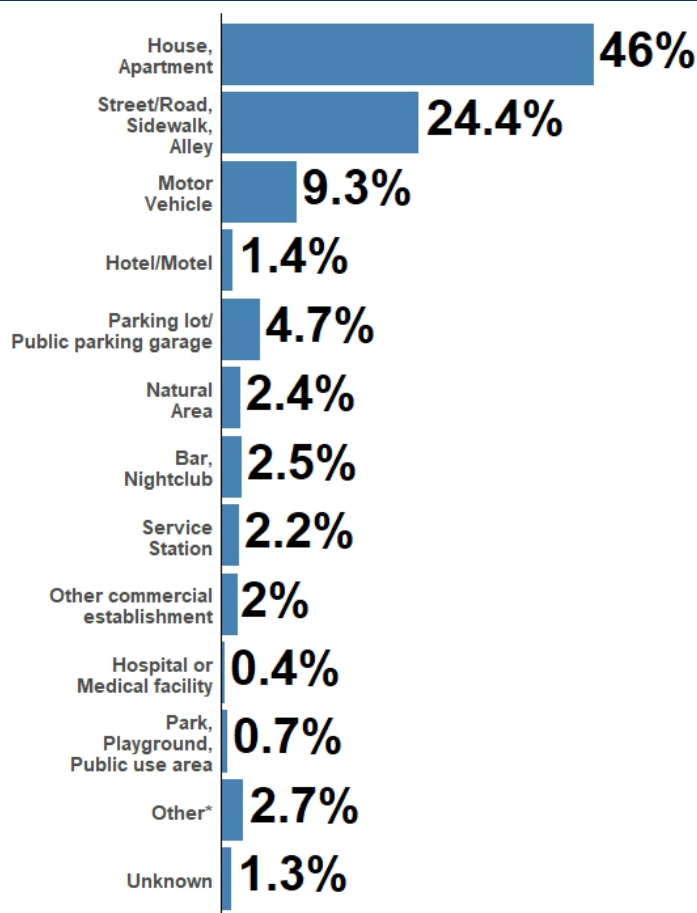
**Figure 11: Methods of death for homicide victims in Mississippi by sex, 2021**

\* Other includes personal weapons, poisoning, fall, motor vehicle, other transport vehicle, drowning, intentional neglect (e.g., starvation), violent shaking and others.

**Table 10: Deaths for homicide victims by type of location where injured in Mississippi, 2021**

	Number	%
House, Apartment	253	46.0
Street/Road, Sidewalk, Alley	134	24.4
Motor Vehicle (excluding school bus, and public transportation)	51	9.3
Hotel/Motel	8	1.5
Parking lot/Public parking garage	26	4.7
Natural area	13	2.4
Bar, Nightclub	14	2.6
Service station	12	2.2
Other commercial establishment	11	2.0
Hospital or Medical facility	2	0.4
Park, Playground, Public use area	4	0.7
Other*	15	2.7
Unknown	7	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Other includes industrial or construction areas, abandoned house, building, or warehouse, sports or athletic area, elementary school, middle school, high school, college/university, public transportation or station, Jail, Prison, Detention facility, supervised residential facility, Highway, Freeway, railroad tracks, bridge, cemetery, graveyard, or other burial ground, and others.

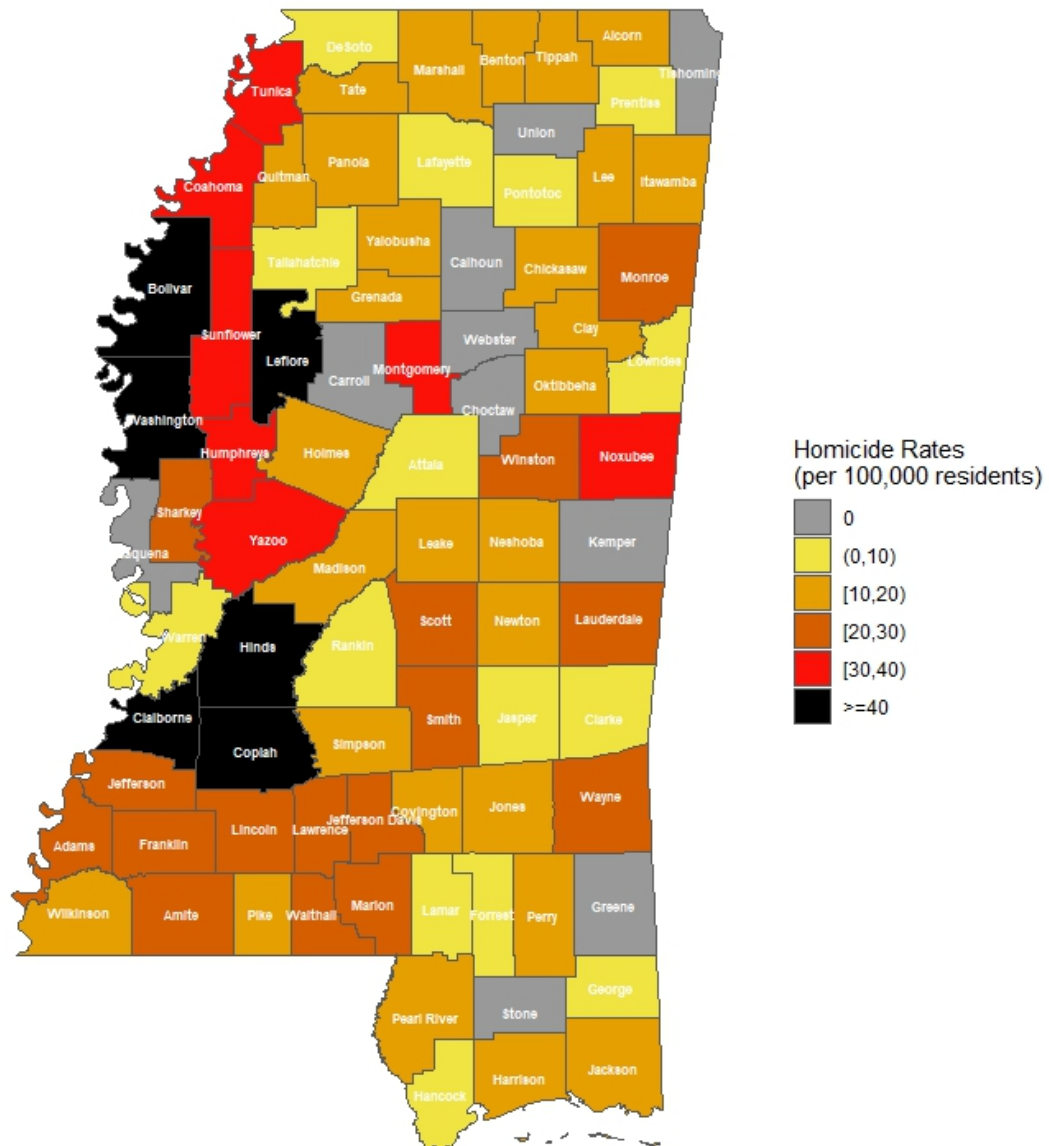
**Figure 12: Location types of death for homicide victims in Mississippi, 2021**

**Table 11: Top 10 counties with the highest counts of homicide deaths, along with the crude rates (per 100,000 residents) by county of residence in Mississippi, 2021 \***

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Hinds	121	54.3	Jackson	16	11.1
Washington	35	80.1	Bolivar	15	49.5
Harrison	21	10.0	Madison	14	12.7
Lauderdale	21	29.1	Copiah	12	42.9
Leflore	18	65.3	Lee	11	13.3

\*The county-level crude rates were residence-based, which reflect where decedents lived rather than where incidents occurred.

**Figure 13: Map of homicide rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi by county of residence, 2021**



## ***Race/Ethnicity and Sex of Homicide Victims***

**Table 12** and **Figure 14** show the homicide victims in Mississippi in 2021 by sex and race/ethnicity.

### **Key Findings:**

- Male (80.4%) and NH Black (62.8%) accounted for the majority of homicide victims as shown in **Table 8**.
- NH Black constituted the greatest percentage (79.4%) of male homicide victims, followed by NH White (17.9%), Hispanic (1.8%), and NH American Indian (0.5%). Almost two third of female homicide victims were NH Black (66.1%) followed by NH White (32.1%), and Hispanic (1.8%). There was no homicide among NH Asians in 2021.
- For males, the homicide rates per 100,000 was highest for NH Black males (66.6), followed by NH American Indian males (15.7), and NH White males (9.6).
- For females, the homicide rates per 100,000 was highest for NH Black females (12.0), followed by NH American Indian females (4.3), and NH White females (4.1).
- The homicide rate was 5.6 times higher for NH Black males (66.6 per 100,000) than for NH Black females (12.0 per 100,000). The homicide rate was 2.3 times higher for NH White males (9.6 per 100,000) than NH White females (4.1 per 100,000).

## ***Age and Sex of Homicide Victims***

**Table 13** lists the age and sex of homicide victims in Mississippi in 2021. **Figure 15** displays the 2021 homicide rates per 100,000 in Mississippi stratified by age group and sex in .

### **Key Findings:**

- Among male homicide victims, the largest shares were ages 15 - 44, followed by age groups of: 20 - 24 (20.8%), 35 - 44 (19.6%), 30 - 34 (14.5%), 25 - 29 (12.6%) and 15 - 19 (11.3%).
- Among females homicide victims, the largest shares were ages 20 - 54, followed by age groups of: 35 - 44 (29.9%), 20 - 24 (15.0%), 45 - 54 (10.3%), 30 - 34 (10.3%), and 25 - 29 (7.5%).
- Males had higher homicide rates than females across almost all age groups.
- For males, the age group of 20 - 24 had the highest homicide rate of 91.6 per 100,000 while the age <= 9 group had the lowest rate of 2.7 per 100,000 (0 homicide excluded).

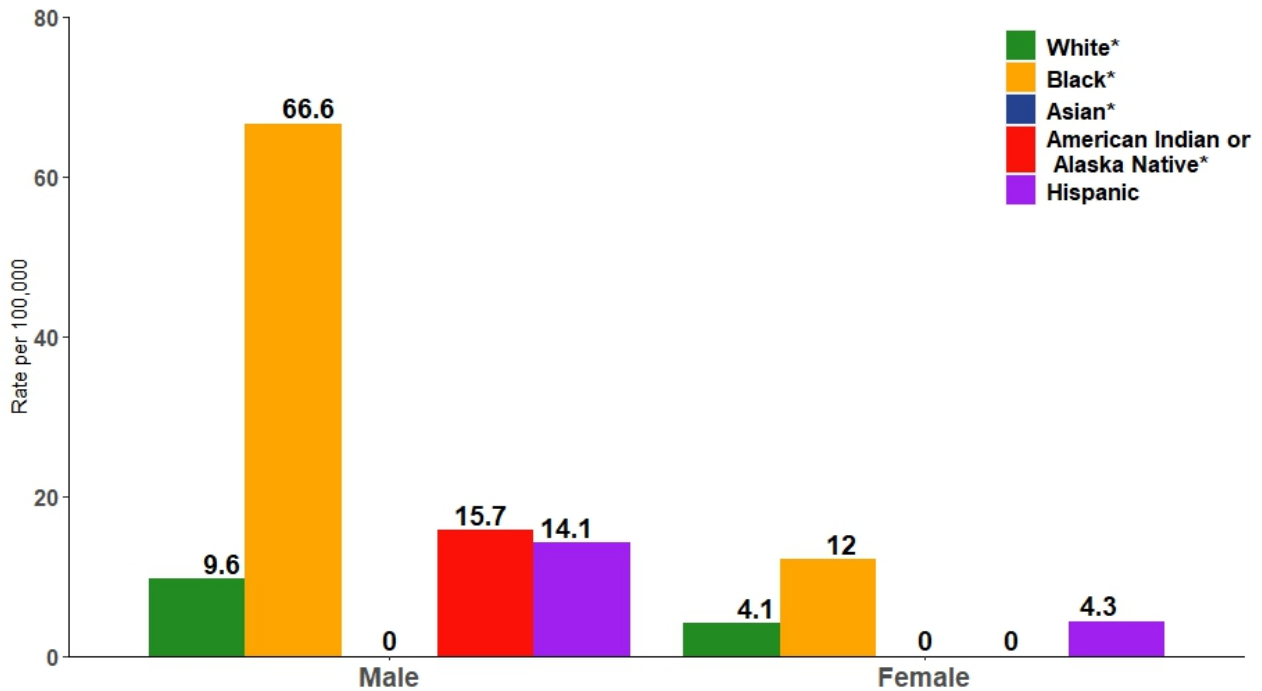
**Table 12: Race/ethnicity of homicide victims in Mississippi by sex, 2021**

Race/Ethnicity	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate**	Number	%	Rate**
White*	80	17.9	9.6	35	32.1	4.1
Black*	355	79.4	66.6	72	66.1	12.0
Asian*	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
American Indian*	2	0.5	15.7	0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	8	1.8	14.1	2	1.8	4.3
Other/Unknown	2	0.5	-	0	0.0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7.2</b>

\* Non-Hispanic (NH)

\*\* per 100,000 residents

**Figure 14: Homicide rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi stratified by race/ethnicity and sex, 2021**



