



Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

ANNUAL REPORT

Deaths Investigated by the North Carolina Medical Examiner System, 2014

ABSTRACT

In 2014, 11,218 deaths were investigated by the medical examiner system, representing 13.0% of the total number of deaths in North Carolina ($n = 86,281$). Of these deaths, 40.2% ($n = 4,509$) were certified as accidents, 40.1% ($n = 4,494$) were natural deaths, 12.4% ($n = 1,391$) were suicides, 5.3% ($n = 598$) were homicides, and 2.0% ($n = 226$) were ruled undetermined. This report summarizes these deaths and provides an overview of the activities of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME).

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Division of Public Health

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OVERVIEW

The North Carolina General Assembly passed the Statewide Medical Examiner Act of 1967 to provide a statewide system for postmortem medicolegal examinations. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner was established and the first Chief Medical Examiner was appointed in 1968. In addition to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, there are three (3) regional autopsy centers and another five (5) hospital-based pathology practices that are contracted to perform autopsies for the medical examiner system. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is responsible for overseeing the operations of the entire medical examiner system in North Carolina.

JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITY

Pursuant to § 130A-383 of the North Carolina General Statutes, the following deaths are investigated by the medical examiner system:

- Any death resulting from violence, poisoning, accident, suicide, or homicide;
- Sudden deaths when the deceased had been in apparent good health or when unattended by a physician;
- Deaths occurring in a jail, prison, correctional institution, or in police custody;
- Deaths occurring in State facilities operated in accordance with Part 5 of Article 4 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes;
- Deaths occurring pursuant to Article 19 of Chapter 15 of the General Statutes;
- Deaths occurring under suspicious, unusual or unnatural circumstances.

The Chief Medical Examiner has appointed approximately 450 medical examiners across the state to conduct medicolegal death investigations. Once the medical examiner has determined that a death falls under the jurisdiction of the medical examiner system, the medical examiner may investigate the death scene and must investigate the circumstances surrounding the death, perform an external examination on the body, collect

specimens for toxicological testing, and sign a certificate of death. As part of the death investigation, the medical examiner may also send certain types of cases to a regional autopsy center or hospital for further examination. Such cases will receive both an external and internal examination by a forensic pathologist or anatomic pathologist. At the regional autopsy centers, American Board of Pathology-certified forensic pathologists perform autopsy examinations.

INTRODUCTION

This report presents information relating to the deaths investigated by the medical examiner system in the 2014 calendar year. This section includes information about how the report was prepared, a summary of deaths investigated by the medical examiner system, and information on postmortem examinations performed at the OCME. Section II contains data on deaths investigated by the medical examiner system by manner of death, as well as detailed statistics relating to causes of death and population demographics.

PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

This report was prepared by Alison Miller, MA, using data maintained by Information Technology Services (ITS), as well as ICD-10 coded data provided by Vital Statistics. This report may be accessed and downloaded from our website: www.ocme.dhhs.nc.gov.

DATA COLLECTION

The data included in this report reflect deaths that occurred in North Carolina and were subsequently investigated by the medical examiner system during the 2014 calendar year. The medical examiner system investigates the deaths of residents and non-residents of North Carolina whose remains were discovered in North Carolina pursuant to § 130A-383 of the North Carolina General Statutes. Data presented in this report may vary from data presented by other organizations as a result of differing data collection and analytical practices.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

- “Total deaths” includes North Carolina residents and non-North Carolina residents whose deaths have come under the jurisdiction of the medical examiner system in 2014.
- “County of death” refers to the county in which the death occurred.
- “County of residence” refers to the county in which the decedent legally resided prior to death.
- Rates are per 100,000 persons in the specific population being described.
- Rates calculated based on less than five (5) cases should be considered unreliable.
- “ND” represents “no denominator” and occurs when a population value is not available to use in calculating rates.
- Population estimates and demographic data used in this report were obtained from the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM).
- Percentages may total above or below 100% due to rounding.
- Toxicology results are based on blood, vitreous fluid, or other specimens used for testing at the discretion of the pathologist and/or toxicologist.
- Pending cases have been excluded.

CHAPTER 1

Total Deaths

SUMMARY

11,218 deaths were investigated by the medical examiner system in 2014.

40.2% ($n = 4,509$) were certified as accidental deaths. Accidental deaths occurred at a rate of 45.3 per 100,000.

67.0% ($n = 7,512$) were male. Overall, males had the highest rate with 155.2 per 100,000. Males over 85 years of age had the highest rate of any age group with 750.2 per 100,000.

73.0% ($n = 8,186$) were white. Overall, American Indians had the highest rate with 117.5 per 100,000.

19.5% ($n = 2,185$) were between 55 and 64 years of age. Individuals over 85 years of age had the highest rate with 542.3 per 100,000.

27.4% ($n = 3,068$) of deaths were attributed to diseases of the circulatory system.

Mecklenburg County had the highest number of deaths based on county of death ($n = 923$), but Haywood County had the highest rate with 247.0 per 100,000.

Figure 1 Percentage of Deaths by Manner of Death, 2014

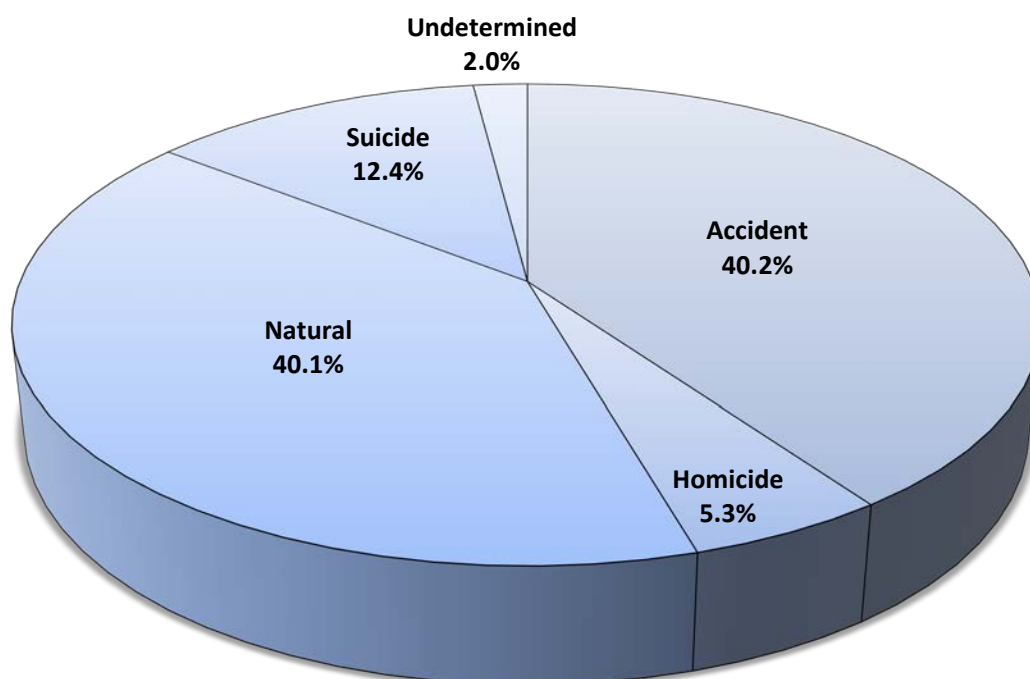


Table 1 Number and Rate of Deaths by County of Death, Sorted by Highest Number

County of Death	Total	Rate
Mecklenburg	923	91.9
Wake	727	73.8
Forsyth	554	152.1
Guilford	542	105.8
Cumberland	540	163.9

Table 2 Number and Rate of Deaths by County of Death, Sorted by Highest Rate

County of Death	Total	Rate
Haywood	148	247.0
Columbus	122	211.7
Bladen	72	205.1
Graham	18	203.9
Dare	70	197.7

Table 3 Number and Rate of Deaths by County of Residence, Sorted by Highest Number

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Mecklenburg	671	66.2
Wake	642	65.2
Cumberland	495	150.3
Guilford	472	92.1
Forsyth	343	94.2

Table 4 Number and Rate of Deaths by County of Residence, Sorted by Highest Rate

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Haywood	143	238.7
Washington	29	228.7
Bladen	78	222.1
Columbus	124	215.2
Wilkes	122	174.6

Table 5 Number of Deaths by County of Death and Manner of Death, 2014

County of Death	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Alamance	57	2	57	18	3	137
Alexander	16	1	6	5	0	28
Alleghany	3	1	6	2	1	13
Anson	9	2	16	3	1	31
Ashe	3	1	16	7	1	28
Avery	4	0	6	4	0	14
Beaufort	24	2	32	10	2	70
Bertie	11	1	8	1	1	22
Bladen	26	3	36	5	2	72
Brunswick	47	2	79	18	1	147
Buncombe	220	10	118	53	6	407
Burke	43	8	39	11	6	107
Cabarrus	86	10	59	26	2	183
Caldwell	39	3	43	22	0	107
Camden	3	0	3	3	0	9
Carteret	27	3	49	11	2	92
Caswell	6	0	9	0	0	15
Catawba	74	4	79	27	4	188
Chatham	20	2	27	8	2	59
Cherokee	15	1	20	3	3	42
Chowan	5	0	8	1	0	14
Clay	4	0	5	1	0	10
Cleveland	57	5	78	16	4	160
Columbus	36	9	72	5	0	122
Craven	39	3	52	16	5	115
Cumberland	153	45	295	35	12	540
Currituck	9	0	16	8	0	33
Dare	19	0	39	11	1	70
Davidson	61	5	42	22	3	133
Davie	9	1	15	8	1	34
Duplin	25	3	22	7	2	59

County of Death	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Durham	144	29	203	32	9	417
Edgecombe	23	3	32	2	0	60
Forsyth	325	33	121	50	25	554
Franklin	11	2	20	5	2	40
Gaston	105	3	107	37	4	256
Gates	8	0	6	0	1	15
Graham	7	0	10	1	0	18
Granville	25	5	36	12	1	79
Greene	5	2	5	0	1	13
Guilford	231	39	208	46	18	542
Halifax	23	8	27	5	4	67
Harnett	33	2	57	16	0	108
Haywood	30	2	107	9	0	148
Henderson	82	4	73	26	0	185
Hertford	8	1	9	3	0	21
Hoke	18	4	15	5	1	43
Hyde	2	0	0	1	0	3
Iredell	58	6	43	14	1	122
Jackson	19	1	16	8	0	44
Johnston	53	6	104	25	2	190
Jones	3	0	4	3	1	11
Lee	11	5	18	6	0	40
Lenoir	21	6	41	7	0	75
Lincoln	24	4	34	10	1	73
Macon	15	2	23	6	1	47
Madison	6	0	11	3	0	20
Martin	8	1	13	5	0	27
McDowell	19	4	13	9	2	47
Mecklenburg	438	64	275	127	19	923
Mitchell	4	0	3	5	0	12
Montgomery	7	1	3	3	0	14

County of Death	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Moore	62	3	36	15	3	119
Nash	47	10	61	10	1	129
New Hanover	136	25	81	45	0	287
Northampton	7	1	7	2	0	17
Onslow	38	10	74	38	7	167
Orange	109	12	36	13	3	173
Pamlico	8	1	8	1	0	18
Pasquotank	8	0	29	5	3	45
Pender	21	3	23	12	2	61
Perquimans	1	0	5	3	0	9
Person	11	0	11	7	0	29
Pitt	169	20	100	36	3	328
Polk	6	0	7	8	0	21
Randolph	57	5	85	19	0	166
Richmond	19	3	17	6	0	45
Robeson	68	37	70	18	3	196
Rockingham	29	3	37	17	3	89
Rowan	76	12	76	29	6	199
Rutherford	34	1	21	17	1	74
Sampson	36	5	32	7	2	82
Scotland	15	4	19	4	5	47
Stanly	14	3	16	8	1	42
Stokes	13	0	19	7	1	40
Surry	45	3	36	14	0	98
Swain	6	0	11	0	1	18
Transylvania	15	2	23	6	0	46
Tyrrell	1	0	1	0	0	2
Union	46	4	55	18	1	124
Vance	15	7	12	5	2	41
Wake	316	36	250	109	16	727
Warren	4	2	10	2	1	19

County of Death	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Washington	3	1	13	2	0	19
Watauga	25	0	16	13	2	56
Wayne	44	10	68	12	0	134
Wilkes	39	3	48	14	1	105
Wilson	25	3	77	6	0	111
Yadkin	16	1	5	10	0	32
Yancey	5	0	8	2	0	15
<i>Subtotal</i>	4505	594	4492	1388	226	11205
OUT OF STATE	4	4	2	3	0	13
<i>Subtotal</i>	4	4	2	3	0	13
TOTAL	4509	598	4494	1391	226	11218

Table 6 Number and Rate of Deaths by County of Death and Manner of Death, 2014

County of Death	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Alamance	57	36.6	2	1.3	57	36.6	18	11.6	3	1.9	137	87.9
Alexander	16	42.3	1	2.6	6	15.9	5	13.2	0	0.0	28	74.0
Alleghany	3	27.0	1	9.0	6	54.1	2	18.0	1	9.0	13	117.1
Anson	9	34.0	2	7.6	16	60.5	3	11.3	1	3.8	31	117.1
Ashe	3	10.9	1	3.6	16	58.3	7	25.5	1	3.6	28	102.0
Avery	4	22.4	0	0.0	6	33.5	4	22.4	0	0.0	14	78.2
Beaufort	24	50.3	2	4.2	32	67.1	10	21.0	2	4.2	70	146.7
Bertie	11	53.4	1	4.9	8	38.8	1	4.9	1	4.9	22	106.7
Bladen	26	74.1	3	8.5	36	102.5	5	14.2	2	5.7	72	205.1
Brunswick	47	39.9	2	1.7	79	67.0	18	15.3	1	0.9	147	124.8
Buncombe	220	87.6	10	4.0	118	47.0	53	21.1	6	2.4	407	162.0
Burke	43	48.2	8	9.0	39	43.7	11	12.3	6	6.7	107	120.0
Cabarrus	86	45.0	10	5.2	59	30.9	26	13.6	2	1.1	183	95.8
Caldwell	39	47.3	3	3.6	43	52.2	22	26.7	0	0.0	107	129.8
Camden	3	29.3	0	0.0	3	29.3	3	29.3	0	0.0	9	87.8
Carteret	27	38.9	3	4.3	49	70.7	11	15.9	2	2.9	92	132.7
Caswell	6	25.4	0	0.0	9	38.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	15	63.6
Catawba	74	47.5	4	2.6	79	50.7	27	17.3	4	2.6	188	120.6
Chatham	20	29.1	2	2.9	27	39.3	8	11.6	2	2.9	59	85.9
Cherokee	15	54.6	1	3.6	20	72.9	3	10.9	3	10.9	42	153.0
Chowan	5	34.2	0	0.0	8	54.7	1	6.8	0	0.0	14	95.7

County of Death	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Clay	4	37.1	0	0.0	5	46.3	1	9.3	0	0.0	10	92.6
Cleveland	57	58.2	5	5.1	78	79.7	16	16.3	4	4.1	160	163.4
Columbus	36	62.5	9	15.6	72	124.9	5	8.7	0	0.0	122	211.7
Craven	39	37.3	3	2.9	52	49.8	16	15.3	5	4.8	115	110.0
Cumberland	153	46.5	45	13.7	295	89.6	35	10.6	12	3.6	540	163.9
Currituck	9	35.9	0	0.0	16	63.8	8	31.9	0	0.0	33	131.6
Dare	19	53.7	0	0.0	39	110.1	11	31.1	1	2.8	70	197.7
Davidson	61	37.1	5	3.0	42	25.5	22	13.4	3	1.8	133	80.9
Davie	9	21.7	1	2.4	15	36.2	8	19.3	1	2.4	34	82.0
Duplin	25	41.6	3	5.0	22	36.6	7	11.6	2	3.3	59	98.1
Durham	144	49.3	29	9.9	203	69.5	32	11.0	9	3.1	417	142.7
Edgecombe	23	41.5	3	5.4	32	57.7	2	3.6	0	0.0	60	108.1
Forsyth	325	89.2	33	9.1	121	33.2	50	13.7	25	6.9	554	152.1
Franklin	11	17.4	2	3.2	20	31.6	5	7.9	2	3.2	40	63.3
Gaston	105	49.8	3	1.4	107	50.8	37	17.6	4	1.9	256	121.5
Gates	8	67.2	0	0.0	6	50.4	0	0.0	1	8.4	15	125.9
Graham	7	79.3	0	0.0	10	113.3	1	11.3	0	0.0	18	203.9
Granville	25	43.0	5	8.6	36	62.0	12	20.7	1	1.7	79	136.0
Greene	5	23.5	2	9.4	5	23.5	0	0.0	1	4.7	13	61.1
Guilford	231	45.1	39	7.6	208	40.6	46	9.0	18	3.5	542	105.8
Halifax	23	43.2	8	15.0	27	50.8	5	9.4	4	7.5	67	126.0
Harnett	33	26.3	2	1.6	57	45.3	16	12.7	0	0.0	108	85.9

County of Death	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Haywood	30	50.1	2	3.3	107	178.6	9	15.0	0	0.0	148	247.0
Henderson	82	73.9	4	3.6	73	65.8	26	23.5	0	0.0	185	166.8
Hertford	8	32.6	1	4.1	9	36.6	3	12.2	0	0.0	21	85.4
Hoke	18	35.3	4	7.9	15	29.4	5	9.8	1	2.0	43	84.3
Hyde	2	34.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	17.4	0	0.0	3	52.3
Iredell	58	34.7	6	3.6	43	25.7	14	8.4	1	0.6	122	73.0
Jackson	19	46.3	1	2.4	16	39.0	8	19.5	0	0.0	44	107.2
Johnston	53	29.4	6	3.3	104	57.8	25	13.9	2	1.1	190	105.5
Jones	3	28.7	0	0.0	4	38.2	3	28.7	1	9.6	11	105.1
Lee	11	18.6	5	8.5	18	30.4	6	10.1	0	0.0	40	67.6
Lenoir	21	35.7	6	10.2	41	69.7	7	11.9	0	0.0	75	127.5
Lincoln	24	29.9	4	5.0	34	42.4	10	12.5	1	1.3	73	91.0
Macon	15	43.6	2	5.8	23	66.8	6	17.4	1	2.9	47	136.5
Madison	6	27.8	0	0.0	11	51.0	3	13.9	0	0.0	20	92.7
Martin	8	33.7	1	4.2	13	54.8	5	21.1	0	0.0	27	113.9
McDowell	19	41.9	4	8.8	13	28.7	9	19.9	2	4.4	47	103.7
Mecklenburg	438	43.2	64	6.3	275	27.1	127	12.5	19	1.9	923	91.9
Mitchell	4	25.3	0	0.0	3	19.0	5	31.6	0	0.0	12	75.8
Montgomery	7	25.2	1	3.6	3	10.8	3	10.8	0	0.0	14	50.3
Moore	62	66.6	3	3.2	36	38.7	15	16.1	3	3.2	119	127.9
Nash	47	49.7	10	10.6	61	64.5	10	10.6	1	1.1	129	136.5
New Hanover	136	62.7	25	11.5	81	37.3	45	20.7	0	0.0	287	132.3

County of Death	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Northampton	7	33.0	1	4.7	7	33.0	2	9.4	0	0.0	17	80.1
Onslow	38	19.7	10	5.2	74	38.3	38	19.7	7	3.6	167	86.4
Orange	109	77.9	12	8.6	36	25.7	13	9.3	3	2.1	173	123.6
Pamlico	8	60.9	1	7.6	8	60.9	1	7.6	0	0.0	18	137.0
Pasquotank	8	20.2	0	0.0	29	73.1	5	12.6	3	7.6	45	113.4
Pender	21	37.2	3	5.3	23	40.7	12	21.2	2	3.5	61	107.9
Perquimans	1	7.3	0	0.0	5	36.7	3	22.0	0	0.0	9	66.0
Person	11	28.0	0	0.0	11	28.0	7	17.8	0	0.0	29	73.9
Pitt	169	96.9	20	11.5	100	57.3	36	20.6	3	1.7	328	188.0
Polk	6	28.9	0	0.0	7	33.8	8	38.6	0	0.0	21	101.3
Randolph	57	39.8	5	3.5	85	59.4	19	13.3	0	0.0	166	116.0
Richmond	19	41.7	3	6.6	17	37.3	6	13.2	0	0.0	45	98.8
Robeson	68	50.9	37	27.7	70	52.4	18	13.5	3	2.3	196	146.7
Rockingham	29	31.3	3	3.2	37	40.0	17	18.4	3	3.2	89	96.2
Rowan	76	54.8	12	8.7	76	54.8	29	20.9	6	4.3	199	143.5
Rutherford	34	50.3	1	1.5	21	31.1	17	25.2	1	1.5	74	109.5
Sampson	36	55.9	5	7.8	32	49.7	7	10.9	2	3.1	82	127.3
Scotland	15	41.6	4	11.1	19	52.7	4	11.1	5	13.9	47	130.4
Stanly	14	22.9	3	4.9	16	26.2	8	13.1	1	1.6	42	68.8
Stokes	13	27.8	0	0.0	19	40.6	7	15.0	1	2.1	40	85.5
Surry	45	61.0	3	4.1	36	48.8	14	19.0	0	0.0	98	132.7
Swain	6	40.5	0	0.0	11	74.2	0	0.0	1	6.7	18	121.4

County of Death	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Transylvania	15	44.9	2	6.0	23	68.8	6	18.0	0	0.0	46	137.6
Tyrrell	1	24.1	0	0.0	1	24.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	48.3
Union	46	21.3	4	1.9	55	25.5	18	8.3	1	0.5	124	57.4
Vance	15	33.3	7	15.5	12	26.6	5	11.1	2	4.4	41	91.0
Wake	316	32.1	36	3.7	250	25.4	109	11.1	16	1.6	727	73.8
Warren	4	19.5	2	9.8	10	48.8	2	9.8	1	4.9	19	92.6
Washington	3	23.7	1	7.9	13	102.5	2	15.8	0	0.0	19	149.9
Watauga	25	47.2	0	0.0	16	30.2	13	24.6	2	3.8	56	105.8
Wayne	44	35.0	10	8.0	68	54.1	12	9.6	0	0.0	134	106.6
Wilkes	39	55.8	3	4.3	48	68.7	14	20.0	1	1.4	105	150.3
Wilson	25	30.7	3	3.7	77	94.6	6	7.4	0	0.0	111	136.4
Yadkin	16	42.3	1	2.6	5	13.2	10	26.4	0	0.0	32	84.6
Yancey	5	27.9	0	0.0	8	44.7	2	11.2	0	0.0	15	83.8
Subtotal	4505	45.3	594	6.0	4492	45.1	1388	14.0	226	2.3	11205	112.6
OUT OF STATE	4	ND	4	ND	2	ND	3	ND	0	ND	13	ND
Subtotal	4	ND	4	ND	2	ND	3	ND	0	ND	13	ND
TOTAL	4509	45.3	598	6.0	4494	45.1	1391	14.0	226	2.3	11218	112.7

Table 7 Number of Deaths by County of Residence and Manner of Death, 2014

County of Residence	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Alamance	66	3	53	20	2	144
Alexander	23	2	13	5	1	44
Alleghany	8	1	5	2	0	16
Anson	16	4	15	3	1	39
Ashe	10	1	14	6	1	32
Avery	5	0	11	3	0	19
Beaufort	30	3	32	13	2	80
Bertie	10	3	9	1	0	23
Bladen	24	5	40	7	2	78
Brunswick	59	5	71	20	1	156
Buncombe	132	8	89	41	5	275
Burke	62	7	43	14	5	131
Cabarrus	78	10	48	24	3	163
Caldwell	48	6	46	19	2	121
Camden	2	0	3	3	0	8
Carteret	32	3	47	13	2	97
Caswell	9	0	13	0	0	22
Catawba	82	4	63	26	4	179
Chatham	31	3	28	10	2	74
Cherokee	11	1	18	3	2	35
Chowan	4	0	8	2	0	14
Clay	4	0	6	1	0	11
Cleveland	72	5	70	18	3	168
Columbus	41	10	68	5	0	124
Craven	45	4	49	15	5	118
Cumberland	133	42	277	33	10	495
Currituck	4	0	17	7	2	30
Dare	14	0	23	6	1	44
Davidson	87	8	54	20	3	172
Davie	19	3	19	9	1	51
Duplin	23	2	26	7	1	59

County of Residence	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Durham	76	28	58	26	5	193
Edgecombe	32	7	36	2	0	77
Forsyth	154	22	103	42	22	343
Franklin	19	3	23	9	3	57
Gaston	114	3	119	38	4	278
Gates	8	0	6	0	1	15
Graham	6	0	6	3	0	15
Granville	31	5	31	11	1	79
Greene	14	3	9	0	1	27
Guilford	199	29	186	46	12	472
Halifax	25	7	30	5	4	71
Harnett	63	8	62	20	1	154
Haywood	38	2	95	8	0	143
Henderson	74	4	75	27	0	180
Hertford	13	1	5	4	0	23
Hoke	26	4	19	6	1	56
Hyde	1	1	2	1	0	5
Iredell	85	5	44	13	1	148
Jackson	15	1	16	9	0	41
Johnston	58	8	99	28	2	195
Jones	2	0	7	3	1	13
Lee	20	5	15	5	1	46
Lenoir	31	8	44	7	0	90
Lincoln	37	4	38	11	1	91
Macon	24	2	18	8	2	54
Madison	16	0	12	2	0	30
Martin	13	0	12	5	1	31
McDowell	29	5	16	8	1	59
Mecklenburg	257	53	242	104	15	671
Mitchell	6	0	4	5	0	15
Montgomery	14	1	4	2	0	21
Moore	53	2	30	17	2	104

