

CHILD DEATHS IN NORTH CAROLINA: ANNUAL REPORT

Figure 1. 1991-2023 Trends in North Carolina Resident Child Death Rates Ages Birth Through 17 Years

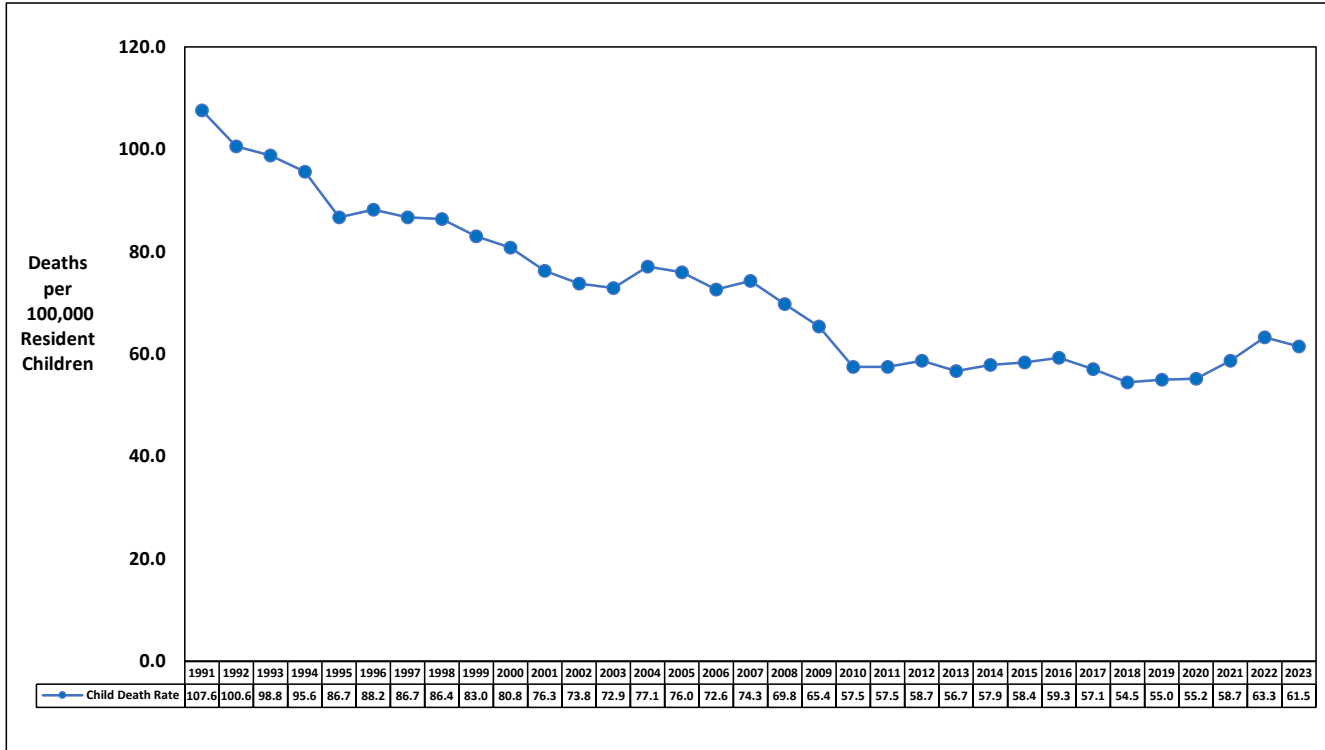
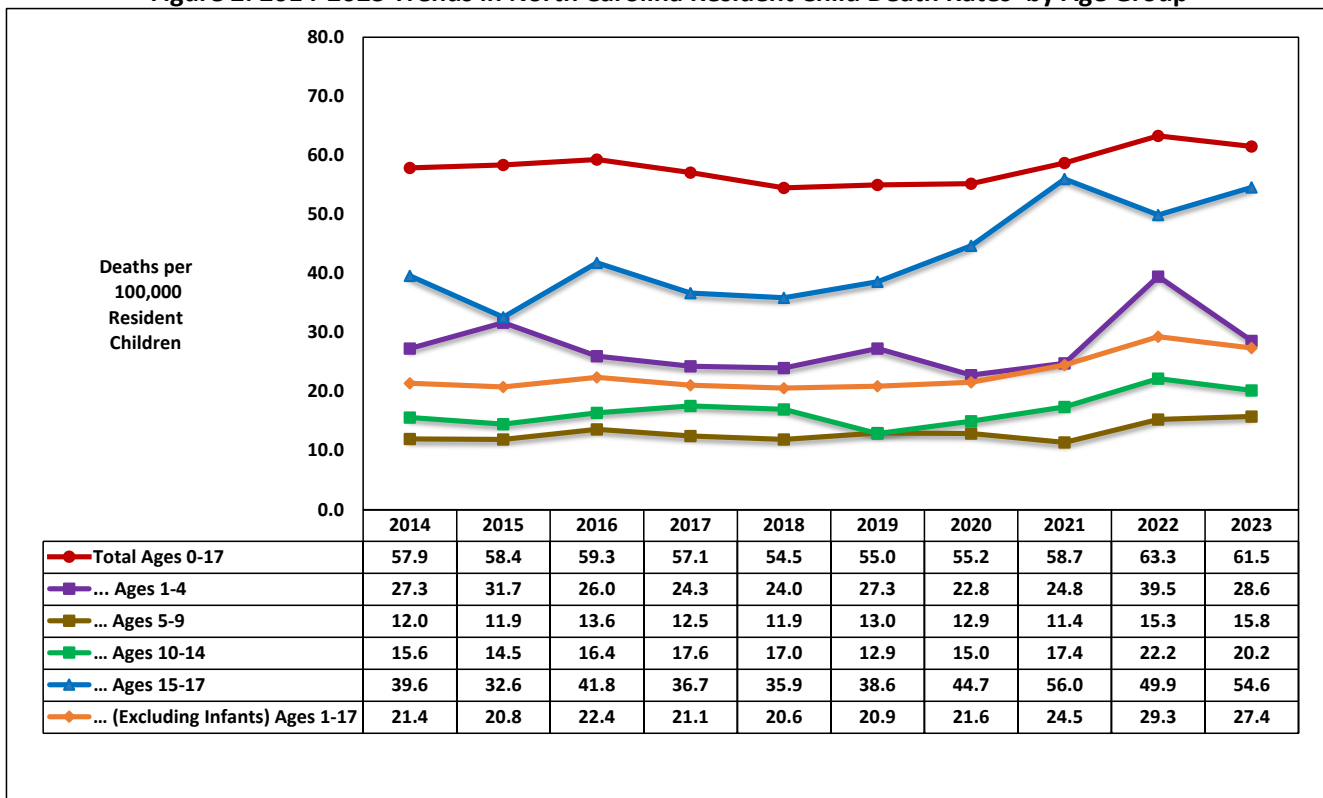