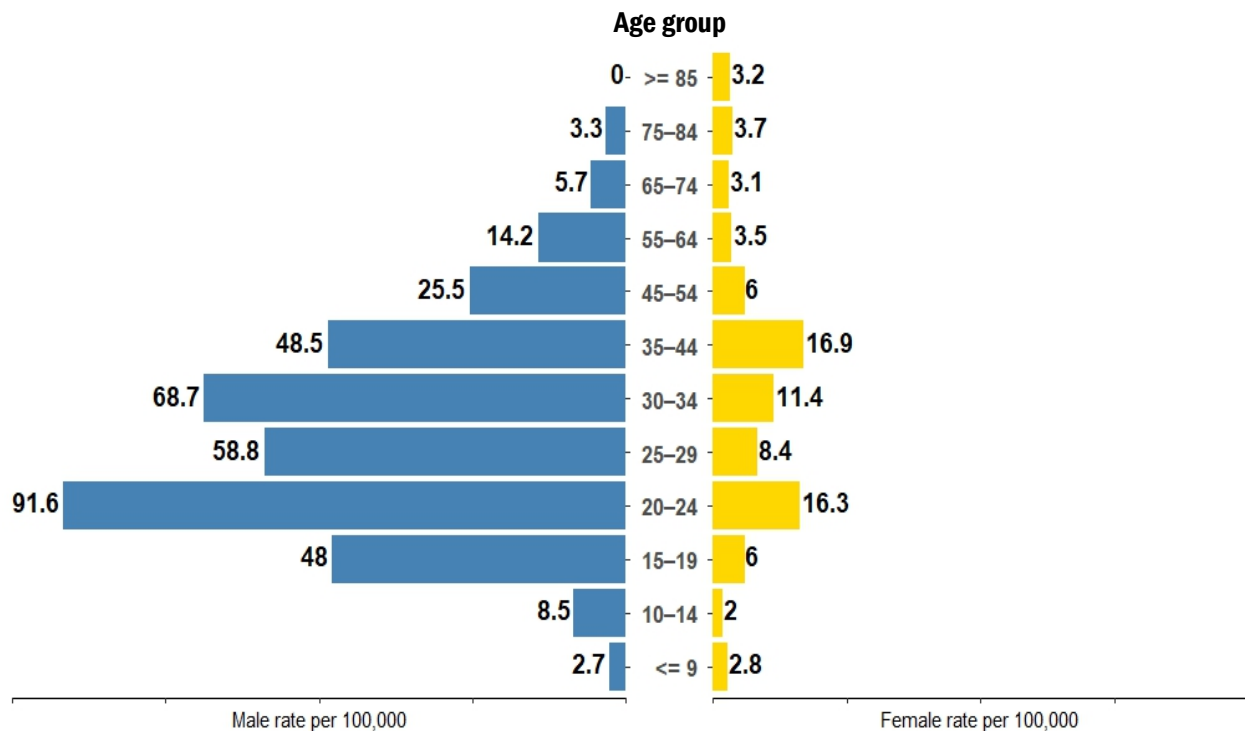
\* Non-Hispanic (NH)

**Table 13: Age group of homicide victims in Mississippi by sex, 2021**

Age Group (Years)	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate*	Number	%	Rate*
<=9	5	1.1	2.7	5	4.7	2.8
10-14	9	2.0	8.5	2	1.9	2.0
15-19	50	11.3	48.0	6	5.6	6.0
20-24	92	20.8	91.6	16	15.0	16.3
25-29	56	12.6	58.8	8	7.5	8.4
30-34	64	14.5	68.7	11	10.3	11.4
35-44	87	19.6	48.5	32	29.9	16.9
45-54	44	9.9	25.5	11	10.3	6.0
55-64	26	5.9	14.2	7	6.5	3.5
65-74	8	1.8	5.7	5	4.7	3.1
75-84	2	0.5	3.3	3	2.8	3.7
>=85	0	0.0	0.0	1	0.9	3.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7.1</b>

\* per 100,000 residents

**Figure 15: Homicide rates(per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi stratified by age group and sex, 2021**



## ***Precipitating Circumstances of Homicide Victims***

**Table 14** describes the circumstances for homicide victims based on the number of cases precipitating circumstances from coroner/medical examiner records and law enforcement reports in Mississippi in 2021.

### **Key Findings:**

- Precipitating circumstances were identified in 239 (22.3%) homicides.
- Among homicides with known circumstances, the problem of relationship and life stressors was the most common circumstance identified, with 123 (52.6%), 38 (16.2%), and 32 (13.7%) experiencing argument, intimate partner problem, and physical fight (2 people).
- Among homicide decedents with known circumstances, other common precipitating circumstances included manner specific circumstances with 28 and mental health, substance abuse, and other addiction with 20.

**Table 14: Precipitating circumstances of homicide victims in Mississippi, 2021**

	Number	%
Homicide victim with Known Circumstances *	239	22.3
<b>Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and other Addiction</b>		
Current Diagnosed Mental Health Problem	3	15.0
Current Depressed Mood	1	5.0
Alcohol Problem	2	10.0
Other Substance Abuse Problem	8	40.0
Other Addiction	6	30.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Relationship and Life Stressors</b>		
Intimate partner problem - homicide only	38	16.2
Family Relationship Problem	17	7.3
Family Stressor	8	3.4
Other Relationship Problem	8	3.4
Household Known to Local Authorities	1	0.4
Abuse or Neglect Led to Death	5	2.1
History of Abuse or Neglect as a Child	1	0.4
Previous Perpetrator of Violence in the Past Month	1	0.4
Physical fight (2 people)	32	13.7
Argument	123	52.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Manner Specific Circumstances for Homicide Deaths</b>		
Justifiable self defense	5	6.9
Victim was a police officer on duty	1	1.4
Victim was a bystander	7	9.6
Random violence	9	12.3
Victim used a weapon	4	5.5
Jealousy (lover's triangle)	3	4.1
Brawl (3 people or more in a physical fight)	1	1.4
Drive-by shooting	15	20.6
Drug involvement	28	38.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\*Each victim may have more than one circumstance, so the total number of circumstances may be greater than the total number of victims with known circumstances.

## Section III: Suicide

### Basic Characteristics of Suicides

**Table 15** summarizes the suicides in 2021 for Mississippi residents by demographics of sex, race/ethnicity, and age group. The rate of suicide in Mississippi per 100,000 population in 2021 is displayed by race/ethnicity and sex in **Figure 16** and by age group in **Figure 17**.

#### Key Findings:

- In 2021, a total of 433 Mississippi (14.7 per 100,000) died from suicide.
- Males were 4.8 times more likely to die from suicide than females (24.7 vs. 5.2 per 100,000).
- NH American Indian had the highest suicide rate (34.4 per 100,000), followed NH Whites (20.1 per 100,000), NH Asian (9.6 per 100,000), NH Black (6.8 per 100,000), and Hispanic (3.9 per 100,000) victims.
- Adults ages 75 - 84 years had the highest rate of suicide (25.2 per 100,000), followed by those ages 25 - 29 years (23.6 per 100,000), 30 - 34 years (21.1 per 100,000), and 45 - 54 years (20.2 per 100,000).

**Table 16** and **Figure 18** depict the method of death for suicide victims in Mississippi in 2021. **Table 17** and **Figure 19** show the suicide victims in Mississippi in 2021 by types of location where the injured occurred.

#### Key Findings:

- Firearm (71.3%) is the leading methods of suicide, followed by hanging, strangulation or suffocation (23.8%), and poisoning (2.1%).
- Males are more often died from suicide by a firearm (71.8%) or hanging, strangulation or suffocation (23.9%) and less frequently died from suicide by poisoning (2.0%) or sharp instrument (1.4%).
- Females are more commonly died from suicide by firearm (69.2%) or hanging, strangulation or suffocation (23.1%), compared to poisoning (2.6%).
- The most common locations in suicide deaths were House, Apartment (72.3%), followed by Jail, Prison, Detention facility (5.3%), and Motor Vehicle (4.4%).

**Table 18** shows the 10 counties with the highest suicide counts and their corresponding crude rates. **Figure 20** displays the Mississippi map of suicide rates in 2021 by county of residence.

#### Key Findings:

- For the 82 counties in Mississippi, the average rate of death for suicide victims by County of residence was 22.8 deaths per 100,000 with a range from 2.5 to 33.9 deaths per 100,000 (0 death excluded).
- In 2021, Lawrence (33.9), Quitman (33.7), Leake (33.0), Yalobusha (32.2), and Tishomingo (32.0) are the leading 5 counties with the highest suicide rates.

**Table 15: Demographics of suicide victims in Mississippi, 2021**

	Number	%	Rate**	95% CI***
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	79	18.2	5.2	4.1 - 6.4
Male	354	81.8	24.7	22.1 - 27.2
<b>Race/Ethnicity †</b>				
White*	339	77.8	20.1	18.0 - 22.3
Black*	77	17.7	6.8	5.3 - 8.3
Asian*	4	0.9	9.6	0.2 - 19.0
American indian*	9	2.1	34.4	11.9 - 56.9
Hispanic	4	0.9	3.9	0.1 - 7.7
Other/Unknown	3	0.7	-	-
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
<=9	0	0.0	-	-
10-14	5	1.2	2.4	0.3 - 4.6
15-19	21	4.9	10.3	5.9 - 14.7
20-24	37	8.6	18.7	12.6 - 24.7
25-29	45	10.4	23.6	16.7 - 30.5
30-34	40	9.2	21.1	14.5 - 27.6
35-44	72	16.6	19.5	15.0 - 24.1
45-54	72	16.6	20.2	15.6 - 24.9
55-64	48	11.1	12.6	9.0 - 16.2
65-74	52	12.0	17.1	12.5 - 21.8
75-84	36	8.3	25.2	17.0 - 33.4
>=85	5	1.2	10.5	1.3 - 19.8
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>13.3 - 16.1</b>

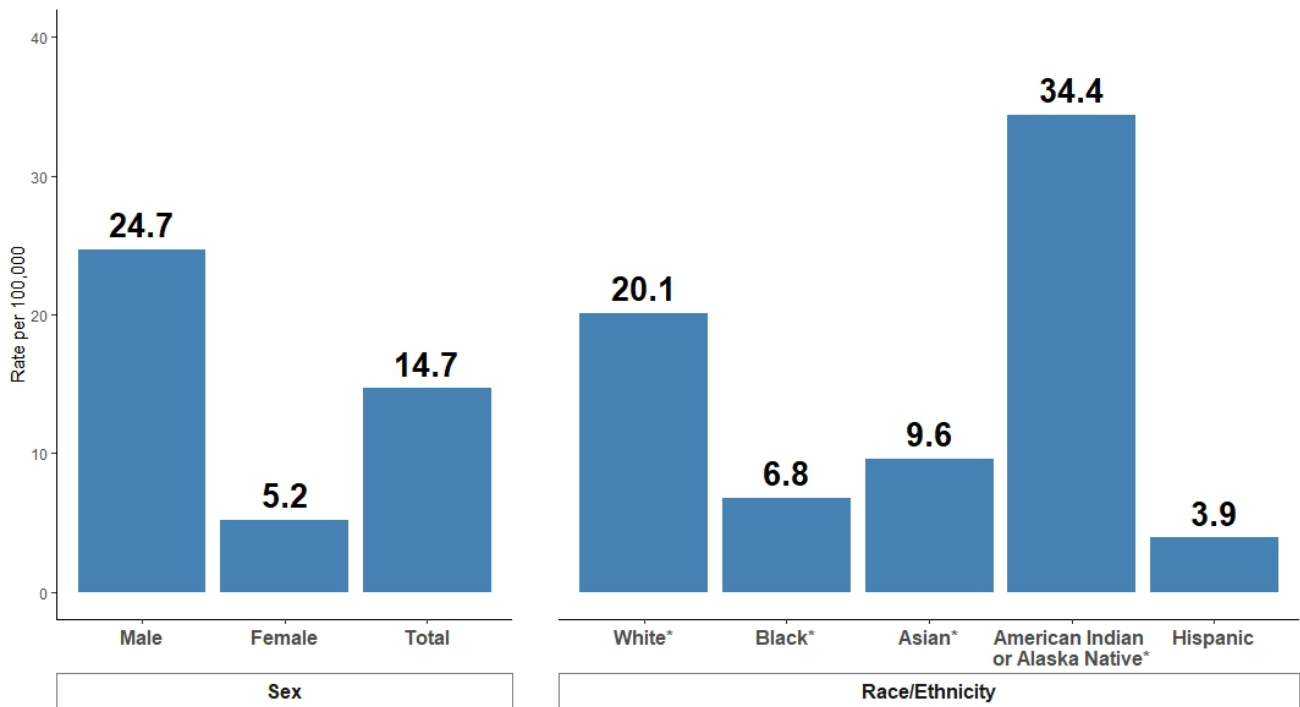
\* Non-Hispanic (NH)

\*\* per 100,000 residents.

\*\*\* 95% CI: 95% confidence interval for the rate using Wald (normal) approximation.

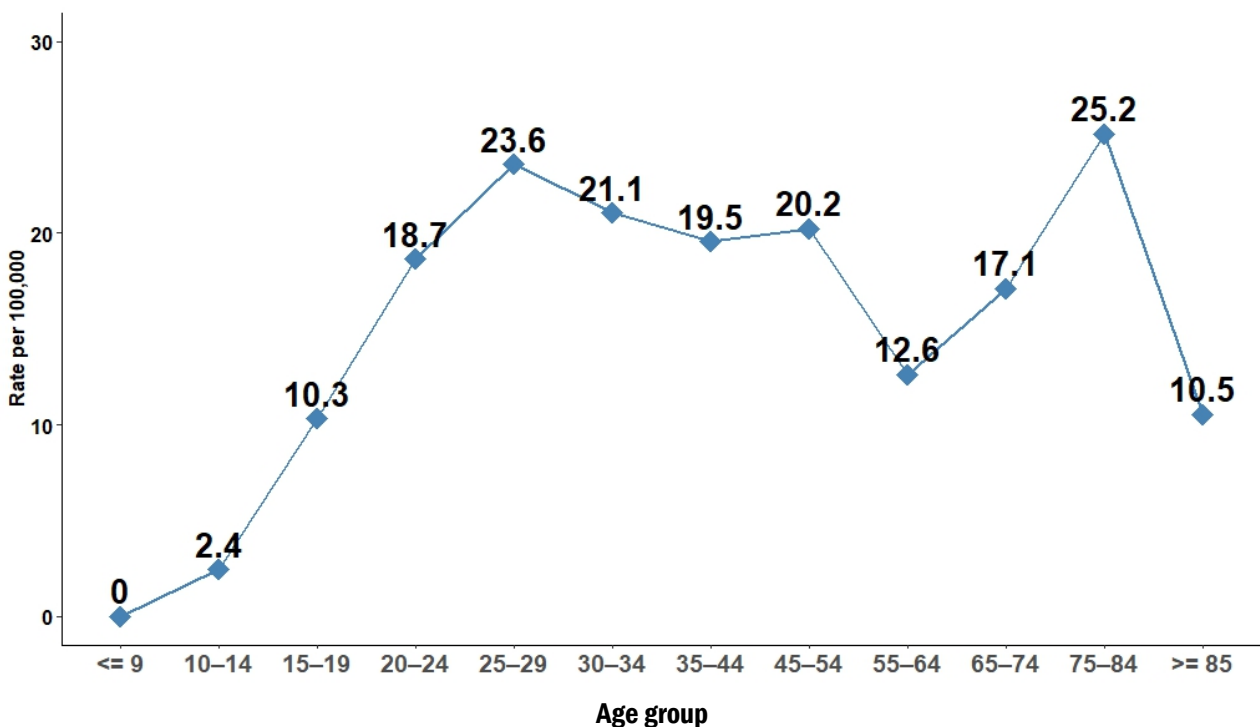
† Some decedents appear in multiple race/ethnicity categories, therefore, the sum of race/ethnicity counts may exceed the total number of deaths.

