

CHILD DEATHS IN NORTH CAROLINA: ANNUAL REPORT

Figure 1. 1991-2020 Trends in North Carolina Resident Child Death Rates Ages Birth Through 17 Years

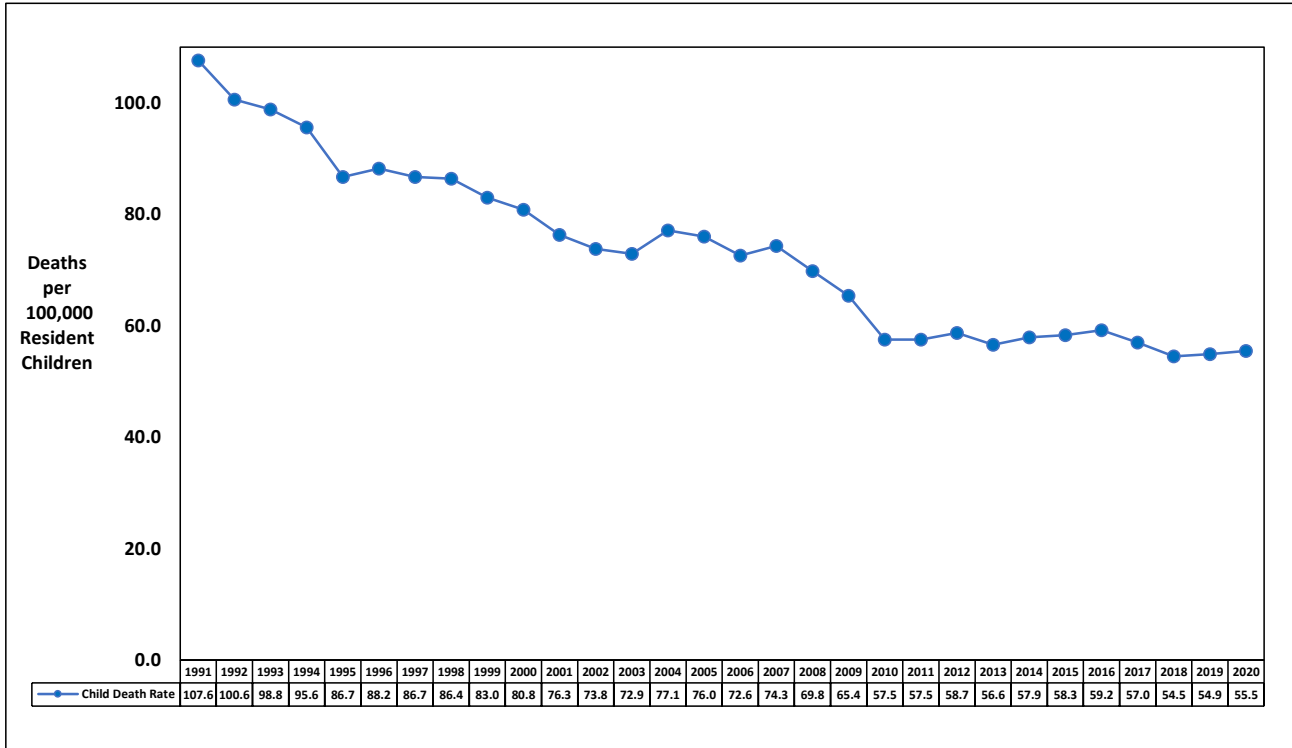
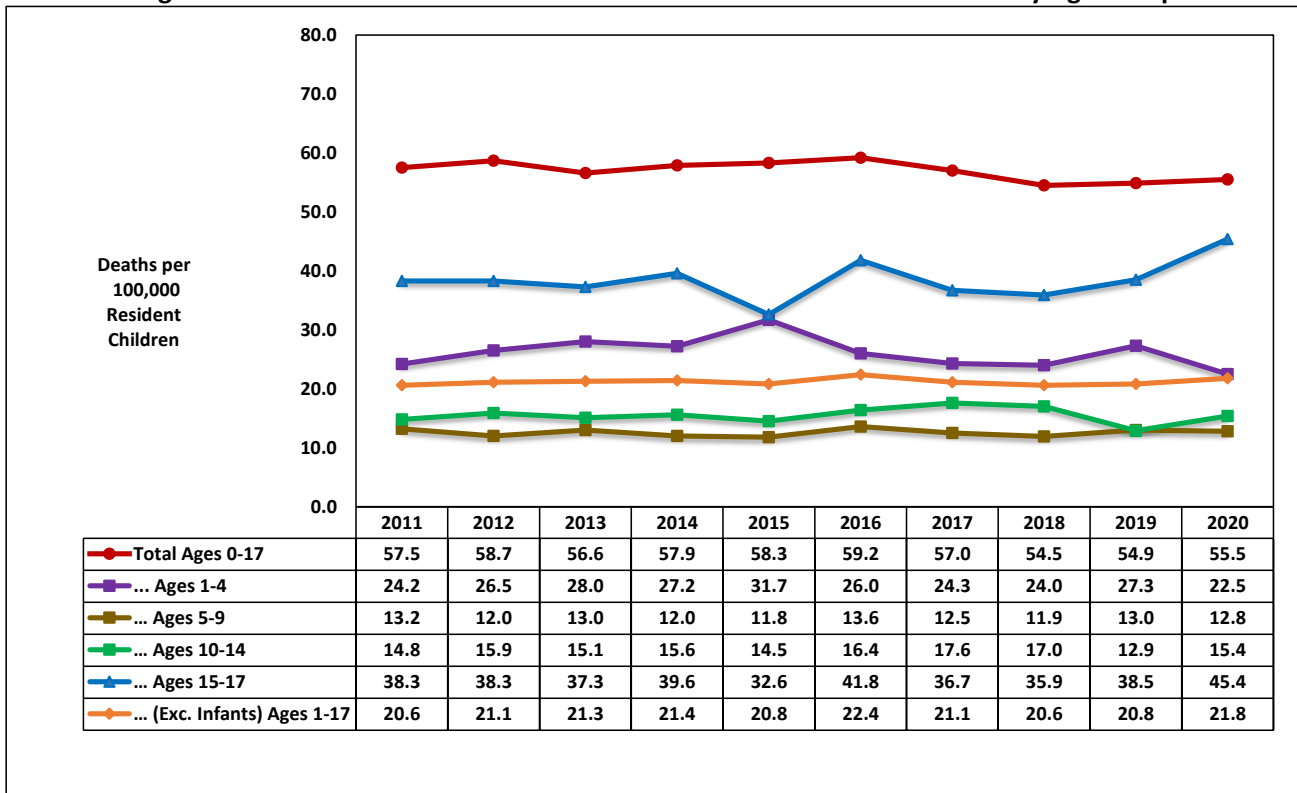