Figure 2. 2014-2023 Trends in North Carolina Resident Child Death Rates[†] by Age Group



[†] Child death rates prior to 2023 have been recalculated using the latest available population data

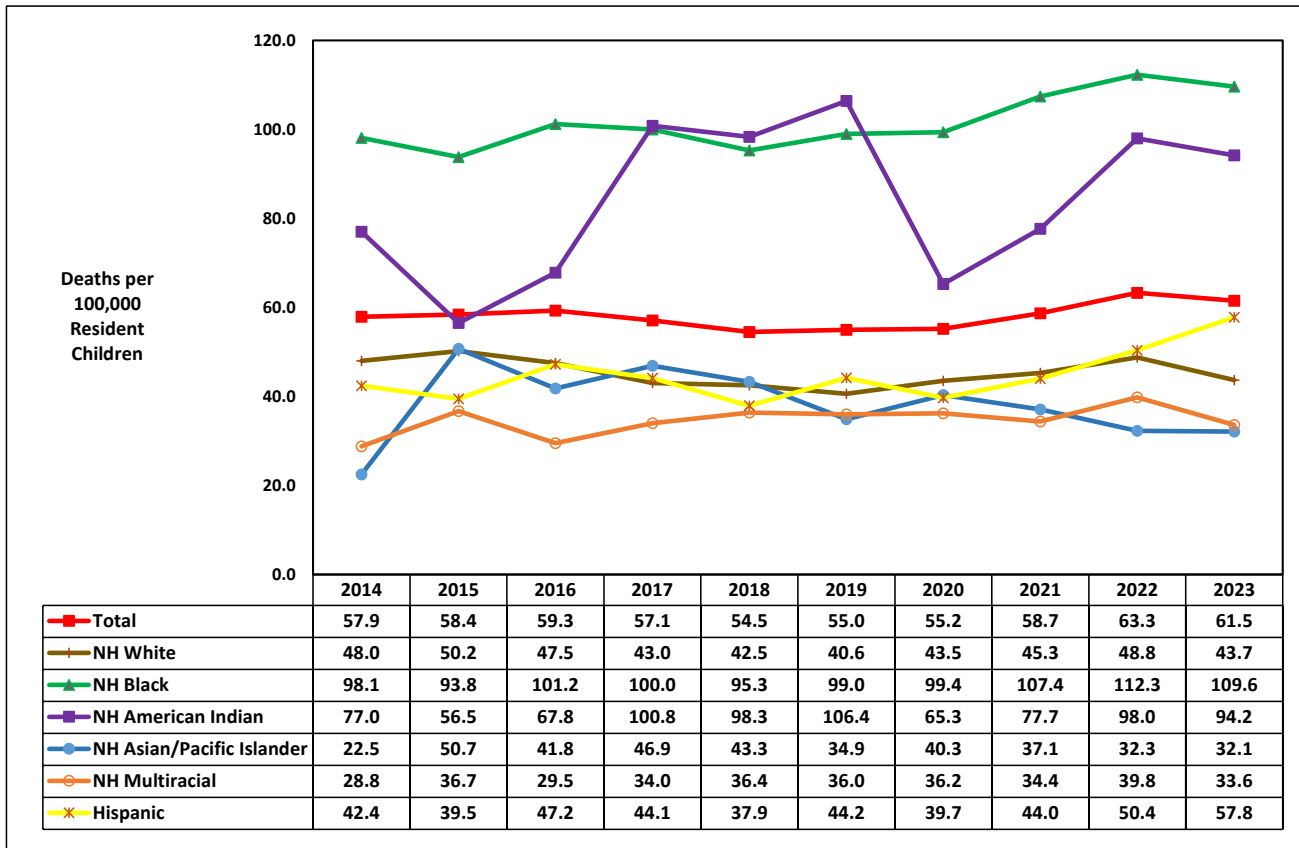
CHILD DEATHS IN NORTH CAROLINA: ANNUAL REPORT

Table 1. 2023 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	1,436	100.0	828		139		101		134		234	
CAUSE OF DEATH CATEGORY:	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Perinatal Conditions	448	31.2	444	99.1	3	0.7	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0
... Short Gestation/Low Birthweight	143		143		0		0		0		0	
... Maternal Complications	83		83		0		0		0		0	
... All Other Perinatal Conditions	222		218		3		0		1		0	
Medical Conditions	266	18.5	71	26.7	51	19.2	53	19.9	53	19.9	38	14.3
... Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer)	59		1		8		16		21		13	
... Heart Disease	26		10		5		5		2		4	
... Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	5		0		3		1		1		0	
... Septicemia	13		6		2		3		2		0	
... Pneumonia/Influenza	13		5		3		2		3		0	
... Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)	3		1		1		0		0		1	
... All Other Medical Conditions	147		48		29		26		24		20	
Birth Defects	176	12.3	137	77.8	12	6.8	10	5.7	11	6.3	6	3.4
... Circulatory System	36		27		2		1		3		3	
... Nervous System	31		18		6		3		4		0	
... Respiratory System	10		10		0		0		0		0	
... All Other Birth Defects	99		82		4		6		4		3	
Motor Vehicle Injuries	101	7.0	2	2.0	11	10.9	13	12.9	21	20.8	54	53.5
Other Unintentional Injuries	124	8.6	26	21.0	37	29.8	12	9.7	16	12.9	33	26.6
... Suffocation/Choking/Strangulation	28		20		6		1		1		0	
... Drowning	31		2		14		6		6		3	
... Poisoning	31		3		6		1		2		19	
... Bicycle	0		0		0		0		0		0	
... Firearm	9		0		3		1		1		4	
... Smoke, Fire & Flames	13		0		6		2		3		2	
... All Other Accidental Injuries	12		1		2		1		3		5	
Homicide	89	6.2	11	12.4	11	12.4	5	5.6	15	16.9	47	52.8
... Involving Firearm	64		2		1		2		15		44	
... All Other Homicides	25		9		10		3		0		3	
Suicide	59	4.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	23.7	45	76.3
... by Firearm	26		0		0		0		5		21	
... by Hanging	22		0		0		0		8		14	
... by Poisoning	7		0		0		0		1		6	
... All Other Suicides	4		0		0		0		0		4	
Other Injuries Undetermined Manner	23	1.6	16	69.6	3	13.0	3	13.0	0	0.0	1	4.3
... Hanging/Strangulation/Suffocation	12		12		0		0		0		0	
... Poisoning	6		3		2		1		0		0	
... All Other Undetermined Injuries	5		1		1		2		0		1	
Pending/Unknown Causes	121	8.4	108	89.3	8	6.6	2	1.7	0	0.0	3	2.5
All Other Causes of Death	29	2.0	13	44.8	3	10.3	3	10.3	3	10.3	7	24.1

