

CHILD DEATHS IN NORTH CAROLINA: ANNUAL REPORT

Figure 1. 1991-2022 Trends in North Carolina Resident Child Death Rates Ages Birth Through 17 Years

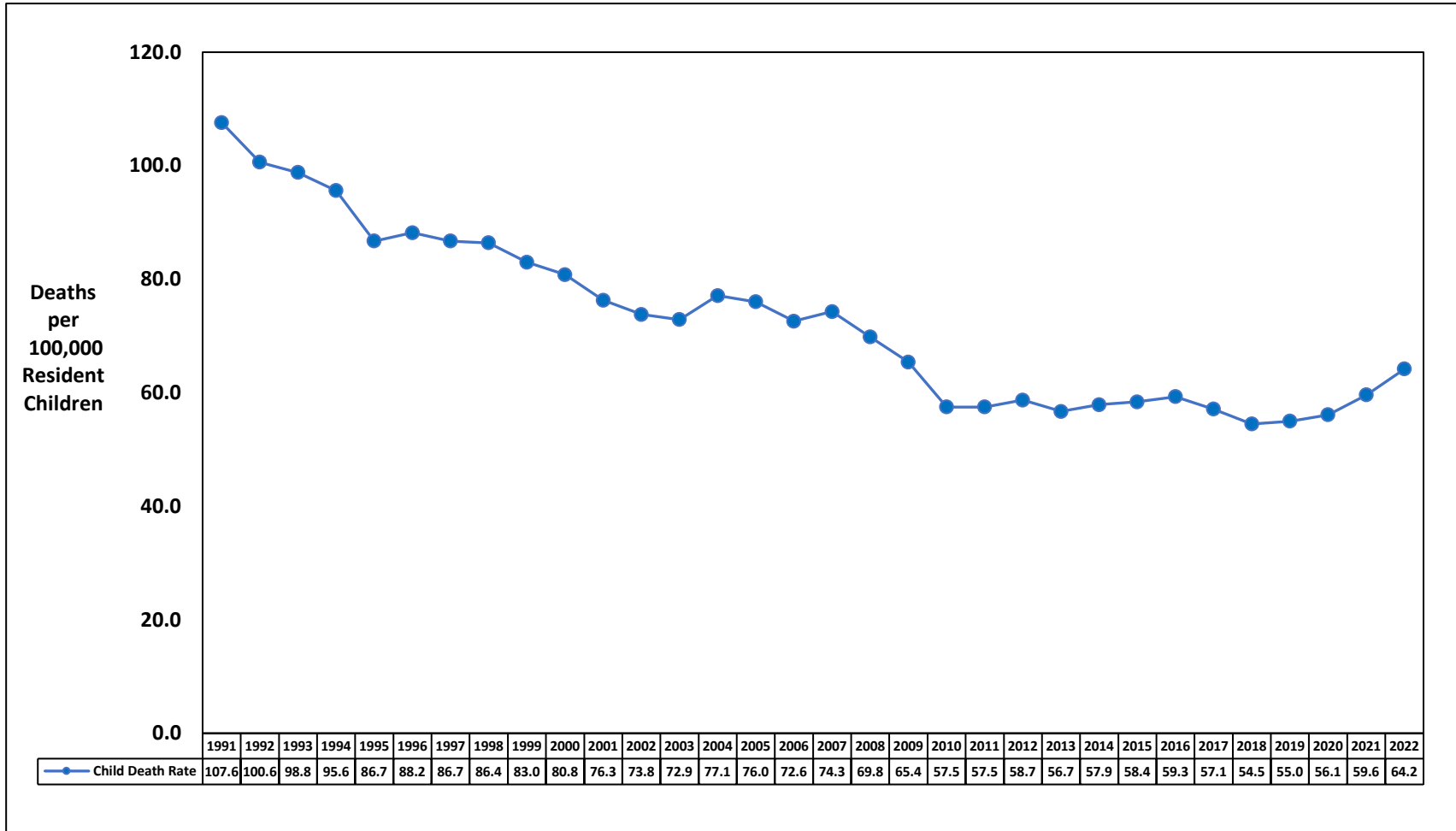
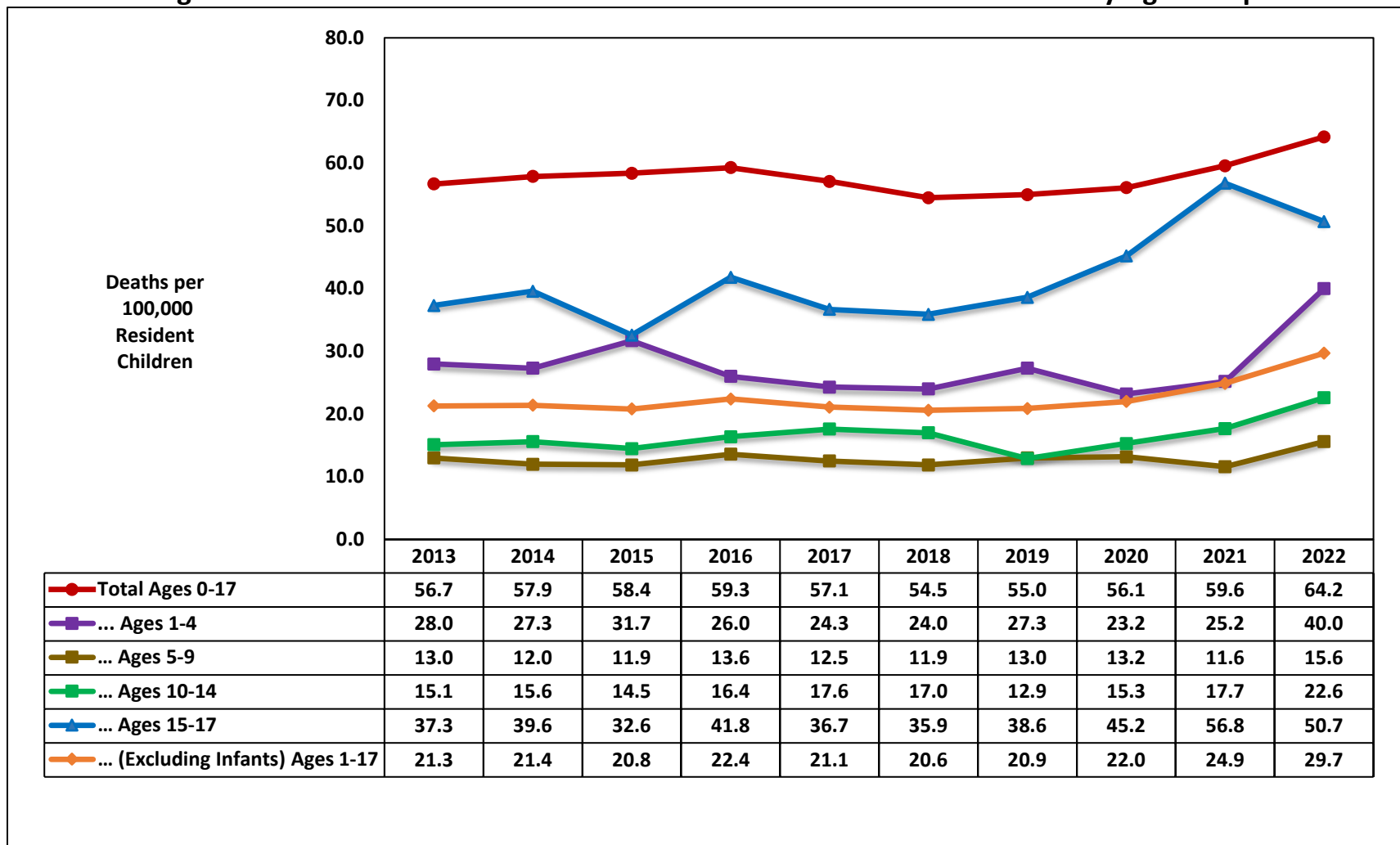