County of Residence	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Nash	42	13	58	9	1	123
New Hanover	90	19	68	42	0	219
Northampton	9	3	9	2	0	23
Onslow	46	10	69	36	7	168
Orange	34	1	25	10	0	70
Pamlico	9	2	7	2	0	20
Pasquotank	6	0	25	5	1	37
Pender	20	3	26	13	2	64
Perquimans	3	0	6	3	0	12
Person	20	3	12	7	1	43
Pitt	68	6	72	26	3	175
Polk	10	0	7	7	0	24
Randolph	76	4	92	23	4	199
Richmond	23	4	17	6	1	51
Robeson	85	39	79	18	5	226
Rockingham	42	8	34	17	3	104
Rowan	95	12	73	33	6	219
Rutherford	41	1	24	17	1	84
Sampson	53	4	36	9	3	105
Scotland	19	3	20	4	4	50
Stanly	29	4	18	10	1	62
Stokes	26	1	19	8	1	55
Surry	48	3	32	16	1	100
Swain	7	0	7	1	1	16
Transylvania	20	2	18	7	0	47
Tyrrell	0	0	1	0	0	1
Union	50	6	52	18	1	127
Vance	21	7	11	4	3	46
Wake	284	29	218	97	14	642
Warren	5	2	12	3	1	23
Washington	10	1	16	2	0	29
Watauga	18	0	15	10	2	45

County of Residence	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Wayne	49	10	67	11	0	137
Wilkes	51	6	48	17	0	122
Wilson	45	4	76	6	0	131
Yadkin	32	1	8	9	1	51
Yancey	14	0	7	3	0	24
Subtotal	4237	575	4128	1342	211	10493
OUT OF STATE	272	23	366	49	14	724
Unknown	0	0	0	0	1	1
Subtotal	272	23	366	49	15	725
TOTAL	4509	598	4494	1391	226	11218

Table 8 Number and Rate of Deaths by County of Residence and Manner of Death, 2014

County of Residence	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Alamance	66	42.4	3	1.9	53	34.0	20	12.8	2	1.3	144	92.4
Alexander	23	60.8	2	5.3	13	34.4	5	13.2	1	2.6	44	116.3
Alleghany	8	72.1	1	9.0	5	45.1	2	18.0	0	0.0	16	144.2
Anson	16	60.5	4	15.1	15	56.7	3	11.3	1	3.8	39	147.4
Ashe	10	36.4	1	3.6	14	51.0	6	21.9	1	3.6	32	116.6
Avery	5	27.9	0	0.0	11	61.5	3	16.8	0	0.0	19	106.2
Beaufort	30	62.9	3	6.3	32	67.1	13	27.2	2	4.2	80	167.7
Bertie	10	48.5	3	14.6	9	43.7	1	4.9	0	0.0	23	111.6
Bladen	24	68.4	5	14.2	40	113.9	7	19.9	2	5.7	78	222.1
Brunswick	59	50.1	5	4.2	71	60.3	20	17.0	1	0.9	156	132.4
Buncombe	132	52.5	8	3.2	89	35.4	41	16.3	5	2.0	275	109.4
Burke	62	69.5	7	7.8	43	48.2	14	15.7	5	5.6	131	146.9
Cabarrus	78	40.8	10	5.2	48	25.1	24	12.6	3	1.6	163	85.3
Caldwell	48	58.2	6	7.3	46	55.8	19	23.1	2	2.4	121	146.8
Camden	2	19.5	0	0.0	3	29.3	3	29.3	0	0.0	8	78.0
Carteret	32	46.1	3	4.3	47	67.8	13	18.8	2	2.9	97	139.9
Caswell	9	38.1	0	0.0	13	55.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	22	93.2
Catawba	82	52.6	4	2.6	63	40.4	26	16.7	4	2.6	179	114.9
Chatham	31	45.1	3	4.4	28	40.7	10	14.6	2	2.9	74	107.7
Cherokee	11	40.1	1	3.6	18	65.6	3	10.9	2	7.3	35	127.5
Chowan	4	27.3	0	0.0	8	54.7	2	13.7	0	0.0	14	95.7

County of Residence	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Clay	4	37.1	0	0.0	6	55.6	1	9.3	0	0.0	11	101.9
Cleveland	72	73.5	5	5.1	70	71.5	18	18.4	3	3.1	168	171.6
Columbus	41	71.1	10	17.4	68	118.0	5	8.7	0	0.0	124	215.2
Craven	45	43.1	4	3.8	49	46.9	15	14.4	5	4.8	118	112.9
Cumberland	133	40.4	42	12.8	277	84.1	33	10.0	10	3.0	495	150.3
Currituck	4	16.0	0	0.0	17	67.8	7	27.9	2	8.0	30	119.7
Dare	14	39.5	0	0.0	23	64.9	6	16.9	1	2.8	44	124.2
Davidson	87	52.9	8	4.9	54	32.8	20	12.2	3	1.8	172	104.6
Davie	19	45.8	3	7.2	19	45.8	9	21.7	1	2.4	51	123.0
Duplin	23	38.3	2	3.3	26	43.2	7	11.6	1	1.7	59	98.1
Durham	76	26.0	28	9.6	58	19.9	26	8.9	5	1.7	193	66.1
Edgecombe	32	57.7	7	12.6	36	64.9	2	3.6	0	0.0	77	138.8
Forsyth	154	42.3	22	6.0	103	28.3	42	11.5	22	6.0	343	94.2
Franklin	19	30.1	3	4.7	23	36.4	9	14.2	3	4.7	57	90.2
Gaston	114	54.1	3	1.4	119	56.5	38	18.0	4	1.9	278	131.9
Gates	8	67.2	0	0.0	6	50.4	0	0.0	1	8.4	15	125.9
Graham	6	68.0	0	0.0	6	68.0	3	34.0	0	0.0	15	169.9
Granville	31	53.4	5	8.6	31	53.4	11	18.9	1	1.7	79	136.0
Greene	14	65.8	3	14.1	9	42.3	0	0.0	1	4.7	27	126.8
Guilford	199	38.9	29	5.7	186	36.3	46	9.0	12	2.3	472	92.1
Halifax	25	47.0	7	13.2	30	56.4	5	9.4	4	7.5	71	133.5
Harnett	63	50.1	8	6.4	62	49.3	20	15.9	1	0.8	154	122.5

County of Residence	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Haywood	38	63.4	2	3.3	95	158.6	8	13.4	0	0.0	143	238.7
Henderson	74	66.7	4	3.6	75	67.6	27	24.4	0	0.0	180	162.3
Hertford	13	52.9	1	4.1	5	20.3	4	16.3	0	0.0	23	93.6
Hoke	26	51.0	4	7.8	19	37.3	6	11.8	1	2.0	56	109.8
Hyde	1	17.4	1	17.4	2	34.9	1	17.4	0	0.0	5	87.1
Iredell	85	50.9	5	3.0	44	26.3	13	7.8	1	0.6	148	88.5
Jackson	15	36.6	1	2.4	16	39.0	9	21.9	0	0.0	41	99.9
Johnston	58	32.2	8	4.4	99	55.0	28	15.6	2	1.1	195	108.3
Jones	2	19.1	0	0.0	7	66.9	3	28.7	1	9.6	13	124.2
Lee	20	33.8	5	8.4	15	25.3	5	8.5	1	1.7	46	77.7
Lenoir	31	52.7	8	13.6	44	74.8	7	11.9	0	0.0	90	153.0
Lincoln	37	46.1	4	5.0	38	47.4	11	13.7	1	1.3	91	113.5
Macon	24	69.7	2	5.8	18	52.3	8	23.2	2	5.8	54	156.9
Madison	16	74.1	0	0.0	12	55.6	2	9.3	0	0.0	30	139.0
Martin	13	54.8	0	0.0	12	50.6	5	21.1	1	4.2	31	130.7
McDowell	29	64.0	5	11.0	16	35.3	8	17.7	1	2.2	59	130.2
Mecklenburg	257	25.4	53	5.2	242	23.9	104	10.3	15	1.5	671	66.2
Mitchell	6	37.9	0	0.0	4	25.3	5	31.6	0	0.0	15	94.8
Montgomery	14	50.3	1	3.6	4	14.4	2	7.2	0	0.0	21	75.5
Moore	53	56.9	2	2.2	30	32.2	17	18.3	2	2.2	104	111.7
Nash	42	44.4	13	13.8	58	61.4	9	9.5	1	1.1	123	130.1
New Hanover	90	41.4	19	8.8	68	31.3	42	19.4	0	0.0	219	100.9

County of Residence	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Northampton	9	42.4	3	14.1	9	42.4	2	9.4	0	0.0	23	108.3
Onslow	46	23.8	10	5.2	69	35.7	36	18.6	7	3.6	168	87.0
Orange	34	24.3	1	0.7	25	17.9	10	7.2	0	0.0	70	50.0
Pamlico	9	68.5	2	15.2	7	53.3	2	15.2	0	0.0	20	152.2
Pasquotank	6	15.1	0	0.0	25	63.0	5	12.6	1	2.5	37	93.2
Pender	20	35.4	3	5.3	26	46.0	13	23.0	2	3.5	64	113.2
Perquimans	3	22.0	0	0.0	6	44.0	3	22.0	0	0.0	12	88.0
Person	20	50.9	3	7.6	12	30.6	7	17.8	1	2.6	43	109.5
Pitt	68	39.0	6	3.4	72	41.3	26	14.9	3	1.7	175	100.3
Polk	10	48.2	0	0.0	7	33.8	7	33.8	0	0.0	24	115.7
Randolph	76	53.1	4	2.8	92	64.3	23	16.1	4	2.8	199	139.1
Richmond	23	50.5	4	8.8	17	37.3	6	13.2	1	2.2	51	112.0
Robeson	85	63.6	39	29.2	79	59.1	18	13.5	5	3.7	226	169.2
Rockingham	42	45.4	8	8.6	34	36.7	17	18.4	3	3.2	104	112.4
Rowan	95	68.5	12	8.7	73	52.6	33	23.8	6	4.3	219	157.9
Rutherford	41	60.7	1	1.5	24	35.5	17	25.2	1	1.5	84	124.3
Sampson	53	82.3	4	6.2	36	55.9	9	14.0	3	4.7	105	163.0
Scotland	19	52.7	3	8.3	20	55.5	4	11.1	4	11.1	50	138.7
Stanly	29	47.5	4	6.6	18	29.5	10	16.4	1	1.6	62	101.6
Stokes	26	55.6	1	2.1	19	40.6	8	17.1	1	2.1	55	117.6
Surry	48	65.0	3	4.1	32	43.3	16	21.7	1	1.4	100	135.4
Swain	7	47.2	0	0.0	7	47.2	1	6.7	1	6.7	16	107.9

County of Residence	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Transylvania	20	59.8	2	6.0	18	53.8	7	20.9	0	0.0	47	140.6
Tyrrell	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	24.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	24.1
Union	50	23.2	6	2.8	52	24.1	18	8.3	1	0.5	127	58.8
Vance	21	46.6	7	15.5	11	24.4	4	8.9	3	6.7	46	102.0
Wake	284	28.8	29	2.9	218	22.1	97	9.8	14	1.4	642	65.2
Warren	5	24.4	2	9.8	12	58.5	3	14.6	1	4.9	23	112.1
Washington	10	78.9	1	7.9	16	126.2	2	15.8	0	0.0	29	228.7
Watauga	18	34.0	0	0.0	15	28.3	10	18.9	2	3.8	45	85.0
Wayne	49	39.0	10	8.0	67	53.3	11	8.8	0	0.0	137	109.0
Wilkes	51	73.0	6	8.6	48	68.7	17	24.3	0	0.0	122	174.6
Wilson	45	55.3	4	4.9	76	93.4	6	7.4	0	0.0	131	160.9
Yadkin	32	84.6	1	2.6	8	21.1	9	23.8	1	2.6	51	134.8
Yancey	14	78.2	0	0.0	7	39.1	3	16.8	0	0.0	24	134.0
Subtotal	4237	42.6	575	5.8	4128	41.5	1342	13.5	211	2.1	10493	105.4
OUT OF STATE	272	ND	23	ND	366	ND	49	ND	14	ND	724	ND
Unknown	0	ND	0	ND	0	ND	0	ND	1	ND	1	ND
Subtotal	272	ND	23	ND	366	ND	49	ND	15	ND	725	ND
TOTAL	4509	45.3	598	6.0	4494	45.1	1391	14.0	226	2.3	11218	112.7

Table 9 Number of Deaths by Gender, Age Group, and Manner of Death, 2014

Gender	Age Group	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Female	<1	17	3	24	0	44	88
	1-4	18	7	4	0	2	31
	5-9	7	0	6	0	0	13
	10-14	10	1	3	6	0	20
	15-19	44	6	6	16	3	75
	20-24	63	12	16	20	3	114
	25-34	136	23	55	57	10	281
	35-44	187	18	145	70	7	427
	45-54	254	21	307	80	12	674
	55-64	164	16	339	78	5	602
	65-74	137	5	290	28	2	462
	75-84	222	10	158	17	1	408
	85+	373	3	127	4	3	510
	<i>Subtotal</i>		1632	125	1480	376	92
Male	<1	11	3	40	0	54	108
	1-4	36	5	8	0	2	51
	5-9	16	3	6	0	0	25
	10-14	20	3	5	8	0	36
	15-19	99	40	1	54	1	195
	20-24	217	77	26	71	6	397
	25-34	430	129	82	148	15	804
	35-44	387	63	253	158	18	879
	45-54	458	71	642	173	16	1360
	55-64	395	39	941	194	14	1583
	65-74	261	26	620	127	7	1041
	75-84	279	11	279	55	0	624
	85+	268	3	111	27	0	409
	<i>Subtotal</i>		2877	473	3014	1015	133
Unknown	Unknown	0	0	0	0	1	1
	<i>Subtotal</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL		4509	598	4494	1391	226	11218

Table 10 Number and Rate of Deaths by Gender, 2014

Gender	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	3705	33.0%	72.5
Male	7512	67.0%	155.2
Unknown	1	0.0%	ND
TOTAL	11218	100%	112.7

Table 11 Number and Percentage of Deaths by Gender and Manner of Death, 2014

Gender	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Female	1632 (36.2%)	125 (20.9%)	1480 (32.9%)	376 (27.0%)	92 (40.7%)	3705 (33.0%)
Male	2877 (63.8%)	473 (79.1%)	3014 (67.1%)	1015 (73.0%)	133 (58.9%)	7512 (67.0%)
Unknown	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.4%)	1 (0.0%)
TOTAL	4509 (40.2%)	598 (5.3%)	4494 (40.1%)	1391 (12.4%)	226 (2.0%)	11218

Figure 2 Number of Deaths by Gender and Manner of Death, 2014

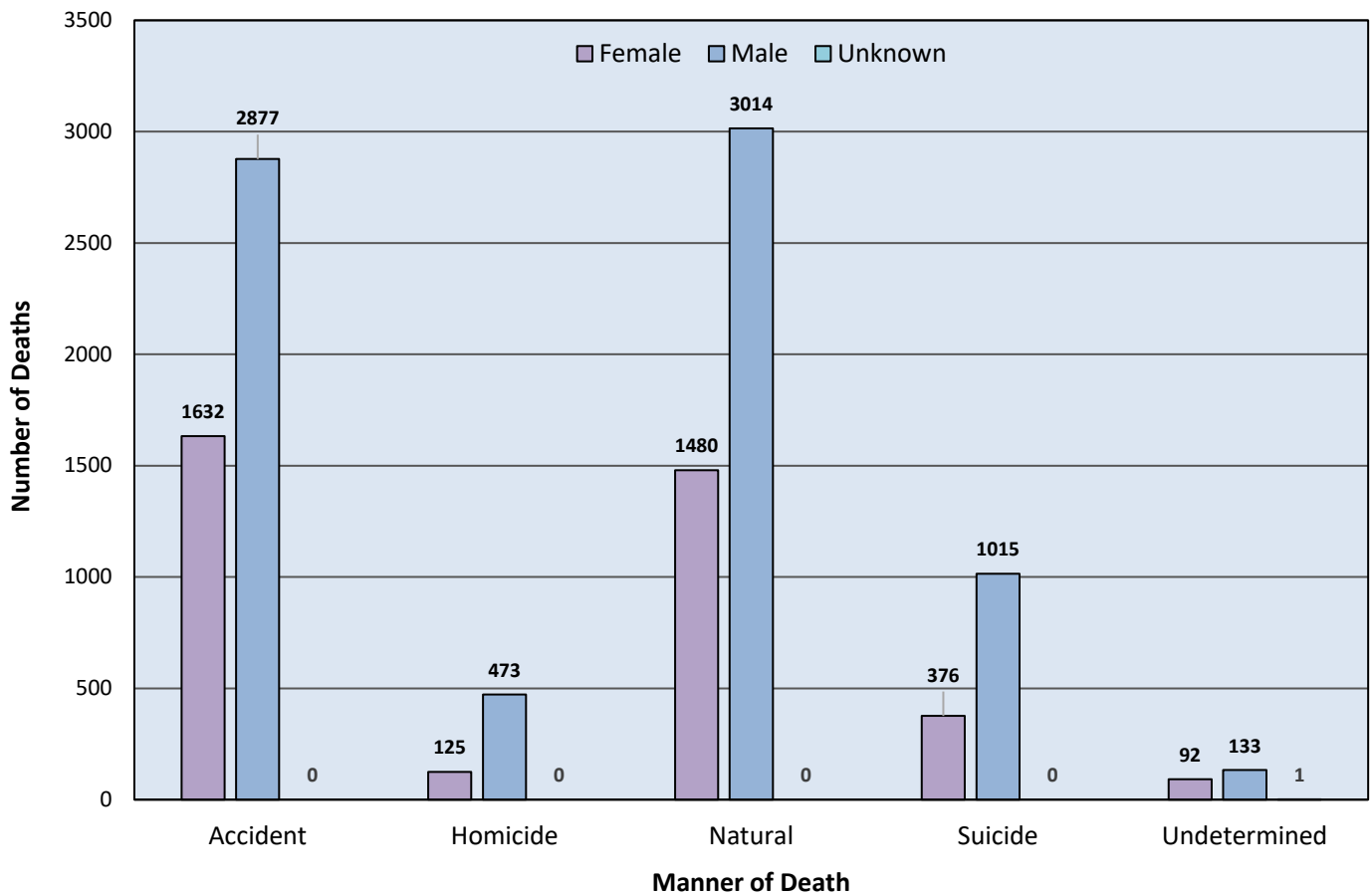


Table 12 Number and Rate of Deaths by Race, 2014

Race/Ethnicity	Total	% Total	Rate
White	8186	73.0%	115.2
Black	2480	22.1%	112.9
Unknown	284	2.5%	ND
American Indian	193	1.7%	117.5
Asian	75	0.7%	27.9
TOTAL	11218	100%	112.7

Table 13 Number of Deaths by Race and Manner of Death, 2014

Race/Ethnicity	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
White	3542	207	3093	1204	140	8186
Black	735	338	1204	128	75	2480
Unknown	124	28	105	22	5	284
American Indian	81	19	70	18	5	193
Asian	27	6	22	19	1	75
TOTAL	4509	598	4494	1391	226	11218

Figure 3 Number of Deaths by Race and Manner of Death, 2014

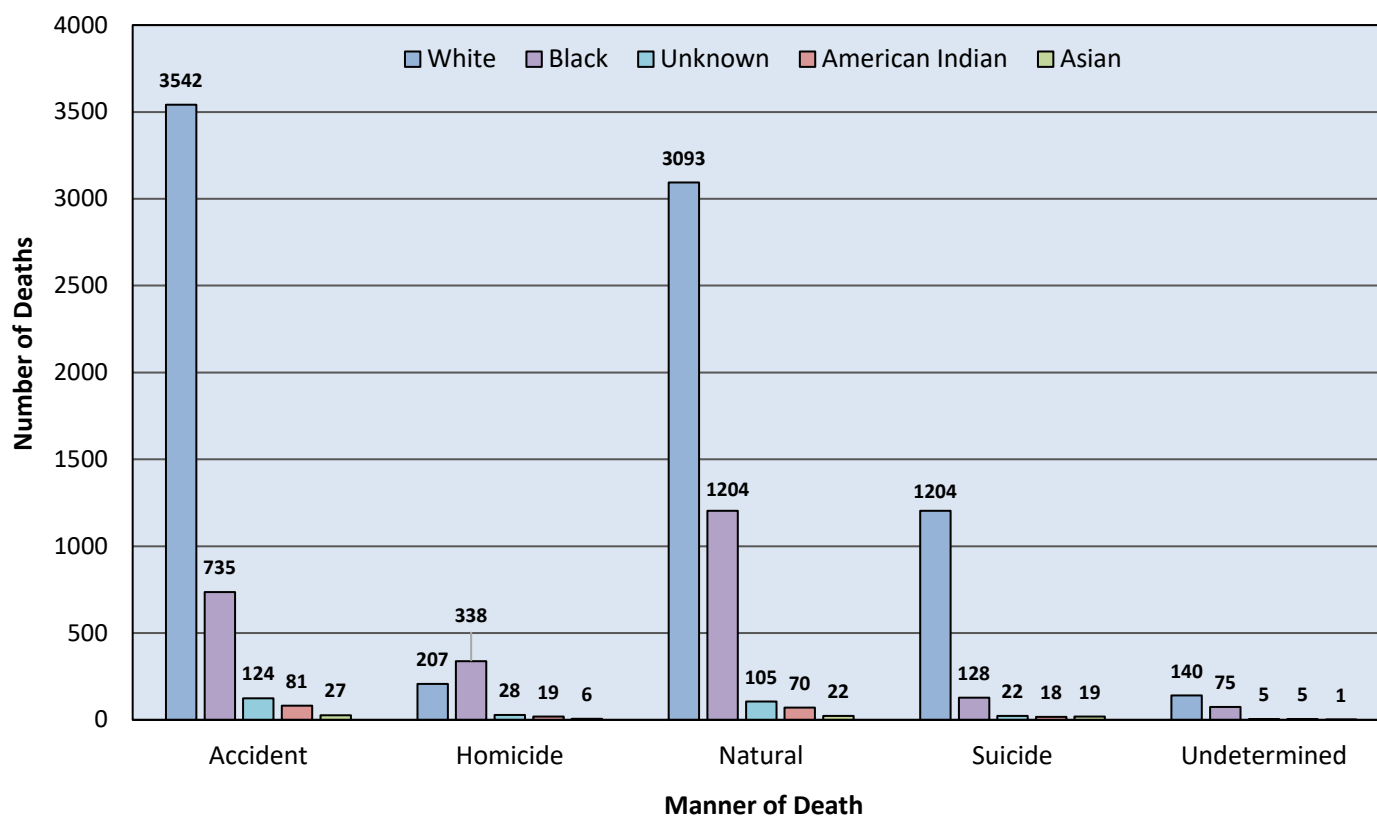


Table 14 Number and Rate of Deaths by Age Group, 2014

Age Group	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	197	1.8%	164.8
1-4	82	0.7%	16.9
5-9	38	0.3%	5.9
10-14	56	0.5%	8.5
15-19	270	2.4%	40.3
20-24	511	4.6%	71.9
25-34	1085	9.7%	83.9
35-44	1306	11.6%	99.3
45-54	2034	18.1%	148.6
55-64	2185	19.5%	177.3
65-74	1503	13.4%	174.4
75-84	1032	9.2%	243.5
85+	919	8.2%	542.3
TOTAL	11218	100%	112.7

Figure 4 Number and Rate of Deaths by Age Group, 2014

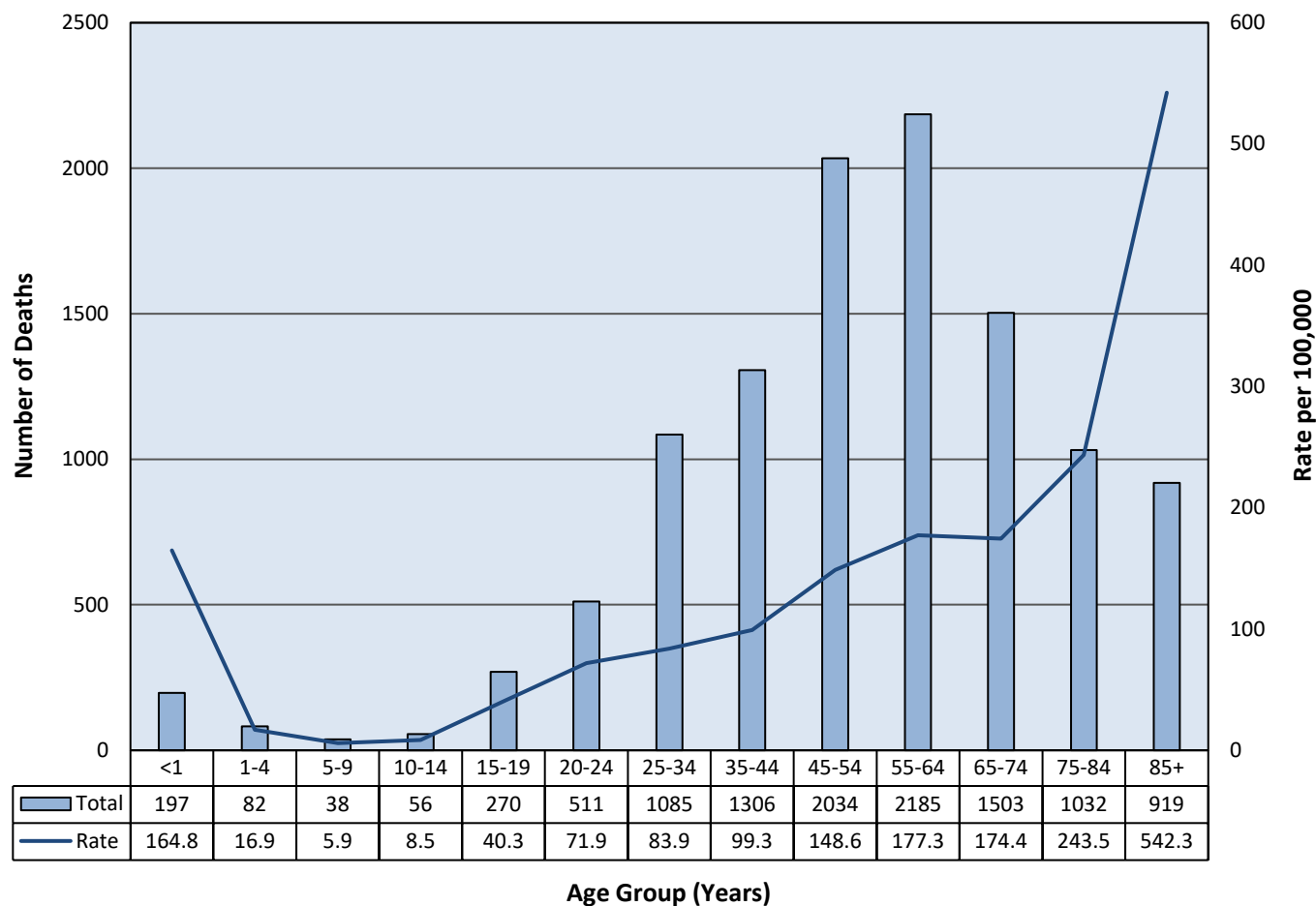


Table 15 Number of Deaths by Age Group and Manner of Death, 2014

Age Group	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
<1	28	6	64		99	197
1-4	54	12	12		4	82
5-9	23	3	12			38
10-14	30	4	8	14		56
15-19	143	46	7	70	4	270
20-24	280	89	42	91	9	511
25-34	566	152	137	205	25	1085
35-44	574	81	398	228	25	1306
45-54	712	92	949	253	28	2034
55-64	559	55	1280	272	19	2185
65-74	398	31	910	155	9	1503
75-84	501	21	437	72	1	1032
85+	641	6	238	31	3	919
TOTAL	4509	598	4494	1391	226	11218

