



ANNUAL REPORT

Deaths Investigated by the North Carolina Medical Examiner System, 2017

ABSTRACT

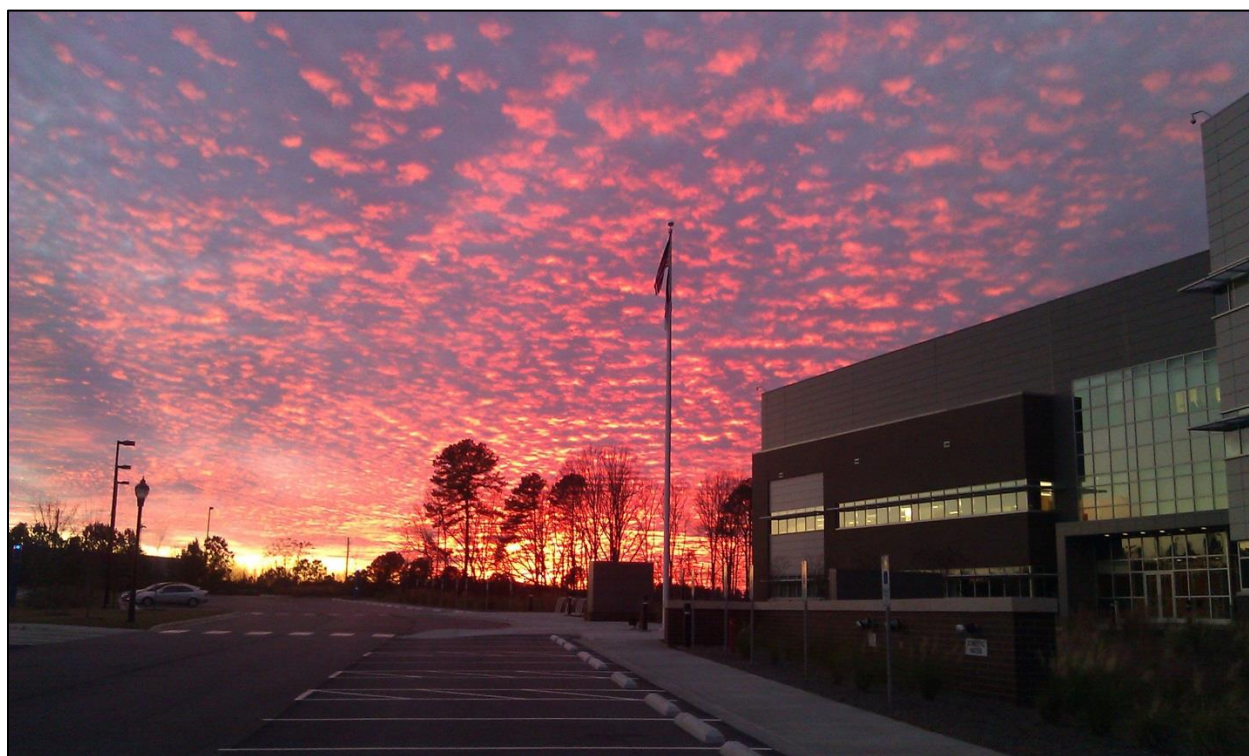
In 2017, 12,441 deaths were investigated by the medical examiner system, representing 13.3% of the total number of deaths in North Carolina ($n = 93,202$). Of these deaths, 47.7% ($n = 5,940$) were certified as accidents, 31.3% ($n = 3,895$) were natural, 12.4% ($n = 1,541$) were suicides, 6.1% ($n = 756$) were homicides, 2.4% ($n = 303$) were ruled undetermined, and 0.1% ($n = 6$) were pending final determination at the time of this report. This report provides an overview of these deaths and summarizes the activities of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME).

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<http://www.ocme.dhhs.nc.gov/annreport/index.shtml>

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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 2017 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).

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 2017 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 were investigated under the jurisdiction of the medical examiner system in 2017.
- “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.

CHAPTER I

Total Deaths

SUMMARY

12,441 deaths were investigated by the medical examiner system in 2017. Of these deaths, less than 0.1% ($n = 6$) were pending at the time of this report and have been excluded.

47.7% ($n = 5,940$) were certified as accidental deaths. Accidental deaths occurred at a rate of 57.8 per 100,000 based on county of death.

68.3% ($n = 8,492$) were male. Overall, males had the highest rate with 170.2 per 100,000. Males over 85 years of age had the highest rate of any age group with 692.9 per 100,000.

73.2% ($n = 9,107$) were white. Overall, whites had the highest rate with 125.1 per 100,000.

18.5% ($n = 2,301$) were between 55 and 64 years of age. Individuals over 85 years of age had the highest rate with 519.6 per 100,000.

21.0% ($n = 2,611$) of deaths were attributed to diseases of the cardiovascular system.

Mecklenburg County had the highest number of deaths based on county of death ($n = 1,050$), but Haywood County had the highest rate with 256.0 per 100,000.