Figure 2. 2013-2022 Trends in North Carolina Resident Child Death Rates[†] by Age Group



[†] Child death rates prior to 2022 have been recalculated using the latest available population data

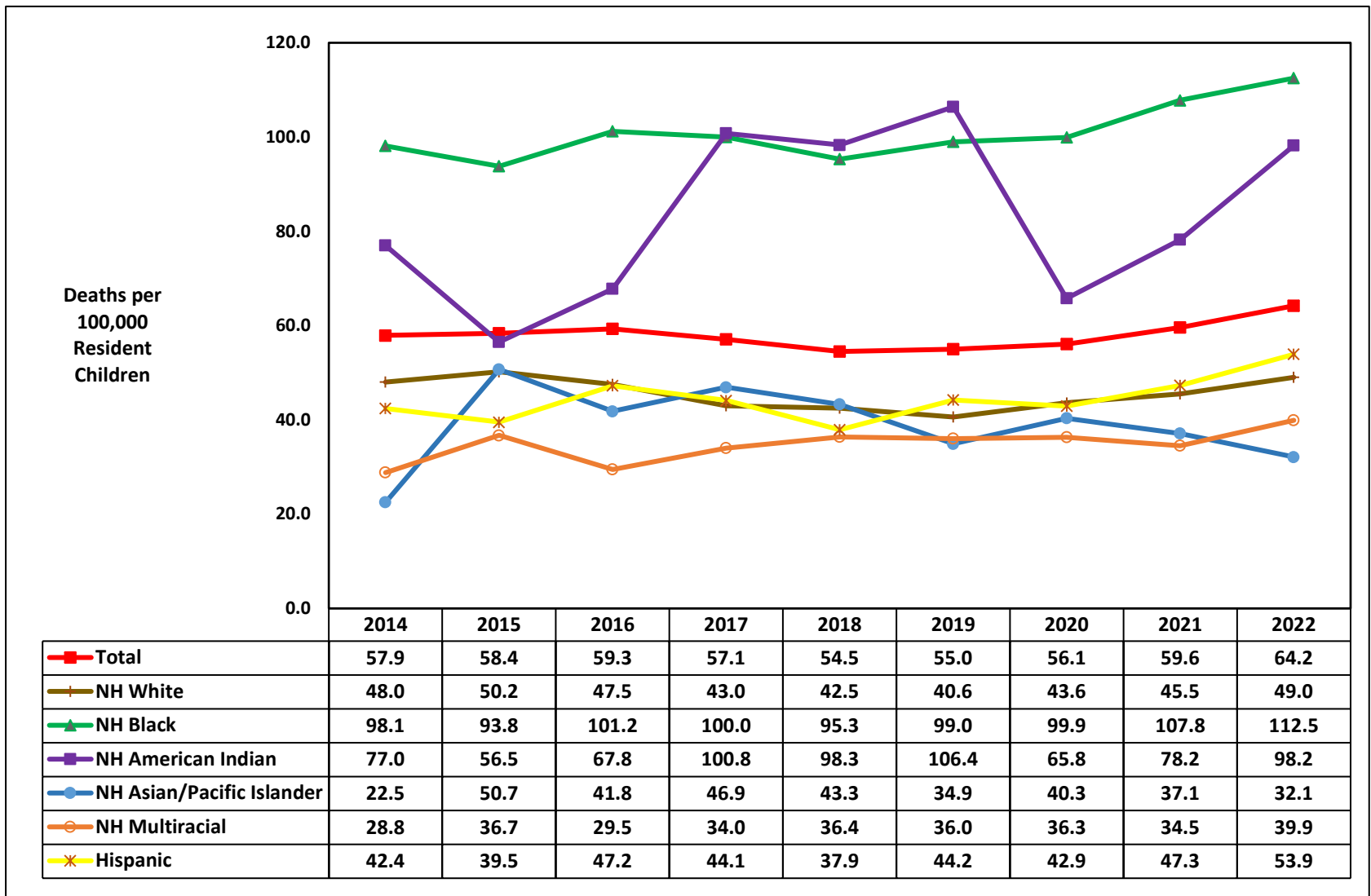
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Table 1. 2022 NC Resident Child Deaths By Age Group & Cause of Death												
Cause of Death	TOTAL, AGES 0-17		AGE GROUP (years)									
			Infants		1-4		5-9		10-14		15-17	
	N	Col. %	N	Row %	N	Row %	N	Row %	N	Row %	N	Row %
TOTAL DEATHS	1,474	100.0	828		190		97		149		210	
CAUSE OF DEATH CATEGORY:	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Perinatal Conditions	432	29.3	427	98.8	4	0.9	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0
... Short Gestation/Low Birthweight	136		135		1		0		0		0	
... Maternal Complications	89		88		1		0		0		0	
... All Other Perinatal Conditions	207		204		2		0		1		0	
Medical Conditions	301	20.4	72	23.9	69	22.9	57	18.9	63	20.9	40	13.3
... Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer)	48		2		12		16		11		7	
... Heart Disease	28		10		2		4		7		5	
... Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	8		1		0		2		3		2	
... Septicemia	14		3		4		6		1		0	
... Pneumonia/Influenza	14		5		6		1		2		0	
... Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)	17		1		4		2		7		3	
... All Other Medical Conditions	172		50		41		26		32		23	
Birth Defects	171	11.6	134	78.4	17	9.9	4	2.3	12	7.0	4	2.3
... Circulatory System	53		38		9		2		4		0	
... Nervous System	22		12		2		0		5		3	
... Respiratory System	4		4		0		0		0		0	
... All Other Birth Defects	92		80		6		2		3		1	
Motor Vehicle Injuries	97	6.6	4	4.1	18	18.6	19	19.6	20	20.6	36	37.1
Other Unintentional Injuries	147	10.0	36	24.5	44	29.9	12	8.2	19	12.9	36	24.5
...Suffocation/Choking/Strangulation	42		31		7		1		3		0	
...Drowning	29		0		14		4		8		3	
...Poisoning	33		1		7		0		3		22	
...Bicycle	1		0		0		0		0		1	
...Firearm	9		0		5		0		2		2	
...Smoke, Fire & Flames	6		1		2		3		0		0	
...All Other Accidental Injuries	27		3		9		4		3		8	
Suicide	48	3.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	17	35.4	31	64.6
... by Firearm	26		0		0		0		8		18	
... by Hanging	16		0		0		0		9		7	
... by Poisoning	4		0		0		0		0		4	
... All Other Suicides	2		0		0		0		0		2	
Homicide	102	6.9	15	14.7	15	14.7	2	2.0	12	11.8	58	56.9
... Involving Firearm	73		2		4		1		11		55	
... All Other Homicides	29		13		11		1		1		3	
Other Injuries Undetermined Manner	24	1.6	15	62.5	6	25.0	1	4.2	2	8.3	0	0.0
... Hanging/Strangulation/Suffocation	14		12		2		0		0		0	
... Poisoning	5		2		2		1		0		0	
... All Other Undetermined Injuries	5		1		2		0		2		0	
All Other Causes of Death	152	10.3	125	82.2	17	11.2	2	1.3	3	2.0	5	3.3