Figure 5 Number of Deaths by Age Group and Manner of Death, 2014

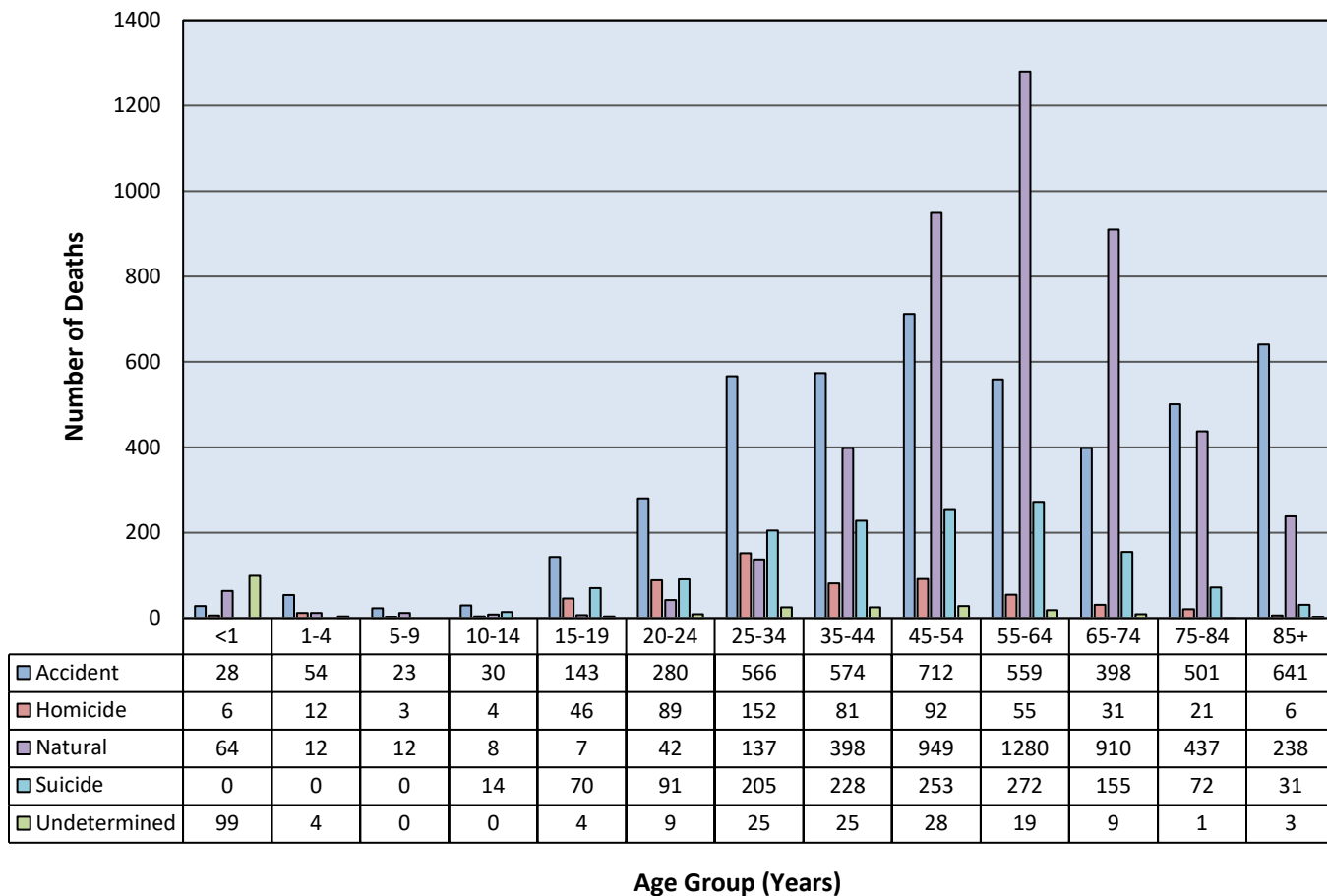


Table 16 Number and Rate of Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2014

Age Group	Female			Male		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	88	2.4%	ND	108	1.4%	ND
1-4	31	0.8%	ND	51	0.7%	ND
5-9	13	0.4%	4.1	25	0.3%	7.6
10-14	20	0.5%	6.2	36	0.5%	10.7
15-19	75	2.0%	23.0	195	2.6%	56.9
20-24	114	3.1%	33.2	397	5.3%	108.1
25-34	281	7.6%	42.6	804	10.7%	126.9
35-44	427	11.5%	63.4	879	11.7%	137.0
45-54	674	18.2%	96.2	1360	18.1%	203.5
55-64	602	16.3%	92.7	1583	21.1%	271.6
65-74	462	12.5%	99.7	1041	13.9%	261.4
75-84	408	11.0%	166.1	624	8.3%	350.1
85+	510	13.8%	443.6	409	5.4%	750.2
TOTAL	3705	100%	72.5	7512	100%	155.2

Figure 6 Number and Rate of Deaths by Gender and Age Group, 2014

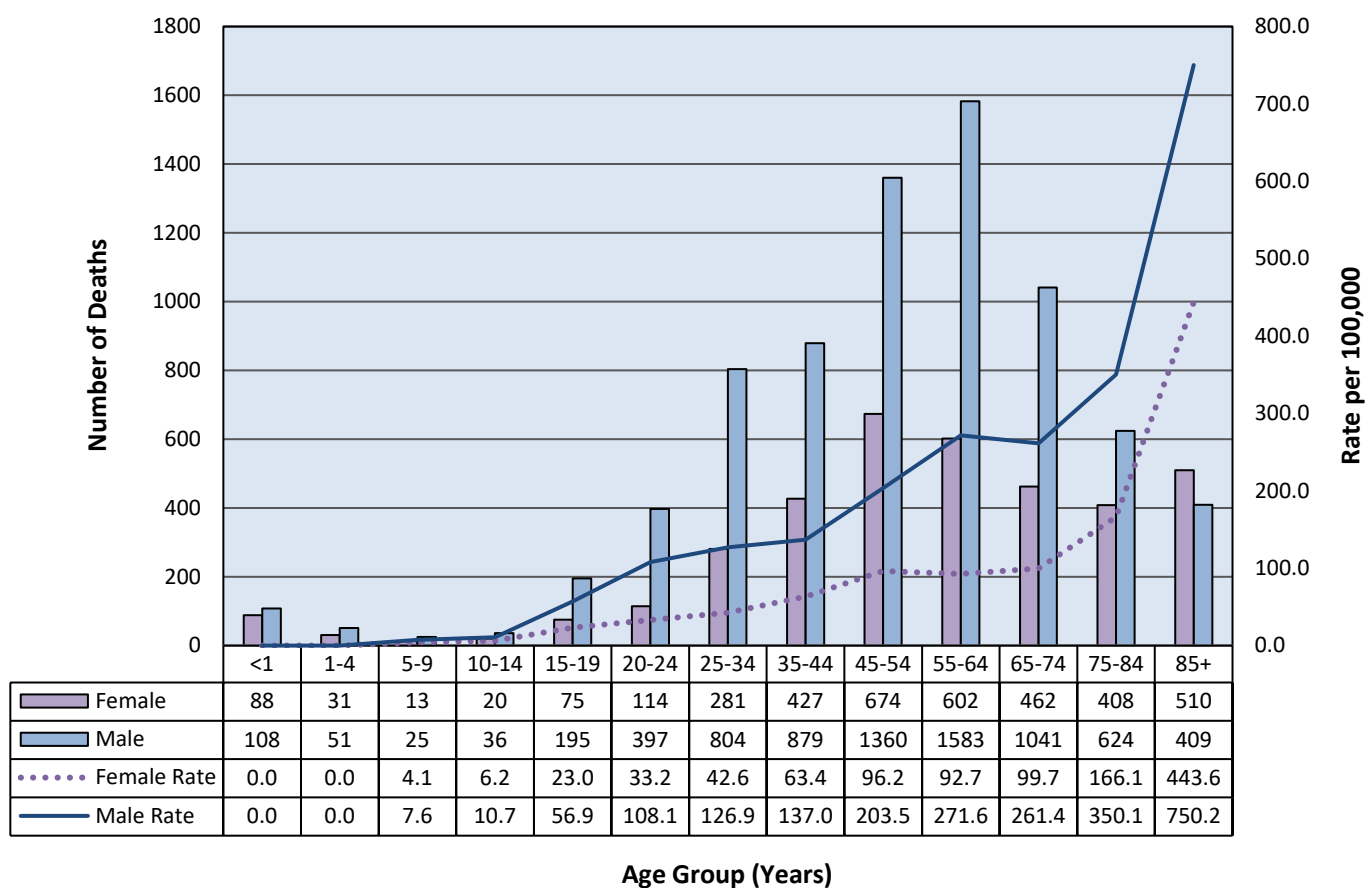


Table 17 Number of Deaths by Gender, Age Group, and Manner of Death, 2014

Gender	Age Group	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Female	<1	17	3	24		44	88
	1-4	18	7	4		2	31
	5-9	7		6			13
	10-14	10	1	3	6		20
	15-19	44	6	6	16	3	75
	20-24	63	12	16	20	3	114
	25-34	136	23	55	57	10	281
	35-44	187	18	145	70	7	427
	45-54	254	21	307	80	12	674
	55-64	164	16	339	78	5	602
	65-74	137	5	290	28	2	462
	75-84	222	10	158	17	1	408
	85+	373	3	127	4	3	510
	<i>Subtotal</i>		1632	125	1480	376	92
Gender	Age Group	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Male	<1	11	3	40		54	108
	1-4	36	5	8		2	51
	5-9	16	3	6			25
	10-14	20	3	5	8		36
	15-19	99	40	1	54	1	195
	20-24	217	77	26	71	6	397
	25-34	430	129	82	148	15	804
	35-44	387	63	253	158	18	879
	45-54	458	71	642	173	16	1360
	55-64	395	39	941	194	14	1583
	65-74	261	26	620	127	7	1041
	75-84	279	11	279	55		624
	85+	268	3	111	27		409
	<i>Subtotal</i>		2877	473	3014	1015	133
TOTAL		4509	598	4494	1391	226	11218

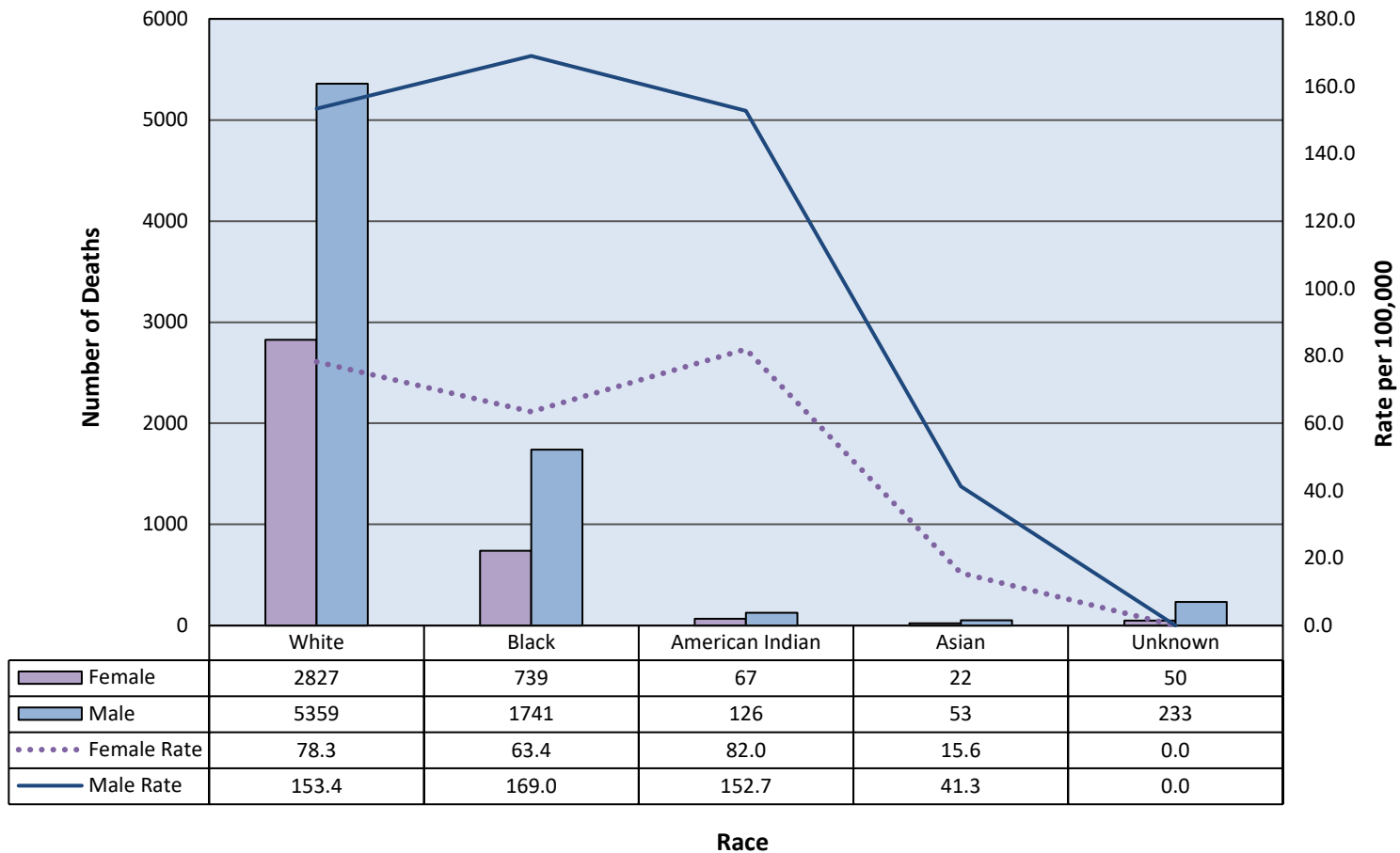
Table 18 Number of Deaths by Gender, Race, and Manner of Death, 2014

Gender	Race	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Female	White	1353	70	1009	337	58	2827
	Black	210	47	424	29	29	739
	American Indian	36	3	22	4	2	67
	Asian	10	1	6	4	1	22
	Unknown	23	4	19	2	2	50
	Subtotal		1632	125	1480	376	92
Gender	Race	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Male	White	2189	137	2084	867	82	5359
	Black	525	291	780	99	46	1741
	American Indian	45	16	48	14	3	126
	Asian	17	5	16	15	0	53
	Unknown	101	24	86	20	2	233
	Subtotal		2877	473	3014	1015	133
Gender	Race	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Unknown	Unknown	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Subtotal	0	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL		4509	598	4494	1391	226	11218

Table 19 Number and Rate of Deaths by Gender and Race, 2014

Gender	White			Black			American Indian			Asian			Unknown		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	2827	34.5%	78.3	739	29.8%	63.4	67	34.7%	82.0	22	29.3%	15.6	50	17.6%	ND
Male	5359	65.5%	153.4	1741	70.2%	169.0	126	65.3%	152.7	53	70.7%	41.3	233	82.0%	ND
Unknown	0	0.0%	0.0	0	0.0%	0.0	0	0.0%	0.0	0	0.0%	0.0	1	0.4%	ND
TOTAL	8186	100%	115.2	2480	100%	112.9	193	100%	117.5	75	100%	27.9	284	100%	ND

Figure 7 Number and Rate of Deaths by Gender and Race, 2014



CHAPTER 2

Accidental Deaths

SUMMARY

40.2% ($n = 4,509$) of deaths investigated by the medical examiner system were certified as accidental deaths.

63.8% ($n = 2,877$) were male. Overall, males had the highest rate with 59.4 per 100,000. Males over 85 years of age had the highest rate with 491.6 per 100,000.

78.6% ($n = 3,542$) were white. Overall, whites had the highest rate with 49.9 per 100,000. White males over 85 years of age had the highest rate of any age group with 527.2 per 100,000.

15.8% ($n = 712$) were between 45 and 54 years of age. Individuals over 85 years of age had the highest rate with 378.2 per 100,000.

32.6% ($n = 1,471$) were transportation-related accidents. 72.1% ($n = 1,061$) were male, 68.6% ($n = 1,009$) were white, and 15.8% ($n = 233$) were between 25 and 34 years of age.

29.5% ($n = 1,330$) were unintentional poisonings. 63.8% ($n = 849$) were male, 83.3% ($n = 1,108$) were white, and 28.0% ($n = 372$) were between 45 and 54 years of age.

Mecklenburg County had the highest number of accidental deaths based on county of death ($n = 438$), but Pitt County had the highest rate with 96.9 per 100,000.

Table 20 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by Means of Death, 2014

Means of Death	Total	% Total	Rate
Transportation	1471	32.6%	14.8
Poisoning	1330	29.5%	13.4
Fall	1173	26.0%	11.8
Smoke, Fire, Flames	112	2.5%	1.1
Exposure to Inanimate Mechanical Forces	107	2.4%	1.1
Asphyxia	88	2.0%	0.9
Drowning	88	2.0%	0.9
Sequelae of External Causes of Morbidity and Mortality	42	0.9%	0.4
Environmental	34	0.8%	0.3
Complications of Medical Treatment	17	0.4%	0.2
Miscellaneous	47	1.0%	0.5
TOTAL	4509	100%	45.3

Table 21 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by County of Death, Sorted by Highest Number

County of Death	Total	Rate
Mecklenburg	438	43.2
Forsyth	325	89.2
Wake	316	32.1
Guilford	231	45.1
Buncombe	220	87.6

Table 22 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by County of Death, Sorted by Highest Rate

County of Death	Total	Rate
Pitt	169	96.9
Forsyth	325	89.2
Buncombe	220	87.6
Graham	7	79.3
Orange	109	77.9

Table 23 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by County of Residence, Sorted by Highest Number

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Mecklenburg	257	25.4
Guilford	199	38.9
Forsyth	154	42.3
Cumberland	133	40.4
Buncombe	132	52.5

Table 24 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by County of Residence, Sorted by Highest Rate

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Yadkin	32	84.6
Sampson	53	82.3
Washington	10	78.9
Yancey	14	78.2
Madison	16	74.1

Table 25 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by County of Death, 2014

County of Death	Total	Rate
Alamance	57	36.6
Alexander	16	42.3
Alleghany	3	27.0
Anson	9	34.0
Ashe	3	10.9
Avery	4	22.4
Beaufort	24	50.3
Bertie	11	53.4
Bladen	26	74.1
Brunswick	47	39.9
Buncombe	220	87.6
Burke	43	48.2
Cabarrus	86	45.0
Caldwell	39	47.3
Camden	3	29.3
Carteret	27	38.9
Caswell	6	25.4
Catawba	74	47.5
Chatham	20	29.1
Cherokee	15	54.6
Chowan	5	34.2
Clay	4	37.1
Cleveland	57	58.2
Columbus	36	62.5
Craven	39	37.3
Cumberland	153	46.5
Currituck	9	35.9
Dare	19	53.7
Davidson	61	37.1
Davie	9	21.7
Duplin	25	41.6

County of Death	Total	Rate
Durham	144	49.3
Edgecombe	23	41.5
Forsyth	325	89.2
Franklin	11	17.4
Gaston	105	49.8
Gates	8	67.2
Graham	7	79.3
Granville	25	43.0
Greene	5	23.5
Guilford	231	45.1
Halifax	23	43.2
Harnett	33	26.3
Haywood	30	50.1
Henderson	82	73.9
Hertford	8	32.6
Hoke	18	35.3
Hyde	2	34.9
Iredell	58	34.7
Jackson	19	46.3
Johnston	53	29.4
Jones	3	28.7
Lee	11	18.6
Lenoir	21	35.7
Lincoln	24	29.9
Macon	15	43.6
Madison	6	27.8
Martin	8	33.7
McDowell	19	41.9
Mecklenburg	438	43.2
Mitchell	4	25.3
Montgomery	7	25.2

County of Death	Total	Rate
Moore	62	66.6
Nash	47	49.7
New Hanover	136	62.7
Northampton	7	33.0
Onslow	38	19.7
Orange	109	77.9
Pamlico	8	60.9
Pasquotank	8	20.2
Pender	21	37.2
Perquimans	1	7.3
Person	11	28.0
Pitt	169	96.9
Polk	6	28.9
Randolph	57	39.8
Richmond	19	41.7
Robeson	68	50.9
Rockingham	29	31.3
Rowan	76	54.8
Rutherford	34	50.3
Sampson	36	55.9
Scotland	15	41.6

County of Death	Total	Rate
Stanly	14	22.9
Stokes	13	27.8
Surry	45	61.0
Swain	6	40.5
Transylvania	15	44.9
Tyrrell	1	24.1
Union	46	21.3
Vance	15	33.3
Wake	316	32.1
Warren	4	19.5
Washington	3	23.7
Watauga	25	47.2
Wayne	44	35.0
Wilkes	39	55.8
Wilson	25	30.7
Yadkin	16	42.3
Yancey	5	27.9
Subtotal	4505	45.3
OUT OF STATE	4	ND
Subtotal	4	ND
TOTAL	4509	45.3

Table 26 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by County of Residence, 2014

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Alamance	66	42.4
Alexander	23	60.8
Alleghany	8	72.1
Anson	16	60.5
Ashe	10	36.4
Avery	5	27.9
Beaufort	30	62.9
Bertie	10	48.5
Bladen	24	68.4
Brunswick	59	50.1
Buncombe	132	52.5
Burke	62	69.5
Cabarrus	78	40.8
Caldwell	48	58.2
Camden	2	19.5
Carteret	32	46.1
Caswell	9	38.1
Catawba	82	52.6
Chatham	31	45.1
Cherokee	11	40.1
Chowan	4	27.3
Clay	4	37.1
Cleveland	72	73.5
Columbus	41	71.1
Craven	45	43.1
Cumberland	133	40.4
Currituck	4	16.0
Dare	14	39.5
Davidson	87	52.9
Davie	19	45.8
Duplin	23	38.3

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Durham	76	26.0
Edgecombe	32	57.7
Forsyth	154	42.3
Franklin	19	30.1
Gaston	114	54.1
Gates	8	67.2
Graham	6	68.0
Granville	31	53.4
Greene	14	65.8
Guilford	199	38.9
Halifax	25	47.0
Harnett	63	50.1
Haywood	38	63.4
Henderson	74	66.7
Hertford	13	52.9
Hoke	26	51.0
Hyde	1	17.4
Iredell	85	50.9
Jackson	15	36.6
Johnston	58	32.2
Jones	2	19.1
Lee	20	33.8
Lenoir	31	52.7
Lincoln	37	46.1
Macon	24	69.7
Madison	16	74.1
Martin	13	54.8
McDowell	29	64.0
Mecklenburg	257	25.4
Mitchell	6	37.9
Montgomery	14	50.3

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Moore	53	56.9
Nash	42	44.4
New Hanover	90	41.4
Northampton	9	42.4
Onslow	46	23.8
Orange	34	24.3
Pamlico	9	68.5
Pasquotank	6	15.1
Pender	20	35.4
Perquimans	3	22.0
Person	20	50.9
Pitt	68	39.0
Polk	10	48.2
Randolph	76	53.1
Richmond	23	50.5
Robeson	85	63.6
Rockingham	42	45.4
Rowan	95	68.5
Rutherford	41	60.7
Sampson	53	82.3
Scotland	19	52.7

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Stanly	29	47.5
Stokes	26	55.6
Surry	48	65.0
Swain	7	47.2
Transylvania	20	59.8
Tyrrell	0	0.0
Union	50	23.2
Vance	21	46.6
Wake	284	28.8
Warren	5	24.4
Washington	10	78.9
Watauga	18	34.0
Wayne	49	39.0
Wilkes	51	73.0
Wilson	45	55.3
Yadkin	32	84.6
Yancey	14	78.2
Subtotal	4237	42.6
OUT OF STATE	272	ND
Subtotal	272	ND
TOTAL	4509	45.3

