10 Leading Causes of Injury Deaths By Age Group*
North Carolina Residents, 2025

ALL AGES

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	2,450	21.9
2	Fall - Unintentional	2,071	18.5
3	MVT - Unintentional	1,530	13.7
4	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	1,145	10.2
5	Firearm - Assault	590	5.3
6	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	281	2.5
7	Suffocation - Unintentional	266	2.4
8	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	162	1.4
9	Unspecified - Unintentional	147	1.3
10	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	143	1.3

Total Injury Case Count: 9,715 Rate: 86.8

INFANTS (<1)

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Suffocation - Unintentional	19	15.5
2	Suffocation - Undetermined	6	4.9[1]
3	MVT - Unintentional	3	*
4	Poisoning - Unintentional	2	*
	Unspecified - Assault	2	*
5	Nat/Env - Unintentional	1	*
	Other-NEC - Assault	1	*
	Poisoning - Undetermined	1	*

Total Injury Case Count: 35 Rate: 28.5

1 - 4 YEARS

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Drowning - Unintentional	13	2.6
2	MVT - Unintentional	10	2.0
3	Suffocation - Unintentional	5	1.0[1]
	Unspecified - Assault	5	1.0[1]
4	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	3	*
	Poisoning - Undetermined	3	*
5	Firearm - Unintentional	2	*
	Pedestrian - Unintentional	2	*
	Poisoning - Assault	2	*
	Poisoning - Unintentional	2	*

Total Injury Case Count: 54 Rate: 10.8

5 - 14 YEARS

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	MVT - Unintentional	30	2.3
2	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	12	0.9
3	Drowning - Unintentional	11	0.8
4	Firearm - Assault	8	0.6[1]
	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	8	0.6[1]
5	Other Trans - Unintentional	6	0.5[1]
6	Suffocation - Unintentional	5	0.4[1]
7	Firearm - Unintentional	4	*
8	Poisoning - Unintentional	3	*
	Struck - Unintentional	3	*

Total Injury Case Count: 103 Rate: 7.8

* Rate suppressed, count between 1 and 4. [1] Rate should be interpreted with caution, count between 5 and 10. Rates are reported per 100,000.
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NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Public Health

Note: Leading causes do not sum to the total number of injuries.
Data Source: State Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificate Data, 2025
Analysis conducted by the NCDHHS, DPH, Injury Epidemiology, Surveillance & Informatics Unit.
Date of analysis: 22 October 2026
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10 Leading Causes of Injury Deaths By Age Group*
North Carolina Residents, 2025

15 - 24 YEARS

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	MVT - Unintentional	253	16.9
2	Firearm - Assault	176	11.8
3	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	137	9.2
4	Poisoning - Unintentional	98	6.6
5	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	56	3.7
6	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	14	0.9
7	Drowning - Unintentional	13	0.9
8	Cut/Pierce - Assault	12	0.8
9	Firearm - Unintentional	11	0.7
10	Firearm - Undetermined	10	0.7

Total Injury Case Count: 831 Rate: 55.6

25 - 44 YEARS

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	1,174	40.0
2	MVT - Unintentional	473	16.1
3	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	331	11.3
4	Firearm - Assault	259	8.8
5	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	122	4.2
6	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	43	1.5
7	Drowning - Unintentional	32	1.1
8	Fall - Unintentional	24	0.8
9	Cut/Pierce - Assault	19	0.6
10	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	16	0.5

Total Injury Case Count: 2,699 Rate: 92.0

45 - 64 YEARS

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	984	36.3
2	MVT - Unintentional	400	14.7
3	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	352	13.0
4	Fall - Unintentional	146	5.4
5	Firearm - Assault	122	4.5
6	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	73	2.7
7	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	59	2.2
8	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	50	1.8
9	Suffocation - Unintentional	49	1.8
10	Drowning - Unintentional	31	1.1