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 SCHS 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.

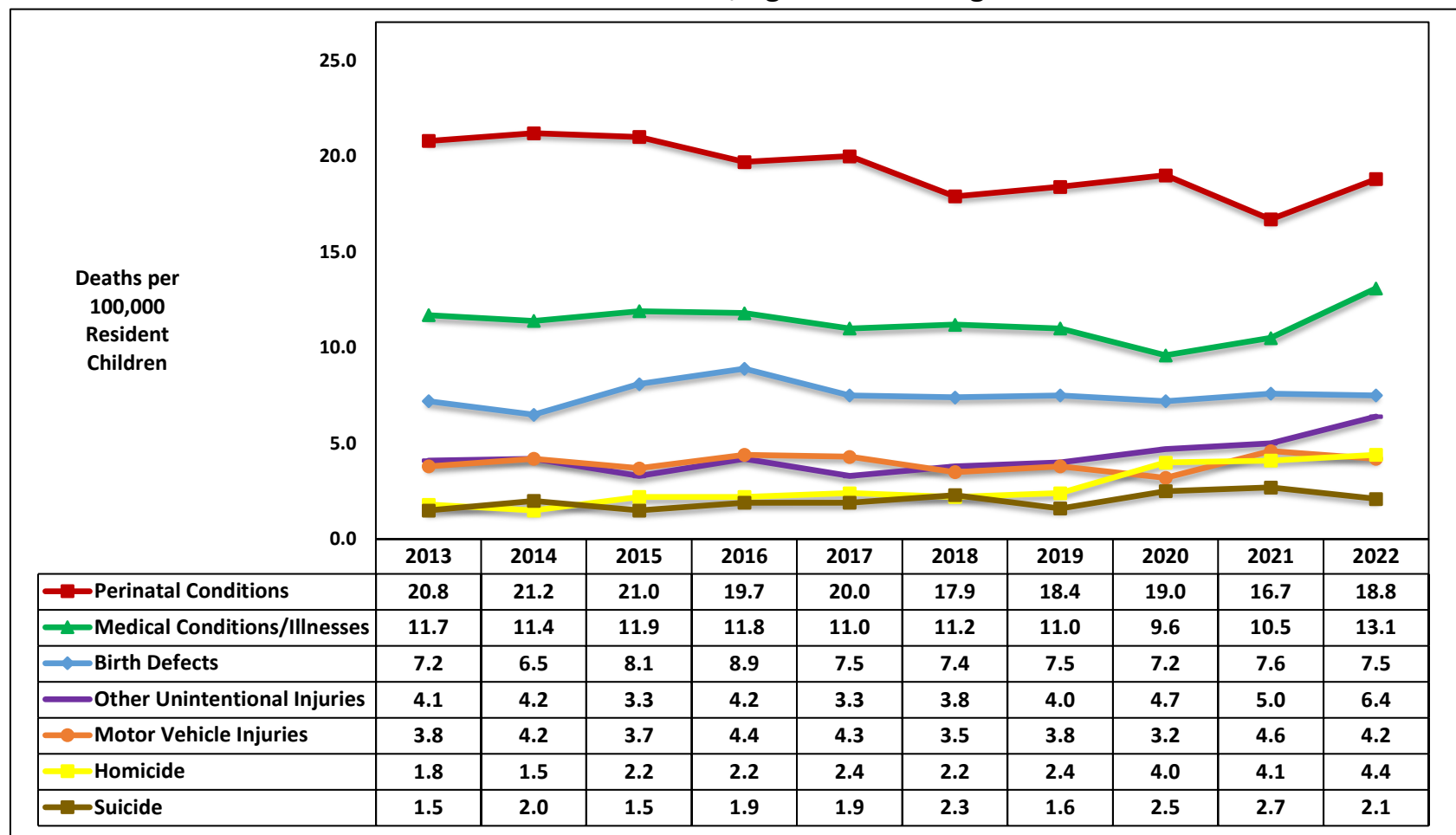
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**Figure 3. 2014-2022 Trends in North Carolina Resident Child Death Rates†
by Race*/Ethnicity, Ages Birth Through 17 Years**