Table 27 Number of Accidental Deaths by Gender, Age Group, and Race, 2014

Gender	Age Group	White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Unknown	Total
Female	<1	7	6	1		3	17
	1-4	9	8			1	18
	5-9	4	3				7
	10-14	5	5				10
	15-19	31	9	3		1	44
	20-24	42	15	5		1	63
	25-34	113	17	4		2	136
	35-44	152	26	7		2	187
	45-54	199	44	6	2	3	254
	55-64	133	23	2	3	3	164
	65-74	115	14	1	2	5	137
	75-84	197	19	3	2	1	222
	85+	346	21	4	1	1	373
	Subtotal	1353	210	36	10	23	1632
Gender	Age Group	White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Unknown	Total
Male	<1	6	3			2	11
	1-4	17	15	2		2	36
	5-9	10	6				16
	10-14	12	6	1	1		20
	15-19	61	29	2	2	5	99
	20-24	167	35	4	2	9	217
	25-34	317	79	8	3	23	430
	35-44	293	67	5	3	19	387
	45-54	332	92	10	3	21	458
	55-64	281	99	6	1	8	395
	65-74	205	46	5	1	4	261
	75-84	242	31		1	5	279
	85+	246	17	2		3	268
	Subtotal	2189	525	45	17	101	2877
	TOTAL	3542	735	81	27	124	4509

Table 28 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by Gender, 2014

Gender	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	1632	36.2%	31.9
Male	2877	63.8%	59.4
TOTAL	4509	100%	45.3

Table 29 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by Race, 2014

Race	Total	% Total	Rate
White	3542	78.6%	49.9
Black	735	16.3%	33.5
Unknown	124	2.8%	ND
American Indian	81	1.8%	49.3
Asian	27	0.6%	10.0
TOTAL	4509	100%	45.3

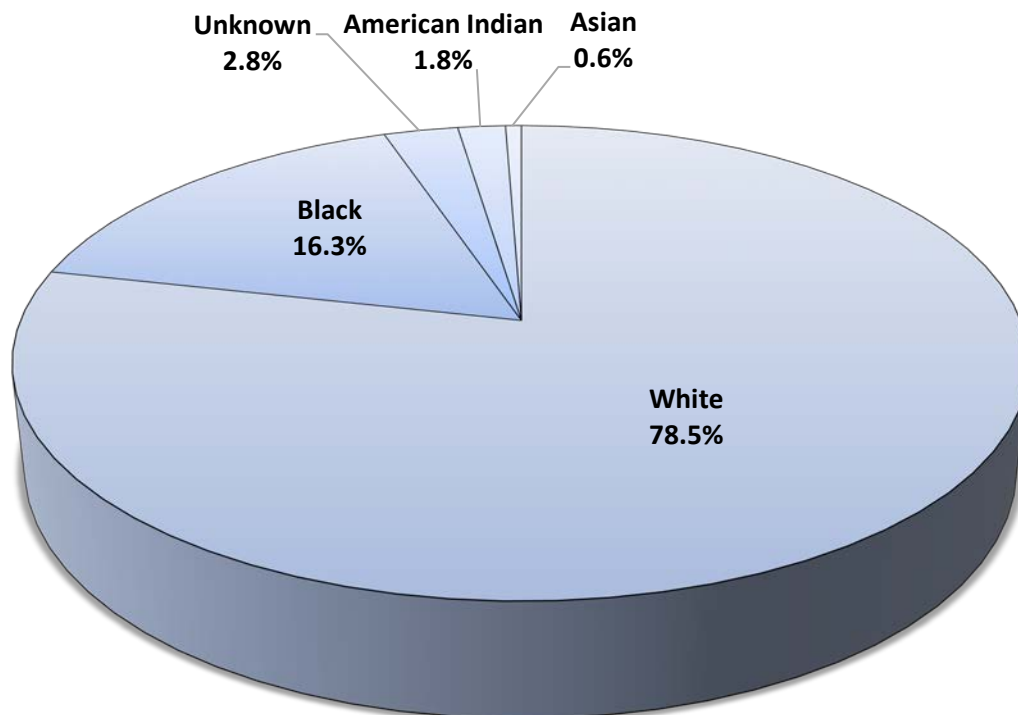
Figure 8 Percentage of Accidental Deaths by Race, 2014

Table 30 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by Age Group, 2014

Age Group	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	28	0.6%	23.4
1-4	54	1.2%	11.1
5-9	23	0.5%	3.6
10-14	30	0.7%	4.6
15-19	143	3.2%	21.4
20-24	280	6.2%	39.4
25-34	566	12.6%	43.8
35-44	574	12.7%	43.7
45-54	712	15.8%	52.0
55-64	559	12.4%	45.4
65-74	398	8.8%	46.2
75-84	501	11.1%	118.2
85+	641	14.2%	378.2
TOTAL	4509	100%	45.3

Figure 9 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by Age Group, 2014

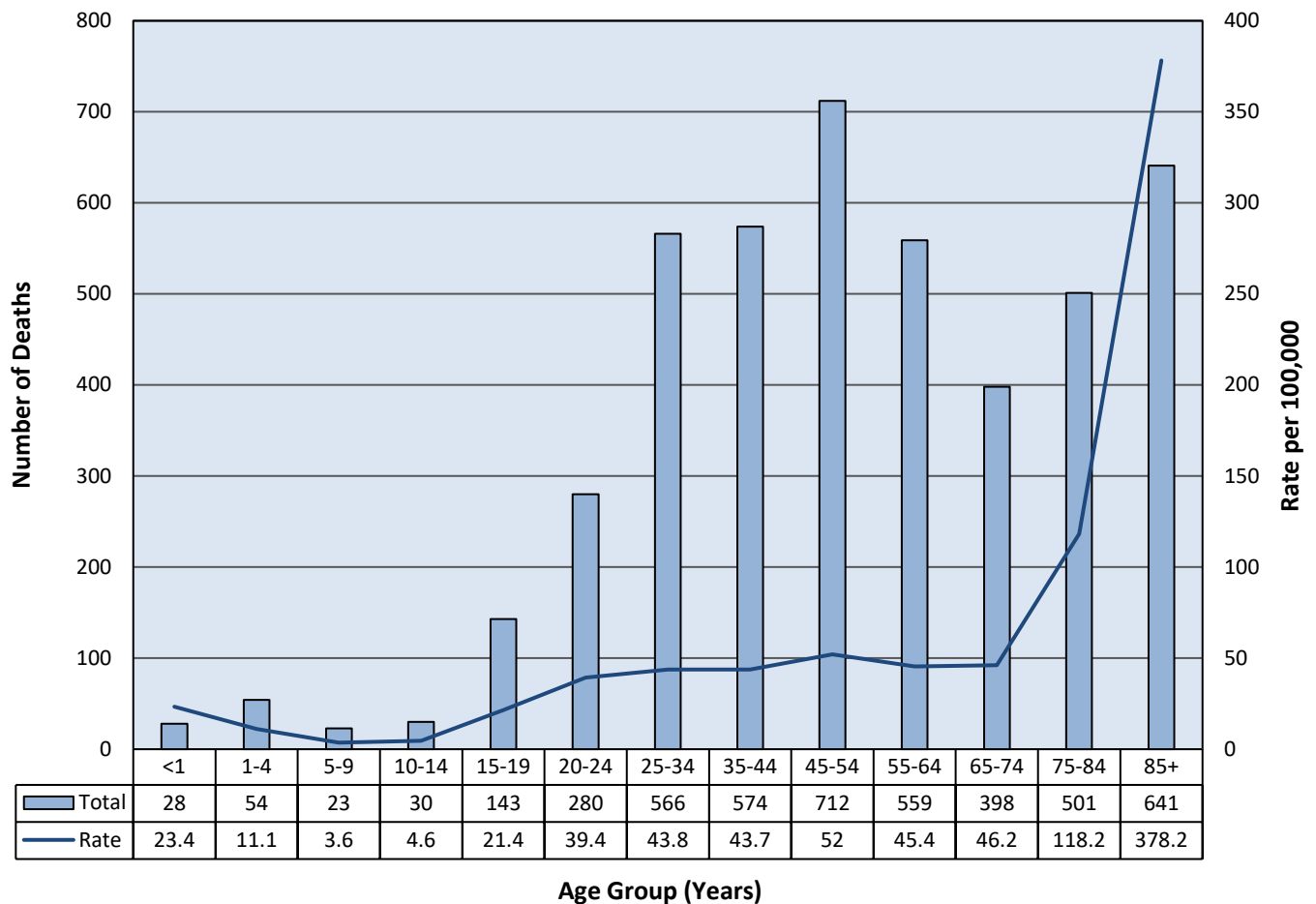


Table 31 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2014

Age Group	Female			Male		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	17	1.0%	ND	11	0.4%	ND
1-4	18	1.1%	ND	36	1.3%	ND
5-9	7	0.4%	2.2	16	0.6%	4.9
10-14	10	0.6%	3.1	20	0.7%	6.0
15-19	44	2.7%	13.5	99	3.4%	28.9
20-24	63	3.9%	18.3	217	7.5%	59.1
25-34	136	8.3%	20.6	430	15.0%	67.9
35-44	187	11.5%	27.8	387	13.5%	60.3
45-54	254	15.6%	36.2	458	15.9%	68.5
55-64	164	10.0%	25.3	395	13.7%	67.8
65-74	137	8.4%	29.6	261	9.1%	65.5
75-84	222	13.6%	90.4	279	9.7%	156.6
85+	373	22.9%	324.5	268	9.3%	491.6
TOTAL	1632	100%	31.9	2877	100%	59.4

Figure 10 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2014

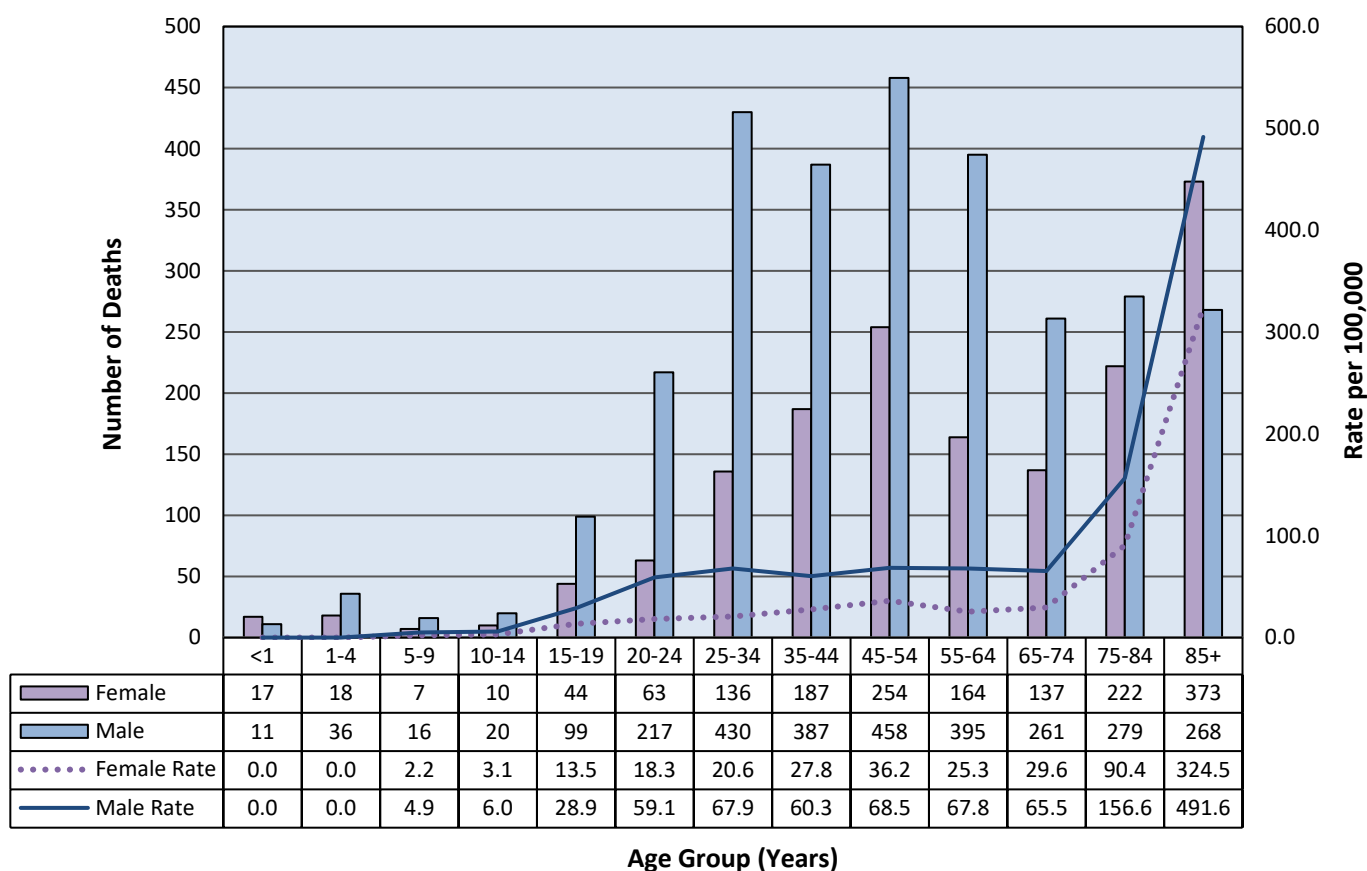
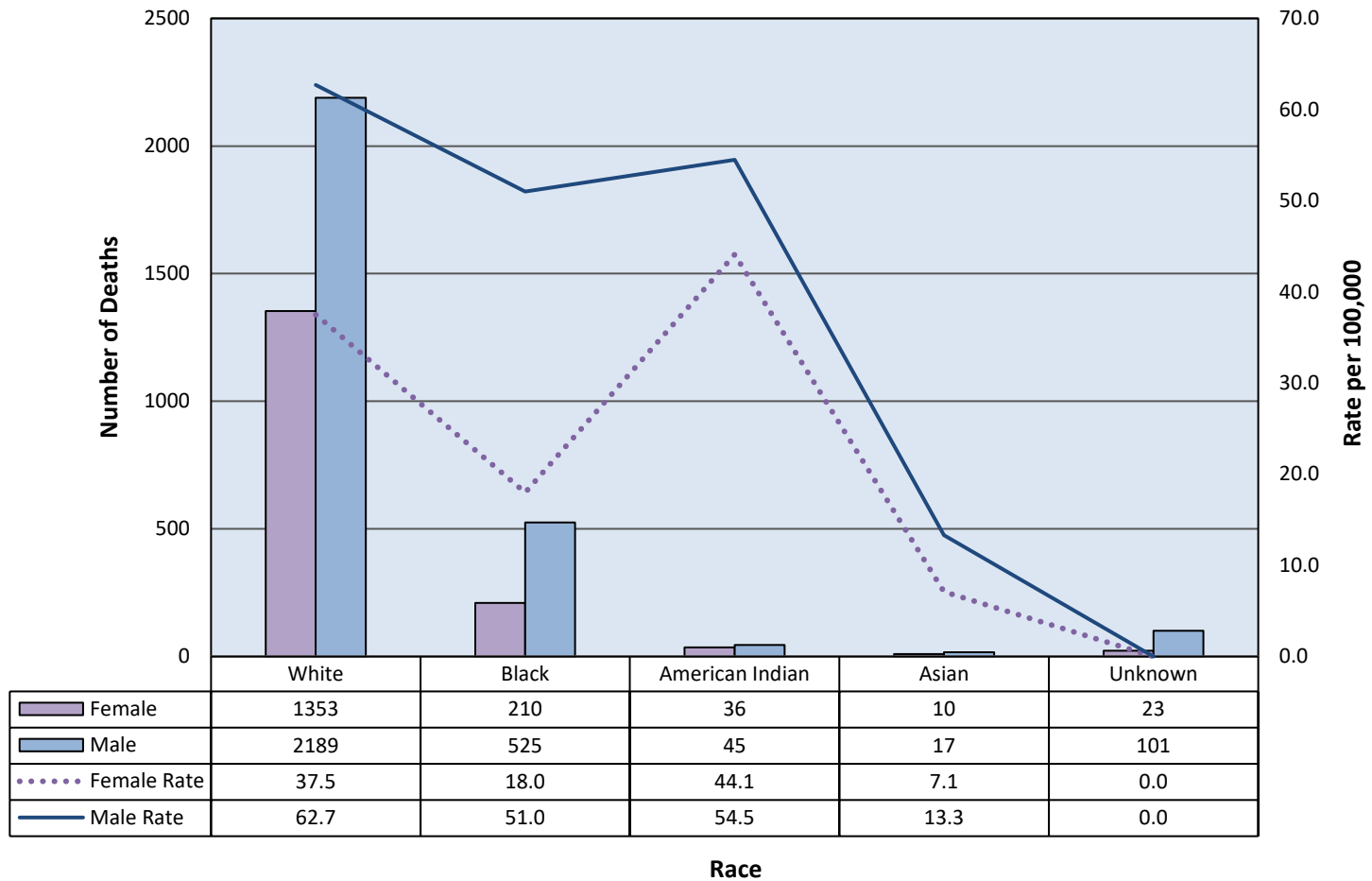


Table 32 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by Gender and Race, 2014

Gender	White			Black			American Indian			Asian			Unknown		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	1353	38.2%	37.5	210	28.6%	18.0	36	44.4%	44.1	10	37.0%	7.1	23	18.6%	ND
Male	2189	61.8%	62.7	525	71.4%	51.0	45	55.5%	54.5	17	63.0%	13.3	101	81.5%	ND
TOTAL	3542	100%	49.9	735	100%	33.5	81	100%	49.3	27	100%	10.0	124	100%	ND

Figure 11 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by Gender and Race, 2014



CHAPTER 3

Homicide Deaths

SUMMARY

5.3% ($n = 598$) of deaths investigated by the medical examiner system were certified as homicide deaths.

79.1% ($n = 473$) were male. Overall, males had the highest homicide rate with 9.8 per 100,000. Males between 20 and 24 years of age had the highest homicide rate of any age group with 21.0 per 100,000.

56.5% ($n = 338$) were black. Overall, blacks had the highest homicide rate with 15.4 per 100,000. Black males between 25 and 34 years of age had the highest homicide rate with 72.5 per 100,000.

25.4% ($n = 152$) were between 25 and 34 years of age. Individuals between 20 and 24 years of age had the highest homicide rate with 12.5 per 100,000.

69.6% ($n = 416$) were attributed to firearms. 82.9% ($n = 345$) of firearm-related homicides were male, 63.0% ($n = 262$) were black, and 29.3% ($n = 122$) were between 25 and 34 years of age.

12.0% ($n = 72$) were attributed to sharp force. 79.2% ($n = 57$) of sharp force-related homicides were male, 45.8% ($n = 33$) were black, and 26.4% ($n = 19$) were between 25 and 34 years of age.

Mecklenburg County had the highest number of homicides based on county of death ($n = 64$), but Robeson County had the highest homicide rate with 27.7 per 100,000.

Table 33 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by Means of Death, 2014

Means of Death	Total	% Total	Rate
Firearms	416	69.6%	4.2
Sharp	72	12.0%	0.7
Blunt	63	10.5%	0.6
Asphyxia	13	2.2%	0.1
Legal Intervention/War Operations	11	1.8%	0.1
Other	9	1.5%	0.1
Abuse/Neglect ¹	8	1.3%	0.1
Fire/Burns	5	0.8%	0.1
Poisoning	1	0.2%	0.0
TOTAL	598	100%	6.0

¹ This category includes deaths across all age groups.

Table 34 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by County of Death, Sorted by Highest Number

County of Death	Total	Rate
Mecklenburg	64	6.3
Cumberland	45	13.7
Guilford	39	7.6
Robeson	37	27.7
Wake	36	3.7

Table 35 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by County of Death, Sorted by Highest Rate

County of Death	Total	Rate
Robeson	37	27.7
Columbus	9	15.6
Vance	7	15.5
Halifax	8	15.0
Cumberland	45	13.7

Table 36 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by County of Residence, Sorted by Highest Number

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Mecklenburg	53	5.2
Cumberland	42	12.8
Robeson	39	29.2
Guilford	29	5.7
Wake	29	2.9

Table 37 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by County of Residence, Sorted by Highest Rate

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Robeson	39	29.2
Columbus	10	17.4
Vance	7	15.5
Nash	13	13.8
Lenoir	8	13.6

Table 38 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by County of Death, 2014

County of Death	Total	Rate
Alamance	2	1.3
Alexander	1	2.6
Alleghany	1	9.0
Anson	2	7.6
Ashe	1	3.6
Avery	0	0.0
Beaufort	2	4.2
Bertie	1	4.9
Bladen	3	8.5
Brunswick	2	1.7
Buncombe	10	4.0
Burke	8	9.0
Cabarrus	10	5.2
Caldwell	3	3.6
Camden	0	0.0
Carteret	3	4.3
Caswell	0	0.0
Catawba	4	2.6
Chatham	2	2.9
Cherokee	1	3.6
Chowan	0	0.0
Clay	0	0.0
Cleveland	5	5.1
Columbus	9	15.6
Craven	3	2.9
Cumberland	45	13.7
Currituck	0	0.0
Dare	0	0.0
Davidson	5	3.0
Davie	1	2.4
Duplin	3	5.0

County of Death	Total	Rate
Durham	29	9.9
Edgecombe	3	5.4
Forsyth	33	9.1
Franklin	2	3.2
Gaston	3	1.4
Gates	0	0.0
Graham	0	0.0
Granville	5	8.6
Greene	2	9.4
Guilford	39	7.6
Halifax	8	15.0
Harnett	2	1.6
Haywood	2	3.3
Henderson	4	3.6
Hertford	1	4.1
Hoke	4	7.9
Hyde	0	0.0
Iredell	6	3.6
Jackson	1	2.4
Johnston	6	3.3
Jones	0	0.0
Lee	5	8.5
Lenoir	6	10.2
Lincoln	4	5.0
Macon	2	5.8
Madison	0	0.0
Martin	1	4.2
McDowell	4	8.8
Mecklenburg	64	6.3
Mitchell	0	0.0
Montgomery	1	3.6

County of Death	Total	Rate
Moore	3	3.2
Nash	10	10.6
New Hanover	25	11.5
Northampton	1	4.7
Onslow	10	5.2
Orange	12	8.6
Pamlico	1	7.6
Pasquotank	0	0.0
Pender	3	5.3
Perquimans	0	0.0
Person	0	0.0
Pitt	20	11.5
Polk	0	0.0
Randolph	5	3.5
Richmond	3	6.6
Robeson	37	27.7
Rockingham	3	3.2
Rowan	12	8.7
Rutherford	1	1.5
Sampson	5	7.8
Scotland	4	11.1

County of Death	Total	Rate
Stanly	3	4.9
Stokes	0	0.0
Surry	3	4.1
Swain	0	0.0
Transylvania	2	6.0
Tyrrell	0	0.0
Union	4	1.9
Vance	7	15.5
Wake	36	3.7
Warren	2	9.8
Washington	1	7.9
Watauga	0	0.0
Wayne	10	8.0
Wilkes	3	4.3
Wilson	3	3.7
Yadkin	1	2.6
Yancey	0	0.0
Subtotal	594	6.0
OUT OF STATE	4	ND
Subtotal	4	ND
TOTAL	598	6.0

Table 39 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by County of Residence, 2014

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Alamance	3	1.9
Alexander	2	5.3
Alleghany	1	9.0
Anson	4	15.1
Ashe	1	3.6
Avery	0	0.0
Beaufort	3	6.3
Bertie	3	14.6
Bladen	5	14.2
Brunswick	5	4.2
Buncombe	8	3.2
Burke	7	7.8
Cabarrus	10	5.2
Caldwell	6	7.3
Camden	0	0.0
Carteret	3	4.3
Caswell	0	0.0
Catawba	4	2.6
Chatham	3	4.4
Cherokee	1	3.6
Chowan	0	0.0
Clay	0	0.0
Cleveland	5	5.1
Columbus	10	17.4
Craven	4	3.8
Cumberland	42	12.8
Currituck	0	0.0
Dare	0	0.0
Davidson	8	4.9
Davie	3	7.2
Duplin	2	3.3

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Durham	28	9.6
Edgecombe	7	12.6
Forsyth	22	6.0
Franklin	3	4.7
Gaston	3	1.4
Gates	0	0.0
Graham	0	0.0
Granville	5	8.6
Greene	3	14.1
Guilford	29	5.7
Halifax	7	13.2
Harnett	8	6.4
Haywood	2	3.3
Henderson	4	3.6
Hertford	1	4.1
Hoke	4	7.8
Hyde	1	17.4
Iredell	5	3.0
Jackson	1	2.4
Johnston	8	4.4
Jones	0	0.0
Lee	5	8.4
Lenoir	8	13.6
Lincoln	4	5.0
Macon	2	5.8
Madison	0	0.0
Martin	0	0.0
McDowell	5	11.0
Mecklenburg	53	5.2
Mitchell	0	0.0
Montgomery	1	3.6

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Moore	2	2.2
Nash	13	13.8
New Hanover	19	8.8
Northampton	3	14.1
Onslow	10	5.2
Orange	1	0.7
Pamlico	2	15.2
Pasquotank	0	0.0
Pender	3	5.3
Perquimans	0	0.0
Person	3	7.6
Pitt	6	3.4
Polk	0	0.0
Randolph	4	2.8
Richmond	4	8.8
Robeson	39	29.2
Rockingham	8	8.6
Rowan	12	8.7
Rutherford	1	1.5
Sampson	4	6.2
Scotland	3	8.3

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Stanly	4	6.6
Stokes	1	2.1
Surry	3	4.1
Swain	0	0.0
Transylvania	2	6.0
Tyrrell	0	0.0
Union	6	2.8
Vance	7	15.5
Wake	29	2.9
Warren	2	9.8
Washington	1	7.9
Watauga	0	0.0
Wayne	10	8.0
Wilkes	6	8.6
Wilson	4	4.9
Yadkin	1	2.6
Yancey	0	0.0
Subtotal	575	5.8
OUT OF STATE	23	ND
Subtotal	23	ND
TOTAL	598	6.0