**Figure 16: Suicide rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi by sex and race/ethnicity, 2021**



\* Non-Hispanic (NH)

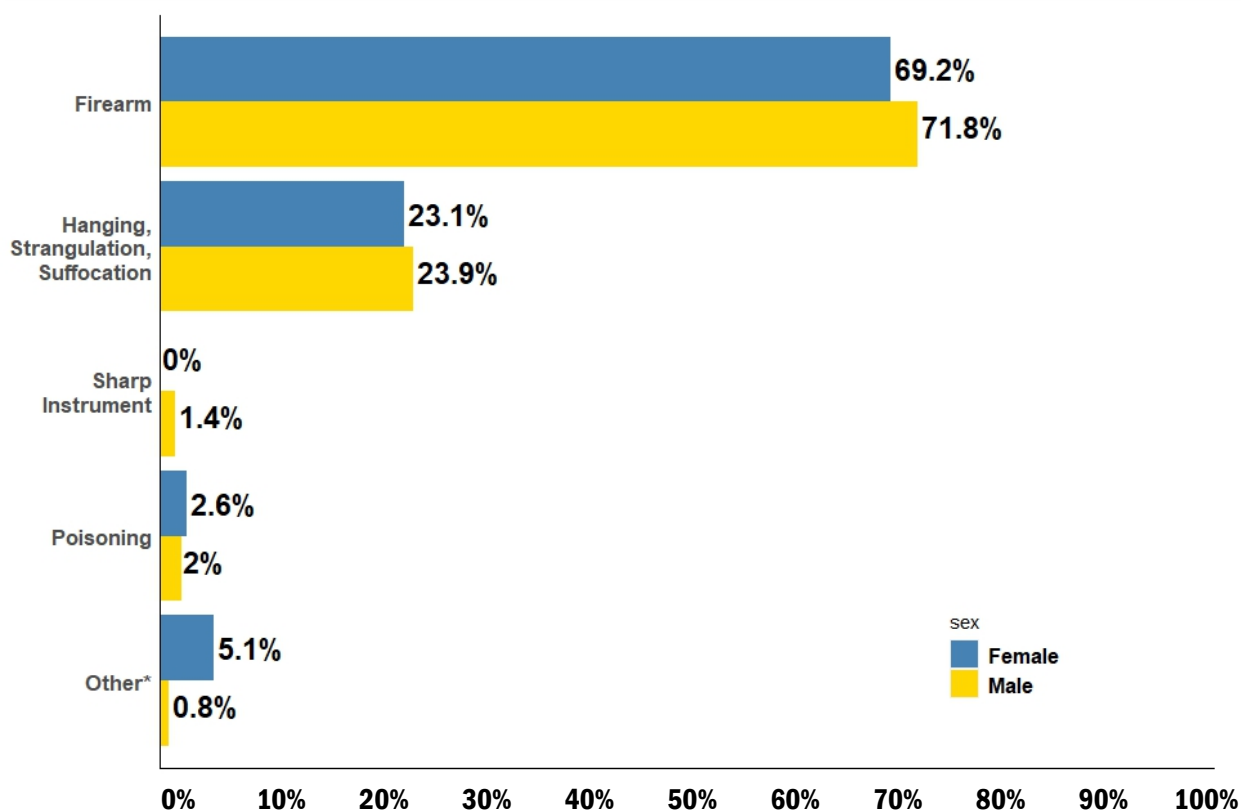
**Figure 17: Suicide rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi by age group, 2021**



**Table 16: Method of death for suicide victims in Mississippi by sex, 2021**

Method of Death	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Firearm	252	71.8	54	69.2	306	71.3
Hanging, strangulation, suffocation	84	23.9	18	23.1	102	23.8
Sharp instrument	5	1.4	0	0.0	5	1.2
Poisoning	7	2.0	2	2.6	9	2.1
Other*	3	0.9	4	5.1	7	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Other includes personal weapons, fall, motor vehicle, other transport vehicle, drowning, intentional neglect (e.g., starvation), blunt instrument, fire or burns, violent shaking and others.

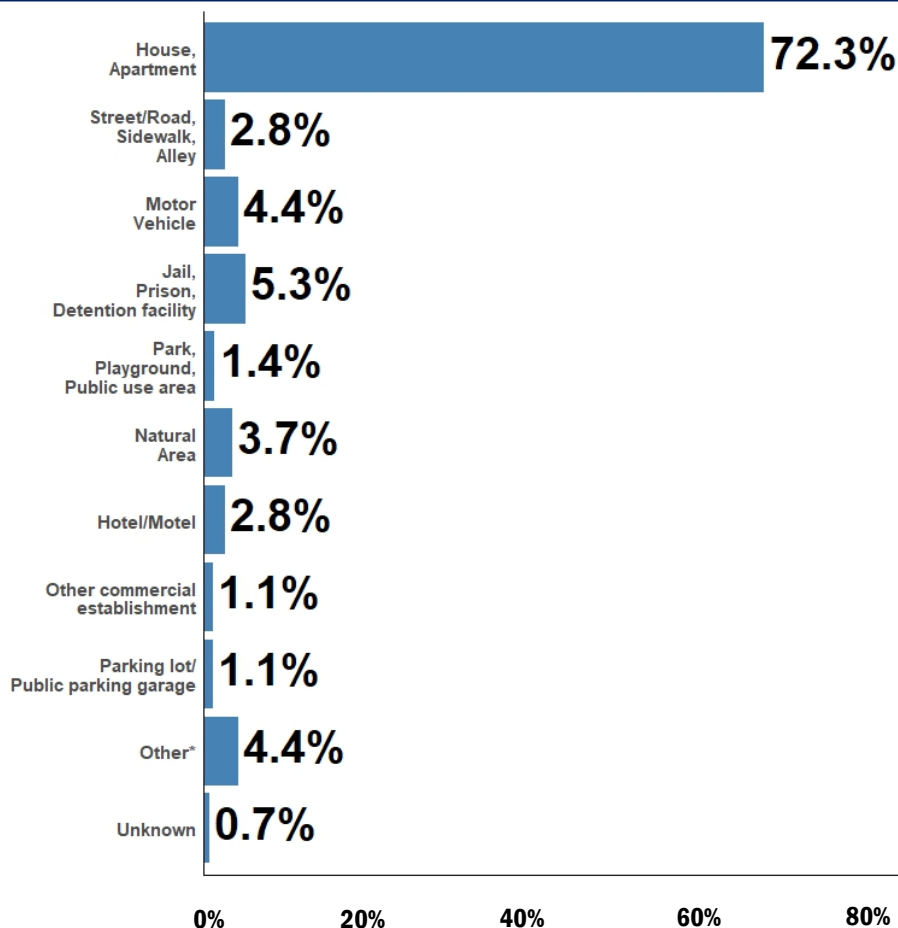
**Figure 18: Method of death for suicide victims in Mississippi by sex, 2021**

\* Other includes personal weapons, fall, motor vehicle, other transport vehicle, drowning, intentional neglect (e.g., starvation), blunt instrument, fire or burns, violent shaking and others.

**Table 17: Deaths for suicide victims by type of location where injured in Mississippi, 2021**

	Number	%
House, Apartment	313	72.3
Street/Road, Sidewalk, Alley	12	2.8
Motor Vehicle (excluding school bus, and public transportation)	19	4.4
Jail, Prison, Detention facility	23	5.3
Park, Playground, Public use area	6	1.4
Natural area	16	3.7
Hotel/Motel	12	2.8
Other commercial establishment	5	1.2
Parking lot/Public parking garage	5	1.2
Other*	19	4.4
Unknown	3	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Other includes highway, freeway, fall, industrial or construction areas, bar, nightclub, service station, abandoned house, building, or warehouse, sports or athletic area, elementary school, middle school, high school, college/university, public transportation or station, hospital or Medical facility, supervised residential facility, railroad tracks, bridge, cemetery, graveyard, or other burial ground, and other.

**Figure 19: Location types of death for suicide victims in Mississippi, 2021**

**Table 18: Top 10 counties with the highest counts of suicide deaths, along with the crude rates (per 100,000 residents) by county of residence in Mississippi, 2021 \***

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Harrison	31	14.8	Lauderdale	15	20.8
Hinds	27	12.1	Jones	15	22.5
Jackson	21	14.6	Hancock	14	30.4
Rankin	17	10.8	Pear River	13	23.0
DeSoto	16	8.5	Forrest	12	15.4

\*The county-level crude rates were residence-based, which reflect where decedents lived rather than where incidents occurred.



## ***Race/Ethnicity and Sex of Suicide Victims***

Table 19 and Figure 21 describe suicide victims in Mississippi in 2021 by sex and race/ethnicity.

### **Key Findings:**

- Male (81.8%) and NH White (77.8%) accounted for the majority of suicide victims as shown in Table 15.
- NH White (76.8%) constituted the greatest percentage of male suicide victims, followed by NH Black (17.6%). Similarly, most female suicide victims were NH White (82.1%), followed by NH Black (18.0%).
- For males, the suicide rate per 100,000 by race/ethnicity was highest for NH American Indian males (70.7), followed by NH White males (33.1), NH Asian males (20.2), NH Black males (11.8), and Hispanic males (7.1).
- For females, the suicide rate per 100,000 by race/ethnicity was highest for NH White females (7.5), followed by NH Black females (2.3). There were no female suicides among NH Asian, NH American Indian and Hispanic in 2021.
- The suicide rate was higher for males than for females of the same race by 5.1 times for NH Blacks, and 4.4 times for NH Whites.

## ***Age and Sex of Suicide Victims***

Table 20 lists the suicide victims in Mississippi in 2021 by age group and sex. Figure 22 plots the 2021 suicide rates per 100,000 in Mississippi by age group and sex.

### **Key Findings:**

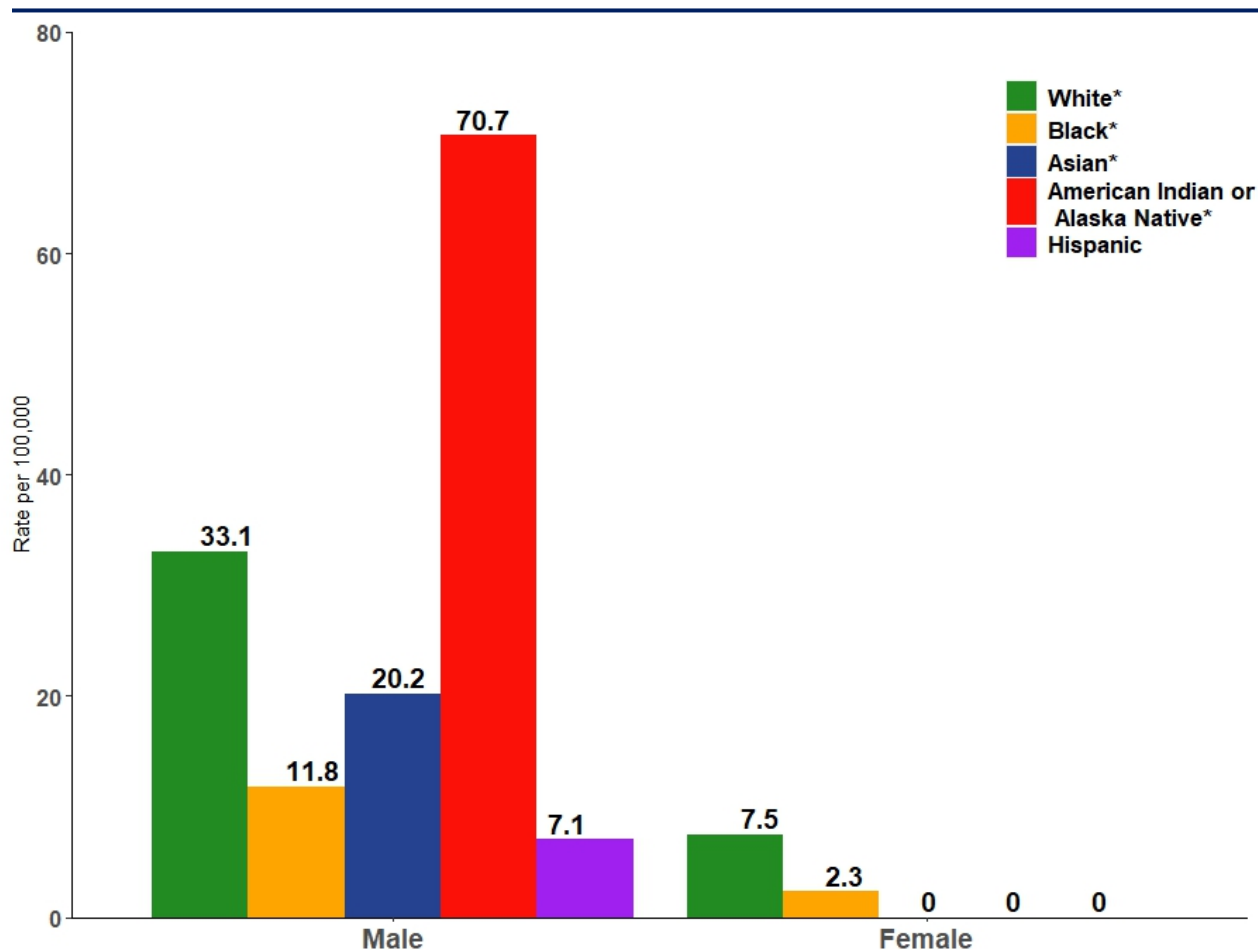
- Among male suicide victims, the largest shares were ages 25 - 74, followed by 35 - 44 (17.5%), 45 - 54 (17.2%), 55 - 64 (11.0%), 25 - 29 (11.0%), 65 - 74 (10.0%) and 30 - 34 (8.2%).
- Among female suicide victims, the largest shares were ages 25 - 74 followed by 65 - 74 (16.5%), 30 - 34 (13.9%), 45 - 54 (13.9%), 35 - 44 (12.7%), 55 - 64 (11.4%), and 25 - 29 (7.6%).
- Males had the highest suicide rate among the age group of 75 - 84 (50.7 per 100,000).
- For females, the suicide rate peaked at 30 - 34 (11.4 per 100,000).
- Suicide rates were higher for males than females across all age groups; the largest disparity was among the age group of 75 - 84, where the male rate was 8.3 times the female rate (50.7 versus 6.1 per 100,000, respectively).