Figure 2. 2011-2020 Trends in North Carolina Resident Child Death Rates[†] by Age Group



[†] Child death rates prior to 2020 have been recalculated using the latest available population data

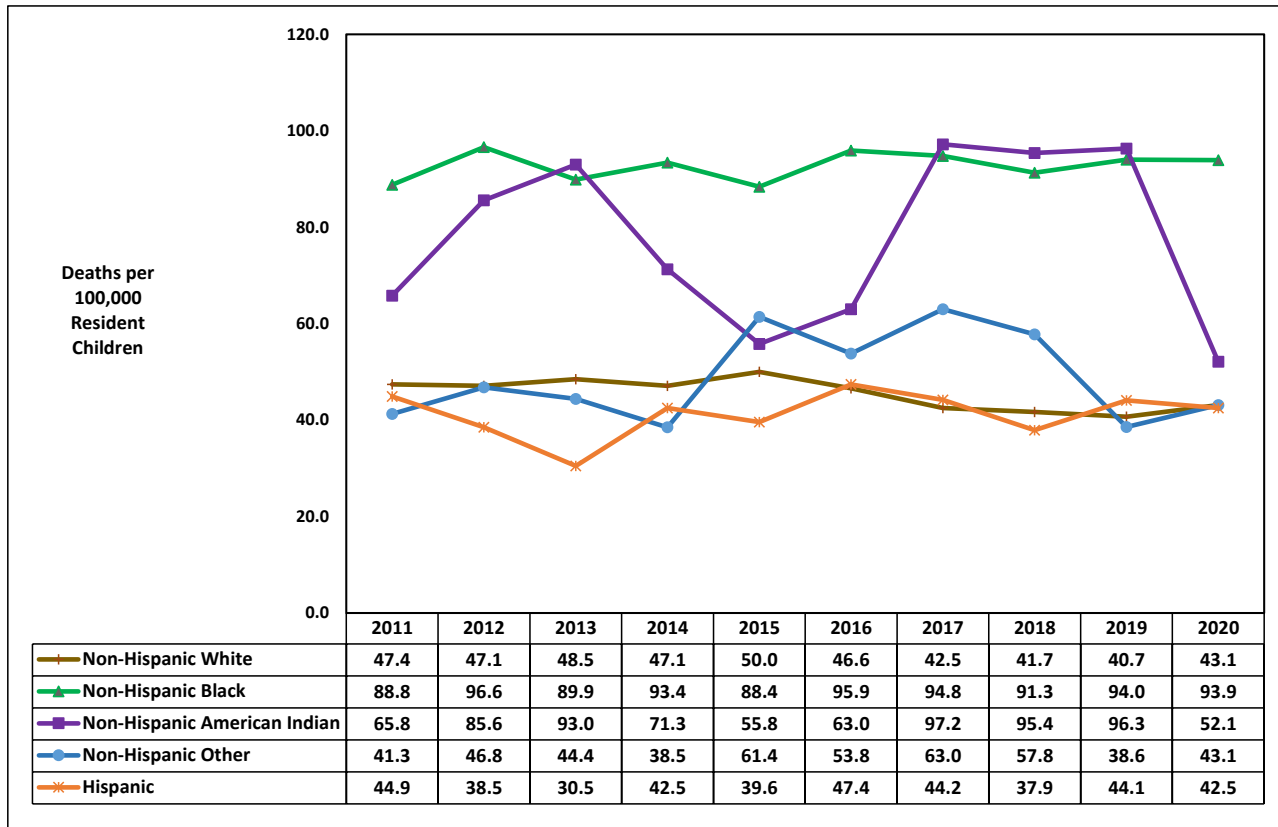
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Table 1. 2020 NC Resident Child Deaths By Age Group & Cause of Death												
Cause of Death	TOTAL, AGES 0-17		AGE GROUP (years)									
			Infants		1-4		5-9		10-14		15-17	
	N	Col. %	N	Row %	N	Row %	N	Row %	N	Row %	N	Row %
TOTAL DEATHS	1,279	100.0	803		110		81		103		182	
CAUSE OF DEATH CATEGORY:	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Perinatal Conditions	433	33.9	430	99.3	2	0.5	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
... Short Gestation/Low Birthweight	153		152		1		0		0		0	
... Maternal Complications	85		85		0		0		0		0	
... All Other Perinatal Conditions	195		193		1		1		0		0	
Medical Conditions	220	17.2	79	35.9	32	14.5	35	15.9	47	21.4	27	12.3
... Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer)	47		4		8		11		16		8	
... Heart Disease	22		12		2		2		4		2	
... Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	8		1		0		1		6		0	
... Septicemia	8		6		1		0		0		1	
... Pneumonia/Influenza	13		6		4		1		0		2	
... All Other Medical Conditions	122		50		17		20		21		14	
Birth Defects	164	12.8	146	89.0	8	4.9	4	2.4	3	1.8	3	1.8
... Circulatory System	50		43		3		1		3		0	
... Nervous System	23		16		5		0		0		2	
... Respiratory System	24		24		0		0		0		0	
... All Other Birth Defects	67		63		0		3		0		1	
Motor Vehicle Injuries	74	5.8	1	1.4	11	14.9	18	24.3	9	12.2	35	47.3
Other Unintentional Injuries	107	8.4	32	29.9	32	29.9	15	14.0	8	7.5	20	18.7
... Suffocation/Choking/Strangulation	38		29		5		2		0		2	
... Drowning	21		0		14		3		1		3	
... Poisoning	17		0		3		2		2		10	
... Bicycle	3		0		0		0		2		1	
... Firearm	9		0		3		4		1		1	
... Smoke, Fire & Flames	6		0		1		3		1		1	
... All Other Accidental Injuries	13		3		6		1		1		2	
Suicide	56	4.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.8	20	35.7	35	62.5
... by Firearm	31		0		0		0		12		19	
... by Hanging	21		0		0		1		7		13	
... by Poisoning	3		0		0		0		1		2	
... All Other Suicides	1		0		0		0		0		1	
Homicide	92	7.2	13	14.1	16	17.4	2	2.2	11	12.0	50	54.3
... Involving Firearm	67		1		5		2		11		48	
... All Other Homicides	25		12		11		0		0		2	
Other Injuries Undetermined Manner	9	0.7	2	22.2	1	11.1	1	11.1	3	33.3	2	22.2
... Hanging/Strangulation/Suffocation	3		2		0		0		1		0	
... Poisoning	1		0		0		0		0		1	
... All Other Undetermined Injuries	5		0		1		1		2		1	
All Other Causes of Death	124	9.7	100	80.6	8	6.5	4	3.2	2	1.6	10	8.1