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 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.

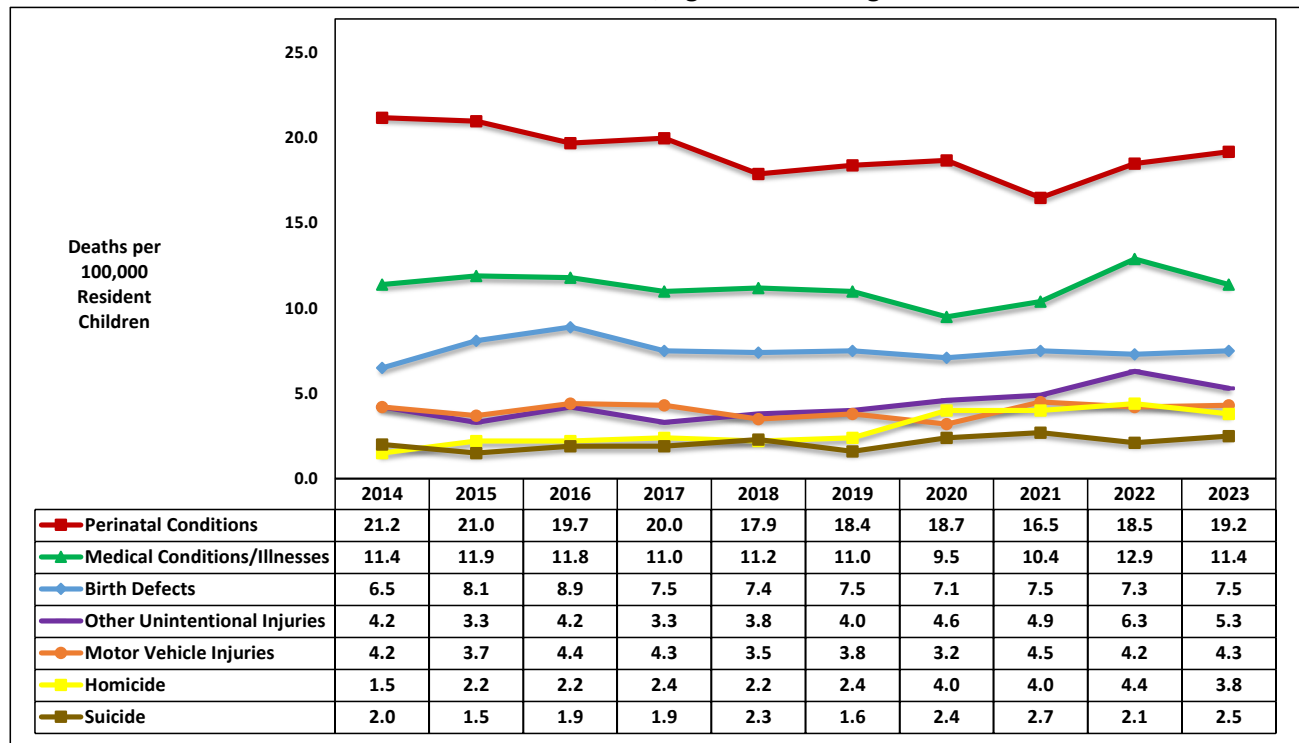
CHILD DEATHS IN NORTH CAROLINA: ANNUAL REPORT

Figure 3. 2014-2023 Trends in North Carolina Resident Child Death Rate† 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. 2014-2023 Trends in North Carolina Resident Child Death Rate† for Selected Causes of Death, Ages Birth Through 17 Years