Figure 1 Percentage of Deaths by Manner of Death, 2017

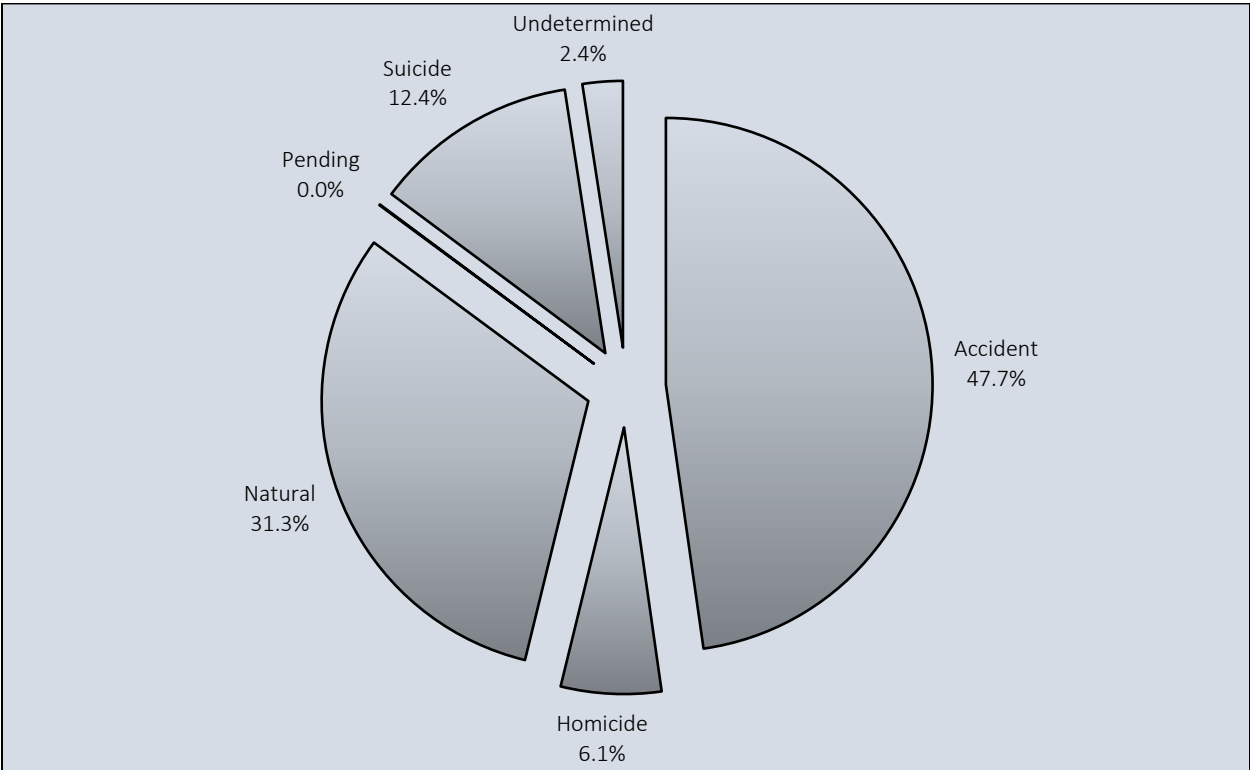


Figure 2 Number of Deaths by Month of Death, 2017

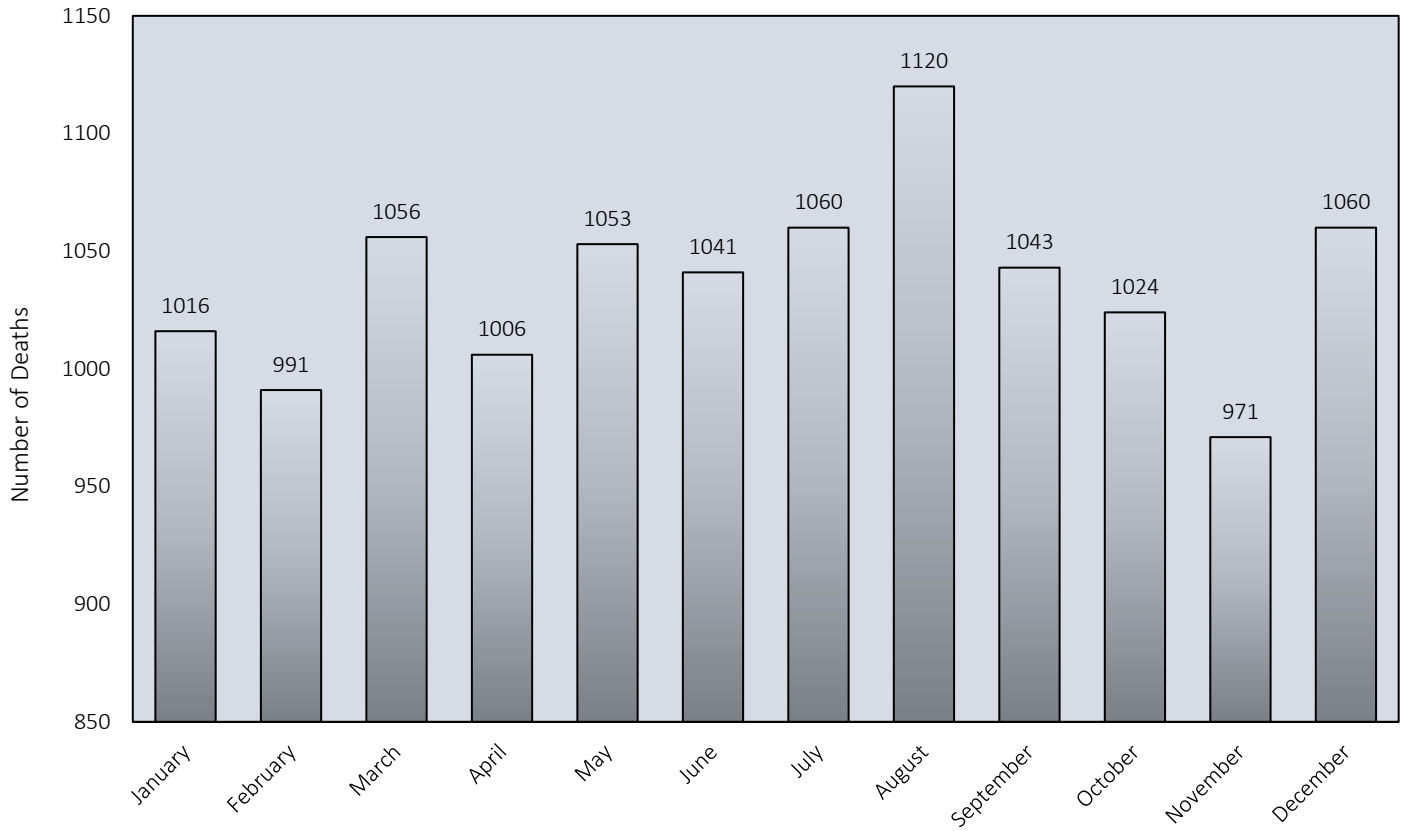


Figure 3 Number of Deaths by Month of Death and Manner of Death, 2017

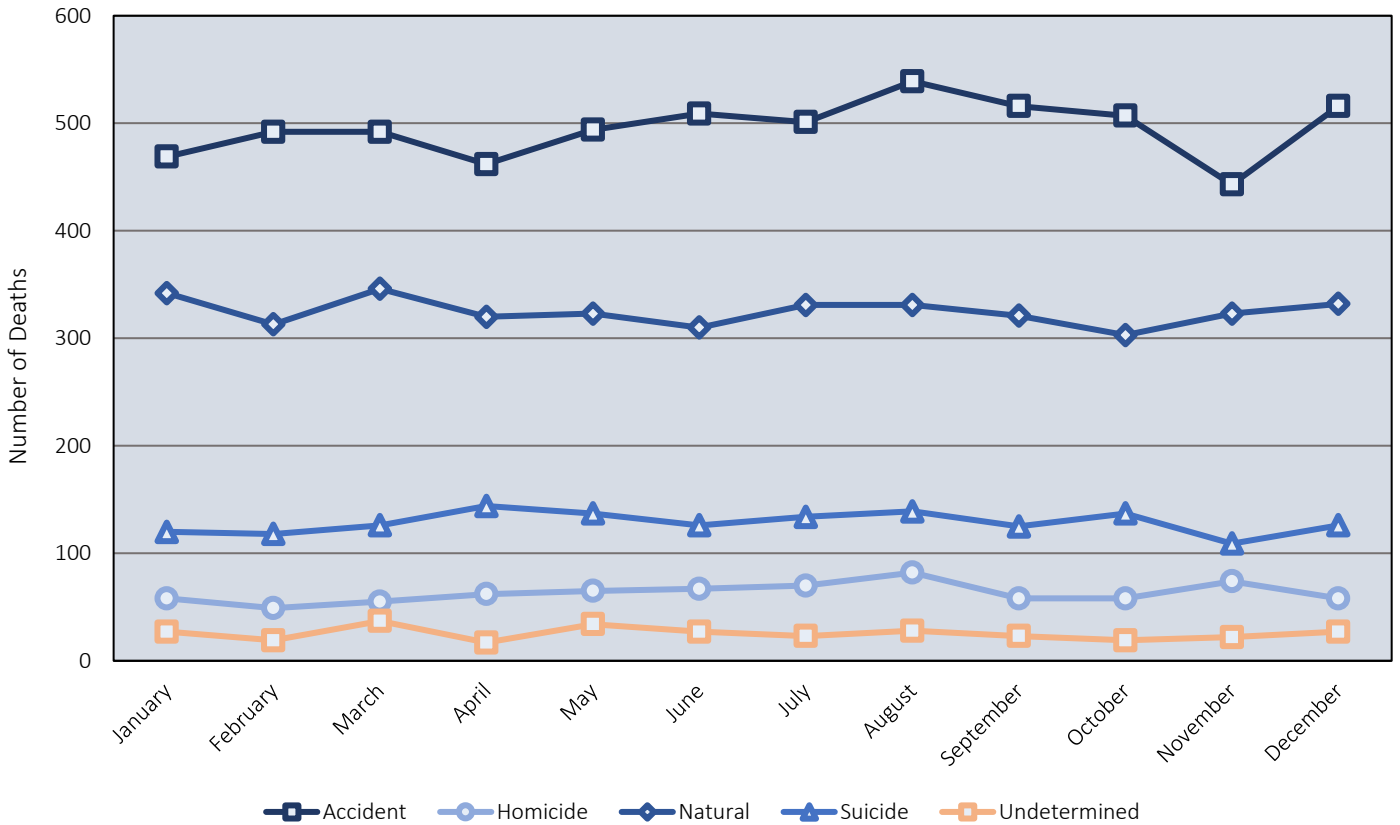


Table 1 Number and Rate of Deaths by County of Death, Sorted by Highest Number

County of Death	Total	Rate
Mecklenburg	1050	97.8
Wake	840	80.0
Forsyth	648	173.8
Guilford	644	122.0
Buncombe	530	204.6

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

County of Death	Total	Rate
Haywood	160	256.0
Graham	21	239.9
Pitt	387	217.8
Buncombe	530	204.6
Dare	73	199.0

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

County of Death	Total	Rate
Mecklenburg	822	76.6
Wake	697	66.4
Guilford	521	98.7
Cumberland	450	137.0
Forsyth	428	114.8

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

County of Death	Total	Rate
Haywood	167	267.3
Swain	36	244.7
Tyrrell	10	232.3
Gates	23	191.3
Jones	19	187.7

**Pending cases (n = 6) have been excluded from Tables 1 – 4.*

Table 5 Number of Deaths by County of Death and Manner of Death, 2017

County of Death	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Alamance	109	5	71	25	2	212
Alexander	6	1	14	6	0	27
Alleghany	7	1	4	4	0	16
Anson	6	4	9	8	1	28
Ashe	4	0	19	6	0	29
Avery	5	0	13	5	0	23
Beaufort	38	2	19	9	2	70
Bertie	8	2	9	2	0	21
Bladen	12	3	22	3	1	41
Brunswick	71	2	83	22	3	181
Buncombe	337	15	102	67	9	530
Burke	59	5	57	17	4	142
Cabarrus	155	3	74	18	4	254
Caldwell	27	0	27	15	1	70
Camden	3	0	2	2	0	7
Carteret	49	1	43	16	1	110
Caswell	17	1	8	3	0	29
Catawba	82	16	71	21	5	195
Chatham	32	3	11	7	0	53
Cherokee	18	0	23	7	2	50
Chowan	7	1	10	0	0	18
Clay	6	0	5	2	0	13
Cleveland	41	8	43	22	2	116
Columbus	40	13	35	5	2	95
Craven	55	8	50	17	5	135
Cumberland	196	44	167	57	22	486
Currituck	11	0	15	7	0	33
Dare	21	0	38	11	3	73
Davidson	68	6	32	28	5	139
Davie	16	0	19	12	1	48

County of Death	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Duplin	18	1	21	4	2	46
Durham	225	42	192	41	8	508
Edgecombe	22	2	40	8	1	73
Forsyth	389	42	120	72	25	648
Franklin	22	4	17	8	0	51
Gaston	111	14	48	34	8	215
Gates	8	0	10	1	2	21
Graham	8	0	11	2	0	21
Granville	27	5	29	7	2	70
Greene	4	3	13	2	1	23
Guilford	363	64	140	58	19	644
Halifax	20	11	18	8	1	58
Harnett	67	9	52	17	3	148
Haywood	50	3	87	19	1	160
Henderson	87	1	60	19	6	173
Hertford	14	0	11	1	0	26
Hoke	20	6	14	5	2	47
Hyde	5	0	4	1	0	10
Iredell	73	5	46	23	5	152
Jackson	22	0	11	6	5	44
Johnston	61	5	55	24	5	150
Jones	12	1	5	1	0	19
Lee	39	5	17	4	1	66
Lenoir	16	9	39	9	6	79
Lincoln	21	2	24	9	2	58
Macon	23	1	27	9	2	62
Madison	7	0	8	2	0	17
Martin	9	1	17	2	0	29
McDowell	22	2	17	5	1	47
Mecklenburg	560	106	226	127	31	1050
Mitchell	4	0	9	2	0	15

