Suspected Overdose Deaths,* North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) Data: September 2026

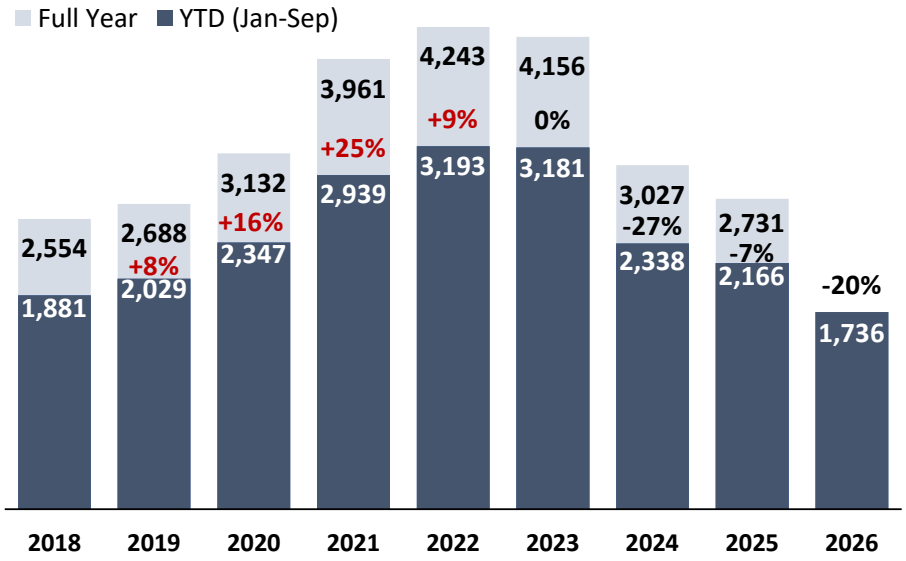
171 **Suspected Overdose Deaths,* September 2026 compared to**

215 **in September 2025**

*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.

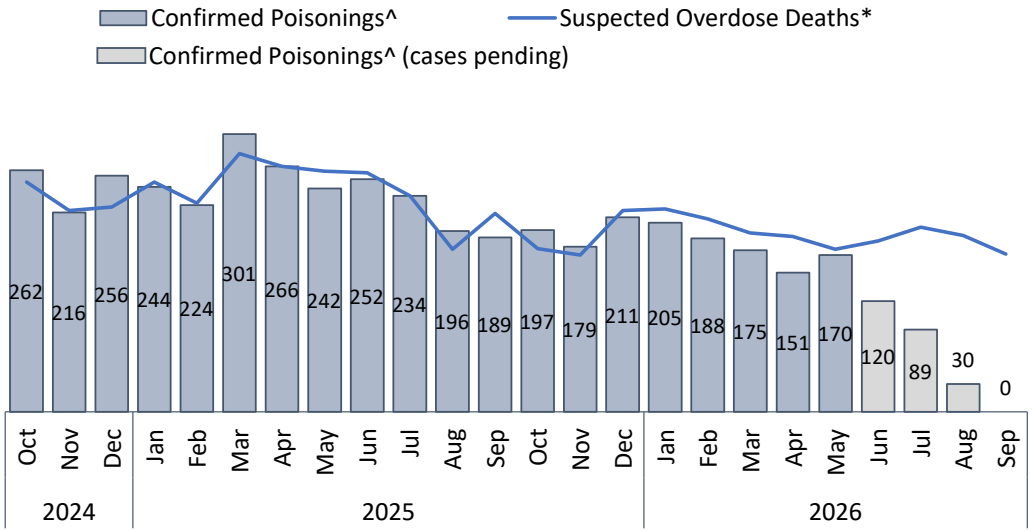
Year-to-year: Suspected overdose deaths are down 20% for 2026 compared to this time last year.

Percent change is YTD total compare to this time 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.

2024-2026 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.