

4 Hour Research Request for Commissioner Calabria

Gun Sales and Ownership Facts

At least 133 gun dealers are registered in Wake County, according to the ATF registry of Federal Firearms Licensees. This includes retail gun dealers, gunsmiths, pawn shops, and other importers in the 12 municipalities. This total may not capture registrations in the County's unincorporated area. There are over 2,300 gun dealers registered in these categories in North Carolina.

3 of 10 Americans surveyed say they own a gun according to a Pew Research survey from December 2018. Another 11% say they live with someone who does.

33.7% of North Carolina parents reported keeping at least one firearm in their home, according to a 2011 NC DHHS survey.

No estimate of gun ownership in Wake County or North Carolina – No source

Gun Violence Facts

In 2016, a firearm was used in 790 of North Carolina's 1,362 suicides (58%).

In 2016, a firearm was used in 540 of North Carolina's 712 homicides (75.8%).

Firearm deaths, including homicides and suicides, are not among the CDC's top 10 Leading Causes of Death in North Carolina (2017).

CCBI opened its new gun forensics lab in April 2019. In its first three months of operation, it has processed 232 cases through its national ballistics matching database.

Gun Accident Facts

In 2016, there were 11 unintentional firearm deaths in North Carolina. Of these, 4 were documented as occurring while playing with the firearm, and 3 were documented as accidental trigger pulls. Five fatalities were between ages 15-19.

According to a 2011 NC DHHS survey, 51.4% of firearm owners reported keeping a loaded, unlocked firearm in their home.

Wake County EMS responded to 159 firearm-related calls in 2018, out of 107,432 total calls. Of these 159 calls, 128 were fire-arm related injuries and 31 were fatalities. Twenty of the 159 calls were for persons 18 and under.

Sources

NC DHHS, Violent Death Reporting System - <https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov>

ATF - <https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/data-statistics>

CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/northcarolina/northcarolina.htm>

Wake County EMS reporting data

Local Government Programs Intended to Reduce Gun Accidents

Publish gun safety information

Many law enforcement agencies distribute information about proper gun storage and safety practices. Some agencies develop their own materials, while others use material developed by national gun safety programs. [Project Childsafe](#), for example, a National Shooting Sports Foundation program, provides adult and child-oriented material online, and provides safety kits to member organizations. Project Childsafe's website lists the Wake County Sheriff's Office as a law enforcement partner. The WCSO website does not presently include any gun safety information.

Provide free gunlocks

Some North Carolina local governments distribute gunlocks at no cost. All known programs offer a key-operated cable gunlock. There is no State law requiring gun dealers to include a lock with a sold gun, but most gun manufacturers provide a lock with a gun. Local governments distributing locks include [Fayetteville](#) and [Durham County](#).

Offer gun buyback programs

Periodically, North Carolina municipalities sponsor gun buyback programs. Generally, these programs operate under a "no questions asked" approach, are jointly sponsored with the local District Attorney and other stakeholders, last until funds are quickly exhausted, and collect a few dozen weapons. Recent examples have been in [Fayetteville](#), [Goldsboro](#), [Winston-Salem](#), and [Wilmington](#).