

CHILD DEATHS IN NORTH CAROLINA: ANNUAL REPORT

Figure 1. 1991-2021 Trends in North Carolina Resident Child Death Rates Ages Birth Through 17 Years

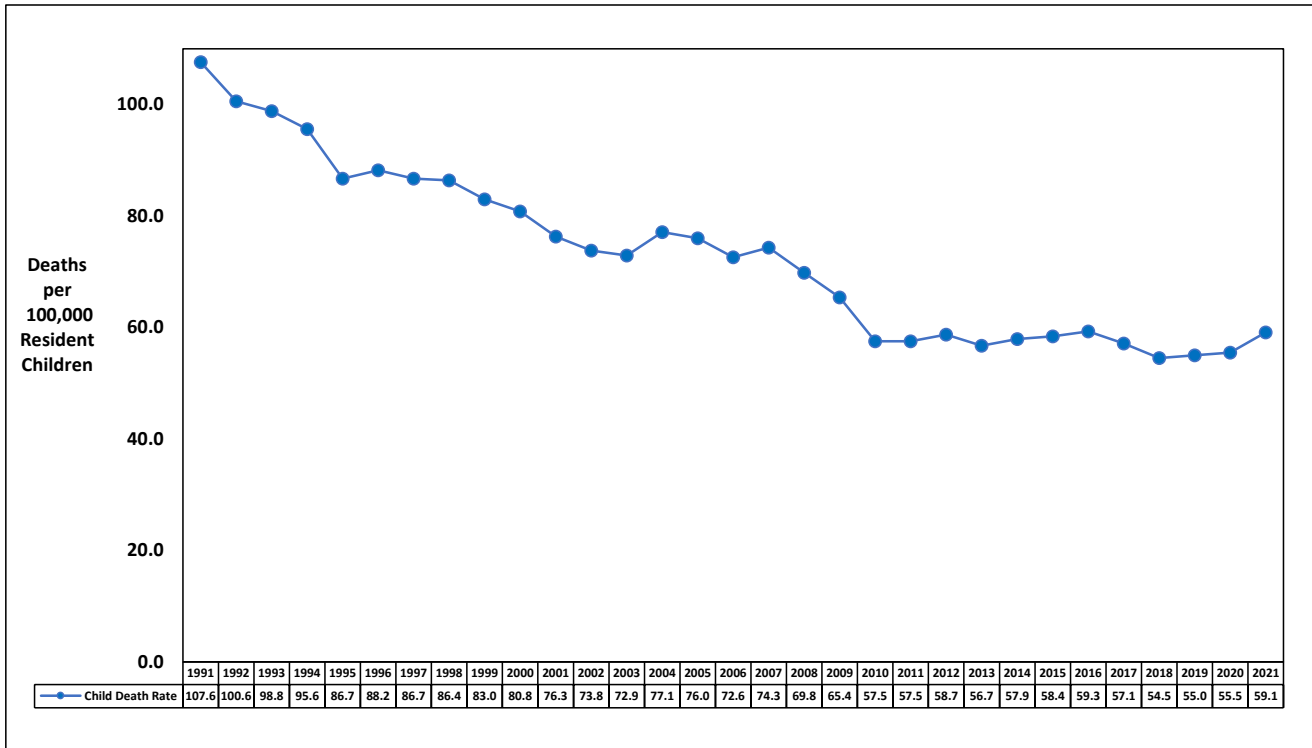
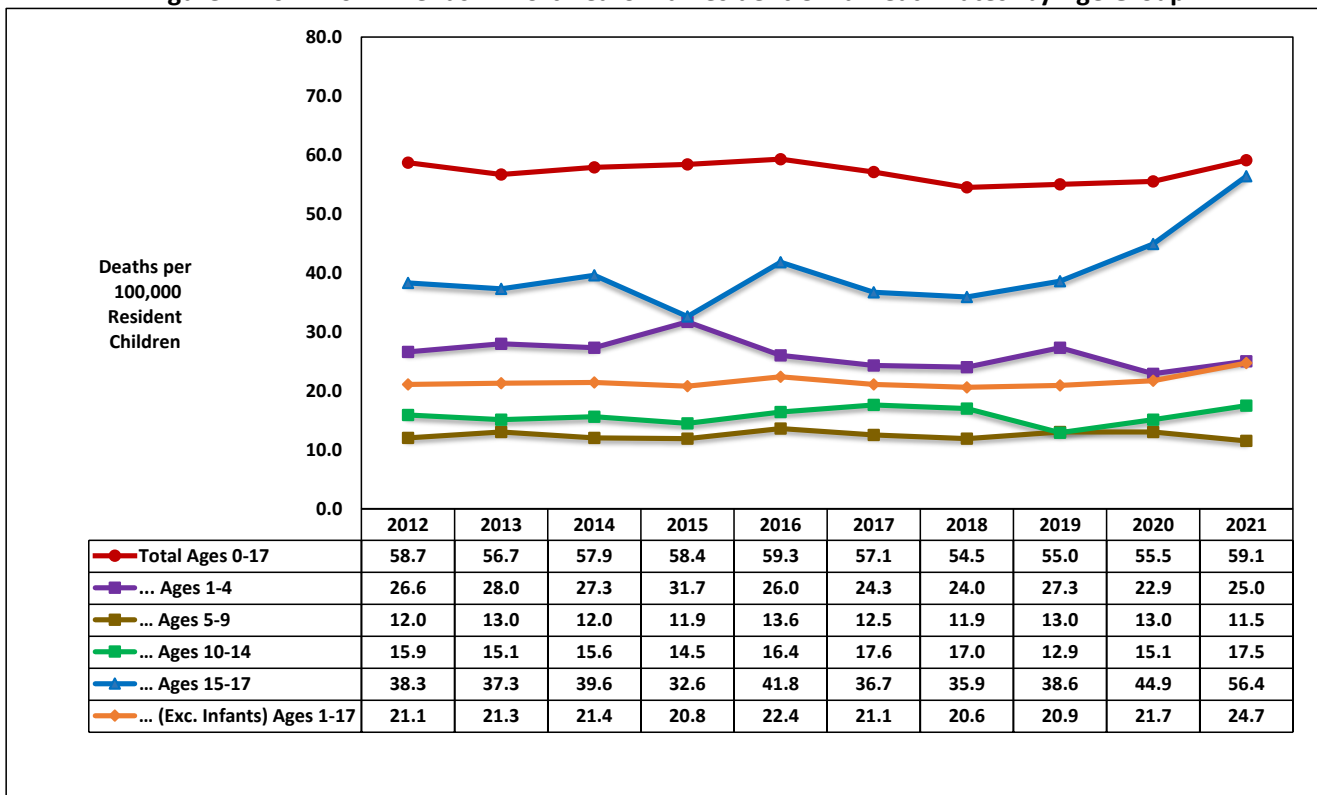