Table 40 Number of Homicide Deaths by Gender, Age Group, and Race, 2014

Gender	Age Group	Black	White	American Indian	Asian	Unknown	Total
Female	<1	3					3
	1-4	5	2				7
	5-9						0
	10-14	1					1
	15-19	3	3				6
	20-24	5	7				12
	25-34	6	14			3	23
	35-44	9	6	2		1	18
	45-54	7	12	1	1		21
	55-64	5	11				16
	65-74		5				5
	75-84	3	7				10
	85+		3				3
	<i>Subtotal</i>		47	70	3	1	
Gender	Age Group	Black	White	American Indian	Asian	Unknown	Total
Male	<1	2	1				3
	1-4	5					5
	5-9	3					3
	10-14	1	2				3
	15-19	33	4			3	40
	20-24	57	15	2	1	2	77
	25-34	99	17	5	2	6	129
	35-44	36	17	3		7	63
	45-54	28	35	3		5	71
	55-64	11	24	2	2		39
	65-74	10	15			1	26
	75-84	5	5	1			11
	85+	1	2				3
	<i>Subtotal</i>		291	137	16	5	24
TOTAL		338	207	19	6	28	598

Table 41 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by Gender, 2014

Gender	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	125	20.9%	2.5
Male	473	79.1%	9.8
TOTAL	598	100%	6.0

Table 42 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by Race, 2014

Race	Total	% Total	Rate
Black	338	56.5%	15.4
White	207	34.6%	2.9
Unknown	28	4.7%	ND
American Indian	19	3.2%	11.6
Asian	6	1.0%	2.2
TOTAL	598	100%	6.0

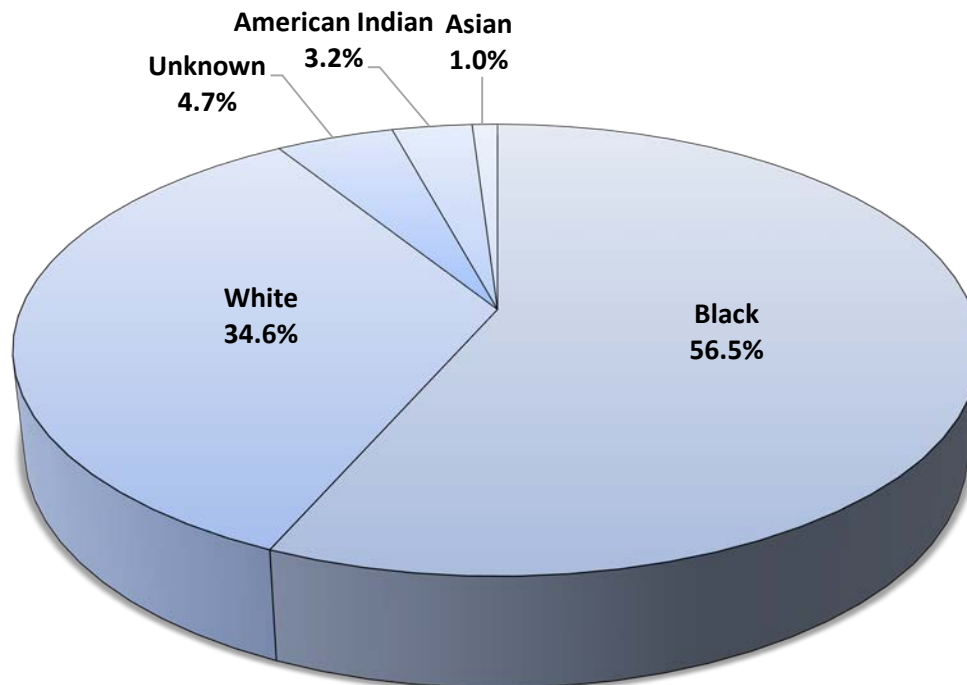
Figure 12 Percentage of Homicide Deaths by Race, 2014

Table 43 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by Age Group, 2014

Age Group	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	6	1.0%	5.0
1-4	12	2.0%	2.5
5-9	3	0.5%	0.5
10-14	4	0.7%	0.6
15-19	46	7.7%	6.9
20-24	89	14.9%	12.5
25-34	152	25.4%	11.8
35-44	81	13.5%	6.2
45-54	92	15.4%	6.7
55-64	55	9.2%	4.5
65-74	31	5.2%	3.6
75-84	21	3.5%	5.0
85+	6	1.0%	3.5
TOTAL	598	100%	6.0

Figure 13 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by Age Group, 2014

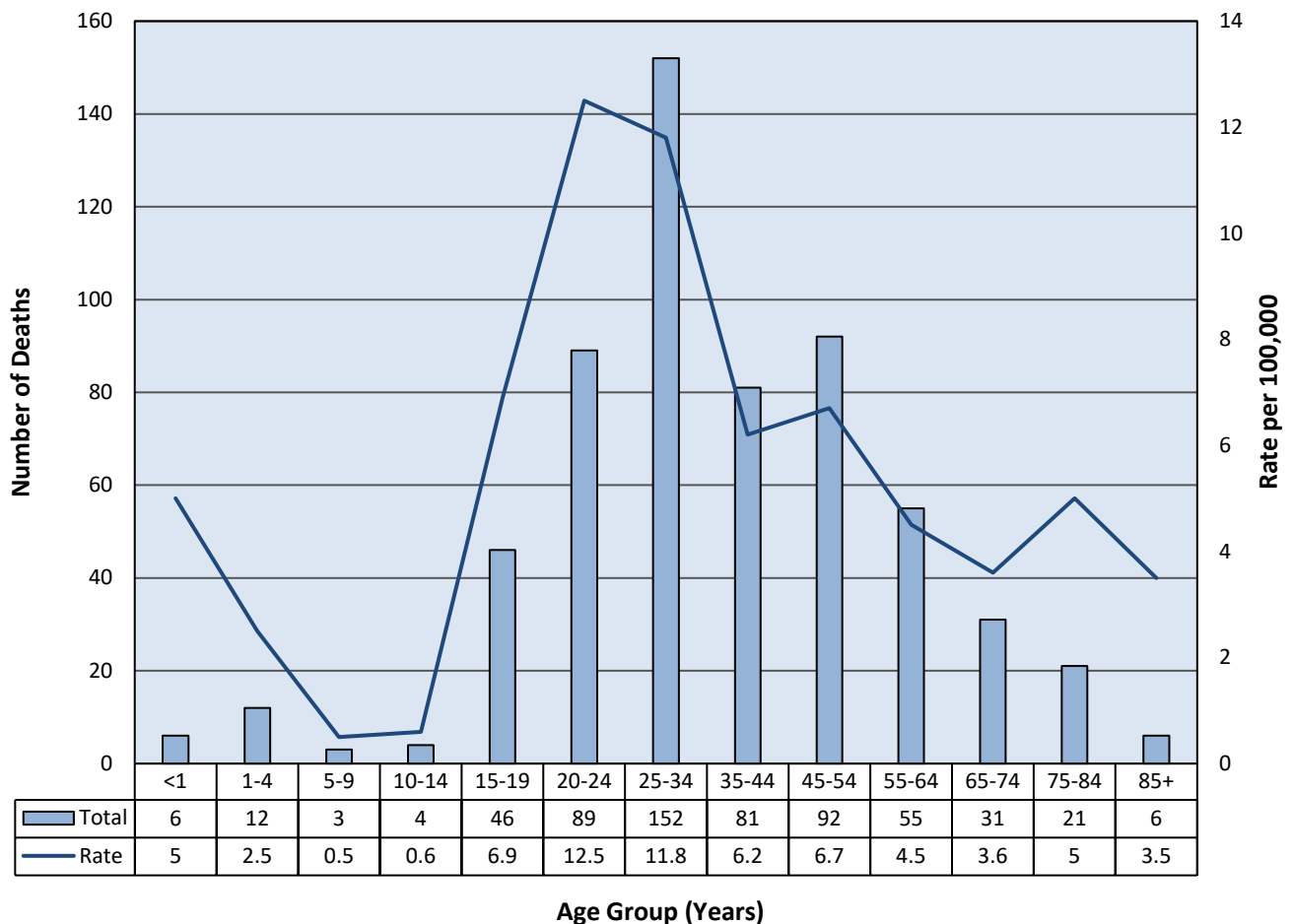


Table 44 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2014

Age Group	Female			Male		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	3	2.4%	ND	3	0.6%	ND
1-4	7	5.6%	ND	5	1.1%	ND
5-9	0	0.0%	0.0	3	0.6%	0.9
10-14	1	0.8%	0.3	3	0.6%	0.9
15-19	6	4.8%	1.8	40	8.4%	11.7
20-24	12	9.6%	3.5	77	16.2%	21.0
25-34	23	18.4%	3.5	129	27.3%	20.4
35-44	18	14.4%	2.7	63	13.3%	9.8
45-54	21	16.8%	3.0	71	15.0%	10.6
55-64	16	12.8%	2.5	39	8.2%	6.7
65-74	5	4.0%	1.1	26	5.5%	6.5
75-84	10	8.0%	4.1	11	2.3%	6.2
85+	3	2.4%	2.6	3	0.6%	5.5
TOTAL	125	100%	2.5	473	100%	9.8

Figure 14 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2014

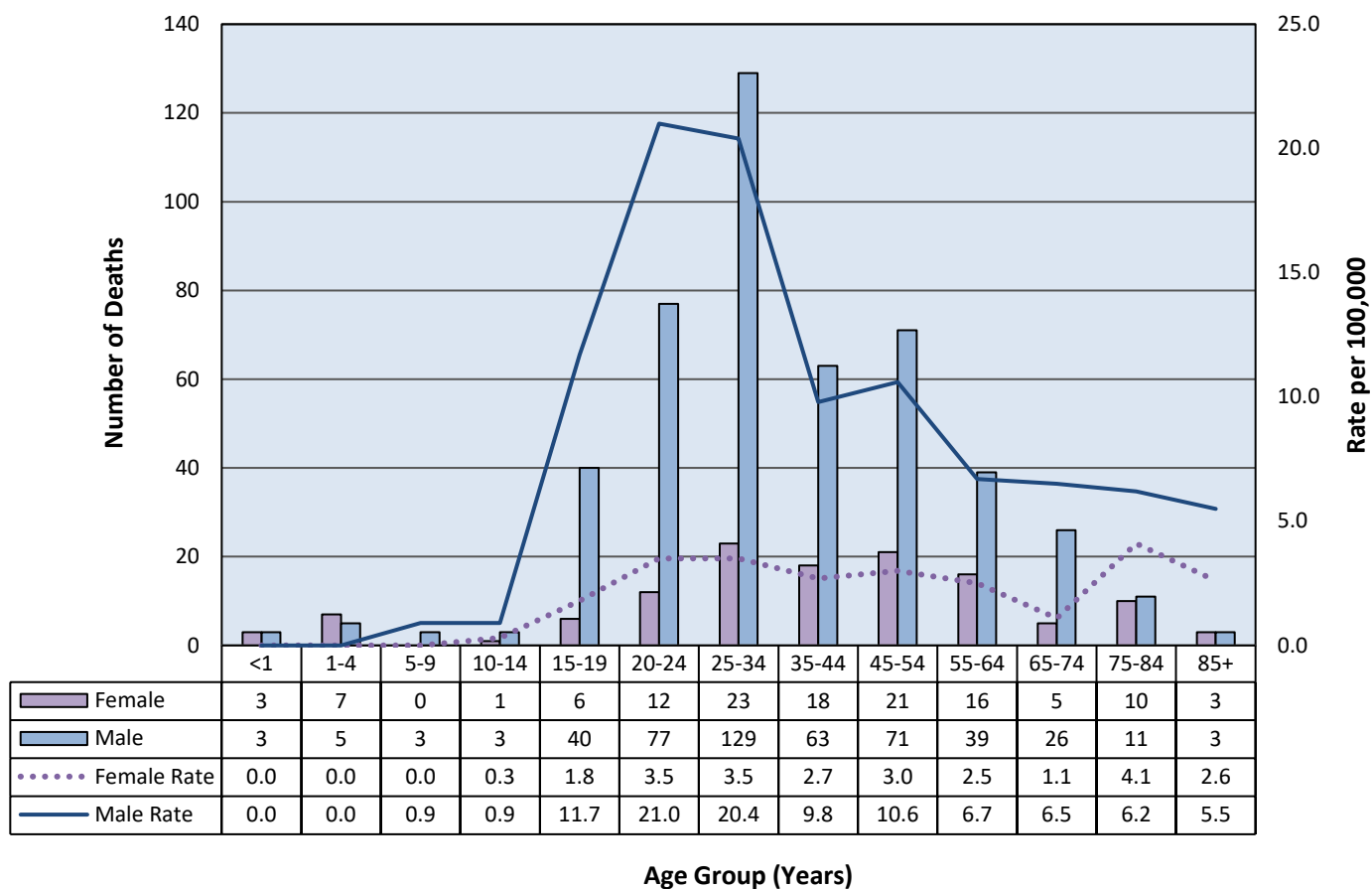
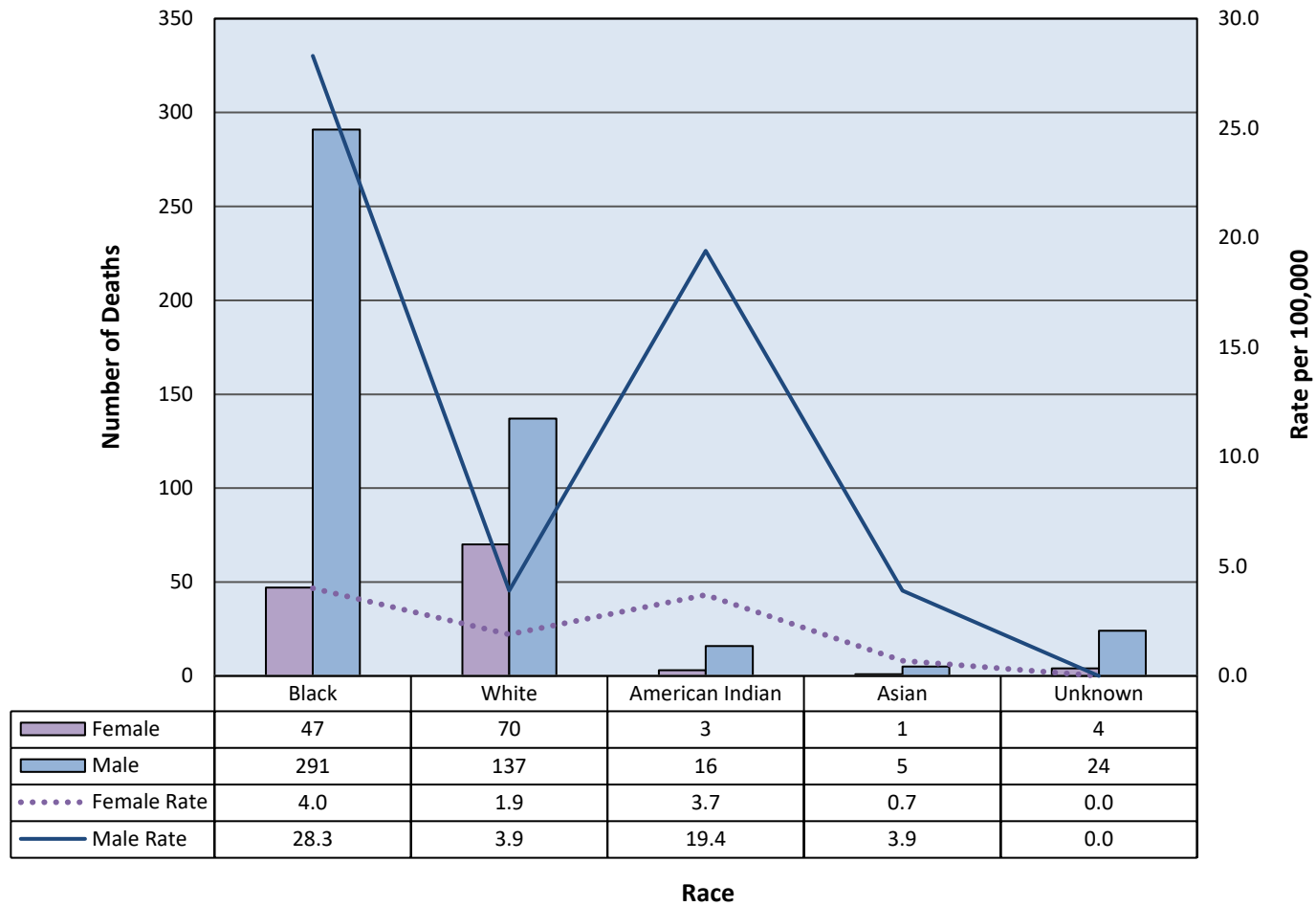


Table 45 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by Gender and Race, 2014

Gender	Black			White			American Indian			Asian			Unknown		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	47	13.9%	4.0	70	33.8%	1.9	3	15.8%	3.7	1	16.6%	0.7	4	14.3%	ND
Male	291	86.1%	28.3	137	66.2%	3.9	16	84.2%	19.4	5	83.3%	3.9	24	85.7%	ND
TOTAL	338	56.5%	15.4	207	34.6%	2.9	19	3.2%	11.6	6	1.0%	2.2	28	4.7%	ND

Figure 15 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by Gender and Race, 2014



CHAPTER 4

Natural Deaths

SUMMARY

40.1% ($n = 4,494$) of deaths investigated by the medical examiner system were certified as natural deaths.

67.1% ($n = 3,014$) were male. Overall, males had the highest rate with 62.3 per 100,000. Males over 85 years of age had the highest rate of any age group with 203.6 per 100,000.

68.9% ($n = 3,094$) were white. Overall, blacks had the highest rate with 54.8 per 100,000. Black males between 75 and 84 years of age had the highest rate with 258.4 per 100,000.

28.5% ($n = 1,280$) were between 55 and 64 years of age. Individuals over 85 years of age had the highest rate with 140.4 per 100,000.

68.3% ($n = 3,068$) were caused by diseases of the circulatory system. 68.8% ($n = 2,111$) of these deaths were male, 69.6% ($n = 2,135$) were white, and 29.1% ($n = 864$) were between 55 and 64 years of age.

6.6% ($n = 295$) were caused by endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases. 58.0% ($n = 171$) of deaths were male, 66.1% ($n = 195$) were white, and 33.9% ($n = 100$) were between 55 and 64 years of age.

Cumberland County had the highest number of natural deaths based on county of death ($n = 277$), but Haywood County had the highest rate with 178.6 per 100,000.

Table 46 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by Cause of Death, 2014

Cause of Death	Total	% Total	Rate
Diseases of the Circulatory System	3068	68.3%	30.8
Endocrine, Nutritional, and Metabolic Diseases	295	6.6%	3.0
Diseases of the Respiratory System	250	5.6%	2.5
Neoplasms	235	5.2%	2.4
Mental and Behavioral Disorders	160	3.6%	1.6
Diseases of the Digestive System	156	3.5%	1.6
Symptoms, Signs, and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory Findings	87	1.9%	0.9
Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	84	1.9%	0.8
Diseases of the Nervous System	59	1.3%	0.6
Diseases of the Genitourinary System	29	0.7%	0.3
Congenital Malformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities	22	0.5%	0.2
Other Natural Causes of Death	49	1.1%	0.5
TOTAL	4494	100%	45.2

Table 47 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by County of Death, Sorted by Highest Number

County of Death	Total	Rate
Cumberland	295	89.6
Mecklenburg	275	27.1
Wake	250	25.4
Guilford	208	40.6
Durham	203	69.5

Table 48 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by County of Death, Sorted by Highest Number

County of Death	Total	Rate
Haywood	107	178.6
Columbus	72	124.9
Graham	10	113.3
Dare	39	110.1
Bladen	36	102.5

Table 49 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by County of Residence, Sorted by Highest Number

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Cumberland	277	84.1
Mecklenburg	242	23.9
Wake	218	22.1
Guilford	186	36.3
Gaston	119	56.5

Table 50 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by County of Residence, Sorted by Highest Rate

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Haywood	95	158.6
Washington	16	126.2
Columbus	68	118.0
Bladen	40	113.9
Wilson	76	93.4

Table 51 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by County of Death, 2014

County of Death	Total	Rate
Alamance	57	36.6
Alexander	6	15.9
Alleghany	6	54.1
Anson	16	60.5
Ashe	16	58.3
Avery	6	33.5
Beaufort	32	67.1
Bertie	8	38.8
Bladen	36	102.5
Brunswick	79	67.0
Buncombe	118	47.0
Burke	39	43.7
Cabarrus	59	30.9
Caldwell	43	52.2
Camden	3	29.3
Carteret	49	70.7
Caswell	9	38.1
Catawba	79	50.7
Chatham	27	39.3
Cherokee	20	72.9
Chowan	8	54.7
Clay	5	46.3
Cleveland	78	79.7
Columbus	72	124.9
Craven	52	49.8
Cumberland	295	89.6
Currituck	16	63.8
Dare	39	110.1
Davidson	42	25.5
Davie	15	36.2
Duplin	22	36.6

County of Death	Total	Rate
Durham	203	69.5
Edgecombe	32	57.7
Forsyth	121	33.2
Franklin	20	31.6
Gaston	107	50.8
Gates	6	50.4
Graham	10	113.3
Granville	36	62.0
Greene	5	23.5
Guilford	208	40.6
Halifax	27	50.8
Harnett	57	45.3
Haywood	107	178.6
Henderson	73	65.8
Hertford	9	36.6
Hoke	15	29.4
Hyde	0	0.0
Iredell	43	25.7
Jackson	16	39.0
Johnston	104	57.8
Jones	4	38.2
Lee	18	30.4
Lenoir	41	69.7
Lincoln	34	42.4
Macon	23	66.8
Madison	11	51.0
Martin	13	54.8
McDowell	13	28.7
Mecklenburg	275	27.1
Mitchell	3	19.0
Montgomery	3	10.8

County of Death	Total	Rate
Moore	36	38.7
Nash	61	64.5
New Hanover	81	37.3
Northampton	7	33.0
Onslow	74	38.3
Orange	36	25.7
Pamlico	8	60.9
Pasquotank	29	73.1
Pender	23	40.7
Perquimans	5	36.7
Person	11	28.0
Pitt	100	57.3
Polk	7	33.8
Randolph	85	59.4
Richmond	17	37.3
Robeson	70	52.4
Rockingham	37	40.0
Rowan	76	54.8
Rutherford	21	31.1
Sampson	32	49.7
Scotland	19	52.7

County of Death	Total	Rate
Stanly	16	26.2
Stokes	19	40.6
Surry	36	48.8
Swain	11	74.2
Transylvania	23	68.8
Tyrrell	1	24.1
Union	55	25.5
Vance	12	26.6
Wake	250	25.4
Warren	10	48.8
Washington	13	102.5
Watauga	16	30.2
Wayne	68	54.1
Wilkes	48	68.7
Wilson	77	94.6
Yadkin	5	13.2
Yancey	8	44.7
Subtotal	4492	45.1
OUT OF STATE	2	ND
Subtotal	2	ND
TOTAL	4494	45.1

Table 52 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by County of Residence, 2014

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Alamance	53	34.0
Alexander	13	34.4
Alleghany	5	45.1
Anson	15	56.7
Ashe	14	51.0
Avery	11	61.5
Beaufort	32	67.1
Bertie	9	43.7
Bladen	40	113.9
Brunswick	71	60.3
Buncombe	89	35.4
Burke	43	48.2
Cabarrus	48	25.1
Caldwell	46	55.8
Camden	3	29.3
Carteret	47	67.8
Caswell	13	55.1
Catawba	63	40.4
Chatham	28	40.7
Cherokee	18	65.6
Chowan	8	54.7
Clay	6	55.6
Cleveland	70	71.5
Columbus	68	118.0
Craven	49	46.9
Cumberland	277	84.1
Currituck	17	67.8
Dare	23	64.9
Davidson	54	32.8
Davie	19	45.8
Duplin	26	43.2

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Durham	58	19.9
Edgecombe	36	64.9
Forsyth	103	28.3
Franklin	23	36.4
Gaston	119	56.5
Gates	6	50.4
Graham	6	68.0
Granville	31	53.4
Greene	9	42.3
Guilford	186	36.3
Halifax	30	56.4
Harnett	62	49.3
Haywood	95	158.6
Henderson	75	67.6
Hertford	5	20.3
Hoke	19	37.3
Hyde	2	34.9
Iredell	44	26.3
Jackson	16	39.0
Johnston	99	55.0
Jones	7	66.9
Lee	15	25.3
Lenoir	44	74.8
Lincoln	38	47.4
Macon	18	52.3
Madison	12	55.6
Martin	12	50.6
McDowell	16	35.3
Mecklenburg	242	23.9
Mitchell	4	25.3
Montgomery	4	14.4

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Moore	30	32.2
Nash	58	61.4
New Hanover	68	31.3
Northampton	9	42.4
Onslow	69	35.7
Orange	25	17.9
Pamlico	7	53.3
Pasquotank	25	63.0
Pender	26	46.0
Perquimans	6	44.0
Person	12	30.6
Pitt	72	41.3
Polk	7	33.8
Randolph	92	64.3
Richmond	17	37.3
Robeson	79	59.1
Rockingham	34	36.7
Rowan	73	52.6
Rutherford	24	35.5
Sampson	36	55.9
Scotland	20	55.5

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Stanly	18	29.5
Stokes	19	40.6
Surry	32	43.3
Swain	7	47.2
Transylvania	18	53.8
Tyrrell	1	24.1
Union	52	24.1
Vance	11	24.4
Wake	218	22.1
Warren	12	58.5
Washington	16	126.2
Watauga	15	28.3
Wayne	67	53.3
Wilkes	48	68.7
Wilson	76	93.4
Yadkin	8	21.1
Yancey	7	39.1
Subtotal	4128	41.5
OUT OF STATE	366	ND
Subtotal	366	ND
TOTAL	4494	45.1

