

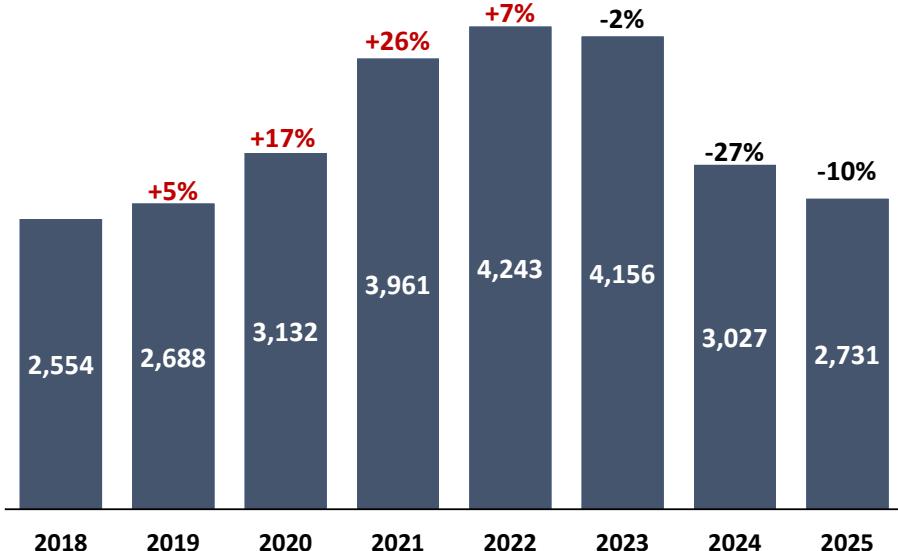
Suspected Overdose Deaths*, North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) Data: December 2025

218 Suspected Overdose Deaths*,
December 2025 compared to
222 in December 2024

*This category reflects an estimate of statewide medical examiner system overdose deaths. Note that some suspected overdoses may ultimately be certified as non-poisoning deaths, but the majority become confirmed as poisoning deaths.

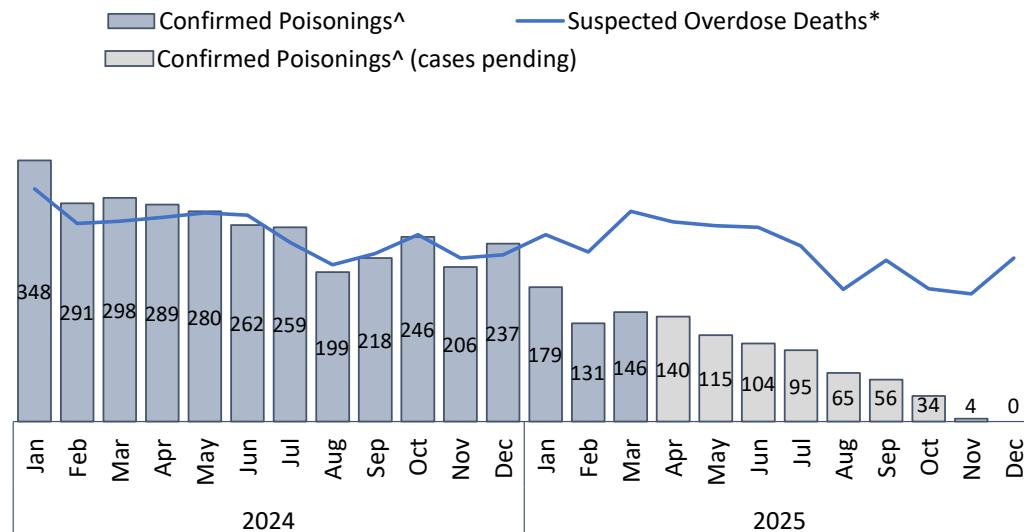
Year to year: Suspected overdose deaths are down 10% for 2025 compared to 2024.

Percent change is year total compared to last year.



Last 24 Months of Confirmed^ & Suspected Overdose Deaths*

Time required to investigate cases accounts for lower counts of confirmed cases in recent months



^This category reflects the number of deaths that have been confirmed as poisonings, regardless of intent, based on the results of a comprehensive investigation.

*The NC OCME began tracking suspected overdoses using the count of autopsies performed to rule out overdose by the entire medical examiner system in March 2017. In May 2020, identification of suspected overdoses also included supplemental examinations performed to rule out overdose. Beginning in July 2020 suspected overdoses were identified through the NC Rapid Overdose Death Detection (NC RODD) pilot program and exams from all eight autopsy centers across NC.

2024-2025 data are considered provisional and subject to change as cases continue to be finalized. NC OCME will update graphs on a monthly basis to reflect suspected overdose deaths and recently confirmed poisoning deaths. For additional information, please contact ocme.data.request@dhhs.nc.gov.