**Table 19: Race of suicide victims (ages 10 or older) in Mississippi by sex, 2021**

Race/Ethnicity	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate**	Number	%	Rate**
White*	275	76.8	33.1	64	82.1	7.5
Black*	63	17.6	11.8	14	18.0	2.3
Asian*	4	1.1	20.2	0	0	0.0
American Indian*	9	2.5	70.7	0	0	0.0
Hispanic	4	1.1	7.1	0	0	0.0
Other/Unknown	3	0.8	-	0	0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5.1</b>

\* Non-Hispanic (NH)

\*\* per 100,000 residents

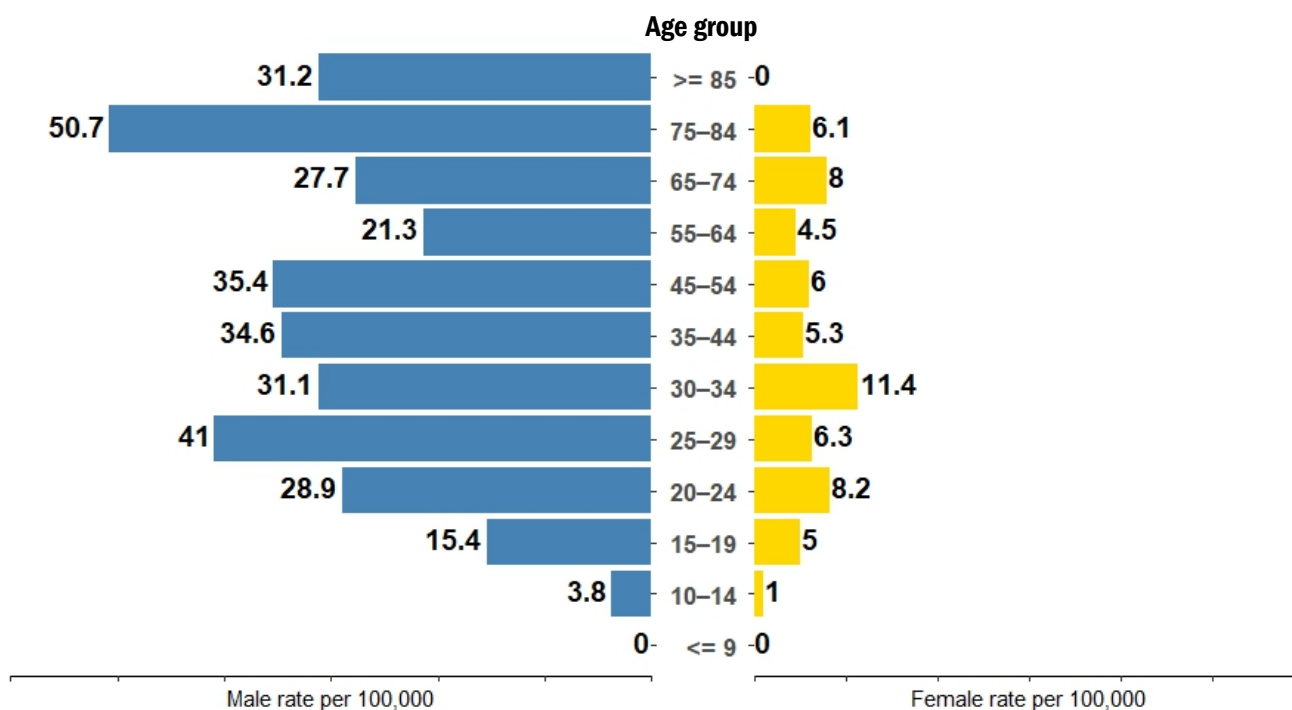
**Figure 21: Suicide rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi stratified by race/ethnicity and sex, 2021**

\* Non-Hispanic (NH)

**Table 20: Age group of suicide victims in Mississippi by sex, 2021**

Age Group (Years)	Male			Female		
	Number	%	Rate *	Number	%	Rate *
<=9	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
10-14	4	1.1	3.8	1	1.3	1.0
15-19	16	4.5	15.4	5	6.3	5.0
20-24	29	8.2	28.9	8	10.1	8.2
25-29	39	11.0	41.0	6	7.6	6.3
30-34	29	8.2	31.1	11	13.9	11.4
35-44	62	17.5	34.6	10	12.7	5.3
45-54	61	17.2	35.4	11	13.9	6.0
55-64	39	11.0	21.3	9	11.4	4.5
65-74	39	10.0	27.7	13	16.5	8.0
75-84	31	8.8	50.7	5	6.3	6.1
>=85	5	1.4	31.2	0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5.2</b>

\* per 100,000 residents

**Figure 22: Suicide rates in Mississippi stratified by age group and sex, 2021**

***Precipitating Circumstances of Suicide Victims***

**Table 21** describes the circumstances for suicide victims based on the number of cases precipitating circumstances from coroner/medical examiner records and law enforcement reports in Mississippi in 2021.

**Key Findings:**

- Precipitating circumstances were identified in 239 (22.3%) suicides.
- Among suicides with known circumstances, the problem of mental health, substance abuse, and other addictions was the most common circumstance identified, with 98 (38.3%), and 79 (30.9%) experiencing current depressed mood and current diagnosed mental health problem respectively.
- Among suicide decedents with known circumstances, the second most common precipitating circumstance was manner specific circumstances, included contributing physical health problems with 31 (22.0%), left a suicide note with 29 (20.6%), history of expressed suicidal thoughts or plans with 17 (12.1%), and so on.

**Table 21: Precipitating circumstances of suicide victims in Mississippi, 2021**

	Number	%
Suicide victims with Known Circumstances *	239	22.3
<b>Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and other Addictions</b>		
Current Diagnosed Mental Health Problem	79	30.9
Current Depressed Mood	98	38.3
Current treatment for mental health or substance use/misuse problem	2	0.8
Ever treated for mental health or substance use/misuse problem	3	1.2
Alcohol Problem	19	7.4
Other Substance Abuse Problem	29	11.3
Other Addiction	26	10.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Relationship and Life Stressors</b>		
Intimate partner problem - suicide only	26	30.6
Family Relationship Problem	12	14.1
Caregiver Burden	2	2.4
Family Stressor	14	16.5
Other Relationship Problem	2	2.4
Abuse or Neglect Led to Death	1	1.18
Previous Perpetrator of Violence in the Past Month	1	1.18
Physical fight (2 people)	4	4.7
Argument	23	27.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Manner Specific Circumstances for Suicide Deaths</b>		
History of suicide attempts	14	9.9
History of expressed suicidal thoughts or plans	17	12.1
History of non-suicidal self-injury/self-harm	2	1.4
Recently disclosed suicidal thoughts/plans to commit suicide	17	12.1
Left a suicide note	29	20.6
Contributing criminal legal problem	10	7.1
Civil legal problems	2	1.4
Contributing physical health problem	31	22.0
Job problem	7	5.0
Financial problem	9	6.4
School problem	1	0.7
Anniversary of a traumatic event	2	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Each victim may have more than one circumstance, so the total number of circumstances may be greater than the total number of victims with known circumstances.

## Section IV: Firearm Deaths

### Basic Characteristics of Firearm Deaths

**Table 22** and **Figure 23** summarize the manner of firearm deaths among Mississippi residents in 2021.

#### Key Findings:

- More than half of firearm deaths were homicides (57.4%), followed by suicides (36.1%).

**Table 23** characterizes firearm deaths in 2021 among Mississippi residents by demographics of sex, race/ethnicity, and age group. The overall firearm death rate per 100,000 Mississippi residents is displayed by race/ethnicity and sex in **Figure 24** and by age group in **Figure 25**.

#### Key Findings:

- In 2021, 848 Mississippi residents died due to an injury from a firearm (28.7 per 100,000), representing 80% of all violent deaths.
- Males were 5.0 times more likely to die from firearm violence than females (48.8 versus 9.7 per 100,000, respectively).
- NH Black residents had the highest firearm violent death rate per 100,000 (43.1), followed by NH White (20.7), NH American Indian (11.5), Hispanic (8.7), and NH Asian residents (2.4).
- Young adults ages 20 - 24 had the highest firearm death rate per 100,000 (68.1), followed by the age group of 30 - 34 (51.1), and 25 - 29 (45.1).

**Table 25** and **Figure 26** provide counts and percentages of firearm deaths by type of location where the injury occurred in 2021.

#### Key Findings:

- The most common location in firearm deaths was House, Apartment (58.1%), followed by Street/Road, Sidewalk, Alley (16.8%), and Motor Vehicle (8.0%).

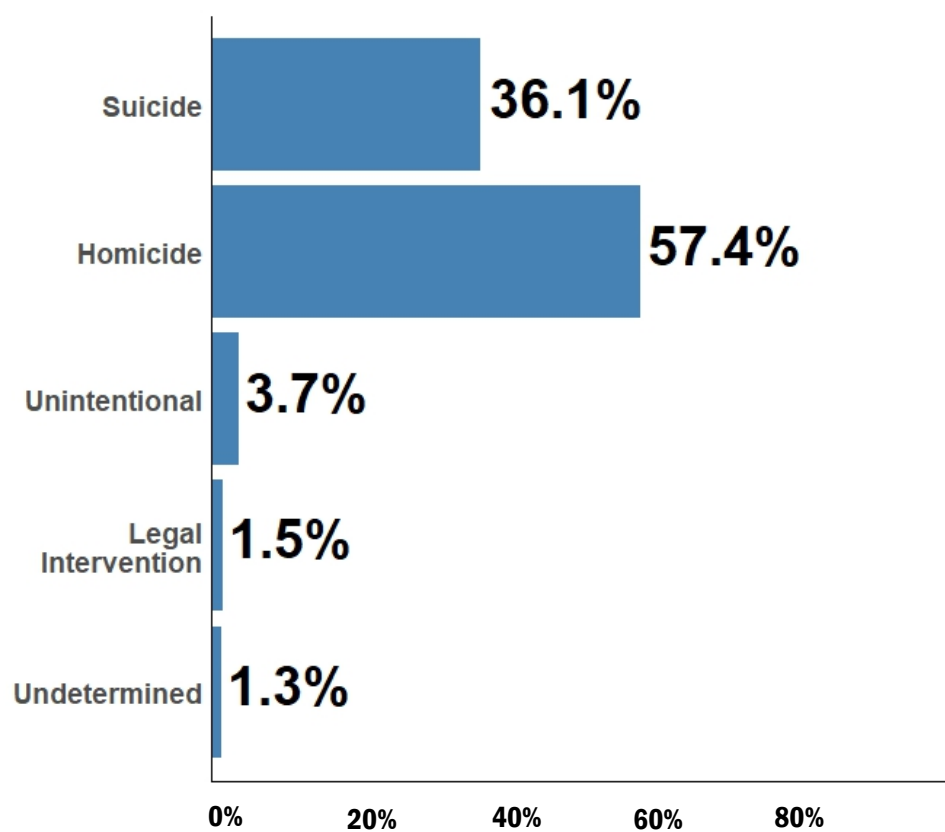
**Table 26** shows the 10 counties with the highest firearm deaths counts and their corresponding crude rates. **Figure 27** displays the Mississippi map of firearm deaths rates in 2021 by county of residence.

#### Key Findings:

- For the 82 counties in Mississippi, the average rate of firearm deaths by County of residence was 27.7 deaths per 100,000 with a range from 4.0 to 89.3 deaths per 100,000 (0 death excluded).
- In 2021, Washington (89.3), Leflore (79.8), Lawrence (76.2), Copiah (64.3), and Bolivar (62.7) are the leading 5 counties with the highest firearm death rates.

**Table 22: Manner of Firearm Death in Mississippi, 2021**

Manner	Number	%
Suicide	306	36.1
Homicide	487	57.4
Unintentional	31	3.7
Legal Intervention	13	1.5
Undetermined	11	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>100</b>

**Figure 23: Manner of Firearm Death in Mississippi, 2021**

**Table 23: Demographics of Firearm Deaths in Mississippi, 2021**

	Number	%	Rate**	95% CI***
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	147	17.3	9.7	8.1 - 11.3
Male	701	82.7	48.8	45.2 - 52.5
<b>Race/Ethnicity †</b>				
White*	349	40.8	20.7	18.5 - 22.9
Black*	488	57.1	43.1	39.3 - 47.0
Asian*	1	0.1	2.4	0 - 7.1
American Indian*	3	0.4	11.5	1.5 - 24.5
Hispanic	9	1.1	8.7	3.0 - 14.5
Other/Unspecified	5	0.6	-	-
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
<= 9	14	1.7	3.9	1.8 - 5.9
10-14	14	1.7	6.8	3.2 - 10.4
15 - 19	73	8.6	35.9	27.6 - 44.1
20 - 24	135	15.9	68.1	56.6 - 79.5
25 - 29	86	10.1	45.1	35.6 - 54.6
30 - 34	97	11.4	51.1	40.9 - 61.2
35 - 44	162	19.1	44.0	37.2 - 50.7
45 - 54	103	12.2	29.0	23.4 - 34.6
55 - 64	66	7.8	17.3	13.2 - 21.5
65 - 74	59	7.0	19.4	14.5 - 24.4
75 - 84	34	4.0	23.8	15.8 - 31.8
85 +	5	0.6	10.5	1.3 - 19.8
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>26.8 - 30.7</b>

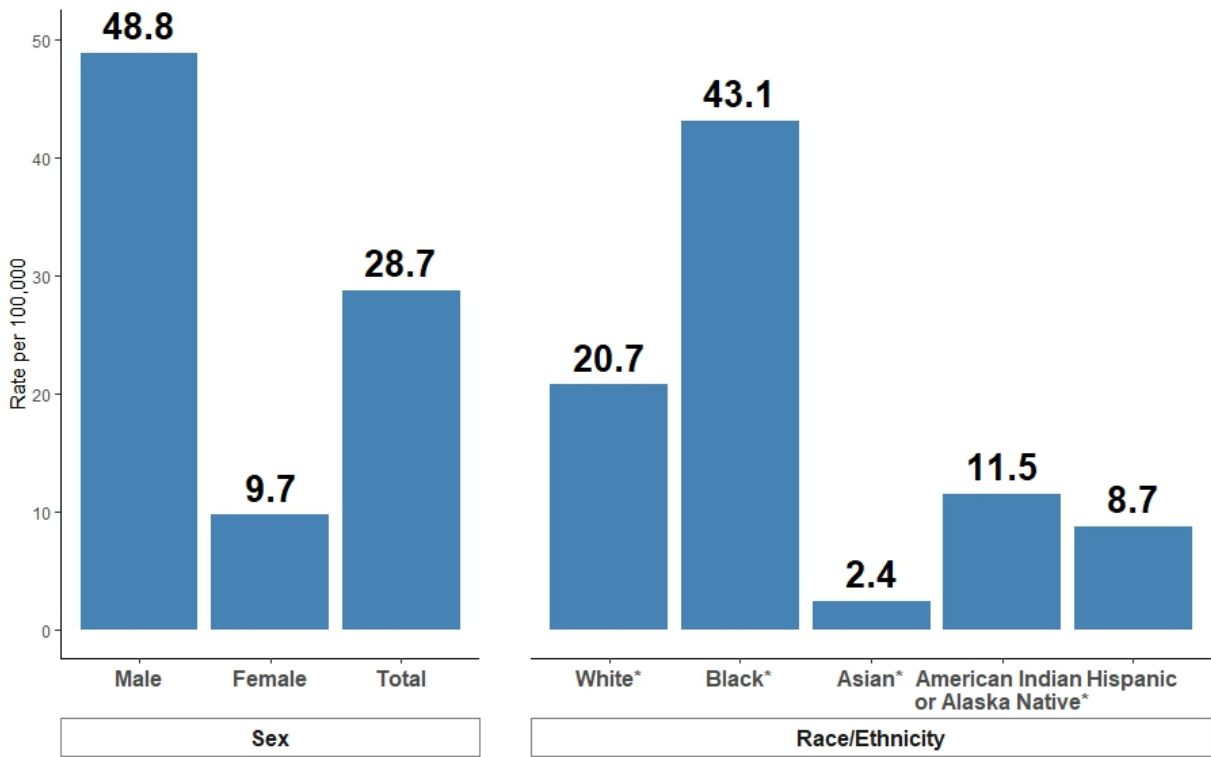
\* Non-Hispanic (NH)

\*\* per 100,000 residents.