County of Death	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Montgomery	19	1	9	10	0	39
Moore	60	4	47	20	2	133
Nash	33	15	65	20	1	134
New Hanover	216	33	95	45	7	396
Northampton	11	3	10	1	1	26
Onslow	52	6	81	32	7	178
Orange	129	14	33	27	5	208
Pamlico	3	0	4	2	0	9
Pasquotank	21	4	32	6	0	63
Pender	32	4	22	9	1	68
Perquimans	7	0	3	2	0	12
Person	14	2	16	3	2	37
Pitt	226	18	105	30	8	387
Polk	9	0	8	6	1	24
Randolph	69	11	78	31	1	190
Richmond	22	6	23	8	3	62
Robeson	76	23	26	19	6	150
Rockingham	37	4	28	12	2	83
Rowan	106	13	70	30	4	223
Rutherford	43	2	28	8	3	84
Sampson	29	5	17	4	1	56
Scotland	16	7	18	5	0	46
Stanly	39	2	19	12	1	73
Stokes	23	2	19	8	1	53
Surry	54	5	36	26	3	124
Swain	5	0	15	7	1	28
Transylvania	28	1	13	11	0	53
Tyrrell	1	0	6	0	0	7
Union	69	6	40	21	2	138
Vance	30	11	16	3	3	63
Wake	444	33	234	110	19	840

County of Death	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Warren	5	0	11	3	0	19
Washington	4	1	6	1	0	12
Watauga	12	1	21	9	1	44
Wayne	73	14	56	13	0	156
Wilkes	29	1	38	15	2	85
Wilson	33	8	49	7	0	97
Yadkin	15	2	7	8	1	33
Yancey	5	1	6	2	0	14
Subtotal	5934	751	3893	1540	303	12421
OUT OF STATE	6	5	2	1	0	14
Subtotal	6	5	2	1	0	14
TOTAL	5940	756	3895	1541	303	12435

**Pending cases (n = 6) have been excluded from Table 5.*

Table 6 Number and Rate of Deaths by County of Death and Manner of Death, 2017

County of Death	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Alamance	109	66.9	5	3.1	71	43.5	25	15.3	2	1.2	212	130.0
Alexander	6	15.8	1	2.6	14	36.8	6	15.8	0	0.0	27	70.9
Alleghany	7	61.5	1	8.8	4	35.2	4	35.2	0	0.0	16	140.6
Anson	6	23.5	4	15.7	9	35.3	8	31.4	1	3.9	28	109.8
Ashe	4	14.7	0	0.0	19	69.6	6	22.0	0	0.0	29	106.2
Avery	5	27.8	0	0.0	13	72.3	5	27.8	0	0.0	23	128.0
Beaufort	38	80.1	2	4.2	19	40.0	9	19.0	2	4.2	70	147.5
Bertie	8	40.4	2	10.1	9	45.5	2	10.1	0	0.0	21	106.2
Bladen	12	34.8	3	8.7	22	63.7	3	8.7	1	2.9	41	118.8
Brunswick	71	53.9	2	1.5	83	63.0	22	16.7	3	2.3	181	137.5
Buncombe	337	130.1	15	5.8	102	39.4	67	25.9	9	3.5	530	204.6
Burke	59	64.8	5	5.5	57	62.6	17	18.7	4	4.4	142	155.9
Cabarrus	155	75.7	3	1.5	74	36.1	18	8.8	4	2.0	254	124.0
Caldwell	27	32.4	0	0.0	27	32.4	15	18.0	1	1.2	70	84.1
Camden	3	29.0	0	0.0	2	19.3	2	19.3	0	0.0	7	67.6
Carteret	49	69.8	1	1.4	43	61.2	16	22.8	1	1.4	110	156.6
Caswell	17	72.4	1	4.3	8	34.1	3	12.8	0	0.0	29	123.5
Catawba	82	52.1	16	10.2	71	45.1	21	13.3	5	3.2	195	123.9
Chatham	32	44.1	3	4.1	11	15.2	7	9.6	0	0.0	53	73.0
Cherokee	18	62.3	0	0.0	23	79.6	7	24.2	2	6.9	50	173.1
Chowan	7	49.3	1	7.0	10	70.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	18	126.7

County of Death	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Clay	6	52.4	0	0.0	5	43.6	2	17.5	0	0.0	13	113.5
Cleveland	41	41.7	8	8.1	43	43.7	22	22.4	2	2.0	116	117.9
Columbus	40	70.5	13	22.9	35	61.7	5	8.8	2	3.5	95	167.6
Craven	55	53.2	8	7.7	50	48.3	17	16.4	5	4.8	135	130.5
Cumberland	196	59.7	44	13.4	167	50.8	57	17.4	22	6.7	486	147.9
Currituck	11	41.2	0	0.0	15	56.2	7	26.2	0	0.0	33	123.7
Dare	21	57.3	0	0.0	38	103.6	11	30.0	3	8.2	73	199.0
Davidson	68	40.8	6	3.6	32	19.2	28	16.8	5	3.0	139	83.4
Davie	16	37.5	0	0.0	19	44.6	12	28.1	1	2.3	48	112.6
Duplin	18	30.2	1	1.7	21	35.2	4	6.7	2	3.4	46	77.1
Durham	225	73.4	42	13.7	192	62.6	41	13.4	8	2.6	508	165.8
Edgecombe	22	41.4	2	3.8	40	75.2	8	15.0	1	1.9	73	137.3
Forsyth	389	104.3	42	11.3	120	32.2	72	19.3	25	6.7	648	173.8
Franklin	22	33.0	4	6.0	17	25.5	8	12.0	0	0.0	51	76.6
Gaston	111	50.8	14	6.4	48	22.0	34	15.6	8	3.7	215	98.4
Gates	8	66.6	0	0.0	10	83.2	1	8.3	2	16.6	21	174.7
Graham	8	91.4	0	0.0	11	125.7	2	22.9	0	0.0	21	239.9
Granville	27	44.9	5	8.3	29	48.2	7	11.6	2	3.3	70	116.4
Greene	4	18.8	3	14.1	13	61.0	2	9.4	1	4.7	23	108.0
Guilford	363	68.7	64	12.1	140	26.5	58	11.0	19	3.6	644	122.0
Halifax	20	38.5	11	21.2	18	34.6	8	15.4	1	1.9	58	111.6
Harnett	67	51.1	9	6.9	52	39.7	17	13.0	3	2.3	148	112.9

County of Death	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Haywood	50	80.0	3	4.8	87	139.2	19	30.4	1	1.6	160	256.0
Henderson	87	75.4	1	0.9	60	52.0	19	16.5	6	5.2	173	149.9
Hertford	14	58.2	0	0.0	11	45.7	1	4.2	0	0.0	26	108.1
Hoke	20	37.5	6	11.3	14	26.3	5	9.4	2	3.8	47	88.1
Hyde	5	91.9	0	0.0	4	73.5	1	18.4	0	0.0	10	183.8
Iredell	73	41.5	5	2.8	46	26.1	23	13.1	5	2.8	152	86.3
Jackson	22	50.5	0	0.0	11	25.3	6	13.8	5	11.5	44	101.0
Johnston	61	31.5	5	2.6	55	28.4	24	12.4	5	2.6	150	77.4
Jones	12	118.5	1	9.9	5	49.4	1	9.9	0	0.0	19	187.7
Lee	39	65.2	5	8.4	17	28.4	4	6.7	1	1.7	66	110.3
Lenoir	16	28.0	9	15.7	39	68.2	9	15.7	6	10.5	79	138.2
Lincoln	21	25.3	2	2.4	24	28.9	9	10.8	2	2.4	58	69.8
Macon	23	64.6	1	2.8	27	75.8	9	25.3	2	5.6	62	174.1
Madison	7	31.5	0	0.0	8	36.0	2	9.0	0	0.0	17	76.5
Martin	9	38.6	1	4.3	17	73.0	2	8.6	0	0.0	29	124.4
McDowell	22	47.7	2	4.3	17	36.9	5	10.8	1	2.2	47	102.0
Mecklenburg	560	52.2	106	9.9	226	21.1	127	11.8	31	2.9	1050	97.8
Mitchell	4	26.4	0	0.0	9	59.3	2	13.2	0	0.0	15	98.9
Montgomery	19	68.5	1	3.6	9	32.5	10	36.1	0	0.0	39	140.6
Moore	60	61.5	4	4.1	47	48.1	20	20.5	2	2.0	133	136.2
Nash	33	34.8	15	15.8	65	68.5	20	21.1	1	1.1	134	141.2
New Hanover	216	94.3	33	14.4	95	41.5	45	19.6	7	3.1	396	172.8

