

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES North Carolina Injury & Violence Prevention Branch

10 Leading Causes of Injury Deaths By Age Group* North Carolina Residents, 2024

ALL AGES

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	2,865	25.9
2	Fall - Unintentional	1,985	18.0
3	MVT - Unintentional	1,747	15.8
4	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	1,061	9.6
5	Firearm - Assault	704	6.4
6	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	323	2.9
7	Suffocation - Unintentional	233	2.1
8	Nat/Env - Unintentional	155	1.4
9	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	146	1.3
10	Unspecified - Unintentional	141	1.3

Total Injury Case Count: 10,339 Rate: 93.6

INFANTS (<1)

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Suffocation - Unintentional	27	22.3
2	Unspecified - Assault	6	4.9 ¹
3	MVT - Unintentional	3	*
4	Suffocation - Undetermined	2	*
5	Drowning - Unintentional	1	*
	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	1	*
	Other Specified - Assault	1	*
	Other-NEC - Legal/War	1	*
	Poisoning - Undetermined	1	*
	Poisoning - Unintentional	1	*

Total Injury Case Count: 45 Rate: 37.1

1 - 4 YEARS

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	MVT - Unintentional	16	3.2
2	Drowning - Unintentional	15	3.0
3	Firearm - Unintentional	6	1.2 ¹
	Poisoning - Unintentional	6	1.2 ¹
	Unspecified - Assault	6	1.2 ¹
4	Suffocation - Unintentional	5	1.0 ¹
5	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	3	*
	Firearm - Assault	3	*
	Poisoning - Assault	3	*
	Unspecified - Unintentional	3	*

Total Injury Case Count: 77 Rate: 15.5

5 - 14 YEARS

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	MVT - Unintentional	22	1.7
2	Firearm - Assault	12	0.9
3	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	9	0.7 ¹
	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	9	0.7 ¹
4	Drowning - Unintentional	8	0.6 ¹
5	Poisoning - Unintentional	6	0.5 ¹
6	Nat/Env - Unintentional	5	0.4 ¹
7	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	3	*
	Other Specified - Assault	3	*
8	Firearm - Unintentional	2	*

Total Injury Case Count: 88 Rate: 6.7

* 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.
NEC=Not Elsewhere Classifiable; MV=Motor Vehicle; MVT=Motor Vehicle Traffic; Nat/Env=Natural/Environmental



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Note: Leading causes do not sum to the total number of injuries.
Data Source: State Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificate Data, 2024
Analysis conducted by the NCDHHS, DPH, Injury Epidemiology, Surveillance & Informatics Unit.
Date of analysis: 16 January 2026
For more information on these data, go to the Injury Surveillance Technical Notes Document:
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15 - 24 YEARS

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	MVT - Unintentional	291	19.6
2	Firearm - Assault	204	13.7
3	Poisoning - Unintentional	180	12.1
4	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	136	9.2
5	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	48	3.2
6	Drowning - Unintentional	16	1.1
	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	16	1.1
7	Other Specified - Unintentional	10	0.7
8	Cut/Pierce - Assault	8	0.5 ¹
	Firearm - Undetermined	8	0.5 ¹

Total Injury Case Count: 968 Rate: 65.2

25 - 44 YEARS

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	1,432	49.0
2	MVT - Unintentional	554	19.0
3	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	328	11.2
4	Firearm - Assault	326	11.2
5	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	145	5.0
6	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	41	1.4
7	Drowning - Unintentional	36	1.2
8	Fall - Unintentional	33	1.1
9	Nat/Env - Unintentional	24	0.8
10	Other Specified - Unintentional	21	0.7

Total Injury Case Count: 3,164 Rate: 108.3

45 - 64 YEARS

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	1,051	38.4
2	MVT - Unintentional	443	16.2
3	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	310	11.3
4	Fall - Unintentional	153	5.6
5	Firearm - Assault	127	4.6
6	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	99	3.6
7	Nat/Env - Unintentional	54	2.0
8	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	53	1.9
9	Suffocation - Unintentional	45	1.6
10	Drowning - Unintentional	32	1.2