\*\*\* 95% CI: 95% confidence interval for the rate using Wald (normal) approximation.

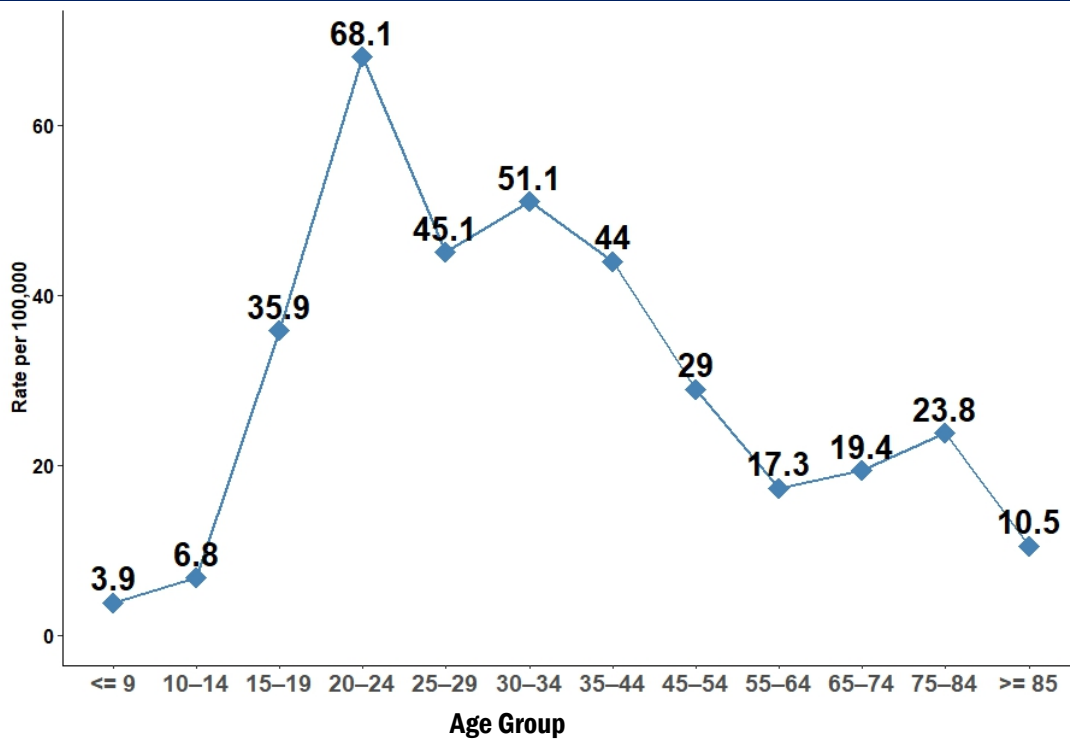
† Some decedents appear in multiple race/ethnicity categories, therefore, the sum of race/ethnicity counts may exceed the total number of deaths.

**Figure 24: Firearm death rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi by sex and race/ethnicity, 2021**



\* Non-Hispanic (NH)

**Figure 25: Firearm death rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi stratified by age group, 2021**

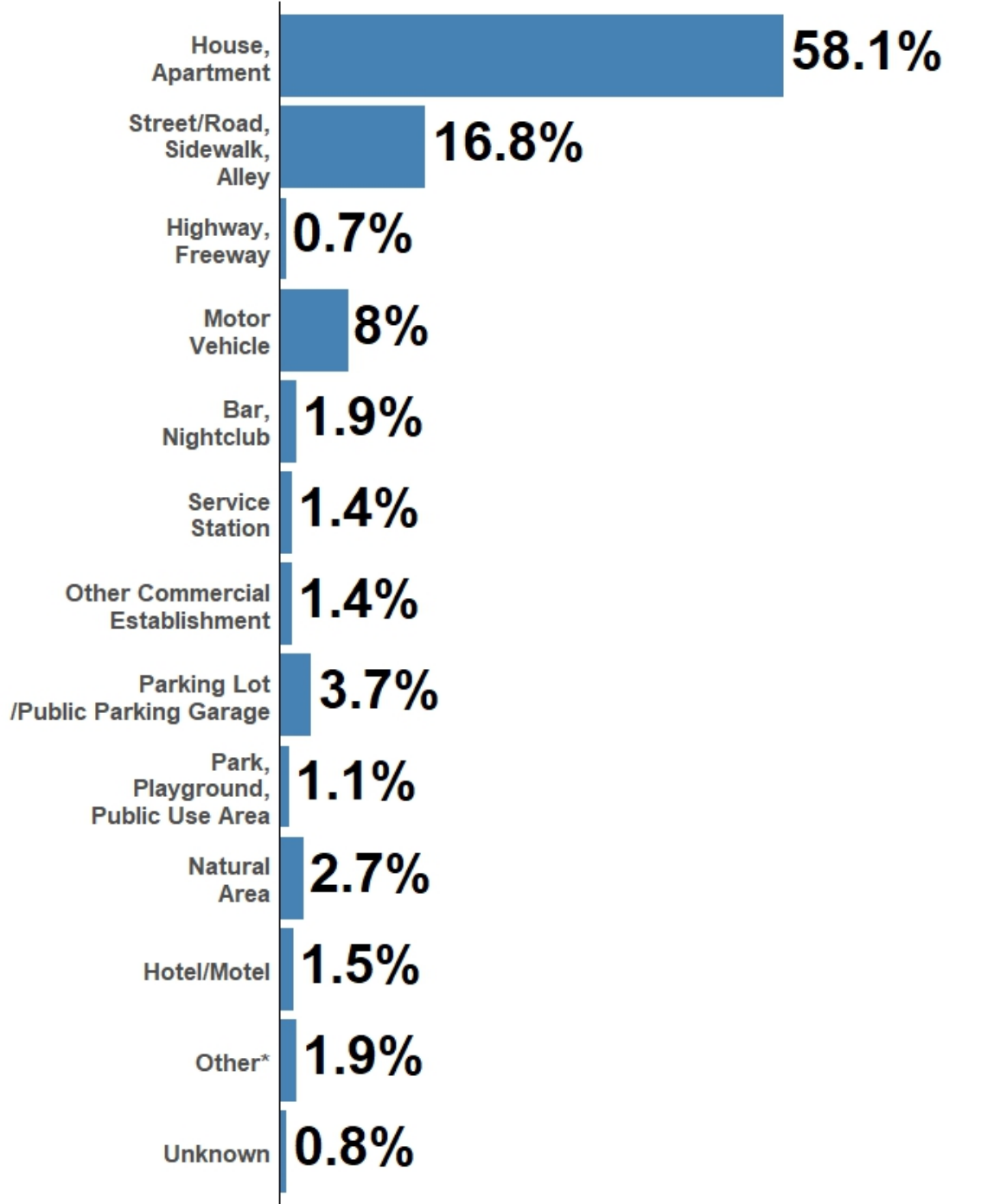


**Table 25: Firearm deaths by type of location where injured in Mississippi, 2021**

	Number	%
House, Apartment	493	58.1
Street/Road, Sidewalk, Alley	142	16.8
Highway, Freeway	6	0.7
Motor Vehicle (excluding school bus, and public transportation)	68	8.0
Bar, Nightclub	16	1.9
Service station	12	1.4
Other commercial establishment	12	1.4
Parking lot/Public parking garage	31	3.7
Park, Playground, Public use area	9	1.1
Natural area	23	2.7
Hotel/Motel	13	1.5
Other*	16	1.9
Unknown	7	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Other includes fall, industrial or construction areas, jail, prison, detention facility, abandoned house, building, or warehouse, sports or athletic area, elementary school, middle school, high school, college/university, public transportation or station, hospital or Medical facility, supervised residential facility, railroad tracks, bridge, cemetery, graveyard, or other burial ground, and other.

Figure 26: Location types of firearm death in Mississippi, 2021



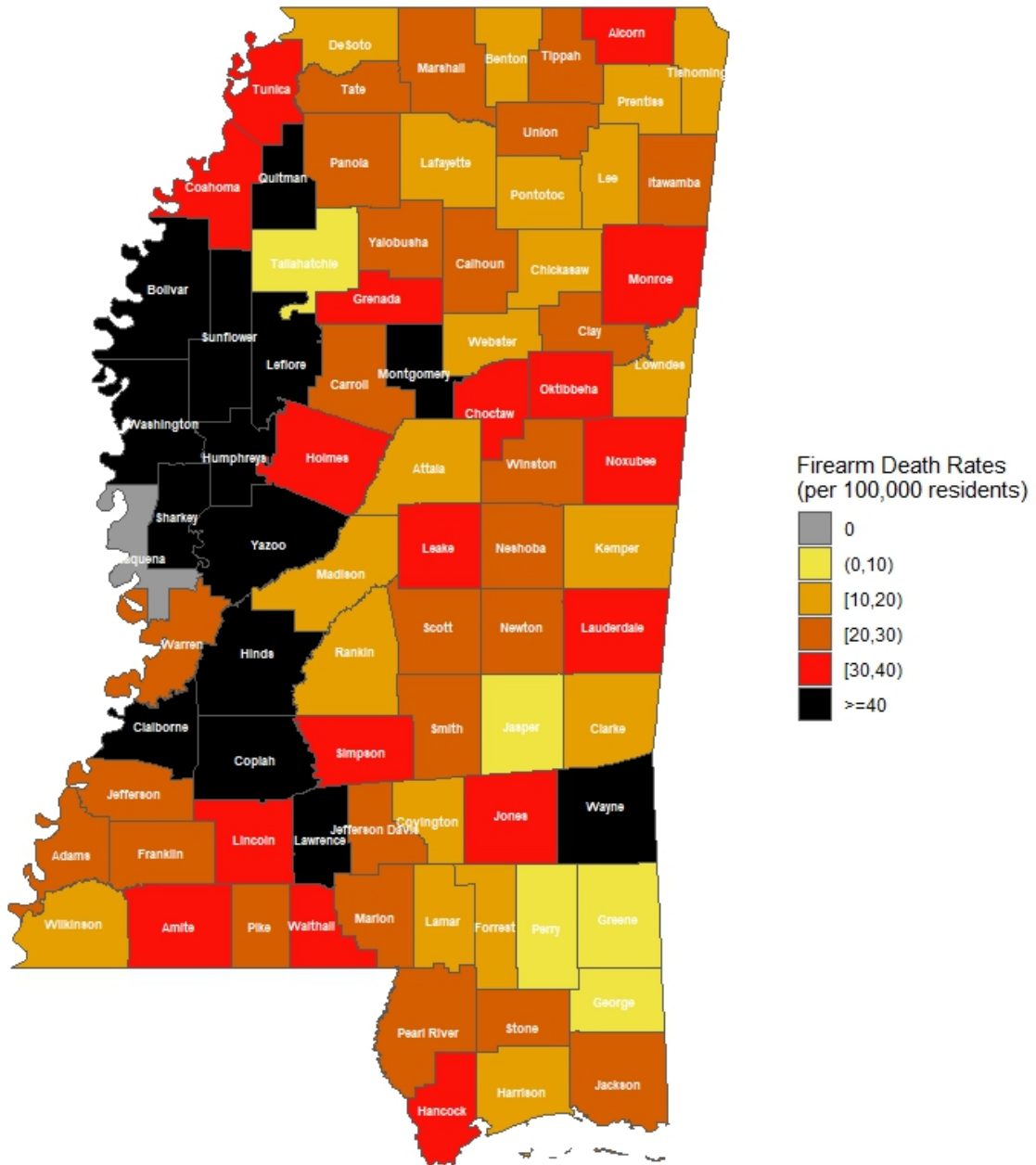
\* Other includes fall, industrial or construction areas, jail, prison, detention facility, abandoned house, building, or warehouse, sports or athletic area, elementary school, middle school, high school, college/university, public transportation or station, hospital or Medical facility, supervised residential facility, railroad tracks, bridge, cemetery, graveyard, or other burial ground, and other.

**Table 26: Top 10 counties with the highest counts of firearm deaths, along with the crude rates (per 100,000 residents) by county of residence in Mississippi, 2021 \***

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Hinds	137	61.5	Jones	22	33.0
Harrison	39	18.6	Leflore	22	79.8
Washington	39	89.3	Rankin	21	13.3
Jackson	29	20.1	DeSoto	19	10.1
Lauderdale	28	38.8	Madison	19	17.3

\* The county-level crude rates were residence-based, which reflect where decedents lived rather than where incidents occurred.

**Figure 27: Map of firearm death rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi by county of residence, 2021**



## Firearm Homicides

**Table 27** characterizes homicides involving a firearm in 2021 among Mississippi residents by demographics of sex, race/ethnicity, and age group. The firearm homicide rate per 100,000 Mississippi residents is displayed by race/ethnicity and sex in **Figure 28** and by age group and sex in **Figure 29**.