CHILD DEATHS IN NORTH CAROLINA: ANNUAL REPORT

Table 2. Leading Causes of Child Death by Age Group, NC Residents 2023

All Ages, 0-17			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Conditions originating in the perinatal period	448	31.2%
2	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	176	12.3%
3	Other Unintentional injuries	124	8.6%
4	Motor vehicle injuries	101	7.0%
5	Homicide	89	6.2%
6	Cancer	59	4.1%
	Suicide	59	4.1%
8	Diseases of the heart	26	1.8%
9	Pneumonia & influenza	13	0.9%
	Septicemia	13	0.9%
All other causes (Residual)		328	22.8%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		1,436	100.0%

Ages 1 to 17			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Motor vehicle injuries	99	16.3%
2	Other Unintentional injuries	98	16.1%
3	Homicide	78	12.8%
4	Suicide	59	9.7%
5	Cancer	58	9.5%
6	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	39	6.4%
7	Diseases of the heart	16	2.6%
8	Pneumonia & influenza	8	1.3%
9	Septicemia	7	1.2%
10	Cerebrovascular disease	6	1.0%
All other causes (Residual)		140	23.0%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		608	100.0%

Infants			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Short gestation - low birthweight	138	16.7%
2	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	137	16.5%
3	Maternal complications of pregnancy	51	6.2%
4	Respiratory distress	41	5.0%
5	Bacterial sepsis	26	3.1%
	Other unintentional injuries	26	3.1%
7	Complications of placenta, cord, and membranes	20	2.4%
8	Atelectasis	14	1.7%
9	Neonatal hemorrhage	13	1.6%
10	SIDS	12	1.4%
All other causes (Residual)		350	42.3%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		828	100.0%

Ages 1 to 4			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Other Unintentional injuries	37	26.6%
2	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	12	8.6%
3	Homicide	11	7.9%
4	Motor vehicle injuries	11	7.9%
5	Cancer	8	5.8%
6	Diseases of the heart	5	3.6%
7	Acute bronchitis & bronchiolitis	3	2.2%
	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	3	2.2%
	Conditions originating in the perinatal period	3	2.2%
	Pneumonia & influenza	3	2.2%
All other causes (Residual)		43	30.9%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		139	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.

Produced by the N.C. Division of Public Health - Title V Office in conjunction with the State Center for Health Statistics

CHILD DEATHS IN NORTH CAROLINA: ANNUAL REPORT

Table 2. Leading Causes of Child Death by Age Group, NC Residents 2023

Ages 5 to 9			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Cancer	16	15.8%
2	Motor vehicle injuries	13	12.9%
3	Other Unintentional injuries	12	11.9%
4	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	10	9.9%
5	Diseases of the heart	5	5.0%
	Homicide	5	5.0%
7	Septicemia	3	3.0%
8	Meningitis	2	2.0%
	Pneumonia & influenza	2	2.0%
10	Anemias	1	1.0%
	Cerebrovascular disease	1	1.0%
	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	1	1.0%
	Complications of medical and surgical care	1	1.0%
	Nutritional deficiencies	1	1.0%
	All other causes (Residual)	28	27.7%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		101	100.0%

Ages 10 to 14			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Cancer	21	15.7%
	Motor vehicle injuries	21	15.7%
3	Other Unintentional injuries	16	11.9%
4	Homicide	15	11.2%
5	Suicide	14	10.4%
6	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	11	8.2%
7	Pneumonia & influenza	3	2.2%
8	Cerebrovascular disease	2	1.5%
	Diseases of the heart	2	1.5%
	Septicemia	2	1.5%
	All other causes (Residual)	27	20.1%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		134	100.0%

Ages 15 to 17			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Motor vehicle injuries	54	23.1%
2	Homicide	47	20.1%
3	Suicide	45	19.2%
4	Other Unintentional injuries	33	14.1%
5	Cancer	13	5.6%
6	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	6	2.6%
7	Diseases of the heart	4	1.7%
8	Cerebrovascular disease	2	0.9%
	Pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium	2	0.9%
10	COVID-19	1	0.4%
	Diabetes mellitus	1	0.4%
	All other causes (Residual)	26	11.1%
Total Deaths --- All Causes		234	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.