County of Death	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Northampton	11	52.6	3	14.3	10	47.8	1	4.8	1	4.8	26	124.4
Onslow	52	26.5	6	3.1	81	41.2	32	16.3	7	3.6	178	90.6
Orange	129	90.5	14	9.8	33	23.1	27	18.9	5	3.5	208	145.9
Pamlico	3	22.7	0	0.0	4	30.2	2	15.1	0	0.0	9	68.0
Pasquotank	21	52.8	4	10.1	32	80.4	6	15.1	0	0.0	63	158.4
Pender	32	52.7	4	6.6	22	36.2	9	14.8	1	1.6	68	111.9
Perquimans	7	51.2	0	0.0	3	21.9	2	14.6	0	0.0	12	87.7
Person	14	35.1	2	5.0	16	40.1	3	7.5	2	5.0	37	92.8
Pitt	226	127.2	18	10.1	105	59.1	30	16.9	8	4.5	387	217.8
Polk	9	42.2	0	0.0	8	37.6	6	28.2	1	4.7	24	112.7
Randolph	69	48.0	11	7.7	78	54.3	31	21.6	1	0.7	190	132.3
Richmond	22	48.7	6	13.3	23	50.9	8	17.7	3	6.6	62	137.3
Robeson	76	57.6	23	17.4	26	19.7	19	14.4	6	4.5	150	113.6
Rockingham	37	40.5	4	4.4	28	30.6	12	13.1	2	2.2	83	90.8
Rowan	106	74.9	13	9.2	70	49.5	30	21.2	4	2.8	223	157.7
Rutherford	43	63.0	2	2.9	28	41.0	8	11.7	3	4.4	84	123.0
Sampson	29	45.4	5	7.8	17	26.6	4	6.3	1	1.6	56	87.7
Scotland	16	44.6	7	19.5	18	50.2	5	13.9	0	0.0	46	128.3
Stanly	39	62.2	2	3.2	19	30.3	12	19.1	1	1.6	73	116.4
Stokes	23	49.3	2	4.3	19	40.8	8	17.2	1	2.1	53	113.7
Surry	54	73.9	5	6.8	36	49.3	26	35.6	3	4.1	124	169.8
Swain	5	34.0	0	0.0	15	102.0	7	47.6	1	6.8	28	190.3

County of Death	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Transylvania	28	81.2	1	2.9	13	37.7	11	31.9	0	0.0	53	153.6
Tyrrell	1	23.2	0	0.0	6	139.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	162.6
Union	69	30.3	6	2.6	40	17.5	21	9.2	2	0.9	138	60.5
Vance	30	66.5	11	24.4	16	35.4	3	6.6	3	6.6	63	139.6
Wake	444	42.3	33	3.1	234	22.3	110	10.5	19	1.8	840	80.0
Warren	5	24.7	0	0.0	11	54.3	3	14.8	0	0.0	19	93.8
Washington	4	32.5	1	8.1	6	48.7	1	8.1	0	0.0	12	97.4
Watauga	12	21.3	1	1.8	21	37.3	9	16.0	1	1.8	44	78.2
Wayne	73	58.8	14	11.3	56	45.1	13	10.5	0	0.0	156	125.7
Wilkes	29	41.6	1	1.4	38	54.4	15	21.5	2	2.9	85	121.8
Wilson	33	40.4	8	9.8	49	60.1	7	8.6	0	0.0	97	118.9
Yadkin	15	39.3	2	5.2	7	18.4	8	21.0	1	2.6	33	86.5
Yancey	5	27.3	1	5.5	6	32.8	2	10.9	0	0.0	14	76.5
Subtotal	5934	57.8	751	7.3	3893	37.9	1540	15.0	303	3.0	12421	120.9
OUT OF STATE	6	ND	5	ND	2	ND	1	ND	0	ND	14	ND
Subtotal	6	ND	5	ND	2	ND	1	ND	0	ND	14	ND
TOTAL	5940	57.8	756	7.4	3895	37.9	1541	15.0	303	3.0	12435	121.1

*Pending cases (n = 6) have been excluded from Table 6.

Table 7 Number of Deaths by County of Residence and Manner of Death, 2017

County of Residence	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Alamance	123	12	73	30	2	240
Alexander	12	0	19	7	1	39
Alleghany	9	1	4	2	0	16
Anson	11	6	7	5	2	31
Ashe	10	0	19	6	0	35
Avery	5	0	10	3	0	18
Beaufort	45	2	27	11	2	87
Bertie	15	1	8	2	0	26
Bladen	22	7	23	2	1	55
Brunswick	85	5	75	19	3	187
Buncombe	206	12	70	58	6	352
Burke	70	4	61	17	5	157
Cabarrus	132	4	68	21	2	227
Caldwell	39	6	32	14	1	92
Camden	5	2	5	3	0	15
Carteret	47	1	35	16	1	100
Caswell	19	1	8	3	0	31
Catawba	89	15	61	23	6	194
Chatham	44	3	21	10	0	78
Cherokee	13	0	22	7	1	43
Chowan	9	2	10	0	0	21
Clay	5	0	4	2	1	12
Cleveland	54	8	41	17	2	122
Columbus	38	10	32	6	2	88
Craven	58	8	53	17	7	143
Cumberland	181	42	162	49	16	450
Currituck	8	0	9	4	0	21
Dare	15	0	22	11	3	51
Davidson	106	8	40	31	6	191
Davie	23	0	19	12	2	56

County of Residence	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Duplin	35	0	22	4	1	62
Durham	142	29	69	34	6	280
Edgecombe	35	6	44	8	2	95
Forsyth	218	31	118	45	16	428
Franklin	42	10	22	10	2	86
Gaston	116	12	50	34	7	219
Gates	9	0	11	1	2	23
Graham	5	0	8	2	0	15
Granville	31	6	31	8	2	78
Greene	12	2	17	2	0	33
Guilford	275	50	116	62	18	521
Halifax	29	14	13	6	1	63
Harnett	75	13	60	19	4	171
Haywood	65	4	79	18	1	167
Henderson	88	2	63	19	4	176
Hertford	16	1	11	1	0	29
Hoke	23	5	18	7	5	58
Hyde	5	0	2	0	0	7
Iredell	81	6	45	24	3	159
Jackson	26	0	14	5	6	51
Johnston	96	5	56	28	4	189
Jones	11	1	6	1	0	19
Lee	51	5	18	6	1	81
Lenoir	40	8	40	9	7	104
Lincoln	41	2	24	8	2	77
Macon	30	1	25	7	0	63
Madison	13	0	8	3	1	25
Martin	14	1	16	3	0	34
McDowell	26	4	15	6	2	53
Mecklenburg	385	89	208	118	22	822
Mitchell	9	0	11	3	0	23

County of Residence	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Montgomery	24	1	13	9	0	47
Moore	55	3	39	21	2	120
Nash	46	15	59	18	1	139
New Hanover	141	22	71	43	7	284
Northampton	12	2	9	1	1	25
Onslow	70	10	81	35	6	202
Orange	46	9	22	16	2	95
Pamlico	11	1	6	1	0	19
Pasquotank	18	2	26	6	0	52
Pender	32	7	21	8	2	70
Perquimans	5	2	5	2	1	15
Person	25	5	18	4	3	55
Pitt	110	7	73	22	5	217
Polk	14	0	9	6	1	30
Randolph	118	10	85	30	1	244
Richmond	26	7	23	9	3	68
Robeson	92	27	31	23	7	180
Rockingham	58	6	30	13	3	110
Rowan	122	11	64	32	5	234
Rutherford	53	2	27	13	4	99
Sampson	45	6	19	5	2	77
Scotland	18	5	19	4	0	46
Stanly	55	3	18	15	1	92
Stokes	41	2	23	10	1	77
Surry	56	5	29	29	7	126
Swain	12	0	18	5	1	36
Transylvania	28	1	12	10	0	51
Tyrrell	4	0	6	0	0	10
Union	92	2	37	24	3	158
Vance	38	12	15	4	3	72
Wake	359	25	192	101	20	697

County of Residence	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Warren	12	1	11	3	0	27
Washington	12	1	8	2	0	23
Watauga	11	2	16	9	1	39
Wayne	60	16	62	14	2	154
Wilkes	47	3	35	14	2	101
Wilson	44	10	39	6	0	99
Yadkin	35	2	6	8	3	54
Yancey	15	1	8	2	0	26
Subtotal	5604	713	3565	1486	291	11659
OUT OF STATE	336	43	330	55	12	776
Subtotal	336	43	330	55	12	776
TOTAL	5940	756	3895	1541	303	12435

**Pending cases (n = 6) have been excluded from Table 7.*

Table 8 Number and Rate of Deaths by County of Residence and Manner of Death, 2017

County of Residence	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Alamance	123	75.4	12	7.4	73	44.8	30	18.4	2	1.2	240	147.2
Alexander	12	31.5	0	0.0	19	49.9	7	18.4	1	2.6	39	102.4
Alleghany	9	79.1	1	8.8	4	35.2	2	17.6	0	0.0	16	140.6
Anson	11	43.2	6	23.5	7	27.5	5	19.6	2	7.8	31	121.6
Ashe	10	36.6	0	0.0	19	69.6	6	22.0	0	0.0	35	128.2
Avery	5	27.8	0	0.0	10	55.6	3	16.7	0	0.0	18	100.2
Beaufort	45	94.8	2	4.2	27	56.9	11	23.2	2	4.2	87	183.3
Bertie	15	75.8	1	5.1	8	40.4	2	10.1	0	0.0	26	131.4
Bladen	22	63.7	7	20.3	23	66.6	2	5.8	1	2.9	55	159.3
Brunswick	85	64.6	5	3.8	75	57.0	19	14.4	3	2.3	187	142.0
Buncombe	206	79.5	12	4.6	70	27.0	58	22.4	6	2.3	352	135.9
Burke	70	76.9	4	4.4	61	67.0	17	18.7	5	5.5	157	172.4
Cabarrus	132	64.4	4	2.0	68	33.2	21	10.3	2	1.0	227	110.8
Caldwell	39	46.9	6	7.2	32	38.4	14	16.8	1	1.2	92	110.5
Camden	5	48.3	2	19.3	5	48.3	3	29.0	0	0.0	15	144.9
Carteret	47	66.9	1	1.4	35	49.8	16	22.8	1	1.4	100	142.4
Caswell	19	80.9	1	4.3	8	34.1	3	12.8	0	0.0	31	132.0
Catawba	89	56.5	15	9.5	61	38.7	23	14.6	6	3.8	194	123.2
Chatham	44	60.6	3	4.1	21	28.9	10	13.8	0	0.0	78	107.5
Cherokee	13	45.0	0	0.0	22	76.2	7	24.2	1	3.5	43	148.9
Chowan	9	63.4	2	14.1	10	70.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	21	147.8