Table 53 Number of Natural Deaths by Gender, Age Group, and Race, 2014

Gender	Age Group	White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Unknown	Total
Female	<1	10	11	2		1	24
	1-4	2	2				4
	5-9	3	2			1	6
	10-14	1	1	1			3
	15-19	3	2		1		6
	20-24	6	8			2	16
	25-34	33	21	1			55
	35-44	85	53	2	1	4	145
	45-54	214	86	6		1	307
	55-64	235	95	5	1	3	339
	65-74	212	72	1	1	4	290
	75-84	110	41	4	1	2	158
	85+	95	30		1	1	127
	<i>Subtotal</i>		1009	424	22	6	19
Gender	Age Group	White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Unknown	Total
Male	<1	18	13	2		7	40
	1-4	3	3		1	1	8
	5-9	4	2				6
	10-14	3	2				5
	15-19	1					1
	20-24	12	13	1			26
	25-34	44	32	1		5	82
	35-44	147	87	4	3	12	253
	45-54	438	178	12	1	13	642
	55-64	651	242	14	6	28	941
	65-74	465	129	12	2	12	620
	75-84	206	62	2	2	7	279
	85+	92	17		1	1	111
	<i>Subtotal</i>		2084	780	48	16	86
TOTAL		3093	1204	70	22	105	4494

Table 54 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by Gender, 2014

Gender	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	1480	32.9%	29.0
Male	3014	67.1%	62.3
TOTAL	4494	100%	45.1

Table 55 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by Race, 2014

Race/Ethnicity	Total	% Total	Rate
White	3093	68.8%	43.5
Black	1204	26.8%	54.8
Unknown	105	2.3%	ND
American Indian	70	1.6%	42.6
Asian	22	0.5%	8.2
TOTAL	4494	100%	45.1

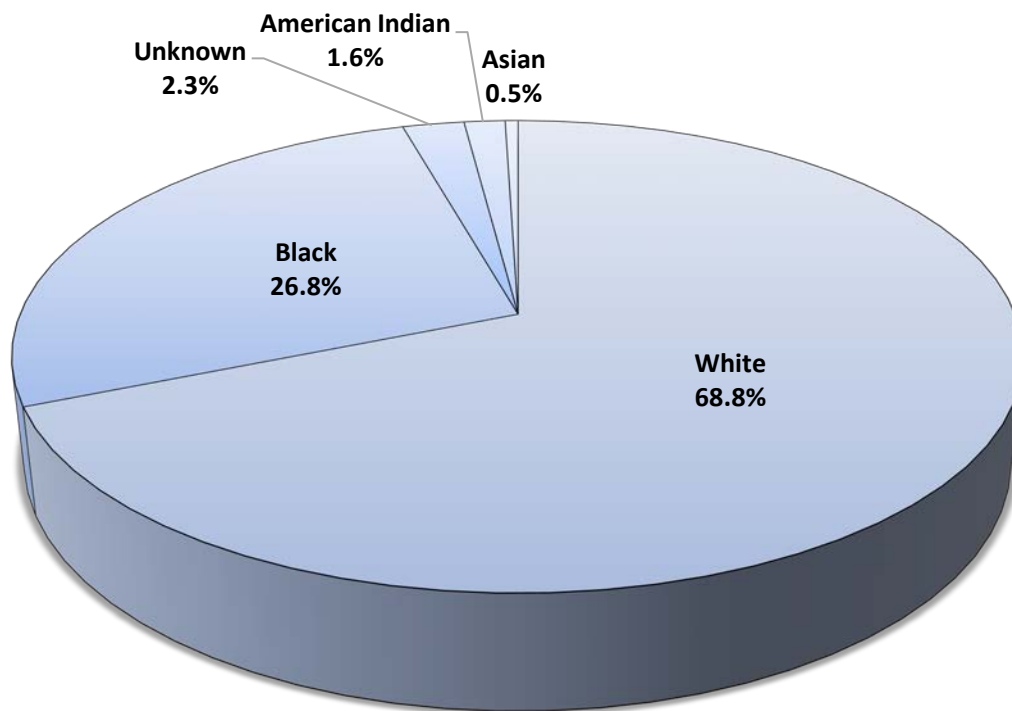
Figure 16 Percentage of Natural Deaths by Race, 2014

Table 56 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by Age Group, 2014

Age Group	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	64	1.4%	53.5
1-4	12	0.3%	2.5
5-9	12	0.3%	1.9
10-14	8	0.2%	1.2
15-19	7	0.2%	1.1
20-24	42	0.9%	5.9
25-34	137	3.1%	10.6
35-44	398	8.9%	30.3
45-54	949	21.1%	69.3
55-64	1280	28.5%	103.9
65-74	910	20.3%	105.6
75-84	437	9.7%	103.1
85+	238	5.3%	140.4
TOTAL	4494	100%	45.2

Figure 17 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by Age Group, 2014

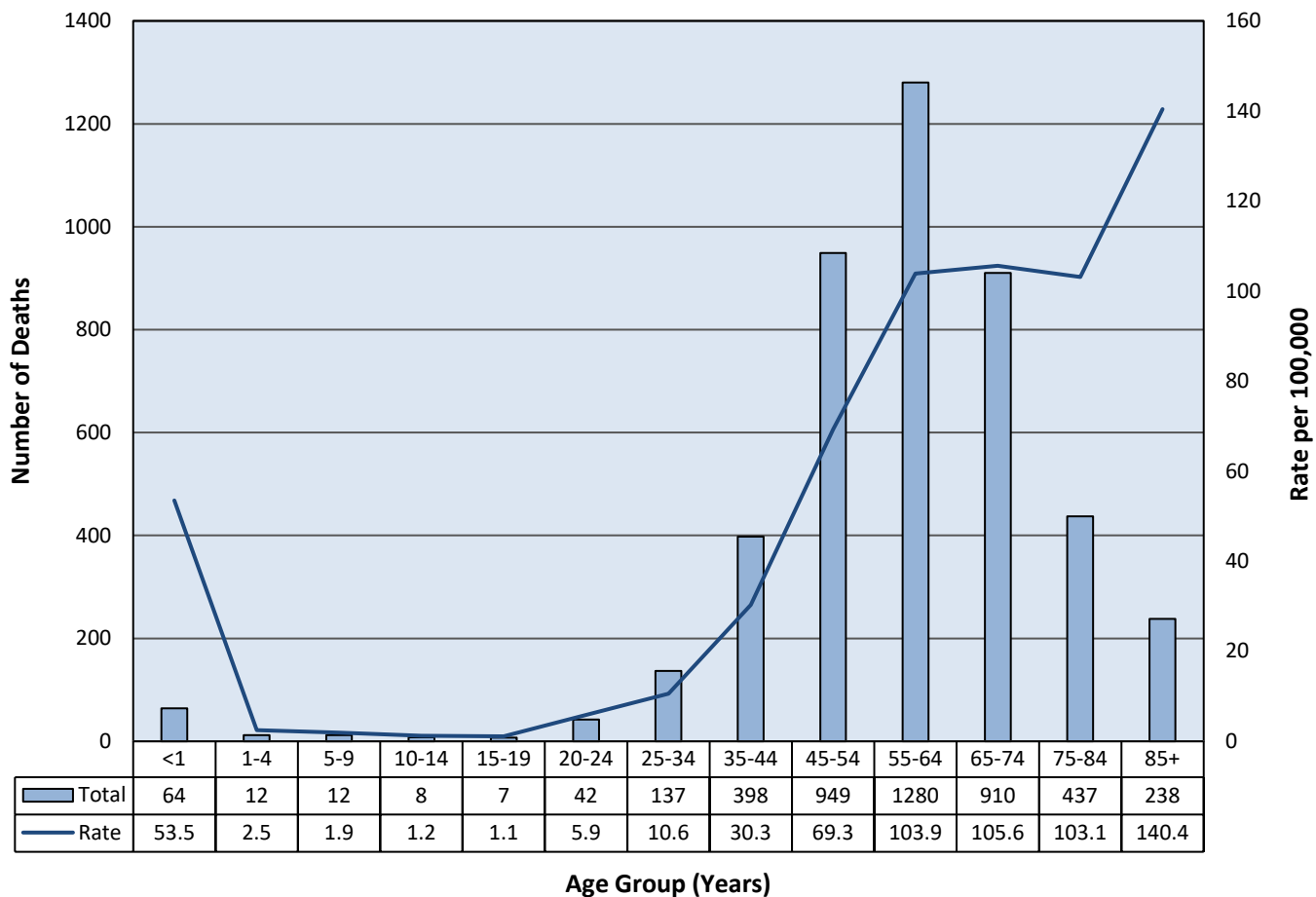


Table 57 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2014

Age Group	Female			Male		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	24	1.6%	ND	40	1.3%	ND
1-4	4	0.3%	ND	8	0.3%	ND
5-9	6	0.4%	1.9	6	0.2%	1.8
10-14	3	0.2%	0.9	5	0.2%	1.5
15-19	6	0.4%	1.8	1	0.0%	0.3
20-24	16	1.1%	4.7	26	0.9%	7.1
25-34	55	3.7%	8.3	82	2.7%	12.9
35-44	145	9.8%	21.5	253	8.4%	39.4
45-54	307	20.7%	43.8	642	21.3%	96.1
55-64	339	22.9%	52.2	941	31.2%	161.4
65-74	290	19.6%	62.6	620	20.6%	155.7
75-84	158	10.7%	64.3	279	9.3%	156.6
85+	127	8.6%	110.5	111	3.7%	203.6
TOTAL	1480	100%	29.0	3014	100%	62.3

Figure 18 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by Gender and Age Group, 2014

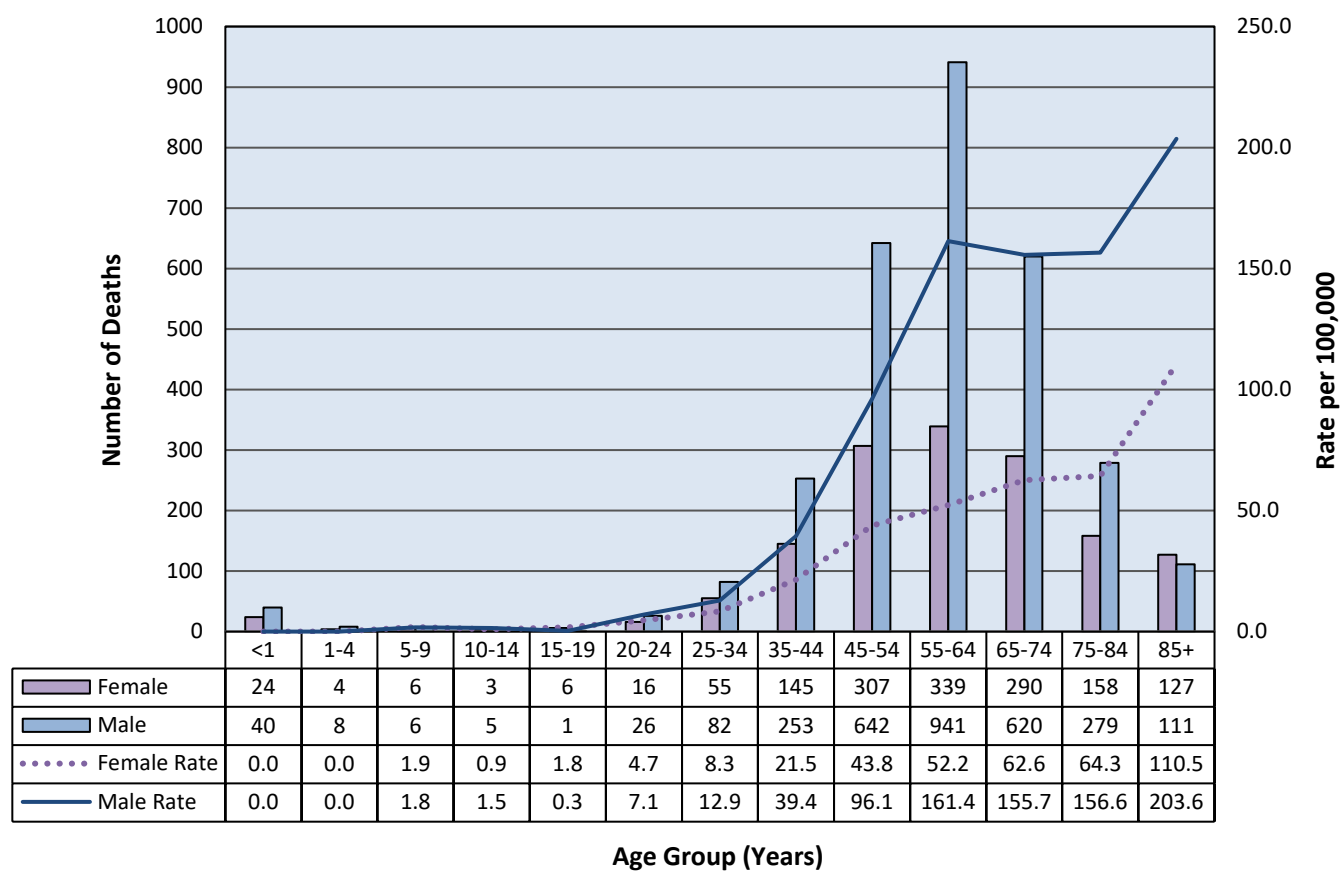
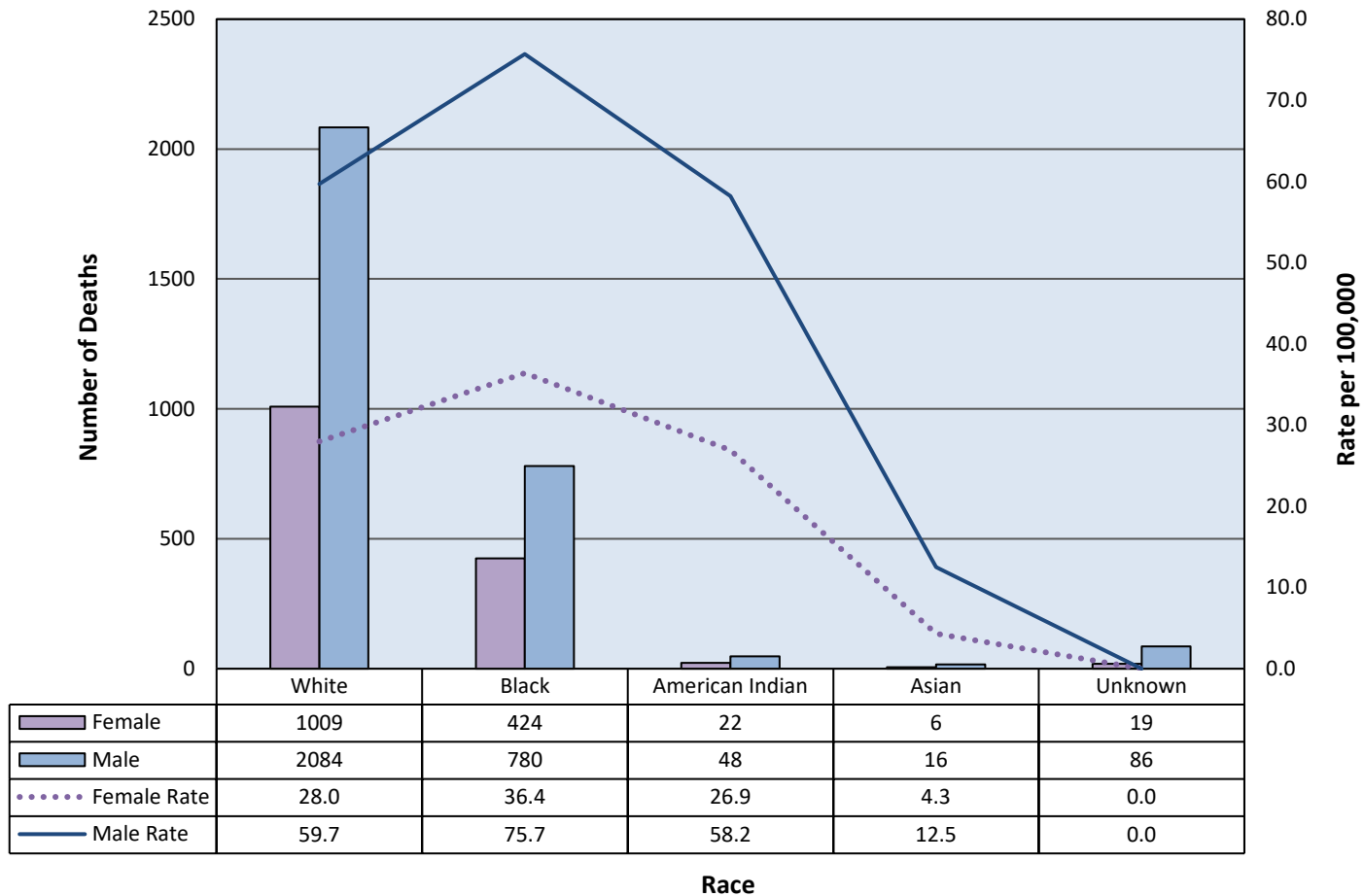


Table 58 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by Gender and Race, 2014

Gender	White			Black			American Indian			Asian			Unknown		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	1009	32.6%	28.0	424	35.2%	36.4	22	31.4%	26.9	6	27.3%	4.3	19	18.1%	ND
Male	2084	67.4%	59.7	780	64.8%	75.7	48	68.6%	58.2	16	72.7%	12.5	86	81.9%	ND
TOTAL	3093	100%	43.5	1204	100%	54.8	70	100%	42.6	22	100%	8.2	105	100%	ND

Figure 19 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by Gender and Race, 2014



CHAPTER 5

Suicide Deaths

SUMMARY

12.4% ($n = 1,391$) of deaths investigated by the medical examiner system were certified as suicide deaths. Compared to 2013, the number of suicide deaths increased by 9.8% in 2014.

73.0% ($n = 1,015$) were male. Overall, males had the highest rate with 21.0 per 100,000. Males over 85 years of age had the highest rate of any age group with 49.5 per 100,000.

86.6% ($n = 1,204$) were white. Overall, whites had the highest rate with 16.9 per 100,000. White males had the highest rate with 24.8 per 100,000.

19.6% ($n = 272$) were between 55 and 64 years of age. Individuals between 55 and 64 years of age had the highest rate with 22.1 per 100,000.

56.0% ($n = 779$) were attributed to firearms. 81.9% ($n = 638$) of firearm-related suicide deaths were male, 89.1% ($n = 694$) were white, and 19.1% ($n = 149$) were between 55 and 64 years of age.

20.3% ($n = 282$) were hangings. 77.7% ($n = 219$) of suicide deaths caused by hanging were male, 79.4% ($n = 224$) were white, and 21.3% ($n = 60$) were between 45 and 54 years of age.

Mecklenburg County had the highest number of suicide deaths based on county of death ($n = 127$), but Polk County had the highest rate with 38.6 per 100,000.

Table 59 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by Means of Death, 2014

Means of Death	Total	% Total	Rate
Firearms	779	56.0%	7.8
Hanging	282	20.3%	2.8
Poisoning	246	17.7%	2.5
Asphyxia	25	1.8%	0.3
Sharp	17	1.2%	0.2
Fall/Jump	12	0.9%	0.1
Transportation	12	0.9%	0.1
Drowning	11	0.8%	0.1
Fire/Burns	4	0.3%	0.0
Other	3	0.2%	0.0
TOTAL	1391	100%	14.0

Table 60 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by County of Death, Sorted by Highest Number

County of Death	Total	Rate
Mecklenburg	127	12.5
Wake	109	11.1
Buncombe	53	21.1
Forsyth	50	13.7
Guilford	46	9.0

Table 61 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by County of Death, Sorted by Highest Rate

County of Death	Total	Rate
Polk	8	38.6
Currituck	8	31.9
Dare	11	31.1
Caldwell	22	26.7
Yadkin	10	26.4

Table 62 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by County of Residence, Sorted by Highest Number

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Mecklenburg	104	10.3
Wake	97	9.8
Guilford	46	9.0
Forsyth	42	11.5
New Hanover	42	19.4

Table 63 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by County of Residence, Sorted by Highest Rate

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Polk	7	33.8
Currituck	7	27.9
Beaufort	13	27.2
Rutherford	17	25.2
Henderson	27	24.4

Table 64 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by County of Death, 2014

County of Death	Total	Rate
Alamance	18	11.6
Alexander	5	13.2
Alleghany	2	18.0
Anson	3	11.3
Ashe	7	25.5
Avery	4	22.4
Beaufort	10	21.0
Bertie	1	4.9
Bladen	5	14.2
Brunswick	18	15.3
Buncombe	53	21.1
Burke	11	12.3
Cabarrus	26	13.6
Caldwell	22	26.7
Camden	3	29.3
Carteret	11	15.9
Caswell	0	0.0
Catawba	27	17.3
Chatham	8	11.6
Cherokee	3	10.9
Chowan	1	6.8
Clay	1	9.3
Cleveland	16	16.3
Columbus	5	8.7
Craven	16	15.3
Cumberland	35	10.6
Currituck	8	31.9
Dare	11	31.1
Davidson	22	13.4
Davie	8	19.3
Duplin	7	11.6

County of Death	Total	Rate
Durham	32	11.0
Edgecombe	2	3.6
Forsyth	50	13.7
Franklin	5	7.9
Gaston	37	17.6
Gates	0	0.0
Graham	1	11.3
Granville	12	20.7
Greene	0	0.0
Guilford	46	9.0
Halifax	5	9.4
Harnett	16	12.7
Haywood	9	15.0
Henderson	26	23.5
Hertford	3	12.2
Hoke	5	9.8
Hyde	1	17.4
Iredell	14	8.4
Jackson	8	19.5
Johnston	25	13.9
Jones	3	28.7
Lee	6	10.1
Lenoir	7	11.9
Lincoln	10	12.5
Macon	6	17.4
Madison	3	13.9
Martin	5	21.1
McDowell	9	19.9
Mecklenburg	127	12.5
Mitchell	5	31.6
Montgomery	3	10.8

County of Death	Total	Rate
Moore	15	16.1
Nash	10	10.6
New Hanover	45	20.7
Northampton	2	9.4
Onslow	38	19.7
Orange	13	9.3
Pamlico	1	7.6
Pasquotank	5	12.6
Pender	12	21.2
Perquimans	3	22.0
Person	7	17.8
Pitt	36	20.6
Polk	8	38.6
Randolph	19	13.3
Richmond	6	13.2
Robeson	18	13.5
Rockingham	17	18.4
Rowan	29	20.9
Rutherford	17	25.2
Sampson	7	10.9
Scotland	4	11.1

County of Death	Total	Rate
Stanly	8	13.1
Stokes	7	15.0
Surry	14	19.0
Swain	0	0.0
Transylvania	6	18.0
Tyrrell	0	0.0
Union	18	8.3
Vance	5	11.1
Wake	109	11.1
Warren	2	9.8
Washington	2	15.8
Watauga	13	24.6
Wayne	12	9.6
Wilkes	14	20.0
Wilson	6	7.4
Yadkin	10	26.4
Yancey	2	11.2
Subtotal	1388	14.0
OUT OF STATE	3	ND
Subtotal	3	ND
TOTAL	1391	14.0

Table 65 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by County of Residence, 2014

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Alamance	20	12.8
Alexander	5	13.2
Alleghany	2	18.0
Anson	3	11.3
Ashe	6	21.9
Avery	3	16.8
Beaufort	13	27.2
Bertie	1	4.9
Bladen	7	19.9
Brunswick	20	17.0
Buncombe	41	16.3
Burke	14	15.7
Cabarrus	24	12.6
Caldwell	19	23.1
Camden	3	29.3
Carteret	13	18.8
Caswell	0	0.0
Catawba	26	16.7
Chatham	10	14.6
Cherokee	3	10.9
Chowan	2	13.7
Clay	1	9.3
Cleveland	18	18.4
Columbus	5	8.7
Craven	15	14.4
Cumberland	33	10.0
Currituck	7	27.9
Dare	6	16.9
Davidson	20	12.2
Davie	9	21.7
Duplin	7	11.6

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Durham	26	8.9
Edgecombe	2	3.6
Forsyth	42	11.5
Franklin	9	14.2
Gaston	38	18.0
Gates	0	0.0
Graham	3	34.0
Granville	11	18.9
Greene	0	0.0
Guilford	46	9.0
Halifax	5	9.4
Harnett	20	15.9
Haywood	8	13.4
Henderson	27	24.4
Hertford	4	16.3
Hoke	6	11.8
Hyde	1	17.4
Iredell	13	7.8
Jackson	9	21.9
Johnston	28	15.6
Jones	3	28.7
Lee	5	8.5
Lenoir	7	11.9
Lincoln	11	13.7
Macon	8	23.2
Madison	2	9.3
Martin	5	21.1
McDowell	8	17.7
Mecklenburg	104	10.3
Mitchell	5	31.6
Montgomery	2	7.2

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Moore	17	18.3
Nash	9	9.5
New Hanover	42	19.4
Northampton	2	9.4
Onslow	36	18.6
Orange	10	7.2
Pamlico	2	15.2
Pasquotank	5	12.6
Pender	13	23.0
Perquimans	3	22.0
Person	7	17.8
Pitt	26	14.9
Polk	7	33.8
Randolph	23	16.1
Richmond	6	13.2
Robeson	18	13.5
Rockingham	17	18.4
Rowan	33	23.8
Rutherford	17	25.2
Sampson	9	14.0
Scotland	4	11.1

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Stanly	10	16.4
Stokes	8	17.1
Surry	16	21.7
Swain	1	6.7
Transylvania	7	20.9
Tyrrell	0	0.0
Union	18	8.3
Vance	4	8.9
Wake	97	9.8
Warren	3	14.6
Washington	2	15.8
Watauga	10	18.9
Wayne	11	8.8
Wilkes	17	24.3
Wilson	6	7.4
Yadkin	9	23.8
Yancey	3	16.8
Subtotal	1342	13.5
OUT OF STATE	49	ND
Subtotal	49	ND
TOTAL	1391	14.0