Figure 2. 2012-2021 Trends in North Carolina Resident Child Death Rates[†] by Age Group



[†] Child death rates prior to 2021 have been recalculated using the latest available population data

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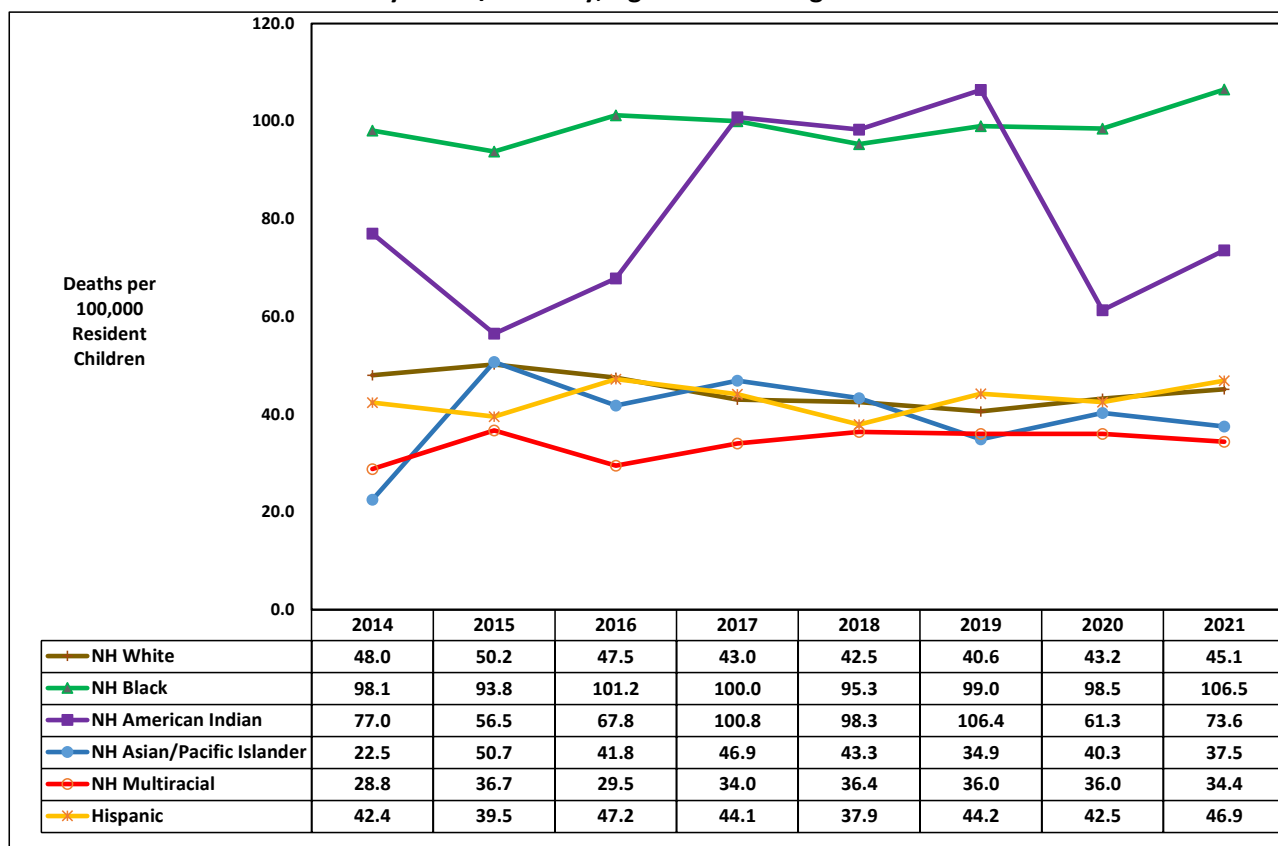
Table 1. 2021 NC Resident Child Deaths By Age Group & Cause of Death

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	1,360	100.0	820		119		72		118		231	
CAUSE OF DEATH CATEGORY:	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Perinatal Conditions	382	28.1	381	99.7	1	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
... Short Gestation/Low Birthweight	107		106		1		0		0		0	
... Maternal Complications	78		78		0		0		0		0	
... All Other Perinatal Conditions	197		197		0		0		0		0	
Medical Conditions	240	17.6	80	33.3	46	19.2	27	11.3	42	17.5	45	18.8
... Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer)	42		1		12		7		15		7	
... Heart Disease	30		14		6		2		2		6	
... Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	7		1		2		1		1		2	
... Septicemia	3		0		0		2		0		1	
... Pneumonia/Influenza	8		3		3		0		1		1	
... Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)	14		0		0		2		2		10	
... All Other Medical Conditions	136		61		23		13		21		18	
Birth Defects	174	12.8	149	85.6	10	5.7	6	3.4	5	2.9	4	2.3
... Circulatory System	46		35		5		2		3		1	
... Nervous System	23		20		0		2		1		0	
... Respiratory System	14		13		0		0		1		0	
... All Other Birth Defects	91		81		5		2		0		3	
Motor Vehicle Injuries	104	7.6	4	3.8	14	13.5	16	15.4	27	26.0	43	41.3
Other Unintentional Injuries	114	8.4	38	33.3	24	21.1	14	12.3	11	9.6	27	23.7
... Suffocation/Choking/Strangulation	36		32		1		0		0		3	
... Drowning	20		1		9		2		4		4	
... Poisoning	19		2		3		0		1		13	
... Bicycle	4		0		0		1		2		1	
... Firearm	11		0		4		2		1		4	
... Smoke, Fire & Flames	10		1		3		6		0		0	
... All Other Accidental Injuries	14		2		4		3		3		2	
Suicide	62	4.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	20	32.3	42	67.7
... by Firearm	36		0		0		0		9		27	
... by Hanging	21		0		0		0		11		10	
... by Poisoning	3		0		0		0		0		3	
... All Other Suicides	2		0		0		0		0		2	
Homicide	93	6.8	4	4.3	14	15.1	7	7.5	10	10.8	58	62.4
... Involving Firearm	73		0		3		4		10		56	
... All Other Homicides	20		4		11		3		0		2	
Other Injuries Undetermined Manner	15	1.1	9	60.0	2	13.3	0	0.0	1	6.7	3	20.0
... Hanging/Strangulation/Suffocation	7		7		0		0		0		0	
... Poisoning	3		0		2		0		0		1	
... All Other Undetermined Injuries	5		2		0		0		1		2	
All Other Causes of Death	176	12.9	155	88.1	8	4.5	2	1.1	2	1.1	9	5.1