County of Residence	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Clay	5	43.6	0	0.0	4	34.9	2	17.5	1	8.7	12	104.7
Cleveland	54	54.9	8	8.1	41	41.7	17	17.3	2	2.0	122	124.0
Columbus	38	67.0	10	17.6	32	56.4	6	10.6	2	3.5	88	155.2
Craven	58	56.1	8	7.7	53	51.2	17	16.4	7	6.8	143	138.3
Cumberland	181	55.1	42	12.8	162	49.3	49	14.9	16	4.9	450	137.0
Currituck	8	30.0	0	0.0	9	33.7	4	15.0	0	0.0	21	78.7
Dare	15	40.9	0	0.0	22	60.0	11	30.0	3	8.2	51	139.0
Davidson	106	63.6	8	4.8	40	24.0	31	18.6	6	3.6	191	114.7
Davie	23	53.9	0	0.0	19	44.6	12	28.1	2	4.7	56	131.3
Duplin	35	58.7	0	0.0	22	36.9	4	6.7	1	1.7	62	103.9
Durham	142	46.3	29	9.5	69	22.5	34	11.1	6	2.0	280	91.4
Edgecombe	35	65.8	6	11.3	44	82.8	8	15.0	2	3.8	95	178.7
Forsyth	218	58.5	31	8.3	118	31.6	45	12.1	16	4.3	428	114.8
Franklin	42	63.1	10	15.0	22	33.0	10	15.0	2	3.0	86	129.2
Gaston	116	53.1	12	5.5	50	22.9	34	15.6	7	3.2	219	100.3
Gates	9	74.9	0	0.0	11	91.5	1	8.3	2	16.6	23	191.3
Graham	5	57.1	0	0.0	8	91.4	2	22.9	0	0.0	15	171.4
Granville	31	51.6	6	10.0	31	51.6	8	13.3	2	3.3	78	129.8
Greene	12	56.3	2	9.4	17	79.8	2	9.4	0	0.0	33	154.9
Guilford	275	52.1	50	9.5	116	22.0	62	11.7	18	3.4	521	98.7
Halifax	29	55.8	14	26.9	13	25.0	6	11.5	1	1.9	63	121.2
Harnett	75	57.2	13	9.9	60	45.8	19	14.5	4	3.1	171	130.5

County of Residence	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Haywood	65	104.0	4	6.4	79	126.4	18	28.8	1	1.6	167	267.3
Henderson	88	76.3	2	1.7	63	54.6	19	16.5	4	3.5	176	152.5
Hertford	16	66.5	1	4.2	11	45.7	1	4.2	0	0.0	29	120.6
Hoke	23	43.1	5	9.4	18	33.8	7	13.1	5	9.4	58	108.8
Hyde	5	91.9	0	0.0	2	36.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	128.6
Iredell	81	46.0	6	3.4	45	25.6	24	13.6	3	1.7	159	90.3
Jackson	26	59.7	0	0.0	14	32.2	5	11.5	6	13.8	51	117.1
Johnston	96	49.5	5	2.6	56	28.9	28	14.4	4	2.1	189	97.5
Jones	11	108.7	1	9.9	6	59.3	1	9.9	0	0.0	19	187.7
Lee	51	85.3	5	8.4	18	30.1	6	10.0	1	1.7	81	135.4
Lenoir	40	70.0	8	14.0	40	70.0	9	15.7	7	12.2	104	181.9
Lincoln	41	49.4	2	2.4	24	28.9	8	9.6	2	2.4	77	92.7
Macon	30	84.2	1	2.8	25	70.2	7	19.7	0	0.0	63	176.9
Madison	13	58.5	0	0.0	8	36.0	3	13.5	1	4.5	25	112.5
Martin	14	60.1	1	4.3	16	68.7	3	12.9	0	0.0	34	145.9
McDowell	26	56.4	4	8.7	15	32.5	6	13.0	2	4.3	53	115.0
Mecklenburg	385	35.9	89	8.3	208	19.4	118	11.0	22	2.1	822	76.6
Mitchell	9	59.3	0	0.0	11	72.5	3	19.8	0	0.0	23	151.6
Montgomery	24	86.5	1	3.6	13	46.9	9	32.5	0	0.0	47	169.5
Moore	55	56.3	3	3.1	39	39.9	21	21.5	2	2.0	120	122.9
Nash	46	48.5	15	15.8	59	62.2	18	19.0	1	1.1	139	146.5
New Hanover	141	61.5	22	9.6	71	31.0	43	18.8	7	3.1	284	124.0

County of Residence	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Northampton	12	57.4	2	9.6	9	43.0	1	4.8	1	4.8	25	119.6
Onslow	70	35.6	10	5.1	81	41.2	35	17.8	6	3.1	202	102.8
Orange	46	32.3	9	6.3	22	15.4	16	11.2	2	1.4	95	66.6
Pamlico	11	83.1	1	7.6	6	45.3	1	7.6	0	0.0	19	143.5
Pasquotank	18	45.2	2	5.0	26	65.4	6	15.1	0	0.0	52	130.7
Pender	32	52.7	7	11.5	21	34.6	8	13.2	2	3.3	70	115.2
Perquimans	5	36.6	2	14.6	5	36.6	2	14.6	1	7.3	15	109.7
Person	25	62.7	5	12.5	18	45.1	4	10.0	3	7.5	55	137.9
Pitt	110	61.9	7	3.9	73	41.1	22	12.4	5	2.8	217	122.1
Polk	14	65.7	0	0.0	9	42.2	6	28.2	1	4.7	30	140.8
Randolph	118	82.2	10	7.0	85	59.2	30	20.9	1	0.7	244	169.9
Richmond	26	57.6	7	15.5	23	50.9	9	19.9	3	6.6	68	150.6
Robeson	92	69.7	27	20.4	31	23.5	23	17.4	7	5.3	180	136.3
Rockingham	58	63.4	6	6.6	30	32.8	13	14.2	3	3.3	110	120.3
Rowan	122	86.3	11	7.8	64	45.2	32	22.6	5	3.5	234	165.4
Rutherford	53	77.6	2	2.9	27	39.5	13	19.0	4	5.9	99	145.0
Sampson	45	70.5	6	9.4	19	29.7	5	7.8	2	3.1	77	120.6
Scotland	18	50.2	5	13.9	19	53.0	4	11.2	0	0.0	46	128.3
Stanly	55	87.7	3	4.8	18	28.7	15	23.9	1	1.6	92	146.6
Stokes	41	88.0	2	4.3	23	49.3	10	21.5	1	2.1	77	165.2
Surry	56	76.7	5	6.8	29	39.7	29	39.7	7	9.6	126	172.5
Swain	12	81.6	0	0.0	18	122.3	5	34.0	1	6.8	36	244.7

County of Residence	Accident		Homicide		Natural		Suicide		Undetermined		TOTAL	
	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate	Total	Rate
Transylvania	28	81.2	1	2.9	12	34.8	10	29.0	0	0.0	51	147.8
Tyrrell	4	92.9	0	0.0	6	139.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	232.3
Union	92	40.3	2	0.9	37	16.2	24	10.5	3	1.3	158	69.3
Vance	38	84.2	12	26.6	15	33.2	4	8.9	3	6.6	72	159.5
Wake	359	34.2	25	2.4	192	18.3	101	9.6	20	1.9	697	66.4
Warren	12	59.3	1	4.9	11	54.3	3	14.8	0	0.0	27	133.3
Washington	12	97.4	1	8.1	8	64.9	2	16.2	0	0.0	23	186.7
Watauga	11	19.5	2	3.6	16	28.4	9	16.0	1	1.8	39	69.3
Wayne	60	48.4	16	12.9	62	50.0	14	11.3	2	1.6	154	124.1
Wilkes	47	67.3	3	4.3	35	50.1	14	20.1	2	2.9	101	144.7
Wilson	44	53.9	10	12.3	39	47.8	6	7.4	0	0.0	99	121.3
Yadkin	35	91.8	2	5.2	6	15.7	8	21.0	3	7.9	54	141.6
Yancey	15	82.0	1	5.5	8	43.7	2	10.9	0	0.0	26	142.2
Subtotal	5604	54.6	713	6.9	3565	34.7	1486	14.5	291	2.8	11659	113.5
OUT OF STATE	336	ND	43	ND	330	ND	55	ND	12	ND	776	ND
Subtotal	336	ND	43	ND	330	ND	55	ND	12	ND	776	ND
TOTAL	5940	57.8	756	7.4	3895	37.9	1541	15.0	303	3.0	12435	121.1

*Pending cases (n = 6) have been excluded from Table 8.