Table 66 Number of Suicide Deaths by Gender, Age Group, and Race, 2014

Gender	Age Group	White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Unknown	Total
Female	<1						0
	1-4						0
	5-9						0
	10-14	6					6
	15-19	12	4				16
	20-24	16	3			1	20
	25-34	44	11	1	1		57
	35-44	64	4		2		70
	45-54	71	5	3		1	80
	55-64	76	2				78
	65-74	28					28
	75-84	17					17
	85+	3				1	4
	<i>Subtotal</i>		337	29	4	4	2
Gender	Age Group	White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Unknown	Total
Male	<1						0
	1-4						0
	5-9						0
	10-14	6	2				8
	15-19	40	10	2		2	54
	20-24	55	9	3	1	3	71
	25-34	115	19	3	5	6	148
	35-44	130	21	2	2	3	158
	45-54	152	14	3	3	1	173
	55-64	173	14	2	2	3	194
	65-74	117	7		1	2	127
	75-84	54	1				55
	85+	25	2				27
	<i>Subtotal</i>		867	99	15	14	20
TOTAL		1204	128	19	18	22	1391

Table 67 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by Gender, 2014

Gender	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	376	27.0%	7.4
Male	1015	73.0%	21.0
TOTAL	1391	100%	14.0

Table 68 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by Race, 2014

Race/Ethnicity	Total	% Total	Rate
White	1204	86.6%	16.9
Black	128	9.2%	5.8
Unknown	22	1.6%	ND
Asian	19	1.4%	7.1
American Indian	18	1.3%	11.0
TOTAL	1391	100%	14.0

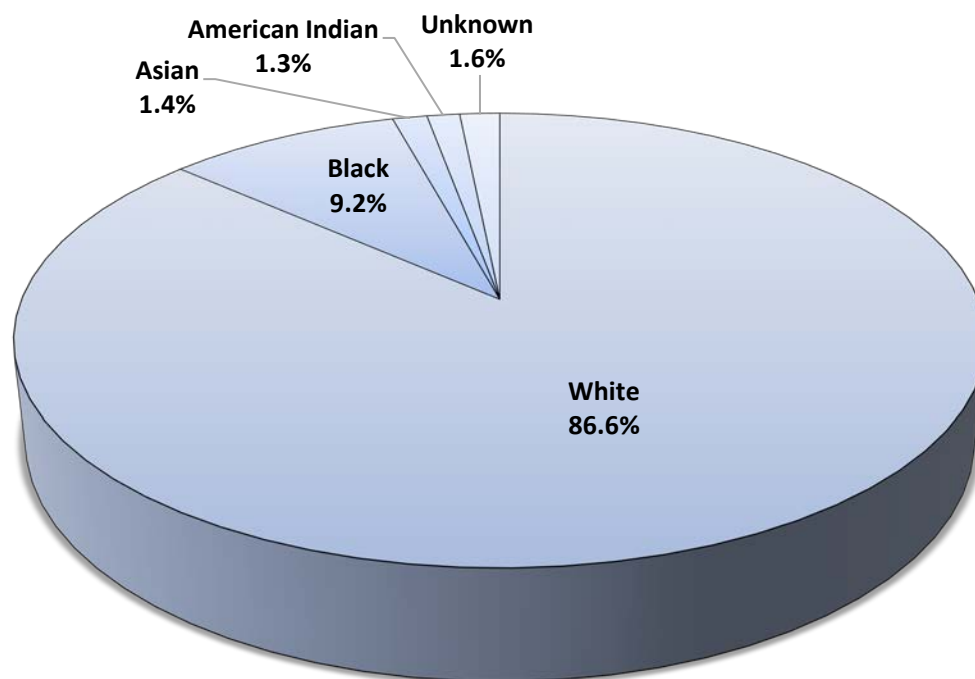
Figure 20 Percentage of Suicide Deaths by Race, 2014

Table 69 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by Age Group, 2014

Age Group	Total	% Total	Rate
10-14	14	1.0%	2.1
15-19	70	5.0%	10.5
20-24	91	6.5%	12.8
25-34	205	14.7%	15.9
35-44	228	16.4%	17.3
45-54	253	18.2%	18.5
55-64	272	19.6%	22.1
65-74	155	11.1%	18.0
75-84	72	5.2%	17.0
85+	31	2.2%	18.3
TOTAL	1391	100%	14.0

Figure 21 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by Age Group, 2014

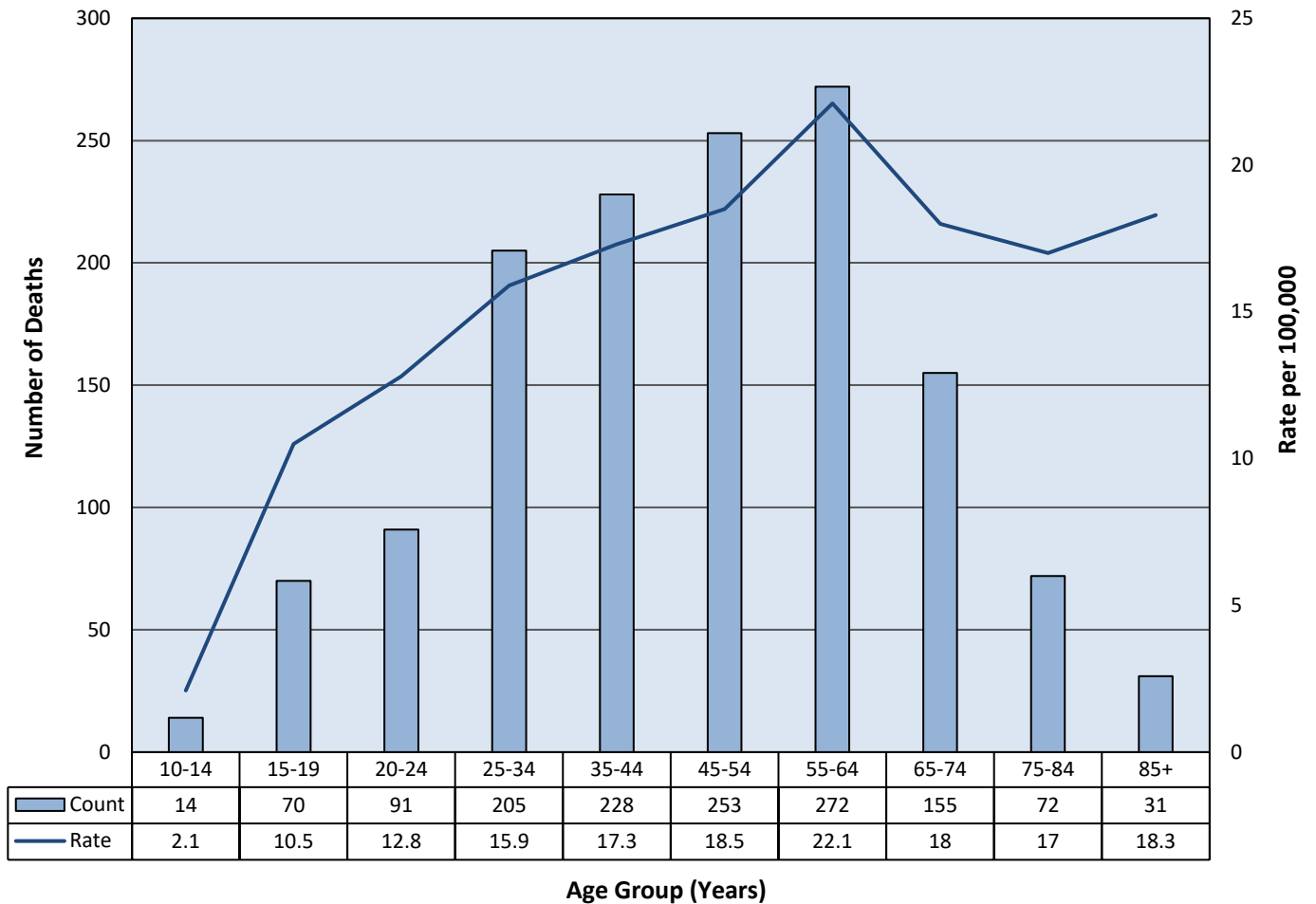


Table 70 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2014

Age Group	Female			Male		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
10-14	6	1.6%	1.9	8	0.8%	2.4
15-19	16	4.3%	4.9	54	5.3%	15.8
20-24	20	5.3%	5.8	71	7.0%	19.3
25-34	57	15.2%	8.6	148	14.6%	23.4
35-44	70	18.6%	10.4	158	15.6%	24.6
45-54	80	21.3%	11.4	173	17.0%	25.9
55-64	78	20.7%	12.0	194	19.1%	33.3
65-74	28	7.4%	6.0	127	12.5%	31.9
75-84	17	4.5%	6.9	55	5.4%	30.9
85+	4	1.1%	3.5	27	2.7%	49.5
TOTAL	376	100%	7.4	1015	100%	21.0

Figure 22 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2014

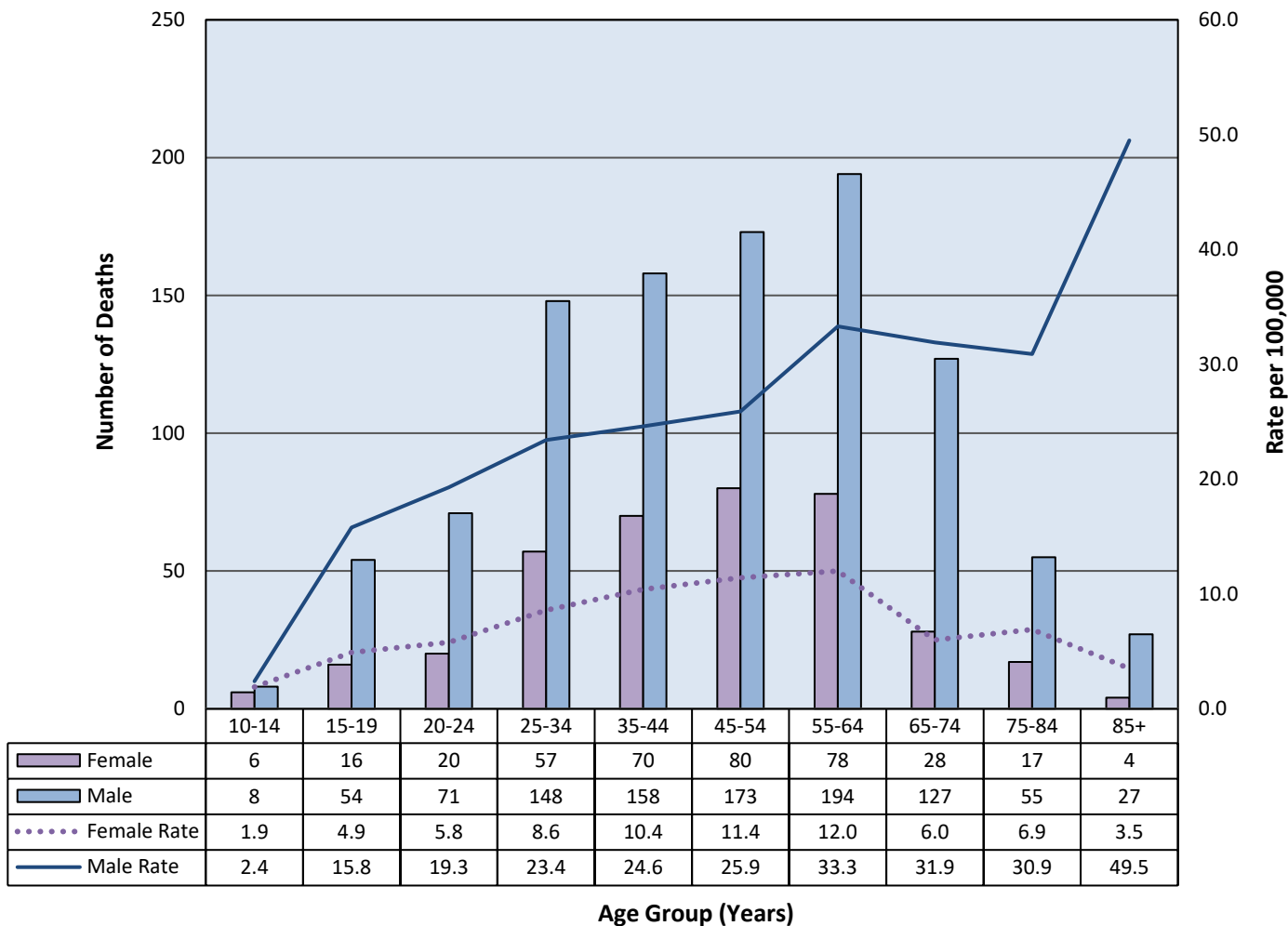
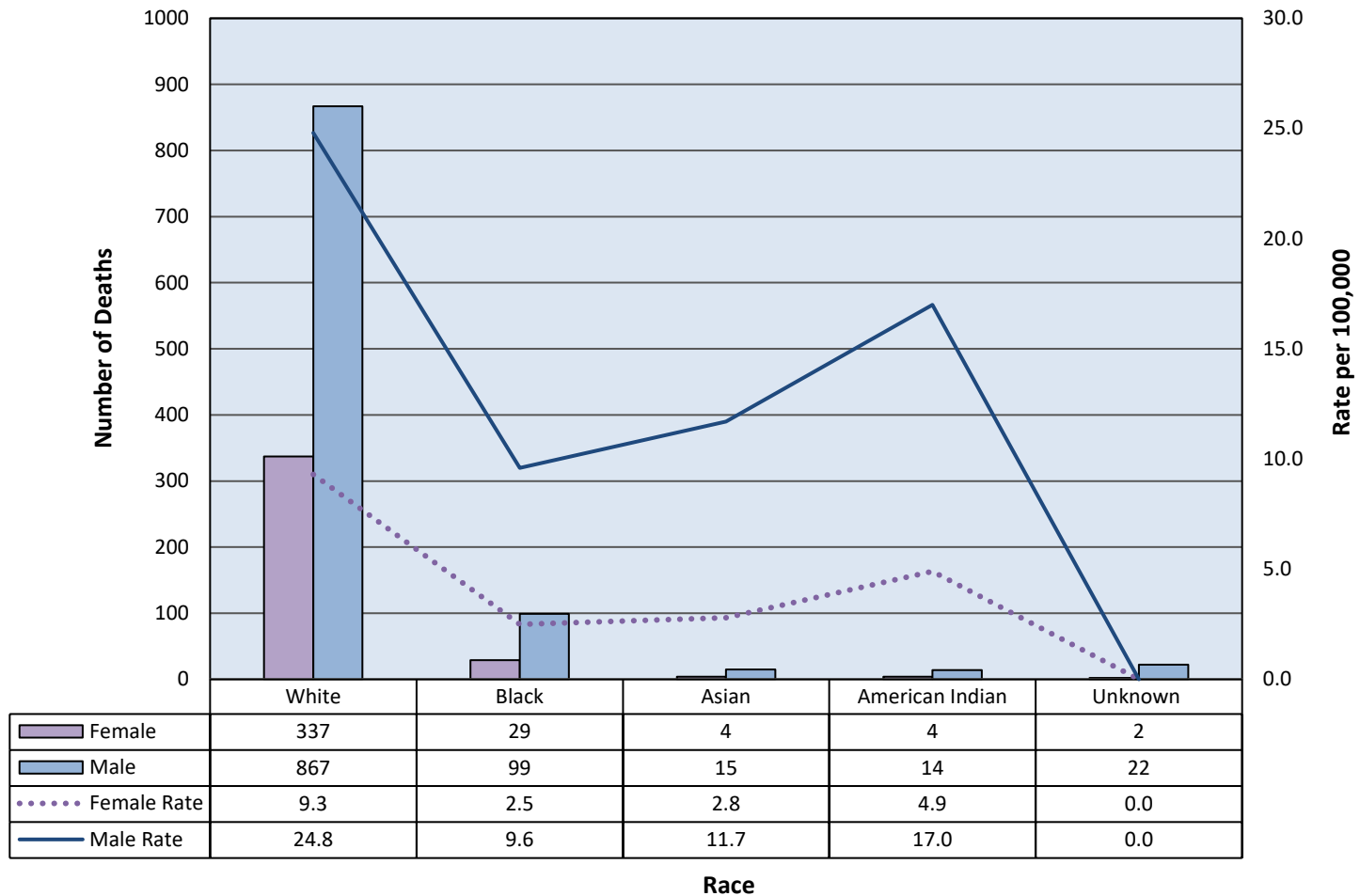


Table 71 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by Gender and Race, 2014

Gender	White			Black			Asian			American Indian			Unknown		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	337	28.0%	9.3	29	22.7%	2.5	4	21.1%	2.8	4	22.2%	4.9	2	9.1%	ND
Male	867	72.0%	24.8	99	77.3%	9.6	15	78.9%	11.7	14	77.8%	17.0	20	90.9%	ND
TOTAL	1204	86.6%	16.9	128	9.2%	5.8	19	1.4%	7.1	18	1.3%	11.0	22	1.6%	ND

Figure 23 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by Gender and Race, 2014



CHAPTER 6

Undetermined Deaths

SUMMARY

2.0% ($n = 226$) of deaths investigated by the medical examiner system were certified as undetermined deaths.

58.9% ($n = 133$) were male. Overall, males had the highest rate with 2.8 per 100,000.

62.0% ($n = 140$) were white. Overall, blacks had the highest rate with 3.4 per 100,000. Black males had the highest rate with 4.5 per 100,000.

43.8% ($n = 99$) were less than 1 year of age. Individuals less than 1 year of age had the highest rate with 82.8 per 100,000.

71.7% ($n = 162$) had an undetermined cause of death. 55.6% ($n = 90$) of these deaths were male, 58.0% ($n = 94$) were white, and 59.9% ($n = 97$) were less than 1 year of age.

14.2% ($n = 32$) were attributed to poisoning of undetermined intent. 65.6% ($n = 21$) of these deaths were male, 78.1% ($n = 25$) were white, and 28.1% ($n = 9$) were between 35 and 44 years of age.

Forsyth County had the highest number of undetermined deaths based on county of death ($n = 25$) and the highest rate with 6.9 per 100,000.

Table 72 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by Means of Death, 2014

Means of Death	Total	% Total	Rate
Unknown	162	71.7%	1.6
Poisoning	32	14.2%	0.3
Firearms	8	3.5%	0.1
Transportation	8	3.5%	0.1
Natural	4	1.8%	0.0
Fall/Jump	2	0.9%	0.0
Asphyxia	2	0.9%	0.0
Drowning	2	0.9%	0.0
Electrocution	1	0.4%	0.0
Other	5	2.2%	0.1
TOTAL	226	100%	2.3

Table 73 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by County of Death, Sorted by Highest Number

County of Death	Total	Rate
Forsyth	25	6.9
Mecklenburg	19	1.9
Guilford	18	3.5
Wake	16	1.6
Cumberland	12	3.6

Table 74 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by County of Death, Sorted by Highest Rate

County of Death	Total	Rate
Forsyth	25	6.9
Burke	6	6.7
Rowan	6	4.3
Cumberland	12	3.6
Onslow	7	3.6

Table 75 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by County of Residence, Sorted by Highest Number

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Forsyth	22	6.0
Mecklenburg	15	1.5
Wake	14	1.4
Guilford	12	2.3
Cumberland	10	3.0

Table 76 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by County of Residence, Sorted by Highest Rate

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Forsyth	22	6.0
Burke	5	5.6
Craven	5	4.8
Rowan	6	4.3
Robeson	5	3.7

Table 77 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by County of Death, 2014

County of Death	Total	Rate
Alamance	3	1.9
Alexander	0	0.0
Alleghany	1	9.0
Anson	1	3.8
Ashe	1	3.6
Avery	0	0.0
Beaufort	2	4.2
Bertie	1	4.9
Bladen	2	5.7
Brunswick	1	0.9
Buncombe	6	2.4
Burke	6	6.7
Cabarrus	2	1.1
Caldwell	0	0.0
Camden	0	0.0
Carteret	2	2.9
Caswell	0	0.0
Catawba	4	2.6
Chatham	2	2.9
Cherokee	3	10.9
Chowan	0	0.0
Clay	0	0.0
Cleveland	4	4.1
Columbus	0	0.0
Craven	5	4.8
Cumberland	12	3.6
Currituck	0	0.0
Dare	1	2.8
Davidson	3	1.8
Davie	1	2.4
Duplin	2	3.3

County of Death	Total	Rate
Durham	9	3.1
Edgecombe	0	0.0
Forsyth	25	6.9
Franklin	2	3.2
Gaston	4	1.9
Gates	1	8.4
Graham	0	0.0
Granville	1	1.7
Greene	1	4.7
Guilford	18	3.5
Halifax	4	7.5
Harnett	0	0.0
Haywood	0	0.0
Henderson	0	0.0
Hertford	0	0.0
Hoke	1	2.0
Hyde	0	0.0
Iredell	1	0.6
Jackson	0	0.0
Johnston	2	1.1
Jones	1	9.6
Lee	0	0.0
Lenoir	0	0.0
Lincoln	1	1.3
Macon	1	2.9
Madison	0	0.0
Martin	0	0.0
McDowell	2	4.4
Mecklenburg	19	1.9
Mitchell	0	0.0
Montgomery	0	0.0

County of Death	Total	Rate
Moore	3	3.2
Nash	1	1.1
New Hanover	0	0.0
Northampton	0	0.0
Onslow	7	3.6
Orange	3	2.1
Pamlico	0	0.0
Pasquotank	3	7.6
Pender	2	3.5
Perquimans	0	0.0
Person	0	0.0
Pitt	3	1.7
Polk	0	0.0
Randolph	0	0.0
Richmond	0	0.0
Robeson	3	2.3
Rockingham	3	3.2
Rowan	6	4.3
Rutherford	1	1.5
Sampson	2	3.1
Scotland	5	13.9

County of Death	Total	Rate
Stanly	1	1.6
Stokes	1	2.1
Surry	0	0.0
Swain	1	6.7
Transylvania	0	0.0
Tyrrell	0	0.0
Union	1	0.5
Vance	2	4.4
Wake	16	1.6
Warren	1	4.9
Washington	0	0.0
Watauga	2	3.8
Wayne	0	0.0
Wilkes	1	1.4
Wilson	0	0.0
Yadkin	0	0.0
Yancey	0	0.0
Subtotal	226	2.3
OUT OF STATE	0	ND
Subtotal	0	ND
TOTAL	226	2.3

Table 78 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by County of Residence, 2014

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Alamance	2	1.3
Alexander	1	2.6
Alleghany	0	0.0
Anson	1	3.8
Ashe	1	3.6
Avery	0	0.0
Beaufort	2	4.2
Bertie	0	0.0
Bladen	2	5.7
Brunswick	1	0.9
Buncombe	5	2.0
Burke	5	5.6
Cabarrus	3	1.6
Caldwell	2	2.4
Camden	0	0.0
Carteret	2	2.9
Caswell	0	0.0
Catawba	4	2.6
Chatham	2	2.9
Cherokee	2	7.3
Chowan	0	0.0
Clay	0	0.0
Cleveland	3	3.1
Columbus	0	0.0
Craven	5	4.8
Cumberland	10	3.0
Currituck	2	8.0
Dare	1	2.8
Davidson	3	1.8
Davie	1	2.4
Duplin	1	1.7

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Durham	5	1.7
Edgecombe	0	0.0
Forsyth	22	6.0
Franklin	3	4.7
Gaston	4	1.9
Gates	1	8.4
Graham	0	0.0
Granville	1	1.7
Greene	1	4.7
Guilford	12	2.3
Halifax	4	7.5
Harnett	1	0.8
Haywood	0	0.0
Henderson	0	0.0
Hertford	0	0.0
Hoke	1	2.0
Hyde	0	0.0
Iredell	1	0.6
Jackson	0	0.0
Johnston	2	1.1
Jones	1	9.6
Lee	1	1.7
Lenoir	0	0.0
Lincoln	1	1.3
Macon	2	5.8
Madison	0	0.0
Martin	1	4.2
McDowell	1	2.2
Mecklenburg	15	1.5
Mitchell	0	0.0
Montgomery	0	0.0

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Moore	2	2.2
Nash	1	1.1
New Hanover	0	0.0
Northampton	0	0.0
Onslow	7	3.6
Orange	0	0.0
Pamlico	0	0.0
Pasquotank	1	2.5
Pender	2	3.5
Perquimans	0	0.0
Person	1	2.6
Pitt	3	1.7
Polk	0	0.0
Randolph	4	2.8
Richmond	1	2.2
Robeson	5	3.7
Rockingham	3	3.2
Rowan	6	4.3
Rutherford	1	1.5
Sampson	3	4.7
Scotland	4	11.1
Stanly	1	1.6

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Stokes	1	2.1
Surry	1	1.4
Swain	1	6.7
Transylvania	0	0.0
Tyrrell	0	0.0
Union	1	0.5
Vance	3	6.7
Wake	14	1.4
Warren	1	4.9
Washington	0	0.0
Watauga	2	3.8
Wayne	0	0.0
Wilkes	0	0.0
Wilson	0	0.0
Yadkin	1	2.6
Yancey	0	0.0
Subtotal	211	2.1
OUT OF STATE	14	ND
Unknown	1	ND
Subtotal	15	ND
TOTAL	226	2.3

Table 79 Number of Undetermined Deaths by Gender, Age Group, and Race, 2014

Gender	Age Group	White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Unknown	Total
Female	<1	24	18	1		1	44
	1-4	1	1				2
	5-9						0
	10-14						0
	15-19	2	1				3
	20-24	2	1				3
	25-34	8	2				10
	35-44	5	2				7
	45-54	7	3	1		1	12
	55-64	5					5
	65-74	1	1				2
	75-84	1					1
	85+	2				1	3
	<i>Subtotal</i>		58	29	2	1	2
Gender	Age Group	White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Unknown	Total
Male	<1	26	27	1			54
	1-4	1	1				2
	5-9						0
	10-14						0
	15-19	1					1
	20-24	1	4			1	6
	25-34	12	2			1	15
	35-44	13	4	1			18
	45-54	10	6				16
	55-64	12	1	1			14
	65-74	6	1				7
	75-84						0
	85+						0
	<i>Subtotal</i>		82	46	3	0	2
Gender	Age Group	White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Unknown	Total
Unknown	<1	0	0	0	0	1	1
	<i>Subtotal</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL		140	75	5	1	5	226