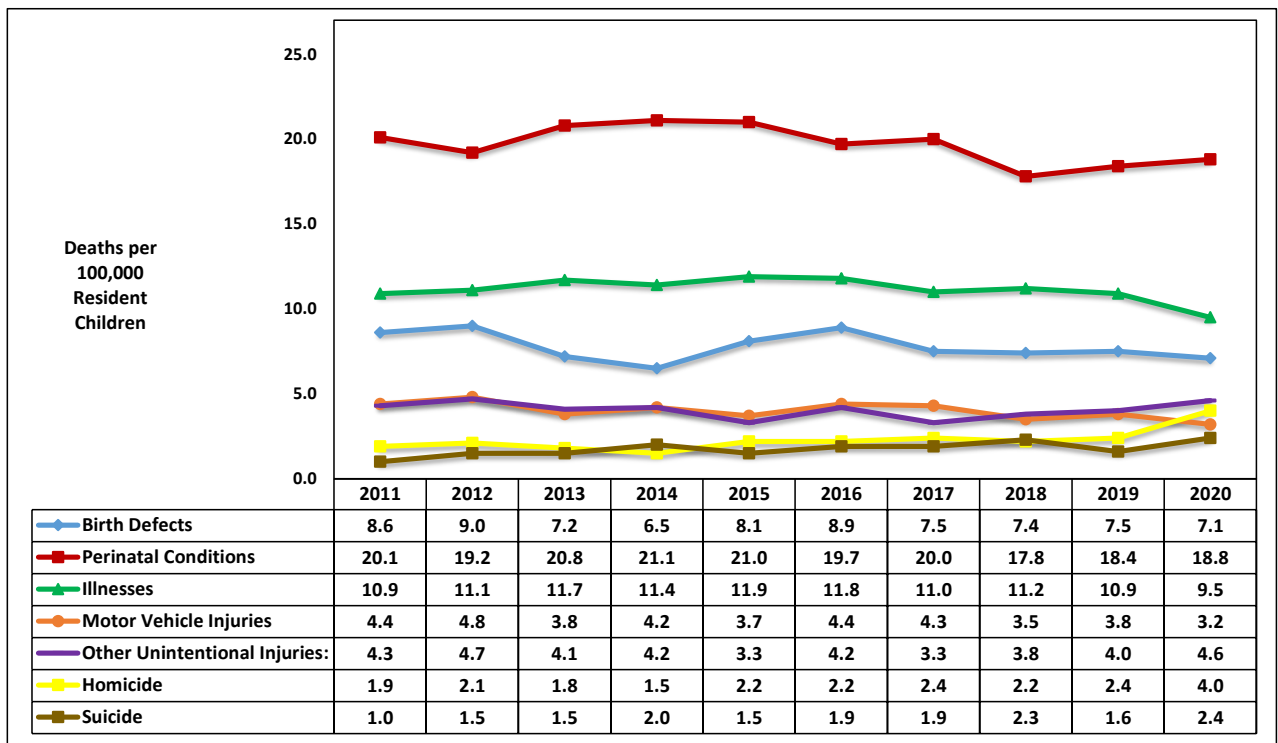
Note on Cause of Death Figures: Numbers in this report from the State Center for Health Statistics (SCHS) may differ slightly from numbers reported later by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). The SCHS bases its statistics on death certificate coding only, and closes out annual data at a specific point in time. The OCME makes its determinations utilizing a variety of information sources when conducting its death reviews, does not close out their data, and some of its cases are still pending when the State Center for Health Statistics closes their annual data files. Therefore, the cause and manner of death determined by the OCME may be modified based on OCME review after the time period during which the SCHS finalizes annual data files.