### Key Findings:

- In 2021, 487 Mississippi residents died from a homicide involving a firearm (16.5 per 100,000), representing 88.5% of all homicides.
- Males were 5.3 times as likely to die of a firearm homicide as females (28.3 versus 5.3 per 100,000, respectively).
- NH Blacks had the highest firearm homicide rate (35.2 per 100,000), followed by NH Hispanics (6.8 per 100,000), and NH Whites (5.0 per 100,000). There was no firearm homicide among NH Asians or NH American Indian in 2021.
- Young adults ages 20 - 24 years had the highest firearm homicide rates per 100,000 (52.4), followed by adults age group of 30 - 34 (36.3), 25 - 29 (30.9), 35 - 44 (27.7), and 15 - 19 (26.5).
- Males ages 20 - 24 years were 6.3 times as likely to die of a firearm homicide than females of the same age group (89.7 and 14.3 per 100,000, respectively).

**Table 28** and **Figure 30** show firearm homicides by location where the injury occurred in 2021.

### Key Findings:

- The most common location for firearm homicides was House, Apartment (43.3%), followed by Street/Road, Sidewalk, Alley (26.5%), and Motor Vehicle (10.3%).

**Table 29** shows the 10 counties with the highest counts of firearm homicide and their corresponding crude rates. **Figure 31** displays the map of firearm homicide rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi by county of residence in 2021.

**Table 30** describes the circumstances for firearm homicide victims based on the number of cases precipitating circumstances from coroner/medical examiner records and law enforcement reports in Mississippi in 2021.

### Key Findings:

- Precipitating circumstances were identified in 206 (24.3%) firearm homicide victims.
- Among the firearm homicides with known circumstances, the problem of relationship and life stressors was the most common circumstance identified, with 106 (56.7%), 30 (16.0%) and 19 (10.2%) experiencing argument, intimate partner problem, and physical fight (2 people) problems respectively.
- Among the firearm homicide decedents with known circumstances, the second most common precipitating circumstance is manner specific circumstances, included drug involvement with 25 (39.7%), drive-by shooting with 15 (23.8%), and so on.

**Table 27: Demographics of firearm homicide in Mississippi, 2021**

	Number	%	Rate**	95% CI***
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	81	16.6	5.3	4.2 - 6.5
Male	406	83.4	28.3	25.5 - 31.0
<b>Race/Ethnicity †</b>				
White*	85	17.3	5.0	4.0 - 6.1
Black*	398	80.9	35.2	31.7 - 38.6
Asian*	0	0.0	-	-
American Indian*	0	0.0	0.0	-
Hispanic	7	1.4	6.8	1.8 - 11.8
Other/Unknown	2	0.4	-	-
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
<= 9	7	1.4	1.9	0.5 - 3.4
10-14	9	1.9	4.4	1.5 - 7.2
15 - 19	54	11.1	26.5	19.4 - 33.6
20 - 24	104	21.4	52.4	42.4 - 62.5
25 - 29	59	12.1	30.9	23.0 - 38.8
30 - 34	69	14.2	36.3	27.7 - 44.9
35 - 44	102	20.9	27.7	22.3 - 33.1
45 - 54	48	9.9	13.5	9.7 - 17.3
55 - 64	23	4.7	6.0	3.6 - 8.5
65 - 74	10	2.1	3.3	1.3 - 5.3
75 - 84	2	0.4	1.4	0 - 3.3
85 +	0	0.0	-	-
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>15.0 - 18.0</b>

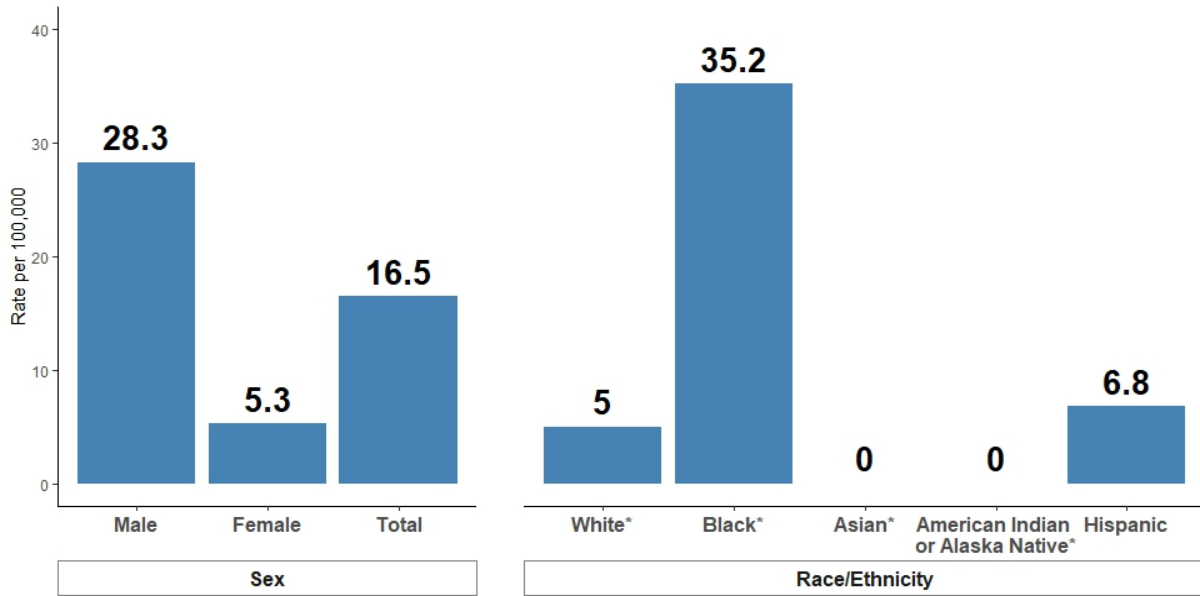
\* Non-Hispanic (NH)

\*\* per 100,000 residents.

\*\*\* 95% CI: 95% confidence interval for the rate using Wald (normal) approximation.

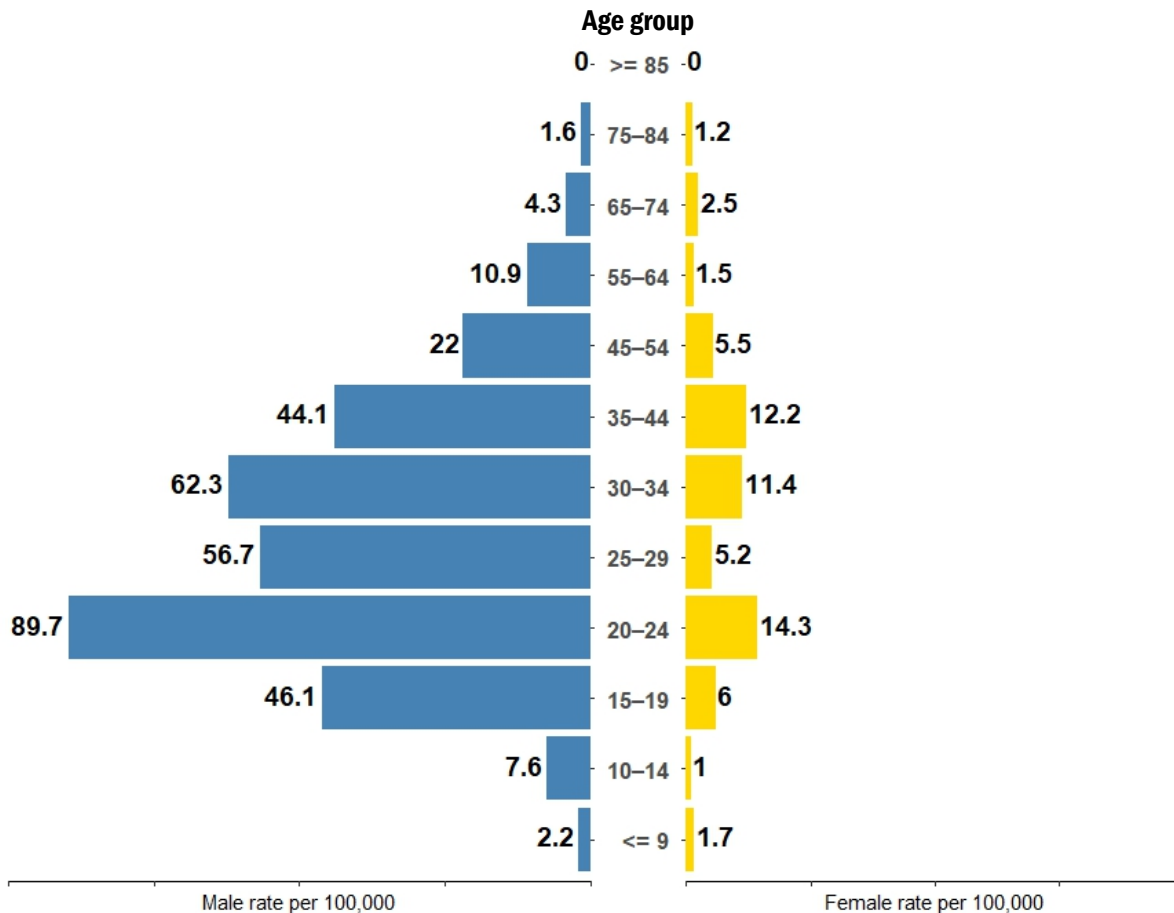
† Some decedents appear in multiple race/ethnicity categories, therefore, the sum of race/ethnicity counts may exceed the total number of deaths.

**Figure 28: Firearm homicide rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi by sex and race/ethnicity, 2021**



\* Non-Hispanic (NH)

**Figure 29: Firearm homicide rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi stratified by age group and sex, 2021**



**Table 28: Firearm homicide deaths by type of location where injured in Mississippi, 2021**

	Number	%
House, Apartment	211	43.3
Street/Road, Sidewalk, Alley	129	26.5
Motor Vehicle (excluding school bus, and public transportation)	50	10.3
Bar, Nightclub	14	2.9
Service station	11	2.3
Other commercial establishment	9	1.9
Parking lot/Public parking garage	24	4.9
Natural area	13	2.7
Hotel/Motel	7	1.4
Other*	16	3.5
Unknown	3	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Other includes fall, industrial or construction areas, jail, prison, detention facility, park, playground, public use area, abandoned house, building, or warehouse, sports or athletic area, elementary school, middle school, high school, college/university, public transportation or station, hospital or Medical facility, supervised residential facility, railroad tracks, bridge, cemetery, graveyard, or other burial ground, and other.

**Table 29: Top 10 counties with the highest counts of firearm homicide, along with the crude rates (per 100,000 residents) by county of residence in Mississippi, 2021 \***

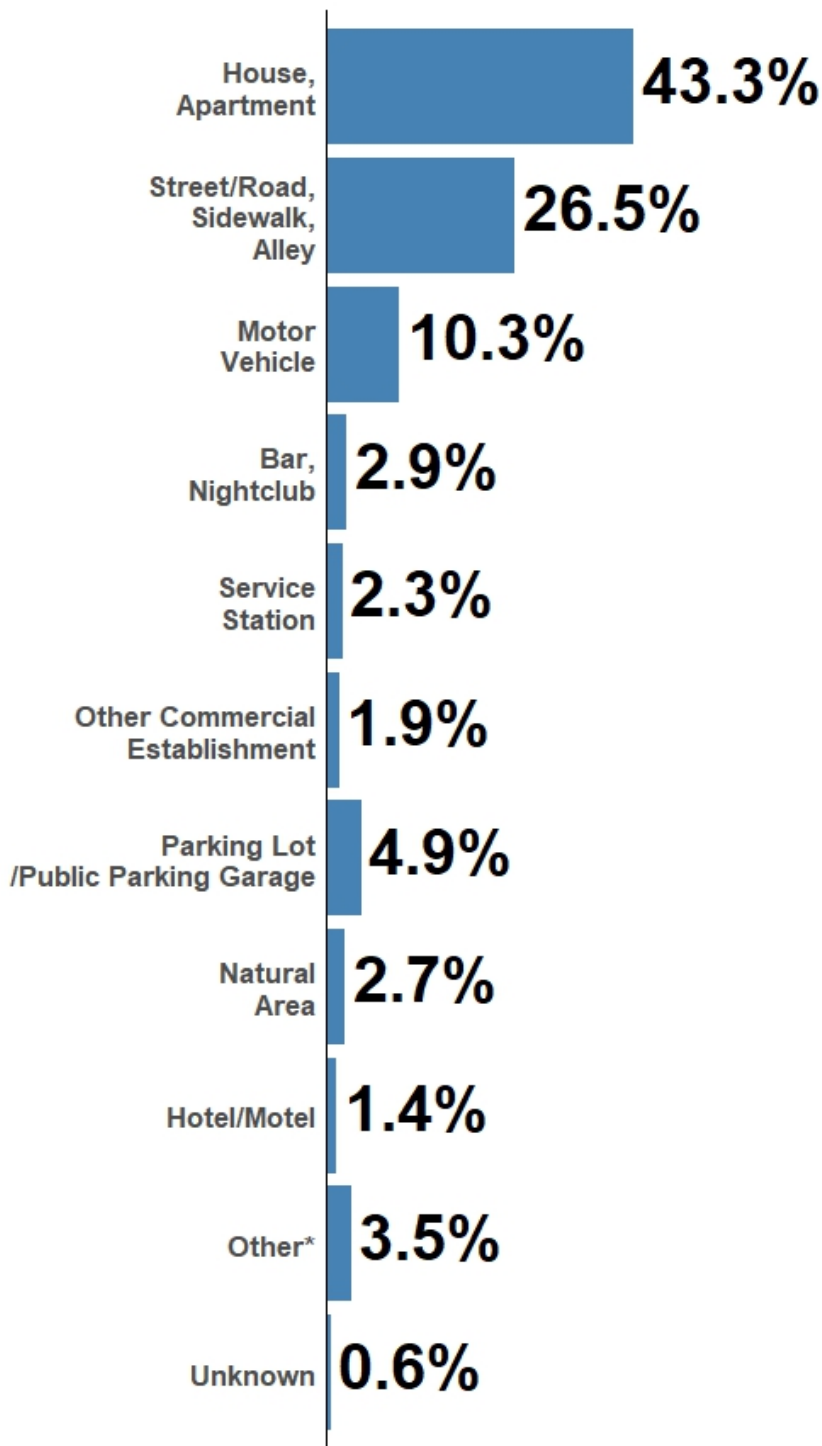
County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
<b>Hinds</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>Bolivar</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>49.5</b>
<b>Washington</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>80.1</b>	<b>Jackson</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10.4</b>
<b>Lauderdale</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>Madison</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12.7</b>
<b>Leflore</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>58.1</b>	<b>Copiah</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>39.3</b>
<b>Harrison</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>Yazoo</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>37.9</b>

\* The county-level crude rates were residence-based, which reflect where decedents lived rather than where incidents occurred.