Total Injury Case Count: 2,641 Rate: 96.4

AGES 65 & OVER

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Fall - Unintentional	1,795	90.9
2	MVT - Unintentional	418	21.2
3	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	278	14.1
4	Poisoning - Unintentional	189	9.6
5	Suffocation - Unintentional	139	7.0
6	Unspecified - Unintentional	105	5.3
7	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	75	3.8
8	Nat/Env - Unintentional	69	3.5
9	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	36	1.8
10	Other-NEC - Unintentional	35	1.8

Total Injury Case Count: 3,356 Rate: 170.0

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10 Leading Causes of Injury Deaths By Race/Ethnicity* North Carolina Residents, 2024

NON-HISPANIC WHITE

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	1,848	27.9
2	Fall - Unintentional	1,727	26.1
3	MVT - Unintentional	1,037	15.7
4	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	850	12.8
5	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	236	3.6
6	Suffocation - Unintentional	179	2.7
7	Firearm - Assault	137	2.1
8	Nat/Env - Unintentional	131	2.0
9	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	119	1.8
10	Unspecified - Unintentional	104	1.6

Total Injury Case Count: 6,962 Rate: 105.2

NON-HISPANIC BLACK

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	741	32.2
2	Firearm - Assault	457	19.9
3	MVT - Unintentional	450	19.6
4	Fall - Unintentional	168	7.3
5	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	148	6.4
6	Suffocation - Unintentional	44	1.9
7	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	36	1.6
8	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	35	1.5
9	Unspecified - Unintentional	28	1.2
10	Drowning - Unintentional	26	1.1

Total Injury Case Count: 2,358 Rate: 102.6

NON-HISPANIC AMERICAN INDIAN

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	77	68.6
2	MVT - Unintentional	36	32.1
3	Firearm - Assault	34	30.3
4	Fall - Unintentional	11	9.8
5	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	6	5.3 ¹
	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	6	5.3 ¹
6	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	5	4.5 ¹
7	Other Specified - Unintentional	2	*
	Other Trans - Unintentional	2	*
8	Firearm - Undetermined	1	*

Total Injury Case Count: 186 Rate: 165.7

NON-HISPANIC ASIAN

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Fall - Unintentional	24	5.5
2	MVT - Unintentional	21	4.8
3	Poisoning - Unintentional	17	3.9
4	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	11	2.5
5	Drowning - Unintentional	8	1.8 ¹
	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	8	1.8 ¹
6	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	5	1.2 ¹
7	Firearm - Assault	3	*
8	Unspecified - Unintentional	2	*
9	Drowning - Self-Inflicted	1	*

Total Injury Case Count: 107 Rate: 24.6

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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, 2024

HISPANIC

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	MVT - Unintentional	179	14.0
2	Poisoning - Unintentional	147	11.5
3	Firearm - Assault	67	5.2
4	Fall - Unintentional	47	3.7
5	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	44	3.4
6	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	33	2.6
7	Drowning - Unintentional	16	1.3
8	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	7	0.5 ¹
9	Struck - Unintentional	6	0.5 ¹
	Suffocation - Unintentional	6	0.5 ¹

Total Injury Case Count: 622 Rate: 48.7

FEMALE

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Fall - Unintentional	1,006	17.8
2	Poisoning - Unintentional	888	15.7
3	MVT - Unintentional	486	8.6
4	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	144	2.5
5	Firearm - Assault	128	2.3
6	Suffocation - Unintentional	99	1.8
7	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	71	1.3
	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	71	1.3
8	Unspecified - Unintentional	61	1.1
9	Nat/Env - Unintentional	56	1.0

Total Injury Case Count: 3,276 Rate: 58.0

MALE

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	1,977	36.7
2	MVT - Unintentional	1,261	23.4
3	Fall - Unintentional	979	18.1
4	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	917	17.0
5	Firearm - Assault	576	10.7
6	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	252	4.7
7	Suffocation - Unintentional	134	2.5
8	Drowning - Unintentional	104	1.9
9	Nat/Env - Unintentional	99	1.8
10	Unspecified - Unintentional	80	1.5

Total Injury Case Count: 7,062 Rate: 130.9

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