

**Table A:
Leading Causes of Death* by Age Group
North Carolina Residents, 2015**

<i>All Ages</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Cancer	19,309
2	Diseases of the heart	18,467
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	5,221
4	Cerebrovascular disease	5,028
5	Alzheimer's disease	3,803
6	Other Unintentional injuries	3,470
7	Diabetes mellitus	2,743
8	Pneumonia & influenza	2,113
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, & nephrosis	1,822
10	Septicemia	1,557
	All other causes (Residual)	25,597
	Total Deaths—All Causes	89,130

<i>Infants (Age <1)</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Short gestation - low birthweight	197
2	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	147
3	Maternal complications of pregnancy	54
4	Complications of placenta, cord, and membranes	29
5	Bacterial sepsis	23
5	Diseases of the circulatory system	23
7	Respiratory distress	21
8	Necrotizing enterocolitis	19
9	Other unintentional injuries	18
10	Neonatal hemorrhage	14
	All other causes (Residual)	339
	Total Deaths—All Causes	884

<i>1–4 Years</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Other Unintentional injuries	21
2	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	20
3	Motor vehicle injuries	19
4	Homicide	18
5	Cancer	15
6	Diseases of the heart	5
7	Pneumonia & influenza	2
8	Anemias	1
8	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	1
8	Conditions originating in the perinatal period	1
8	Hernia	1
8	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, & nephrosis	1
8	Nutritional deficiencies	1
	All other causes (Residual)	47
	Total Deaths—All Causes	153

<i>5–14 Years</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Motor vehicle injuries	29
2	Cancer	26
3	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	14
3	Other Unintentional injuries	14
5	Suicide	10
6	Diseases of the heart	8
6	Homicide	8
8	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	7
9	Anemias	3
9	In-situ/benign neoplasms	3
9	Septicemia	3
	All other causes (Residual)	45
	Total Deaths—All Causes	170

* Leading causes of death are generated from a list of 51 causes of death categories developed by the National Center for Health Statistics to promote comparability in analyses of mortality. For deaths under 1 year of age, a list of 72 causes of death was used. See Appendices for the ICD-10 codes for these lists of causes.

Table A: (cont.)
Leading Causes of Death* by Age Group
North Carolina Residents, 2015

<i>15–24 Years</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Motor vehicle injuries	281
2	Other Unintentional injuries	168
3	Suicide	154
4	Homicide	133
5	Cancer	37
6	Diseases of the heart	33
7	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	15
8	Septicemia	9
9	Cerebrovascular disease	8
9	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	8
9	Diabetes mellitus	8
9	Pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium	8
	All other causes (Residual)	109
	Total Deaths—All Causes	971

<i>25–44 Years</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Other Unintentional injuries	812
2	Cancer	472
3	Diseases of the heart	446
4	Motor vehicle injuries	437
5	Suicide	407
6	Homicide	281
7	Chronic liver disease & cirrhosis	107
8	Diabetes mellitus	106
9	Cerebrovascular disease	74
10	HIV	58
	All other causes (Residual)	897
	Total Deaths—All Causes	4,097

<i>45–64 Years</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Cancer	5,301
2	Diseases of the heart	3,672
3	Other Unintentional injuries	923
4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	850
5	Diabetes mellitus	743
6	Chronic liver disease & cirrhosis	683
7	Cerebrovascular disease	665
8	Suicide	571
9	Motor vehicle injuries	428
10	Septicemia	340
	All other causes (Residual)	4,148
	Total Deaths—All Causes	18,324

<i>Ages 65 and Over</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Diseases of the heart	14,288
2	Cancer	13,455
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	4,316
4	Cerebrovascular disease	4,273
5	Alzheimer's disease	3,764
6	Diabetes mellitus	1,885
7	Pneumonia & influenza	1,776
8	Other Unintentional injuries	1,514
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, & nephrosis	1,444
10	Septicemia	1,157
	All other causes (Residual)	16,659
	Total Deaths—All Causes	64,531

* Leading causes of death are generated from a list of 51 causes of death categories developed by the National Center for Health Statistics to promote comparability in analyses of mortality. For deaths under 1 year of age, a list of 72 causes of death was used. See Appendices for the ICD-10 codes for these lists of causes.

Table B: Leading Causes of Death by Race* North Carolina Residents, 2015

Note: Hispanic and Non-Hispanic deaths are in Table D on page 8.

<i>White, Non-Hispanic</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Cancer	14,728
2	Diseases of the heart	14,281
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	4,618
4	Cerebrovascular disease	3,740
5	Alzheimer's disease	3,187
6	Other unintentional injuries	2,827
7	Diabetes mellitus	1,759
8	Pneumonia and influenza	1,726
9	Suicide	1,215
10	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	1,168
	All other causes (Residual)	19,014
	Total Deaths—All Causes	68,263

<i>African American, Non-Hispanic</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Cancer	3,931
2	Diseases of the heart	3,694
3	Cerebrovascular disease	1,145
4	Diabetes mellitus	883
5	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	601
6	Alzheimer's disease	542
7	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	516
8	Other unintentional injuries	492
9	Septicemia	389
10	Motor vehicle injuries	355
	All other causes (Residual)	5,472
	Total Deaths—All Causes	18,020

<i>American Indian, Non-Hispanic</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Diseases of the heart	197
2	Cancer	175
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	51
4	Other unintentional injuries	47
5	Diabetes mellitus	46
6	Cerebrovascular disease	39
7	Alzheimer's disease	35
8	Motor vehicle injuries	32
9	Homicide	22
10	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	19
	All other causes (Residual)	224
	Total Deaths—All Causes	887

<i>All Other Races, Non-Hispanic</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Cancer	213
2	Diseases of the heart	124
3	Cerebrovascular disease	55
4	Other unintentional injuries	32
5	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	21
6	Diabetes mellitus	20
6	Suicide	20
8	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	19
8	Conditions originating in the perinatal period	19
10	Motor vehicle injuries	17
	All other causes (Residual)	201
	Total Deaths—All Causes	741

* Caution should be taken when comparing the number of deaths across racial groupings. Population size varies considerably from one racial group to another. The number of deaths for each group is to a large extent a reflection of that population size.

**Table C:
Leading Causes of Death by Sex
North Carolina Residents, 2015**

<i>Female</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Cancer	9,000
2	Diseases of the heart	8,758
3	Cerebrovascular disease	2,976
4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	2,753
5	Alzheimer's disease	2,706
6	Other Unintentional injuries	1,446
7	Diabetes mellitus	1,253
8	Pneumonia and influenza	1,125
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	881
10	Septicemia	876
	All other causes (Residual)	12,808
	Total Deaths—All Causes	44,582

<i>Male</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Cancer	10,309
2	Diseases of the heart	9,709
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	2,468
4	Cerebrovascular disease	2,052
5	Other Unintentional injuries	2,024
6	Diabetes mellitus	1,490
7	Alzheimer's disease	1,097
8	Motor vehicle injuries	1,076
9	Suicide	1,070
10	Pneumonia and influenza	988
	All other causes (Residual)	12,265
	Total Deaths—All Causes	44,548

**Table D:
Leading Causes of Death by Hispanicity
North Carolina Residents, 2015**

<i>Hispanic</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Cancer	262
2	Diseases of the heart	171
3	Motor vehicle injuries	103
4	Other Unintentional injuries	72
5	Conditions originating in the perinatal period	64
6	Cerebrovascular disease	49
7	Suicide	41
8	Diabetes mellitus	35
8	Homicide	35
10	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	33
	All other causes (Residual)	354
	Total Deaths—All Causes	1,219

<i>Non-Hispanic</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Cancer	19,047
2	Diseases of the heart	18,296
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	5,204
4	Cerebrovascular disease	4,979
5	Alzheimer's disease	3,776
6	Other Unintentional injuries	3,398
7	Diabetes mellitus	2,708
8	Pneumonia and influenza	2,094
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	1,802
10	Septicemia	1,544
	All other causes (Residual)	25,063
	Total Deaths—All Causes	87,911

NOTE: Overall totals may not add up to the sum of the individual categories due to records with unknown gender or ethnicity.

**Table E:
North Carolina Resident Mortality Statistics
Summary for 2011–2015**

Leading Causes of Death	Number of Deaths 2015	Death Rate 2015	Number of Deaths 2011–2015	Unadjusted Death Rate 2011–2015	Age-Adjusted Death Rate 2011–2015
Diseases of Heart	18,467	183.9	88,076	178.9	163.7
Acute Myocardial Infarction	3,528	35.1	17,721	36.0	32.6
Other Ischemic Heart Disease	7,084	70.5	34,985	71.1	64.6
Hypertension	942	9.4	4,236	8.6	7.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	5,028	50.1	22,863	46.4	43.1
Atherosclerosis	131	1.3	794	1.6	1.5
Cancer	19,309	192.3	93,838	190.6	169.1
Lip, Oral Cavity and Pharynx	276	2.7	1,477	3.0	2.6
Stomach	344	3.4	1,646	3.3	3.0
Colon, Rectum and Anus	1,677	16.7	7,810	15.9	14.2
Liver	845	8.4	3,660	7.4	6.3
Pancreas	1,316	13.1	6,055	12.3	10.9
Larynx	149	1.5	659	1.3	1.1
Trachea, Bronchus and Lung	5,468	54.4	27,549	56.0	48.9
Malignant Melanoma of Skin	288	2.9	1,465	3.0	2.7
Bladder	472	4.7	2,287	4.6	4.2
Brain Tumors	482	4.8	2,398	4.9	4.4
Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma	620	6.2	3,030	6.2	5.6
Leukemia	716	7.1	3,470	7.0	6.5
Diabetes Mellitus	2,743	27.3	12,505	25.4	22.8
Pneumonia and Influenza	2,113	21.0	9,427	19.2	17.8
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	5,221	52.0	24,773	50.3	45.9
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	1,254	12.5	5,702	11.6	10.1
Septicemia	1,557	15.5	7,026	14.3	13.0
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome and Nephrosis	1,822	18.1	8,749	17.8	16.3
Unintentional Motor Vehicle Injuries	1,516	15.1	6,827	13.9	13.6
All Other Unintentional Injuries	3,470	34.6	15,499	31.5	30.5
Suicide	1,406	14.0	6,502	13.2	12.7
Homicide	593	5.9	2,785	5.7	5.8
Alzheimer's disease	3,803	37.9	15,585	31.7	30.2
HIV disease	235	2.3	1,245	2.5	2.4
Total Deaths—All Causes	89,130	887.5	419,137	851.4	783.1

**Table F:
North Carolina Resident Sex-Specific Mortality Statistics
Summary for 2011–2015**

Sex-Specific Causes of Cancer Death	Number of Deaths 2015	Death Rate 2015	Number of Deaths 2011–2015	Unadjusted Death Rate 2011–2015	Age-Adjusted Death Rate 2011–2015
Female Breast	1,396	27.1	6,553	26.0	21.3
Cervix Uteri	110	2.1	589	2.3	2.0
Ovary	403	7.8	2,130	8.4	6.8
Prostate	904	18.5	4,328	18.0	20.5

NOTES: All death rates are per 100,000 population. The sex-specific death rates cannot be compared to the other leading causes of death because the denominators are sex-specific. Therefore, in ranking the causes of death—for example, in ranking the leading cancer sites—one must use the observed numbers of deaths. See Appendices for cause of death codes.