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.

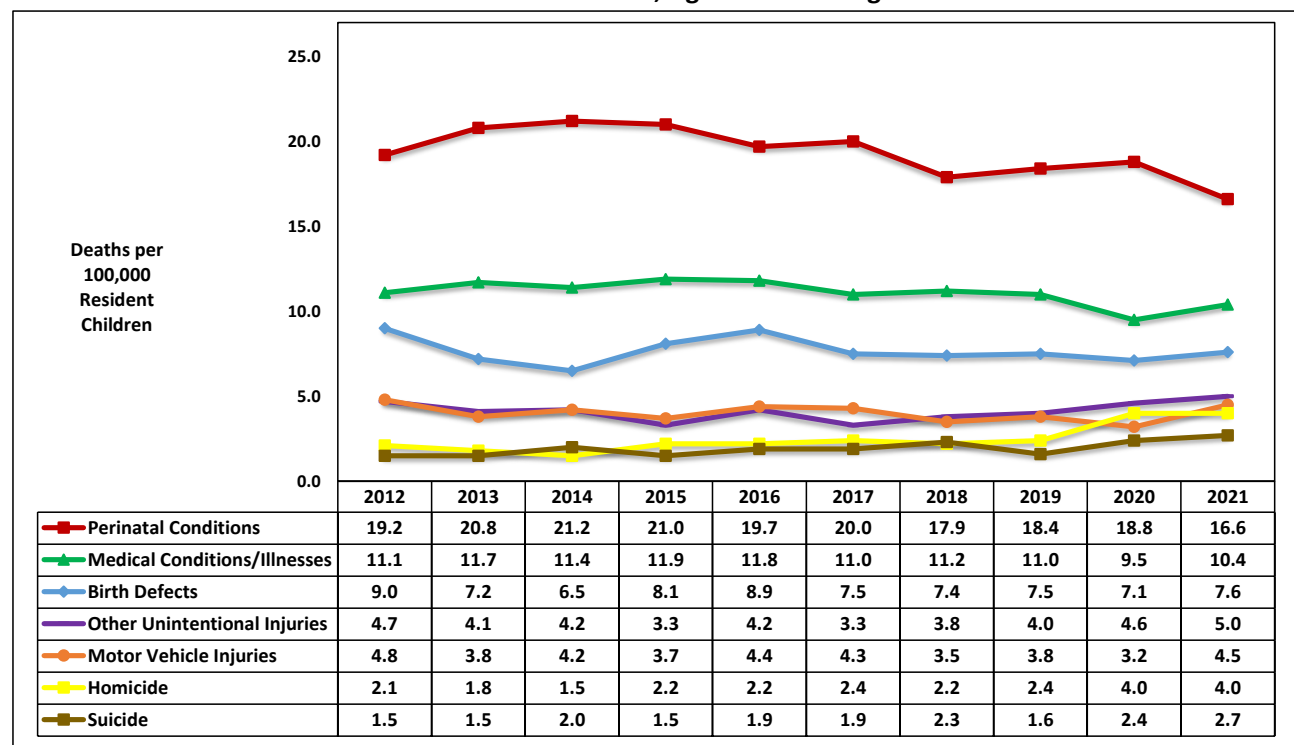
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Figure 3. 2014-2021 Trends in North Carolina Resident Child Death Rates† by Race*/Ethnicity, Ages Birth Through 17 Years



* **Caution:** Racial categories have changed from prior years and now reflect single race categories & multi-race. Comparisons with prior reports are not advised.
 NH=Non-Hispanic