* **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. 2013-2022 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 2022

All Ages, 0-17			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Conditions originating in the perinatal period	432	29.3%
2	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	171	11.6%
3	Other Unintentional injuries	146	9.9%
4	Homicide	102	6.9%
5	Motor vehicle injuries	98	6.6%
6	Cancer	48	3.3%
6	Suicide	48	3.3%
8	Diseases of the heart	28	1.9%
9	Cerebrovascular disease	20	1.4%
10	COVID-19	17	1.2%
All other causes (Residual)		364	24.7%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		1,474	100.0%

Ages 1 to 17			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Other Unintentional injuries	110	17.0%
2	Motor vehicle injuries	94	14.6%
3	Homicide	87	13.5%
4	Suicide	48	7.4%
5	Cancer	46	7.1%
6	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	37	5.7%
7	Diseases of the heart	18	2.8%
8	COVID-19	16	2.5%
9	Cerebrovascular disease	14	2.2%
10	Septicemia	11	1.7%
All other causes (Residual)		165	25.5%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		646	100.0%

Infants			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	134	16.2%
2	Short gestation - low birthweight	128	15.5%
3	Maternal complications of pregnancy	42	5.1%
4	Other unintentional injuries	36	4.3%
4	Bacterial sepsis	34	4.1%
6	Complications of placenta, cord, and membranes	26	3.1%
7	Respiratory distress	21	2.5%
8	Diseases of the circulatory system	17	2.1%
9	Intrauterine hypoxia and birth asphyxia	17	2.1%
10	Necrotizing enterocolitis	17	2.1%
All other causes (Residual)		356	43.0%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		828	100.0%

Ages 1 to 4			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Other Unintentional injuries	44	23.2%
2	Motor vehicle injuries	18	9.5%
3	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	17	8.9%
4	Homicide	15	7.9%
5	Cancer	12	6.3%
6	Cerebrovascular disease	7	3.7%
7	Pneumonia & influenza	6	3.2%
8	COVID-19	4	2.1%
8	Conditions originating in the perinatal period	4	2.1%
8	Septicemia	4	2.1%
All other causes (Residual)		59	31.1%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		190	100.0%

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Table 2. Leading Causes of Child Death by Age Group, NC Residents 2022

Ages 5 to 9			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Motor vehicle injuries	19	19.6%
2	Cancer	16	16.5%
3	Other Unintentional injuries	12	12.4%
4	Septicemia	6	6.2%
5	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	4	4.1%
5	Diseases of the heart	4	4.1%
7	COVID-19	2	2.1%
7	Cerebrovascular disease	2	2.1%
7	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	2	2.1%
7	Homicide	2	2.1%
7	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, & nephrosis	2	2.1%
All other causes (Residual)		26	26.8%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		97	100.0%

Ages 10 to 14			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Motor vehicle injuries	20	13.4%
2	Other Unintentional injuries	19	12.8%
3	Suicide	17	11.4%
4	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	12	8.1%
4	Homicide	12	8.1%
6	Cancer	11	7.4%
7	COVID-19	7	4.7%
7	Diseases of the heart	7	4.7%
9	Cerebrovascular disease	4	2.7%
10	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	3	2.0%
All other causes (Residual)		37	24.8%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		149	100.0%

Ages 15 to 17			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Homicide	58	27.6%
2	Motor vehicle injuries	37	17.6%
3	Other Unintentional injuries	35	16.7%
4	Suicide	31	14.8%
5	Cancer	7	3.3%
6	Diseases of the heart	5	2.4%
7	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	4	1.9%
8	COVID-19	3	1.4%
9	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	2	1.0%
9	Legal intervention	2	1.0%
All other causes (Residual)		26	12.4%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		210	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.