Table 9 Number of Deaths by Gender, Age Group, and Manner of Death, 2017

Gender	Age Group	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total	
Female	<1	8	8	18	0	52	86	
	1-4	22	4	3	0	1	30	
	5-9	12	2	5	0	0	19	
	10-14	7	2	2	6	2	19	
	15-19	47	10	8	13	3	81	
	20-24	94	13	21	23	1	152	
	25-34	278	22	84	54	12	450	
	35-44	279	27	101	77	15	499	
	45-54	226	19	215	79	17	556	
	55-64	240	15	311	68	10	644	
	65-74	195	10	221	33	3	462	
	75-84	269	7	128	9	6	419	
	85+	432	2	86	1	2	523	
		Subtotal	2109	141	1203	363	124	3940
Male	<1	20	5	22	0	74	121	
	1-4	23	8	5	0	8	44	
	5-9	9	3	7	0	0	19	
	10-14	24	4	3	14	2	47	
	15-19	101	51	9	51	2	214	
	20-24	281	96	24	97	8	506	
	25-34	701	176	107	202	16	1202	
	35-44	666	126	270	190	20	1272	
	45-54	554	62	493	185	19	1313	
	55-64	527	48	872	193	17	1657	
	65-74	328	20	561	123	5	1037	
	75-84	301	8	242	84	4	639	
	85+	296	8	77	39	0	420	
		Unknown	0	0	0	0	1	1
		Subtotal	3831	615	2692	1178	176	8492
Unknown	<1	0	0	0	0	1	1	
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	2	2	
		Subtotal	0	0	0	0	3	3
TOTAL		5940	756	3895	1541	303	12435	

Table 10 Number and Rate of Deaths by Gender, 2017

Gender	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	3940	31.7	74.6
Male	8492	68.3	170.2
Unknown	3	0.0	ND
TOTAL	12435	100%	121.1

Table 11 Number and Percentage of Deaths by Gender and Manner of Death, 2017

Gender	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Female	2109	141	1203	363	124	3940
Male	3831	615	2692	1178	176	8492
Unknown	0	0	0	0	3	3
TOTAL	5940	756	3895	1541	303	12435

Figure 4 Number and Rate of Deaths by Gender and Manner of Death, 2017

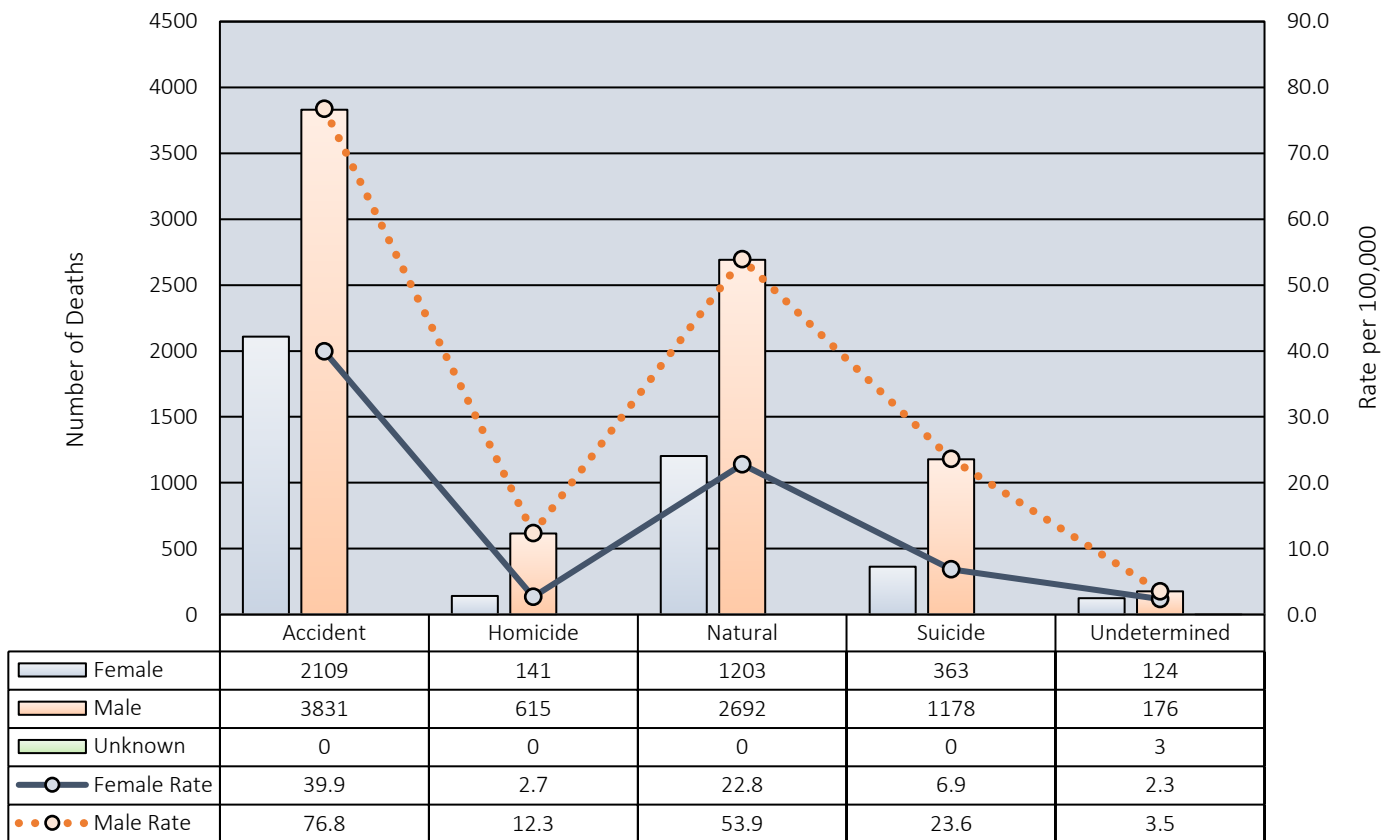


Table 12 Number and Rate of Deaths by Race, 2017

Race/Ethnicity	Total	% Total	Rate
White	9107	73.2	125.1
Black	2689	21.6	118.6
Unknown	531	4.3	ND
Asian	78	0.6	26.2
American Indian	30	0.2	17.1
TOTAL	12435	100%	121.1

Table 13 Number and Percentage of Deaths by Race and Manner of Death, 2017

Race/Ethnicity	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
White	4848 (%)	240	2721	1315	183	9107
Black	985	452	1007	149	96	2689
Unknown	263	55	132	57	24	531
Asian	33	5	26	14	0	78
American Indian	11	4	9	6	0	30
TOTAL	5940	756	3895	1541	303	12435

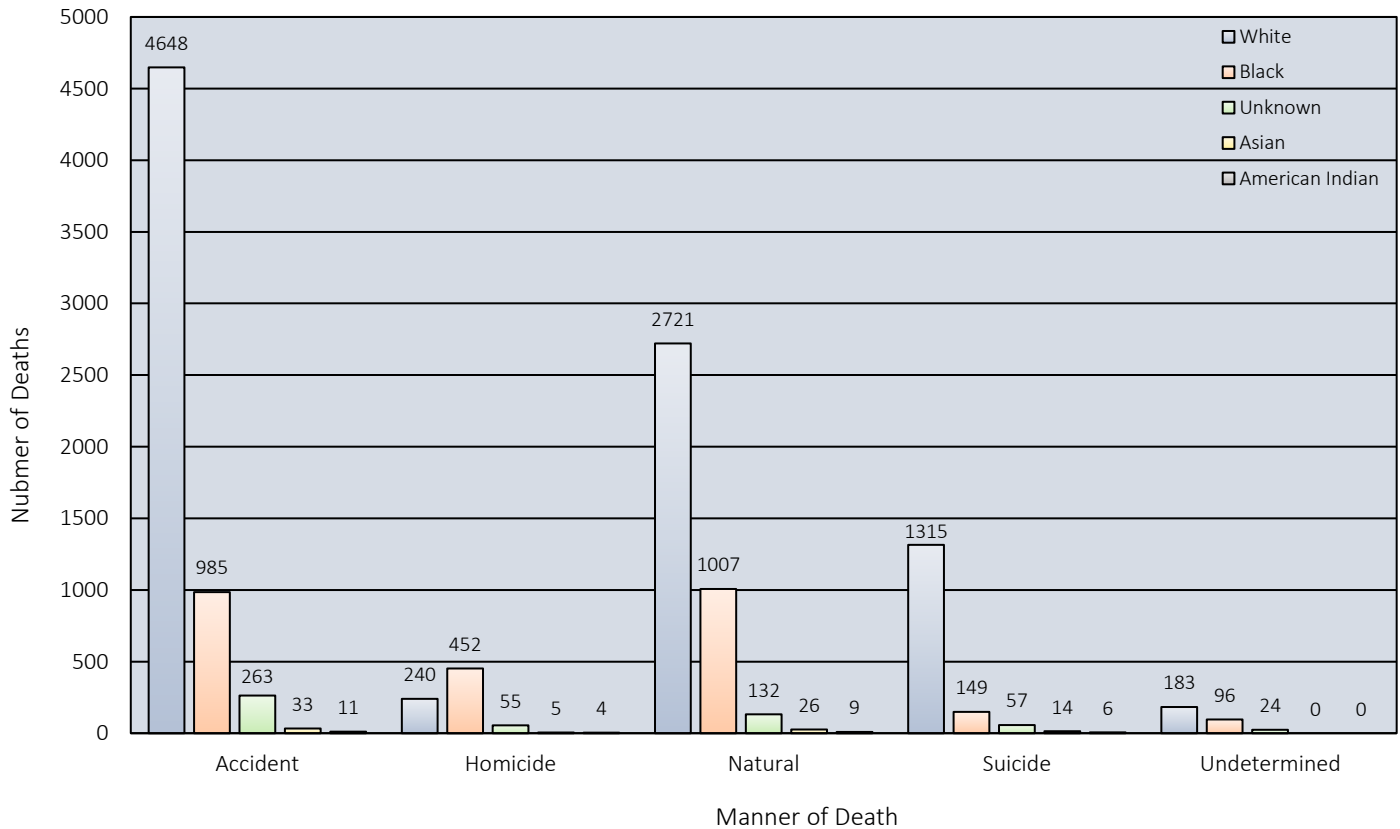
Figure 5 Number of Deaths by Race and Manner of Death, 2017