Figure 4. 2012-2021 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 2021

All Ages, 0-17			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Conditions originating in the perinatal period	382	28.1%
2	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	174	12.8%
3	Other Unintentional injuries	110	8.1%
4	Motor vehicle injuries	108	7.9%
5	Homicide	93	6.8%
6	Suicide	62	4.6%
7	Cancer	42	3.1%
8	Diseases of the heart	30	2.2%
9	COVID-19	14	1.0%
10	Pneumonia & influenza	8	0.6%
All other causes (Residual)		337	24.8%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		1,360	100.0%

Ages 1 to 17			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Motor vehicle injuries	104	19.3%
2	Homicide	89	16.5%
3	Other Unintentional injuries	72	13.3%
4	Suicide	62	11.5%
5	Cancer	41	7.6%
6	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	25	4.6%
7	Diseases of the heart	16	3.0%
8	COVID-19	14	2.6%
9	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	6	1.1%
10	Pneumonia & influenza	5	0.9%
All other causes (Residual)		106	19.6%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		540	100.0%

Infants			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	149	18.2%
2	Short gestation - low birthweight	105	12.8%
3	Maternal complications of pregnancy	41	5.0%
4	Other unintentional injuries	38	4.6%
5	Bacterial sepsis	25	3.0%
	Complications of placenta, cord, and membranes	25	3.0%
7	Respiratory distress	22	2.7%
8	Necrotizing enterocolitis	21	2.6%
9	Diseases of the circulatory system	19	2.3%
10	Intrauterine hypoxia and birth asphyxia	12	1.5%
All other causes (Residual)		363	44.3%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		820	100.0%

Ages 1 to 4			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Other Unintentional injuries	24	20.2%
2	Homicide	14	11.8%
	Motor vehicle injuries	14	11.8%
4	Cancer	12	10.1%
5	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	10	8.4%
6	Diseases of the heart	6	5.0%
7	Cerebrovascular disease	3	2.5%
	Pneumonia & influenza	3	2.5%
9	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	2	1.7%
10	Conditions originating in the perinatal period	1	0.8%
	Diseases of appendix	1	0.8%
	Nutritional deficiencies	1	0.8%
All other causes (Residual)		28	23.5%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		119	100.0%

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Table 2. Leading Causes of Child Death by Age Group, NC Residents 2021

Ages 5 to 9			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Motor vehicle injuries	17	23.6%
2	Other Unintentional injuries	13	18.1%
3	Cancer	7	9.7%
	Homicide	7	9.7%
5	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	6	8.3%
6	Anemias	2	2.8%
	COVID-19	2	2.8%
	Diseases of the heart	2	2.8%
	Septicemia	2	2.8%
10	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	1	1.4%
	Complications of medical and surgical care	1	1.4%
	Diseases of appendix	1	1.4%
	In-situ/benign neoplasms	1	1.4%
	Meningitis	1	1.4%
	All other causes (Residual)	9	12.5%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		72	100.0%

Ages 10 to 14			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Motor vehicle injuries	29	24.6%
2	Suicide	20	16.9%
3	Cancer	15	12.7%
4	Homicide	10	8.5%
5	Other Unintentional injuries	9	7.6%
6	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	5	4.2%
7	COVID-19	2	1.7%
	Diseases of the heart	2	1.7%
9	Anemias	1	0.8%
	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	1	0.8%
	Diabetes mellitus	1	0.8%
	Pneumonia & influenza	1	0.8%
	All other causes (Residual)		
		22	18.6%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		118	100.0%

Ages 15 to 17			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Homicide	58	25.1%
2	Motor vehicle injuries	44	19.0%
3	Suicide	42	18.2%
4	Other Unintentional injuries	26	11.3%
5	COVID-19	10	4.3%
6	Cancer	7	3.0%
7	Diseases of the heart	6	2.6%
8	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	4	1.7%
9	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	2	0.9%
10	Cerebrovascular disease	1	0.4%
	In-situ/benign neoplasms	1	0.4%
	Infections of kidney	1	0.4%
	Pneumonia & influenza	1	0.4%
	Septicemia	1	0.4%
	All other causes (Residual)	27	11.7%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		231	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.