**Table 30: Precipitating circumstances of firearm homicide victims in Mississippi, 2021**

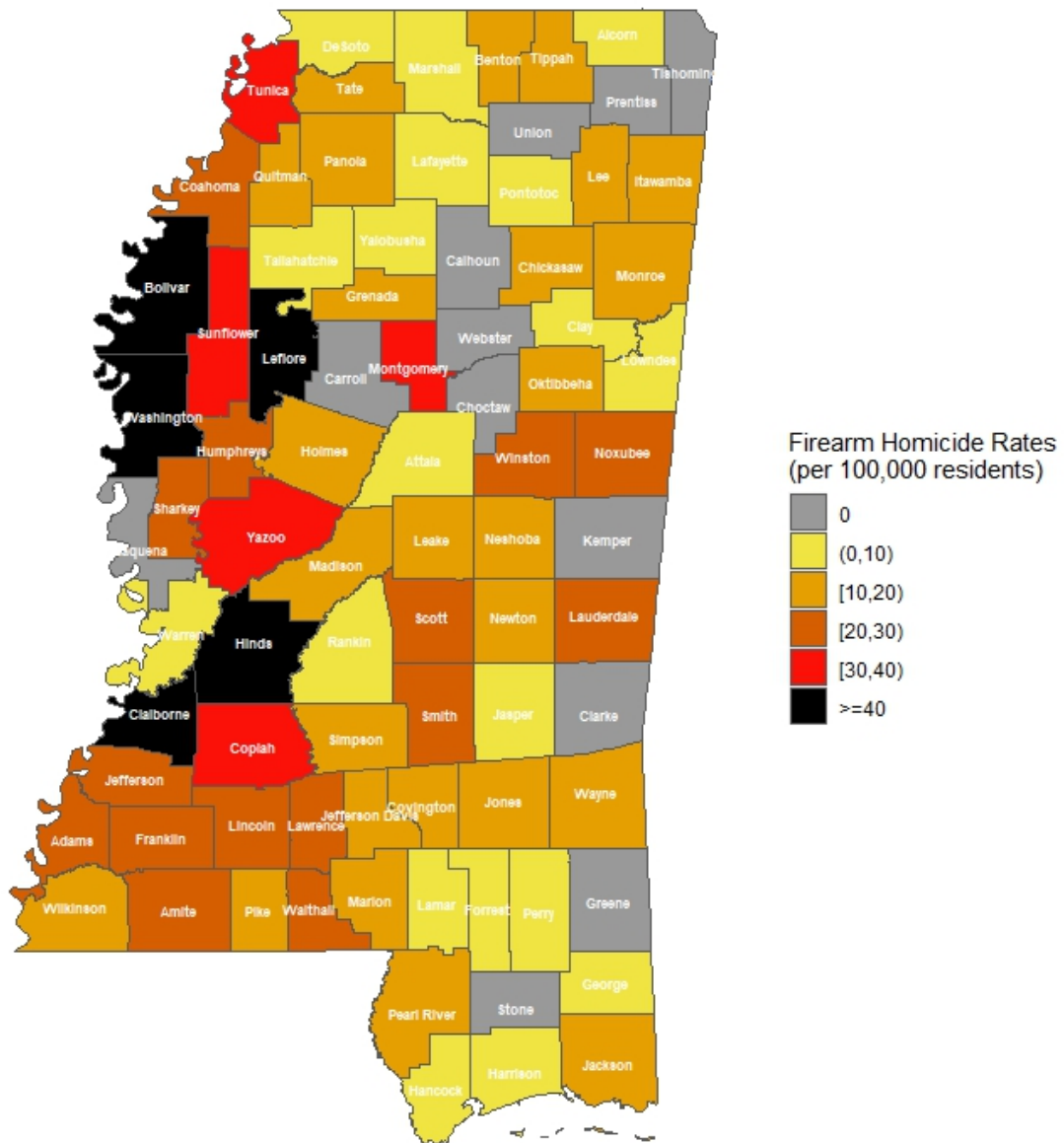
	Number	%
Firearm homicide victim with Known Circumstances *	206	24.3
<b>Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and other Addiction</b>		
Current Diagnosed Mental Health Problem	2	12.5
Current Depressed Mood	1	6.3
Alcohol Problem	1	6.3
Other Substance Abuse Problem	6	37.5
Other Addiction	6	37.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Relationship and Life Stressors</b>		
Intimate partner problem - homicide only	30	16.0
Family Relationship Problem	15	8.0
Family Stressor	7	3.7
Other Relationship Problem	6	3.2
Household Known to Local Authorities	1	0.5
Abuse or Neglect Led to Death	2	1.1
Previous Perpetrator of Violence in the Past Month	1	0.5
Physical fight (2 people)	19	10.2
Argument	106	56.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Manner Specific Circumstances for Homicide Deaths</b>		
Justifiable self defense	5	7.9
Victim was a police officer on duty	1	1.6
Victim was a bystander	7	11.1
Random violence	5	7.9
Victim used a weapon	2	3.2
Jealousy (lover's triangle)	3	4.8
Drive-by shooting	15	23.8
Drug involvement	25	39.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\*Each victim may have more than one circumstance, so the total number of circumstances may be greater than the total number of victims with known circumstances.

**Figure 30: Location types of firearm homicide death in Mississippi, 2021**

\* Other includes fall, industrial or construction areas, jail, prison, detention facility, park, playground, public use area, abandoned house, building, or warehouse, sports or athletic area, elementary school, middle school, high school, college/university, public transportation or station, hospital or Medical facility, supervised residential facility, railroad tracks, bridge, cemetery, graveyard, or other burial ground, and other.

**Figure 31: Map of firearm homicide rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi by county of residence, 2021**



### Firearm Suicide

**Table 31** lists firearm suicides in 2021 among Mississippi residents by sex, race/ethnicity, and age group. The overall firearm suicide rate per 100,000 Mississippi residents is displayed by race/ethnicity and sex in **Figure 32** and by age group and sex in **Figure 33**.

#### Key Findings:

- In 2021, 306 Mississippi residents were killed in a firearm suicide (10.4 per 100,000), representing 70.7% of total suicides.
- Males were 4.9 times more likely to die from firearm suicide than females (17.6 versus 3.6 per 100,000, respectively).
- NH White residents had the highest firearm suicide rate (14.4 per 100,000), followed by NH American Indian (7.7 per 100,000), Black (5.2 per 100,000), NH Asian (2.4 per 100,000), and Hispanic (1.9 per 100,000).
- Adults ages 75 - 84 years had the highest firearm suicide rate (21.7 per 100,000), followed by the age group of 65 - 74 (15.5 per 100,000), and 45 - 54 (13.5 per 100,000).
- Males ages 75 - 84 years were 7.0 times as likely to die from a firearm suicide than females of the same age (42.5 and 6.1 per 100,000, respectively).

**Table 32** and **Figure 34** show firearm suicides by location where the injury occurred in 2021.

#### Key Findings:

- The most common location for firearm suicides was House, Apartment (78.4%), followed by Motor Vehicle (5.9%), and Street/Road, Sidewalk, Alley (3.3%).

**Table 33** shows the 10 counties with the highest counts of firearm suicide and their corresponding crude rates. **Figure 35** displays the map of firearm suicides rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi by county of residence in 2021.

**Table 34** describes the circumstances for firearm suicide victims based on the number of cases precipitating circumstances from coroner/medical examiner records and law enforcement reports in Mississippi in 2021.

#### Key Findings:

- Precipitating circumstances were identified in 170 (20.1%) firearm suicide victims.
- Among the firearm suicides with known circumstances, the problem of mental health, substance abuse, and other addictions was the most common circumstance identified, with 72 (43.1%), and 55 (32.9%) experiencing current depressed mood and current diagnosed mental health problem respectively.
- Among the firearm suicide decedents with known circumstances, the second most common precipitating circumstance is manner specific circumstances, included contributing physical health problems with 24 (25.5%), left a suicide note with 19 (20.2%), recently disclosed suicidal thoughts/plans to commit suicide with 16 (17.0%), and so on.

**Table 31: Demographics of firearm suicides in Mississippi, 2021**

	Number	%	Rate**	95% CI***
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	54	17.6	3.6	2.6 - 4.5
Male	252	82.4	17.6	15.4 - 19.7
<b>Race/Ethnicity †</b>				
White*	242	78.6	14.4	12.5 - 16.2
Black*	59	19.2	5.2	3.9 - 6.5
Asian*	1	0.3	2.4	0 - 7.1
American Indian*	2	0.7	7.7	0 - 18.3
Hispanic	2	0.7	1.9	0 - 4.6
Other/unknown	2	0.7	-	-
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>				
<= 9	0	0.0	-	-
10-14	3	1.0	1.5	0 - 3.1
15 - 19	15	4.9	7.4	3.6 - 11.1
20 - 24	26	8.5	13.1	8.1 - 18.1
25 - 29	25	8.2	13.1	8.0 - 18.2
30 - 34	21	6.9	11.1	6.3 - 15.8
35 - 44	48	15.7	13.0	9.3 - 16.7
45 - 54	48	15.7	13.5	9.7 - 17.3
55 - 64	37	12.1	9.7	6.6 - 12.8
65 - 74	47	15.4	15.5	11.0 - 19.9
75 - 84	31	10.1	21.7	14.1 - 29.3
85 +	5	1.6	10.5	1.3 - 19.8
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>9.2 - 11.5</b>

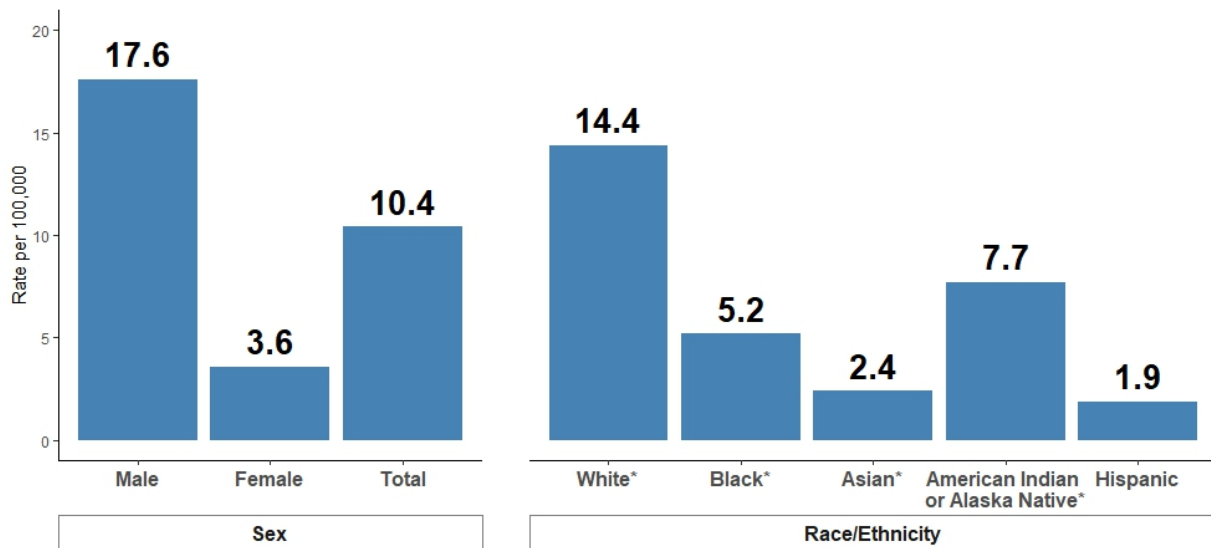
\* Non-Hispanic (NH)

\*\* per 100,000 residents.

\*\*\* 95% CI: 95% confidence interval for the rate using Wald (normal) approximation.

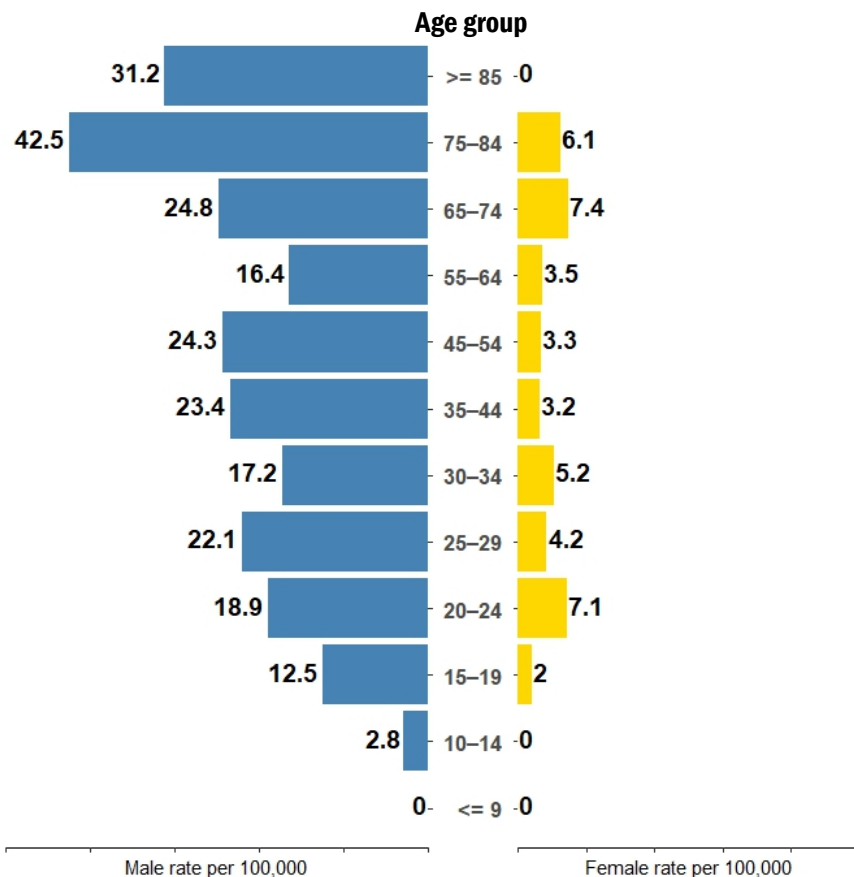
† Some decedents appear in multiple race/ethnicity categories, therefore, the sum of race/ethnicity counts may exceed the total number of deaths.