Total Injury Case Count: 2,548 Rate: 93.9

AGES 65 & OVER

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Fall - Unintentional	1,896	89.5
2	MVT - Unintentional	361	17.0
3	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	313	14.8
4	Poisoning - Unintentional	187	8.8
5	Suffocation - Unintentional	171	8.1
6	Unspecified - Unintentional	108	5.1
7	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	88	4.2
8	Other-NEC - Unintentional	41	1.9
9	Drowning - Unintentional	36	1.7
10	Nat/Env - Unintentional	32	1.5

Total Injury Case Count: 3,445 Rate: 162.5

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10 Leading Causes of Injury Deaths By Race/Ethnicity*
North Carolina Residents, 2025

NON-HISPANIC WHITE

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Fall - Unintentional	1,828	27.8
2	Poisoning - Unintentional	1,574	24.0
3	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	907	13.8
4	MVT - Unintentional	879	13.4
5	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	199	3.0
6	Suffocation - Unintentional	192	2.9
7	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	121	1.8
8	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	114	1.7
9	Unspecified - Unintentional	109	1.7
10	Firearm - Assault	105	1.6

Total Injury Case Count: 6,576 Rate: 100.1

NON-HISPANIC BLACK

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	614	27.5
2	Firearm - Assault	389	17.4
3	MVT - Unintentional	384	17.2
4	Fall - Unintentional	160	7.2
5	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	153	6.8
6	Suffocation - Unintentional	60	2.7
7	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	36	1.6
8	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	34	1.5
9	Drowning - Unintentional	31	1.4
10	Unspecified - Unintentional	30	1.3

Total Injury Case Count: 2,119 Rate: 94.9

NON-HISPANIC AMERICAN INDIAN

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	77	71.3
2	MVT - Unintentional	39	36.1
3	Firearm - Assault	23	21.3
4	Fall - Unintentional	15	13.9
5	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	9	8.3[1]
6	Drowning - Unintentional	4	*
	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	4	*
7	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	3	*
	Other-NEC - Legal/War	3	*
	Pedestrian - Unintentional	3	*

Total Injury Case Count: 194 Rate: 179.7

NON-HISPANIC ASIAN

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	MVT - Unintentional	18	3.9
2	Fall - Unintentional	14	3.0
	Poisoning - Unintentional	14	3.0
3	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	12	2.6
4	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	8	1.7[1]
5	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	6	1.3[1]
6	Firearm - Assault	5	1.1[1]
7	Drowning - Unintentional	4	*
	Suffocation - Unintentional	4	*
8	Other-NEC - Unintentional	2	*

Total Injury Case Count: 96 Rate: 20.8

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Caution – race classifications changed in July 2020 for all data years
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10 Leading Causes of Injury Deaths By Race/Ethnicity & Gender*
North Carolina Residents, 2025

HISPANIC

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	MVT - Unintentional	196	15.0
2	Poisoning - Unintentional	150	11.4
3	Firearm - Assault	65	5.0
4	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	60	4.6
5	Fall - Unintentional	47	3.6
6	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	36	2.7
7	Drowning - Unintentional	22	1.7
8	Suffocation - Unintentional	8	0.6¹
9	Cut/Pierce - Assault	7	0.5¹
	Other Specified - Unintentional	7	0.5¹

Total Injury Case Count: 660 Rate: 50.4

FEMALE

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Fall - Unintentional	1,076	18.6
2	Poisoning - Unintentional	783	13.6
3	MVT - Unintentional	426	7.4
4	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	179	3.1
5	Firearm - Assault	106	1.8
6	Suffocation - Unintentional	93	1.6
7	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	74	1.3
8	Unspecified - Unintentional	72	1.2
9	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	66	1.1
10	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	64	1.1

Total Injury Case Count: 3,205 Rate: 55.5

MALE

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	1,667	30.7
2	MVT - Unintentional	1,104	20.4
3	Fall - Unintentional	995	18.3
4	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	966	17.8
5	Firearm - Assault	484	8.9
6	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	217	4.0
7	Suffocation - Unintentional	173	3.2
8	Drowning - Unintentional	99	1.8
9	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	96	1.8
10	Unspecified - Unintentional	75	1.4

Total Injury Case Count: 6,510 Rate: 120.0

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