Table 80 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by Gender, 2014

Gender	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	92	40.7%	1.8
Male	133	58.9%	2.8
Unknown	1	0.4%	ND
TOTAL	226	100%	2.3

Table 81 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by Race, 2014

Race/Ethnicity	Total	% Total	Rate
White	140	62.0%	2.0
Black	75	33.2%	3.4
American Indian	5	2.2%	3.0
Unknown	5	2.2%	ND
Asian	1	0.4%	0.4
TOTAL	226	100%	2.3

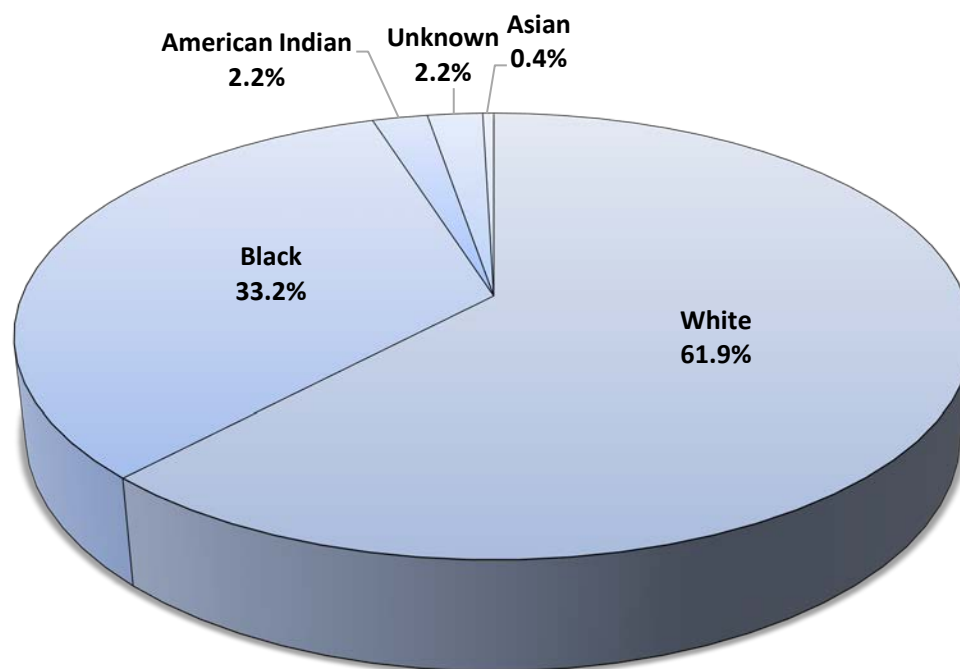
Figure 24 Percentage of Undetermined Deaths by Race, 2014

Table 82 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by Age Group, 2014

Age Group	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	99	43.8%	82.8
1-4	4	1.8%	0.8
5-9	0	0.0%	0.0
10-14	0	0.0%	0.0
15-19	4	1.8%	0.6
20-24	9	4.0%	1.3
25-34	25	11.1%	1.9
35-44	25	11.1%	1.9
45-54	28	12.4%	2.0
55-64	19	8.4%	1.5
65-74	9	4.0%	1.0
75-84	1	0.4%	0.2
85+	3	1.3%	1.8
TOTAL	226	100%	2.3

Figure 25 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by Age Group, 2014

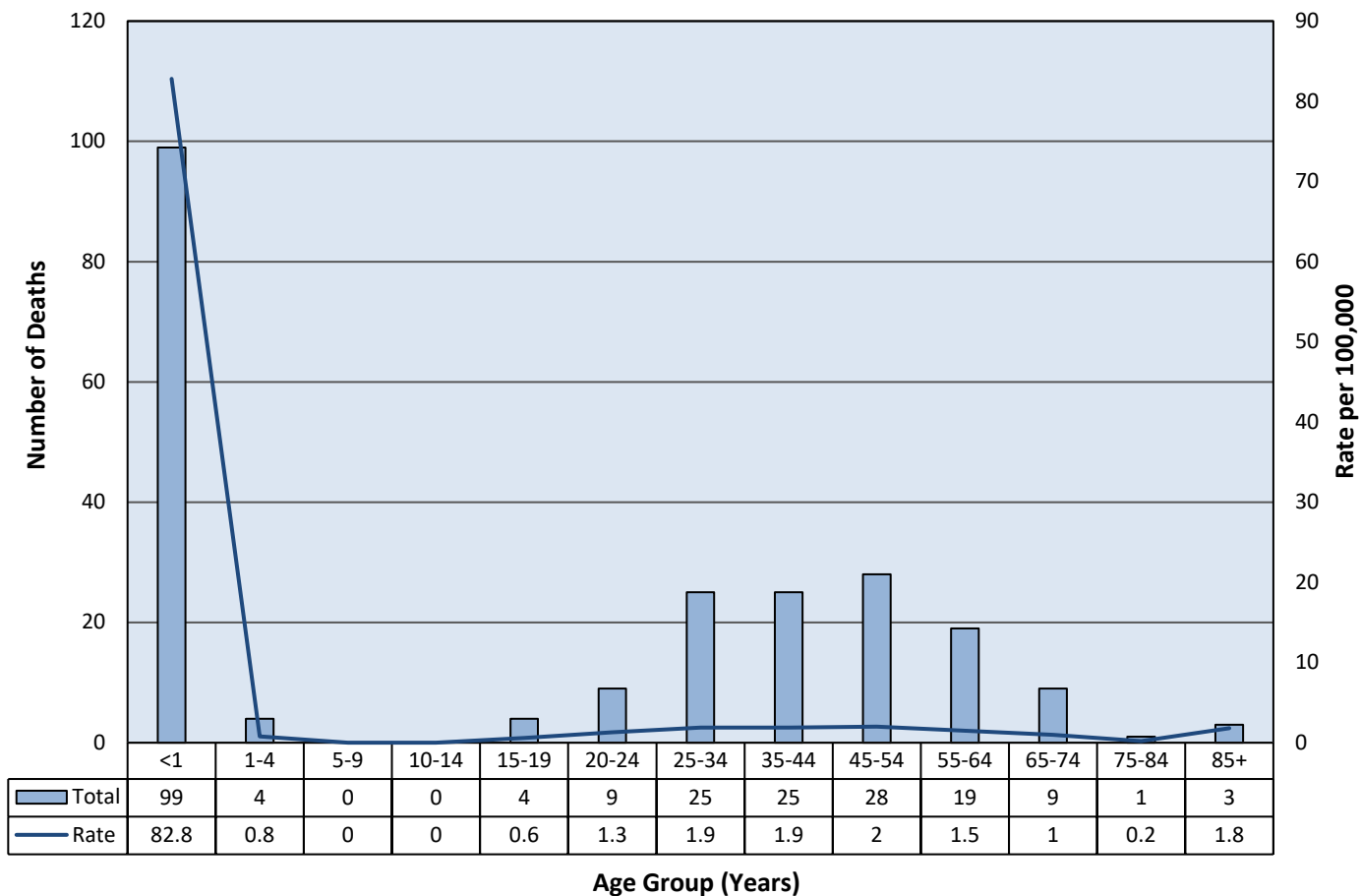


Table 83 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2014

Age Group	Female			Male		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	44	47.8%	ND	54	40.6%	ND
1-4	2	2.2%	ND	2	1.5%	ND
5-9	0	0.0%	0.0	0	0.0%	0.0
10-14	0	0.0%	0.0	0	0.0%	0.0
15-19	3	3.3%	0.9	1	0.8%	0.3
20-24	3	3.3%	0.9	6	4.5%	1.6
25-34	10	10.9%	1.5	15	11.3%	2.4
35-44	7	7.6%	1.0	18	13.5%	2.8
45-54	12	13.0%	1.7	16	12.0%	2.4
55-64	5	5.4%	0.8	14	10.5%	2.4
65-74	2	2.2%	0.4	7	5.3%	1.8
75-84	1	1.1%	0.4	0	0.0%	0.0
85+	3	3.3%	2.6	0	0.0%	0.0
TOTAL	92	100%	1.8	133	100%	2.8

Figure 26 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2014

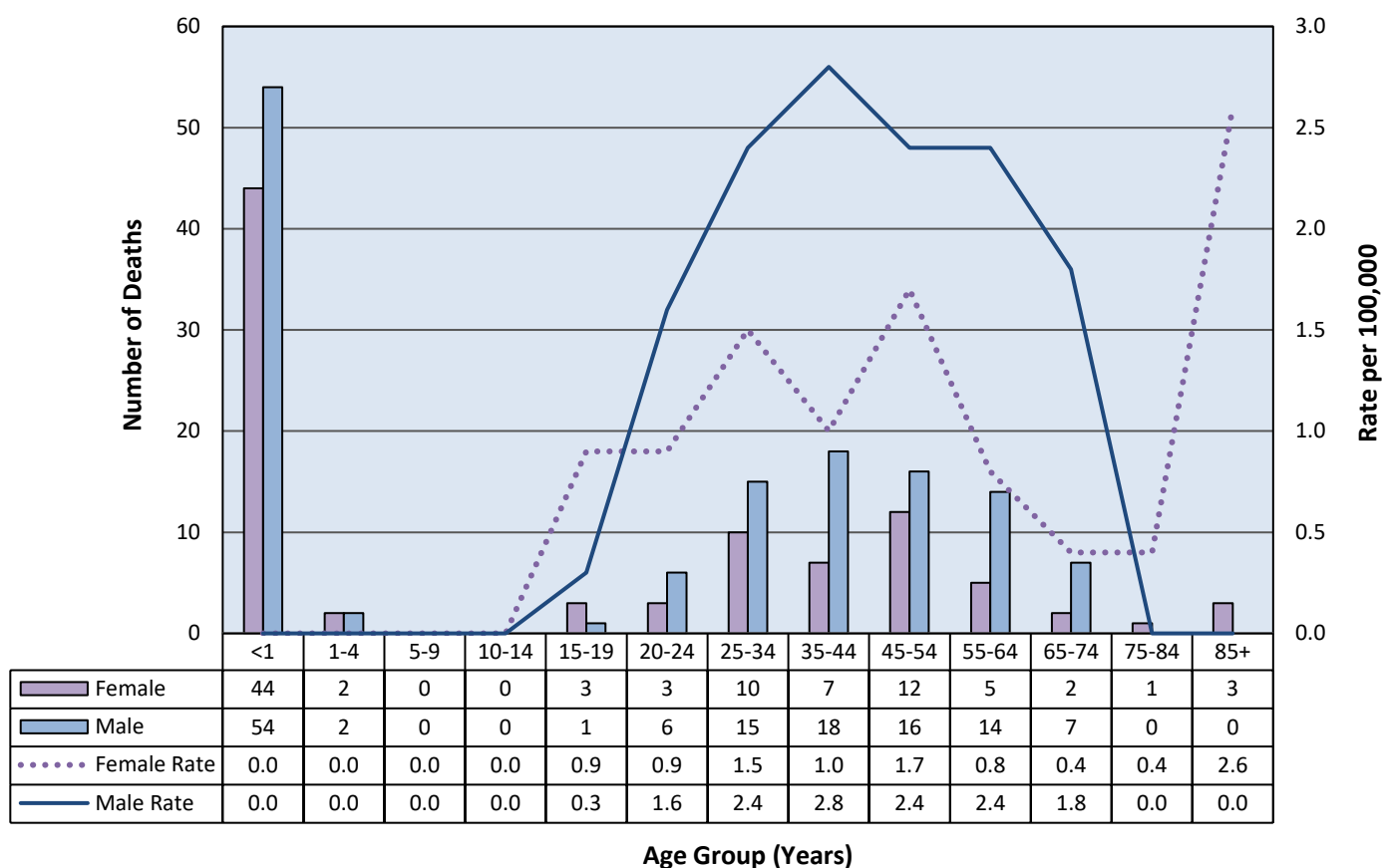
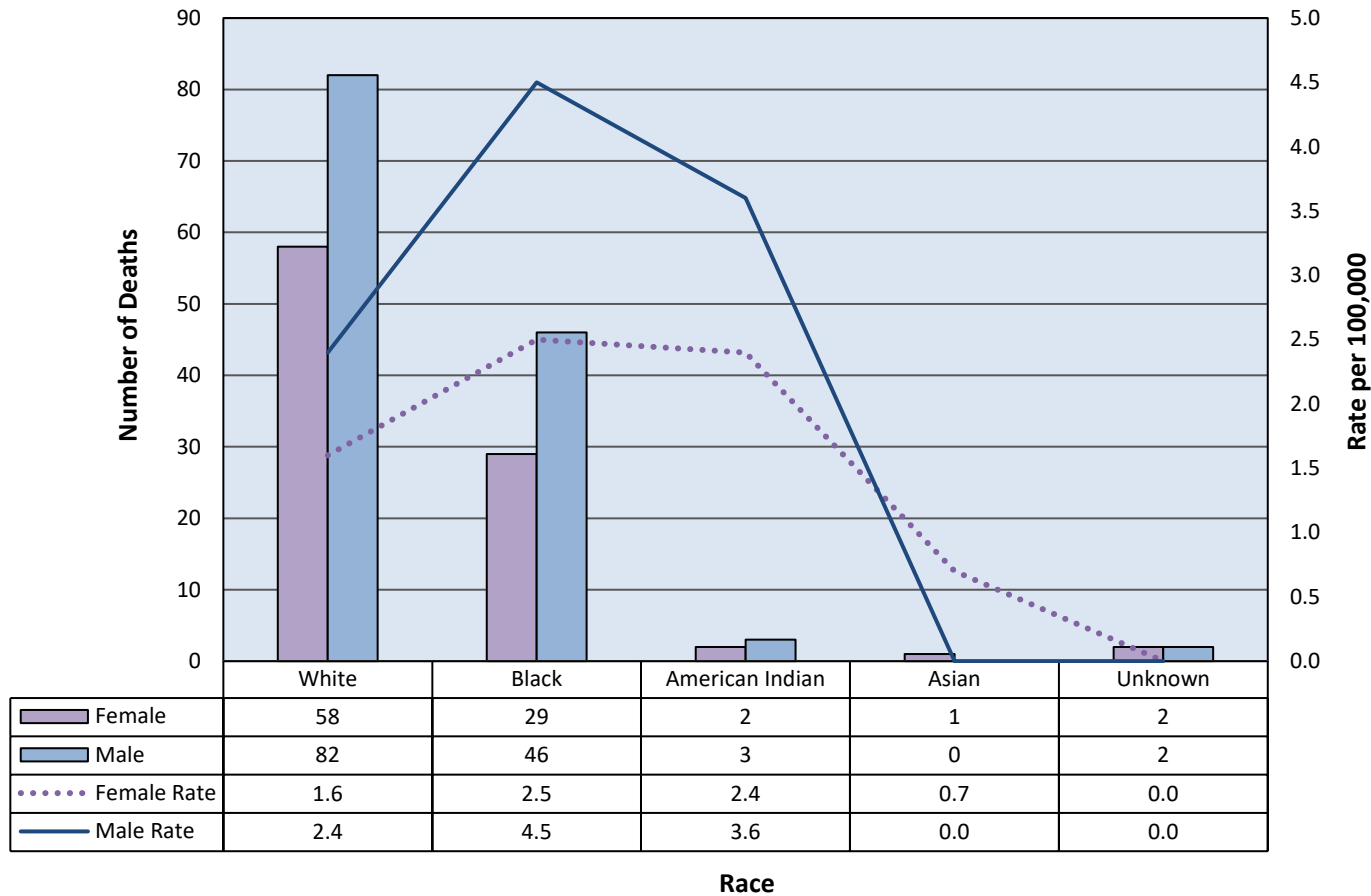


Table 84 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by Gender and Race, 2014

Gender	White			Black			American Indian			Asian			Unknown		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	58	41.4%	1.6	29	38.7%	2.5	2	40.0%	2.4	1	100%	0.7	2	40.0%	ND
Male	82	58.6%	2.4	46	61.3%	4.5	3	60.0%	3.6	0	0.0%	0.0	2	40.0%	ND
Unknown	0	0.0%	0.0	0	0.0%	0.0	0	0.0%	0.0	0	0.0%	0.0	1	20.0%	ND
TOTAL	140	100%	2.0	75	100%	3.4	5	100%	3.0	1	100%	0.4	5	100%	ND

Figure 27 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by Gender and Race, 2014



GLOSSARY

Accident

This *manner of death* is used when there is no evidence of intent; an unexpected, sudden, and unintentional death.

Associate Chief Medical Examiner

A board-certified forensic pathologist licensed to practice medicine in the state of North Carolina appointed by the *Chief Medical Examiner*. The *Associate Chief Medical Examiner* is responsible for performing autopsies and investigating deaths that fall under the jurisdiction of the medical examiner system with the goal of determining *cause and manner of death*.

Autopsy

A comprehensive postmortem external and internal examination performed to determine the cause and manner of death, collect evidence, and document the absence or presence of injury.

Cause of Death

The disease, abnormality, injury, or poisoning that caused the death, not the mechanism of death, such as cardiac or respiratory arrest, shock, or heart failure (CDC 2003). The *cause of death* is determined based on the results of the external and/or internal examination, toxicology testing, and antemortem medical records, if necessary.

Chief Medical Examiner

The head of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). The *Chief Medical Examiner* must be a board-certified forensic pathologist licensed to practice medicine in the state of North Carolina.

County of Death

The county in which the death occurred. The *county of death* may differ from the county in which the decedent legally resided, also known as the *county of residence*.

County of Residence

The county in which the decedent legally resided prior to death. The *county of residence* may differ from the county in which the death occurred, also known as the *county of death*.

Congenital Malformations, Deformations, and Chromosomal Abnormalities

This category refers to deaths classified under ICD-10 codes Q00 – Q99. This category includes congenital malformations of the nervous system and other organs and chromosomal abnormalities such as Down syndrome (WHO 2016).

Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

A board-certified forensic pathologist licensed to practice medicine in the state of North Carolina appointed by the *Chief Medical Examiner*. The *Deputy Chief Medical Examiner* is responsible for performing autopsies and investigating deaths that fall under the jurisdiction of the medical examiner system with the goal of determining *cause and manner of death*. The *Deputy Chief Medical Examiner* also assumes the duties of the *Chief Medical Examiner* in the event of his/her absence.

Diseases of the Circulatory System

This category refers to deaths classified under ICD-10 codes I00 – I99. Deaths in this category may have resulted from: (1) acute rheumatic fever, (2) chronic rheumatic heart diseases, (3) hypertensive disease, (4) ischemic heart disease, (5) pulmonary heart disease, (6) cerebrovascular diseases, (7) diseases of arteries, arterioles, and capillaries, and (8) diseases of veins, lymphatic vessels, and lymph nodes (WHO 2016).

Diseases of the Digestive System

This category refers to deaths classified under ICD-10 codes K00 – K93. Deaths in this category may have resulted from: (1) diseases of the oral cavity, salivary glands, and jaws, (2) diseases of the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum, (3) diseases of the appendix, (4) hernia, (5) noninfective enteritis and colitis, (6) diseases of the peritoneum, (7) diseases of the liver, and (8) disorders of the gallbladder, biliary tract, and pancreas (WHO 2016).

Diseases of the Genitourinary System

This category refers to deaths classified under ICD-10 codes N00 – N99. Deaths in this category may have resulted from: (1) glomerular diseases, (2) renal failure, (3) urolithiasis, (4) diseases of the male genital organs, (5) disorders of the breast, (6) inflammatory diseases of the female pelvic organs, and (7) non-inflammatory disorders of the female genital tract (WHO 2016).

Diseases of the Nervous System

This category refers to deaths classified under ICD-10 codes G00 – G99. Deaths in this category may have resulted from: (1) inflammatory diseases of the central nervous system, (2) systemic atrophies primarily affecting the central nervous system, (3) extrapyramidal and movement disorders, (4) demyelinating diseases of the central nervous system, (5) episodic and paroxysmal disorders, (6) nerve, nerve root, and plexus disorders, (7) polyneuropathies and other disorders of the peripheral nervous system, (8) diseases of the myoneural junction and muscle, and (9) cerebral palsy and other paralytic syndromes (WHO 2016).

Diseases of the Respiratory System

This category refers to deaths classified under ICD-10 codes J00 – J99. Deaths in this category may have resulted from: (1) acute upper respiratory infections, (2) influenza and pneumonia, (3) chronic lower respiratory diseases, (4) lung diseases due to external agents, and (5) suppurative and necrotic conditions of the lower respiratory tract (WHO 2016).

Endocrine, Nutritional, and Metabolic Diseases

This category refers to deaths classified under ICD-10 codes E00 – E99. Deaths in this category may have resulted from: (1) disorders of the thyroid gland, (2) diabetes mellitus, (3) other disorders of glucose regulation and pancreatic internal secretion, (4) disorders of other endocrine glands, (5) malnutrition, (6) other nutritional deficiencies, (7) obesity and other hyperalimentation, and (8) metabolic disorders (WHO 2016).

Exposure to Inanimate Mechanical Forces

This category refers to deaths classified under ICD-10 codes W20 – W49. Deaths in this category may have resulted from unintentional firearm discharge or other trauma caused by exposure to inanimate mechanical forces (WHO 2016).

Homicide

This *manner of death* is used when the death resulted from intentional harm of one person by another. Intent to cause death is a common element, but not required for a *manner of death* classification of *homicide* (CDC 2003).

Infectious and Parasitic Diseases

This category refers to deaths classified under ICD-10 codes A00 – B99. Deaths resulted from diseases generally recognized as communicable or transmissible (WHO 2016). Diseases in this category include, but are not limited to: (1) intestinal infectious diseases, (2) tuberculosis, (3) viral infections of the central nervous system, (4) arthropod-borne viral fevers and viral hemorrhagic fevers, (5) viral hepatitis, (6) human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease, (7) mycoses, and (8) protozoal diseases (WHO 2016).

Jurisdiction

Pursuant to § 130A-383 of the North Carolina General Statutes, the medical examiner assumes jurisdiction:

(a) Upon the death of any person resulting from violence, poisoning, accident, suicide or homicide; occurring suddenly when the deceased had been in apparent good health or when unattended by a physician; occurring in a jail, prison, correctional institution or in police custody; occurring in State facilities operated in accordance with Part 5 of Article 4 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes; occurring pursuant to Article 19 of Chapter 15 of the General Statutes; or occurring under any suspicious, unusual or unnatural circumstance, the medical examiner of the county in which the body of the deceased is found shall be notified by a physician in attendance, hospital employee, law-enforcement officer, funeral home employee, emergency medical technician, relative or by any other person having suspicion of such a death. No person shall disturb the body at the scene of such a death until authorized by the medical examiner unless in the unavailability of the medical examiner it is determined by the appropriate law enforcement agency that the presence of the body at the scene would risk the integrity of the body or provide a hazard to the safety of others. For the limited purposes of this Part, expression of opinion that death has occurred may be made by a nurse, an emergency medical technician or any other competent person in the absence of a physician.

(b) The discovery of anatomical material suspected of being part of a human body shall be reported to the medical examiner of the county in which the material is found.

(c) Upon completion of the investigation and in accordance with the rules of the Commission, the medical examiner shall release the body to the next of kin or other interested person who will assume responsibility for final disposition. (1955, c. 972, s. 1; 1957, c. 1357, s. 1; 1963, c. 492, s. 4; 1967, c. 1154, s. 1; 1983, c. 891, s. 2; 1989, c. 353, s. 1; 2008-131, s. 2.)

Legal Intervention and Operations of War

This category refers to deaths classified under ICD-10 codes Y35 – Y36. Deaths relating to legal intervention resulted from injuries inflicted by the police or other law-enforcing agents, including military on duty, in the course of arresting or attempting to arrest lawbreakers, suppressing disturbances, maintaining order, and other legal action. Deaths relating to operations of war resulted from injuries to military personnel and civilians caused by war and civil insurrection (WHO 2016).

Local Medical Examiner

A medical professional appointed by the *Chief Medical Examiner*, charged with the duty of investigating and certifying specified categories of human deaths in North Carolina. A medical examiner's authority derives from Article 16 of Section 130A of the North Carolina General Statutes. His/her primary purpose is to detect, analyze, and document the medical aspects of certain types of deaths so that deaths can be better understood scientifically, legally, and socially.

Manner of Death

A classification of death based on the circumstances surrounding a particular *cause of death* and how that cause came into play. The *manner of death* is one of the items that must be reported on the death certificate and consists of five (5) categories: *accident, homicide, natural, suicide, and undetermined* (NAME 2002).

Means of Death

The method or item involved in causing the death. For example, the *means of death* may be a firearm, poison, motor vehicle, or sharp instrument.

Mental and Behavioral Disorders

This category refers to deaths classified under ICD-10 codes F00 – F99. Deaths in this category may have resulted from disorders of psychological development, such as Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia (WHO 2016).

Natural

This *manner of death* is used when the death resulted from disease and/or the aging process (CDC 2003).

Neoplasms

This category refers to deaths classified under ICD-10 codes C00 – D48. Deaths in this category may have resulted from malignant neoplasms, in situ neoplasms, benign neoplasms, or neoplasms of uncertain or unknown behavior (WHO 2016).

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) is a branch within the Division of Public Health (DPH), which is part of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS). The OCME is responsible for the investigation of all sudden, unexpected, violent deaths that occur in North Carolina, as well as natural deaths unattended by a physician and deaths that occur while in custody.

Sequelae of External Causes of Morbidity and Mortality

This category refers to deaths classified under ICD-10 codes Y85 – Y89. Deaths in this category resulted from “late effects” of an originating event, such as an assault or intentional self-harm (WHO 2016).

Signs, Symptoms, and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory Findings

This category refers to deaths classified under ICD-10 codes R00 – R99. Deaths in this category may have resulted from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) or seizures of unknown etiology (WHO 2016).

Suicide

This *manner of death* is used when the death resulted from an intentional, self-inflicted act committed to do self-harm or cause the death of one's self (CDC 2003).

Undetermined

This *manner of death* is used when the information pointing to one manner of death is no more compelling than the information pointing to one or more other competing manners of death (CDC 2003).

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