**Figure 32: Firearm suicide rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi by sex and race/ethnicity, 2021**



\* Non-Hispanic (NH)

**Figure 33: Firearm suicide rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi stratified by age group and sex, 2021**



**Table 32: Firearm suicide deaths by types of location where injured in Mississippi, 2021**

	Number	%
House, Apartment	240	78.4
Street/Road, Sidewalk, Alley	10	3.3
Motor Vehicle (excluding school bus, and public transportation)	18	5.9
Parking lot/Public parking garage	5	1.6
Park, Playground, Public use area	5	1.6
Natural area	9	2.9
Hotel/Motel	5	1.6
Other*	11	3.6
Unknown	3	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Other includes fall, industrial or construction areas, jail, prison, detention facility, abandoned house, building, or warehouse, sports or athletic area, other commercial establishment, elementary school, middle school, high school, college/university, public transportation or station, hospital or Medical facility, supervised residential facility, railroad tracks, bridge, cemetery, graveyard, or other burial ground, and other.

**Table 33: Top 10 counties with the highest counts of firearm suicide, along with the crude rates (per 100,000 residents) by county of residence in Mississippi, 2021 \***

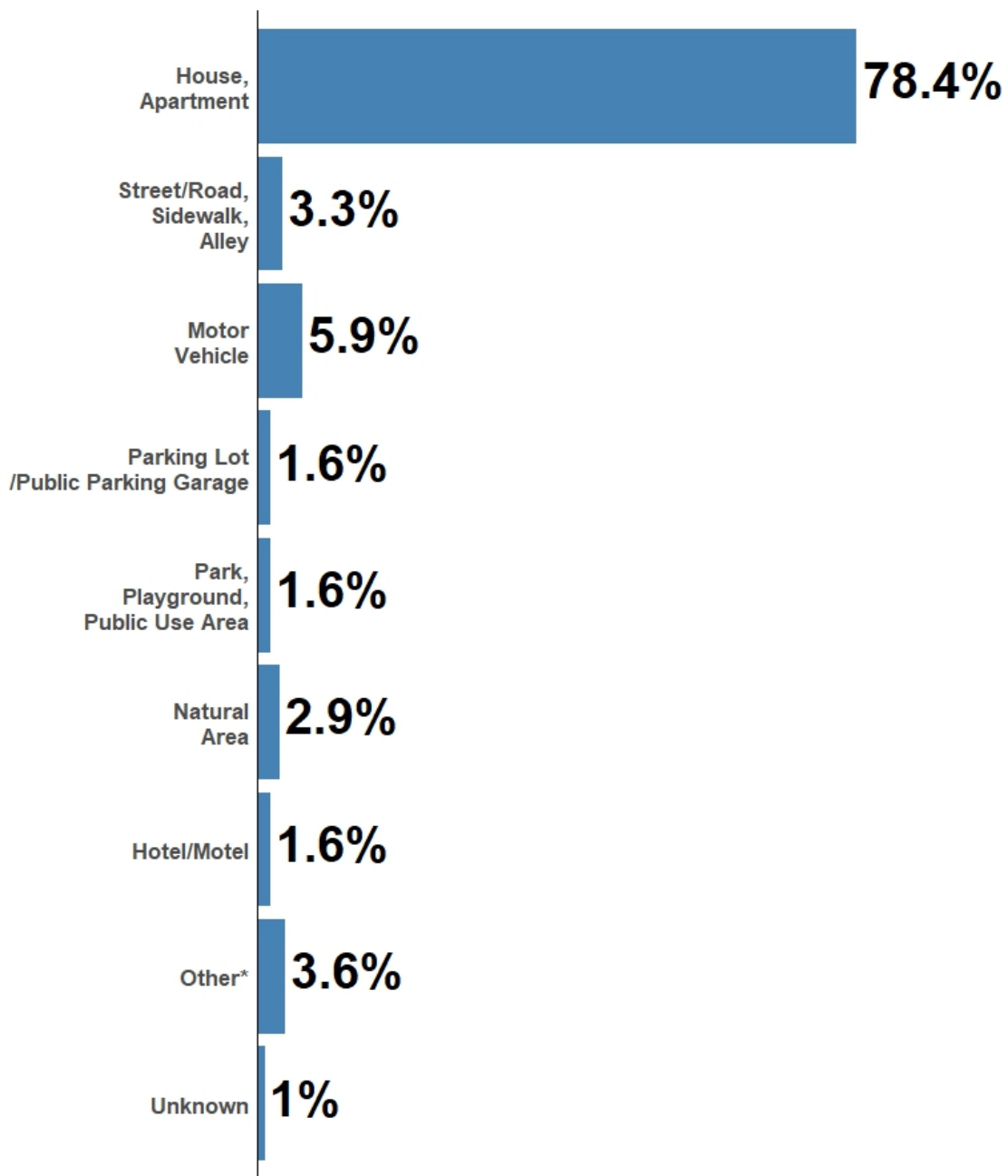
County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
<b>Hinds</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>Jones</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18.0</b>
<b>Harrison</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>Hancock</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>21.7</b>
<b>Rankin</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>Pearl River</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15.9</b>
<b>Jackson</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>Forrest</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11.6</b>
<b>DeSoto</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>Lauderdale</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9.7</b>

\* The county-level crude rates were residence-based, which reflect where decedents lived rather than where incidents occurred.

**Table 34: Precipitating circumstances of firearm suicide victims in Mississippi, 2021**

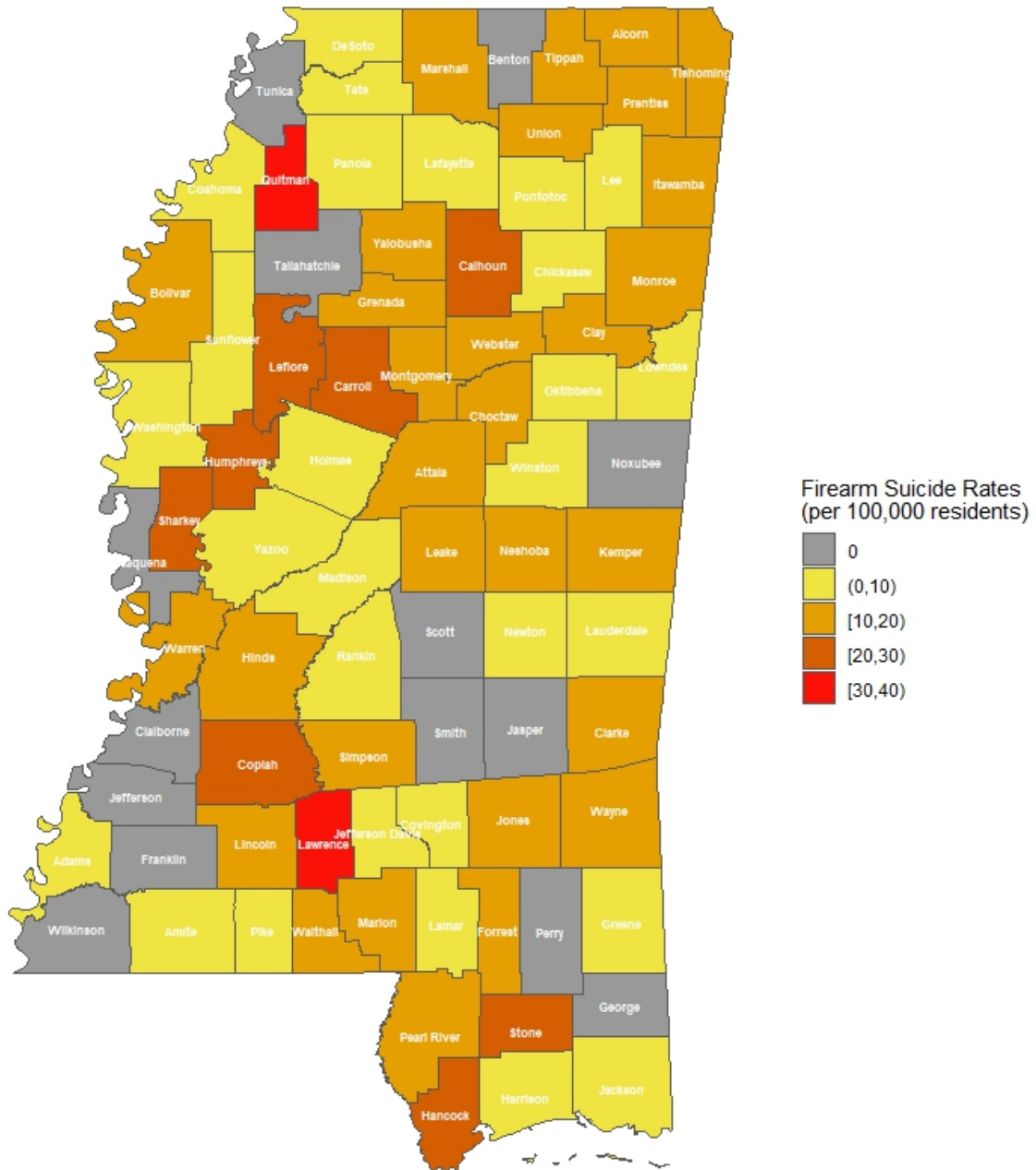
	Number	%
Firearm suicide victims with Known Circumstances *	170	20.1
<b>Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and other Addictions</b>		
Current Diagnosed Mental Health Problem	55	32.9
Current Depressed Mood	72	43.1
Current treatment for mental health or substance use/misuse problem	1	0.6
Ever treated for mental health or substance use/misuse problem	1	0.6
Alcohol Problem	11	6.6
Other Substance Abuse Problem	14	8.4
Other Addiction	13	7.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Relationship and Life Stressors</b>		
Intimate partner problem - suicide only	22	31.9
Family Relationship Problem	11	15.9
Caregiver Burden	2	2.9
Family Stressor	12	17.4
Other Relationship Problem	1	1.5
Physical fight (2 people)	2	2.9
Argument	19	27.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Manner Specific Circumstances for Suicide Deaths</b>		
History of suicide attempts	5	5.3
History of expressed suicidal thoughts or plans	10	10.6
History of non-suicidal self-injury/self-harm	1	1.1
Recently disclosed suicidal thoughts/plans to commit suicide	16	17.0
Left a suicide note	19	20.2
Contributing criminal legal problem	6	6.4
Contributing physical health problem	24	25.5
Job problem	4	4.3
Financial problem	7	7.5
School problem	1	1.1
Anniversary of a traumatic event	1	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Each victim may have more than one circumstance, so the total number of circumstances may be greater than the total number of victims with known circumstances.

**Figure 34: Location types of firearm suicide death in Mississippi, 2021**

\* Other includes fall, industrial or construction areas, jail, prison, detention facility, abandoned house, building, or warehouse, sports or athletic area, other commercial establishment, elementary school, middle school, high school, college/university, public transportation or station, hospital or Medical facility, supervised residential facility, railroad tracks, bridge, cemetery, graveyard, or other burial ground, and other.

**Figure 35: Map of firearm suicides rates (per 100,000 residents) in Mississippi by county of residence, 2021**



# Appendix

## Appendix: Population data in Mississippi, 2021

**Table 35: Population by sex, race/ethnicity, and age group in Mississippi, 2021**

	Population*
<b>Sex</b>	
Female	1,514,629
Male	1,435,336
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	
White*	1,685,420
Black*	1,131,209
Asian*	41,690
American Indian or Alaska Native*	26,142
Hispanic	102,936
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2,849
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>	
<= 9	362,338
10-14	205,993
15 - 19	203,601
20 - 24	198,356
25 - 29	190,771
30 - 34	189,996
35 - 44	368,375
45 - 54	355,572
55 - 64	380,719
65 - 74	303,969
75 - 84	142,839
85 +	47,436
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,949,965</b>

\*2021 population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau  
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest>

## Appendix: Population data in Mississippi, 2021

**Table 36: Race/ethnicity, and age group population by sex in Mississippi, 2021**

	Population*	
	Male	Female
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White*	831,556	853,864
Black*	532,818	598,391
Asian*	19,803	21,887
American Indian or Alaska Native*	12,733	13,409
Hispanic	56,642	46,294
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1,407	1,442
<b>Age Group (Years)</b>		
<= 9	184,117	178,221
10-14	105,396	100,597
15 - 19	104,186	99,415
20 - 24	100,382	97,974
25 - 29	95,211	95,560
30 - 34	93,125	96,871
35 - 44	179,317	189,058
45 - 54	172,497	183,075
55 - 64	182,902	197,817
65 - 74	141,045	162,924
75 - 84	61,123	81,716
85 +	16,035	31,401
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,435,336</b>	<b>1,514,629</b>

\*2021 population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau  
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest>

## Appendix: Population data in Mississippi, 2021

**Table 37: Population estimates by county in Mississippi, 2021**

County	Population*	County	Population*	County	Population*
Adams	28742	Kemper	8829	Tate	28234
Alcorn	34349	Lafayette	56884	Tippah	21635
Amite	12637	Lamar	65353	Tishomingo	18750
Attala	17742	Lauderdale	72088	Tunica	9696
Benton	7646	Lawrence	11812	Union	27953
Bolivar	30308	Leake	21196	Walthall	13836
Calhoun	13018	Lee	82883	Warren	43579
Carroll	9879	Leflore	27557	Washington	43687
Chickasaw	17011	Lincoln	34943	Wayne	19709
Choctaw	8106	Lowndes	58150	Webster	9983
Claiborne	8908	Madison	109813	Wilkinson	8315
Clarke	15421	Marion	24378	Winston	17596
Clay	18535	Marshall	33725	Yalobusha	12415
Coahoma	20810	Monroe	33883	Yazoo	26373
Copiah	27995	Montgomery	9729		
Covington	18279	Neshoba	28993		
DeSoto	188633	Newton	21056		
Forrest	77875	Noxubee	10123		
Franklin	7676	Oktibbeha	51842		
George	24762	Panola	32851		
Greene	13630	Pearl River	56503		
Grenada	21365	Perry	11571		
Hancock	46055	Pike	39973		
Harrison	209396	Pontotoc	31445		
Hinds	222679	Prentiss	24996		
Holmes	16496	Quitman	5935		
Humphreys	7551	Rankin	158096		
Issaquena	1280	Scott	27598		
Itawamba	23838	Sharkey	3663		
Jackson	143987	Simpson	25750		
Jasper	16291	Smith	14191		
Jefferson	7205	Stone	18644		
Jefferson Davis	11134	Sunflower	25402		
Jones	66744	Tallahatchie	12366		

\* 2021 MS county population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau  
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest>