Cancer of the kidney was the eighth most frequently occurring and the 13th leading cause of cancer death in North Carolina from 2010 to 2014. It is anticipated that 2,054 people (1,266 males and 788 females) in North Carolina will be diagnosed with and 474 people (320 males and 154 females) will die of kidney cancer in 2017.

Incidence
The percentage of cases of kidney cancer from 2010 to 2014 is displayed by age group in Figure 1. Just over 85 percent of kidney cancer cases were diagnosed in people ages 45 to 84.

Between 2010 and 2014, the age-adjusted incidence rate for kidney cancer in North Carolina was 16.7 per 100,000 persons per year. Men are much more likely to be diagnosed with kidney cancer than women (Figure 2).

From 2003 to 2014, kidney cancer incidence rates have remained stable for men and women (Figure 3).
Stage at Diagnosis*
Figure 4 shows the stage distribution of kidney cancer cases diagnosed between 2010 and 2014. Over two-thirds of kidney cancer cases were diagnosed at the localized stage.

Mortality
Between 2010 and 2014, the percentage of kidney cancer deaths is displayed by age group in Figure 5. Over half of deaths occurred in people ages 65 to 84.

Data Sources and Methods
Data on North Carolina cases were obtained from the North Carolina Central Cancer Registry (CCR). Hospitals are the primary source of data. The CCR also collects data from pathology laboratories and freestanding treatment centers. Data on cancer deaths were obtained from Statistical Services in the State Center for Health Statistics. Population data from the National Center for Health Statistics were used in the denominators of the rates, which are expressed per 100,000 persons. Rates were age-adjusted using the 2000 United States Census data. To examine trends, three-year overlapping rates were used to improve stability over time. Stage at diagnosis was defined according to Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Summary Stage guidelines as in situ, localized, regional, distant and unknown/NA. For further information about the North Carolina CCR, please visit www.schs.state.nc.us/units/ccr.

* According to the National Cancer Institute (NCI), “many cancer registries, such as NCI’s Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program (SEER), use summary staging. This system is used for all types of cancer. It groups cancer cases into five main categories: In situ—Abnormal cells are present only in the layer of cells in which they developed. Localized—Cancer is limited to the organ in which it began, without evidence of spread. Regional—Cancer has spread beyond the primary site to nearby lymph nodes or organs and tissues. Distant—Cancer has spread from the primary site to distant organs or distant lymph nodes. Unknown—There is not enough information to determine the stage.” Additional information on staging can be found at www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/detection/staging.