Table 14 Number and Rate of Deaths by Age Group, 2017

Age Group	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	208	1.7	173.2
1-4	74	0.6	15.3
5-9	38	0.3	6.0
10-14	66	0.5	9.9
15-19	295	2.4	42.1
20-24	658	5.3	91.1
25-34	1652	13.3	124.7
35-44	1771	14.2	135.1
45-54	1869	15.0	134.8
55-64	2301	18.5	176.4
65-74	1499	12.1	155.2
75-84	1058	8.5	225.6
85+	943	7.6	519.6
Unknown	3	0.0	ND
TOTAL	12435	100%	121.1

Figure 6 Number and Rate of Deaths by Age Group, 2017

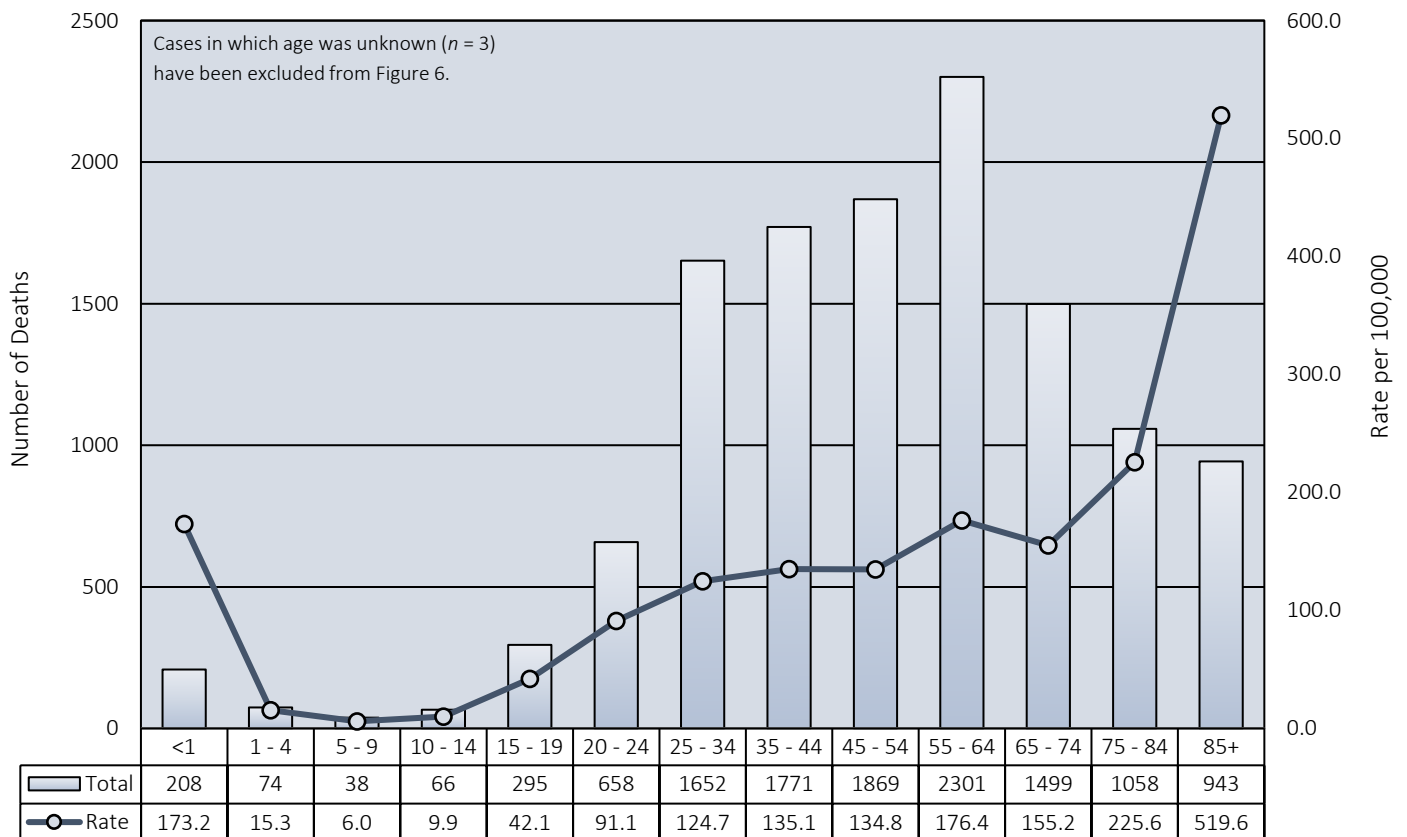


Table 15 Number of Deaths by Age Group and Manner of Death, 2017

Age Group	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
<1	28	13	40	0	127	208
1-4	45	12	8	0	9	74
5-9	21	5	12	0	0	38
10-14	31	6	5	20	4	66
15-19	148	61	17	64	5	295
20-24	375	109	45	120	9	658
25-34	979	198	191	256	28	1652
35-44	945	153	371	267	35	1771
45-54	780	81	708	264	36	1869
55-64	767	63	1183	261	27	2301
65-74	523	30	782	156	8	1499
75-84	570	15	370	93	10	1058
85+	728	10	163	40	2	943
Unknown	0	0	0	0	3	3
TOTAL	5940	756	3895	1541	303	12435

Figure 7 Number of Deaths by Age Group and Manner of Death, 2017

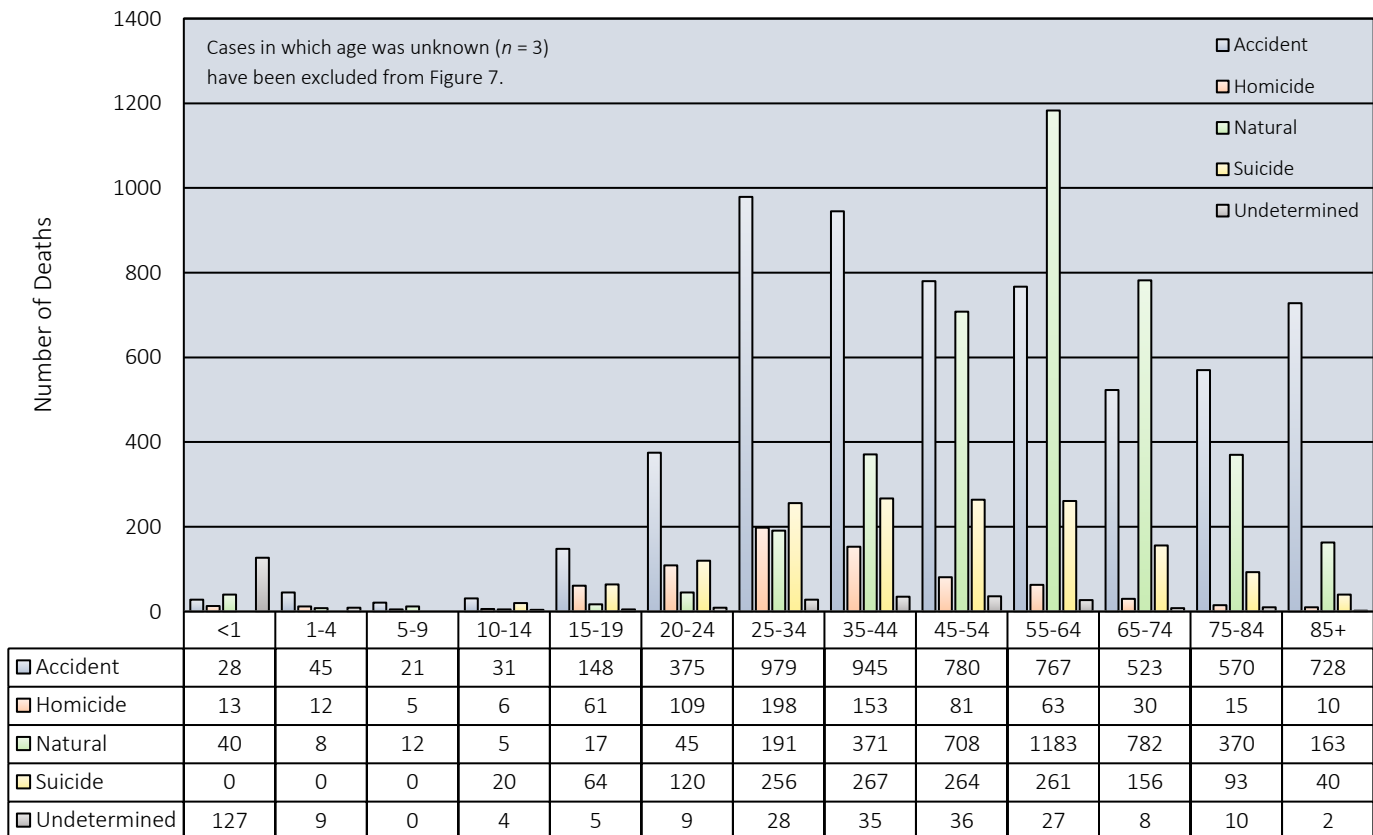


Table 16 Number and Rate of Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2017