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**Figure 3. 2011-2020 Trends in North Carolina Resident Child Death Rates†
by Race/Ethnicity, Ages Birth Through 17 Years**



**Figure 4. 2011-2020 Trends in North Carolina Resident Child Death Rates†
for Selected Causes of Death, Ages Birth Through 17 Years**



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Table 2. Leading Causes of Child Death by Age Group, NC Residents 2020

All Ages, 0-17			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Conditions originating in the perinatal period	433	33.9%
2	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	164	12.8%
3	Other Unintentional injuries	104	8.1%
4	Homicide	92	7.2%
5	Motor vehicle injuries	77	6.0%
6	Suicide	56	4.4%
7	Cancer	47	3.7%
8	Diseases of the heart	22	1.7%
9	Pneumonia & influenza	13	1.0%
10	Cerebrovascular disease	11	0.9%
	All other causes (Residual)	260	20.3%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		1,279	100.0%

Ages 1 to 17			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Homicide	79	16.6%
2	Motor vehicle injuries	76	16.0%
3	Other Unintentional injuries	72	15.1%
4	Suicide	56	11.8%
5	Cancer	43	9.0%
6	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	18	3.8%
7	Diseases of the heart	10	2.1%
8	Cerebrovascular disease	9	1.9%
9	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	7	1.5%
9	Pneumonia & influenza	7	1.5%
	All other causes (Residual)	99	20.8%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		476	100.0%

Infants			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Short gestation - low birthweight	150	18.7%
2	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	146	18.2%
3	Maternal complications of pregnancy	45	5.6%
4	Complications of placenta, cord, and membranes	32	4.0%
5	Other unintentional injuries	32	4.0%
6	Bacterial sepsis	21	2.6%
	Respiratory distress	19	2.4%
	Diseases of the circulatory system	16	2.0%
9	Necrotizing enterocolitis	16	2.0%
10	Neonatal hemorrhage	15	1.9%
	All other causes (Residual)	311	38.7%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		803	100.0%

Ages 1 to 4			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Other Unintentional injuries	32	29.1%
2	Homicide	16	14.5%
3	Motor vehicle injuries	11	10.0%
4	Cancer	8	7.3%
4	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	8	7.3%
6	Cerebrovascular disease	4	3.6%
6	Pneumonia & influenza	4	3.6%
8	In-situ/benign neoplasms	3	2.7%
9	Conditions originating in the perinatal period	2	1.8%
	Diseases of the heart	2	1.8%
	All other causes (Residual)	20	18.2%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		110	100.0%

* Note: These tables use National Center for Health Statistics standards for classifying cause of death and may differ from tabulations presented in Table 1.

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Table 2. Leading Causes of Child Death by Age Group, NC Residents 2020

Ages 5 to 9			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Motor vehicle injuries	18	22.2%
2	Other Unintentional injuries	15	18.5%
3	Cancer	11	13.6%
4	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	4	4.9%
5	Complications of medical and surgical care	2	2.5%
	Diseases of the heart	2	2.5%
	Homicide	2	2.5%
	In-situ/benign neoplasms	2	2.5%
9	Anemias	1	1.2%
9	Cerebrovascular disease	1	1.2%
9	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	1	1.2%
9	Conditions originating in the perinatal period	1	1.2%
9	Diseases of appendix	1	1.2%
9	Pneumonia & influenza	1	1.2%
9	Suicide	1	1.2%
	All other causes (Residual)	18	22.2%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		81	100.0%

Ages 10 to 14			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Suicide	20	19.4%
2	Cancer	16	15.5%
3	Homicide	11	10.7%
	Motor vehicle injuries	11	10.7%
5	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	6	5.8%
	Other Unintentional injuries	6	5.8%
7	Cerebrovascular disease	4	3.9%
	Diseases of the heart	4	3.9%
9	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	3	2.9%
10	Diabetes mellitus	2	1.9%
	All other causes (Residual)	20	19.4%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		103	100.0%

Ages 15 to 17			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Homicide	50	27.5%
2	Motor vehicle injuries	36	19.8%
3	Suicide	35	19.2%
4	Other Unintentional injuries	19	10.4%
5	Cancer	8	4.4%
6	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	3	1.6%
7	Diseases of the heart	2	1.1%
	Nutritional deficiencies	2	1.1%
	Pneumonia & influenza	2	1.1%
10	Anemias	1	0.5%
	Diabetes mellitus	1	0.5%
	Pneumonitis due to solids & liquids	1	0.5%
	Pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium	1	0.5%
	Septicemia	1	0.5%
	All other causes (Residual)	20	11.0%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		182	100.0%

* Note: These tables use National Center for Health Statistics standards for classifying cause of death and may differ from tabulations presented in Table 1.