Age Group	Female			Male			Unknown		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	86	2.2	147.0	121	1.4	196.6	1	33.3	ND
1-4	30	0.8	12.7	44	0.5	17.9	0	0.0	ND
5-9	19	0.5	6.1	19	0.2	5.9	0	0.0	ND
10-14	19	0.5	5.8	47	0.6	13.8	0	0.0	ND
15-19	81	2.1	23.6	214	2.5	60.1	0	0.0	ND
20-24	152	3.9	43.5	506	6.0	135.7	0	0.0	ND
25-34	450	11.4	66.7	1202	14.2	184.6	0	0.0	ND
35-44	499	12.7	73.9	1272	15.0	200.2	0	0.0	ND
45-54	556	14.1	78.3	1313	15.5	193.9	0	0.0	ND
55-64	644	16.3	93.9	1657	19.5	267.7	0	0.0	ND
65-74	462	11.7	88.7	1037	12.2	233.1	0	0.0	ND
75-84	419	10.6	156.1	639	7.5	318.6	0	0.0	ND
85+	523	13.3	432.7	420	4.9	692.9	0	0.0	ND
Unknown	0	0.0	ND	1	0.0	ND	2	66.7	ND
TOTAL	3940	31.7%	74.6	8492	68.3%	170.2	3	0.0%	ND

Figure 8 Number and Rate of Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2017

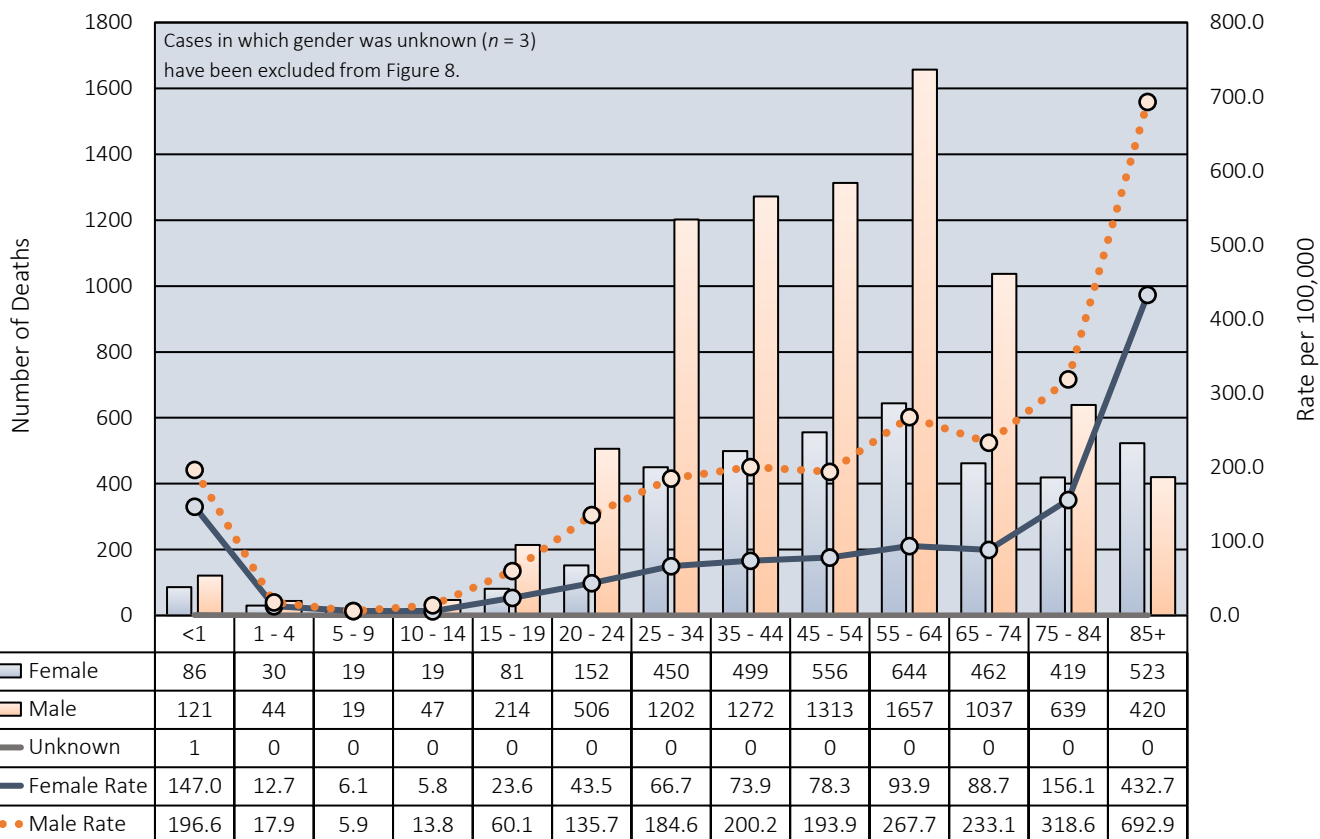


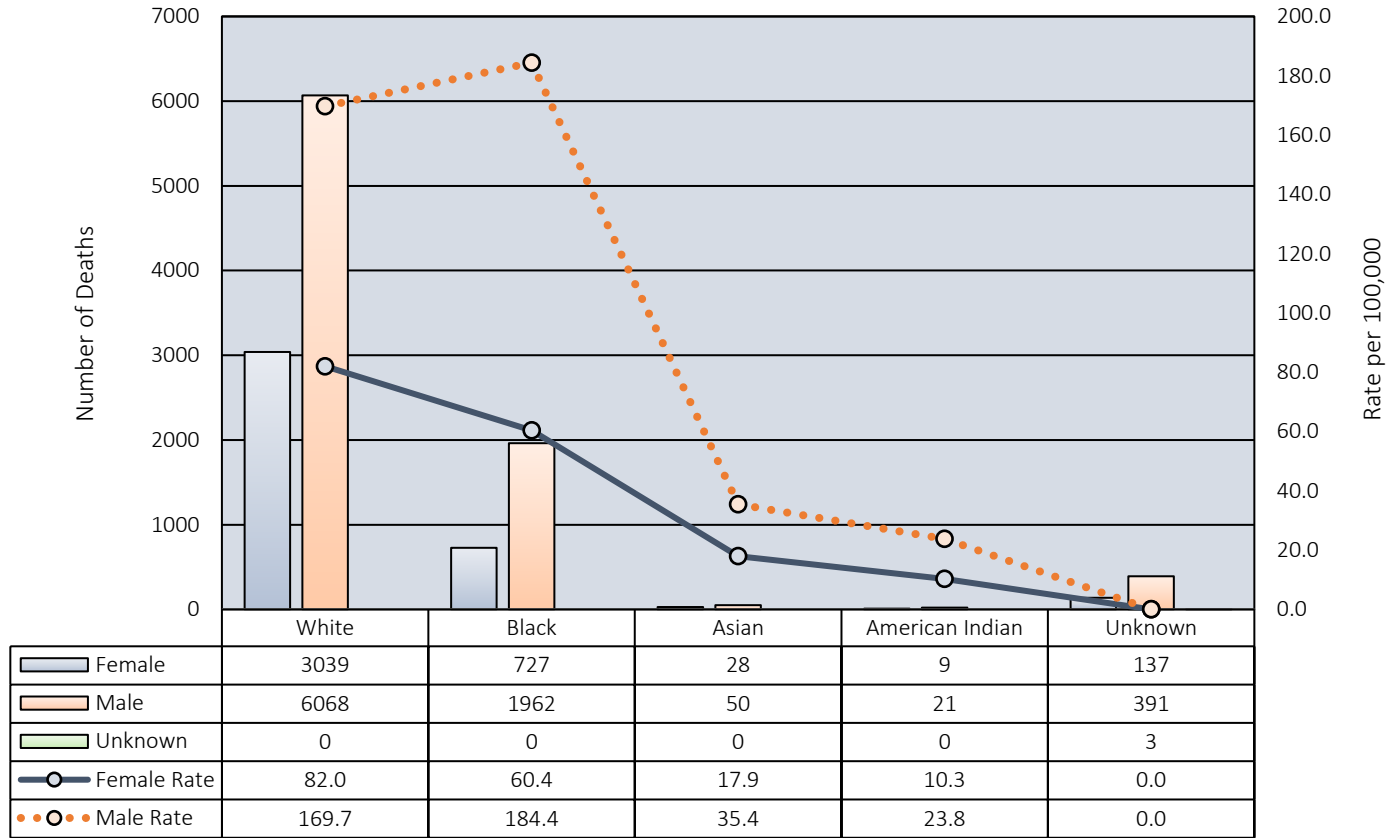
Table 17 Number of Deaths by Gender, Race, and Manner of Death, 2017

Gender	Race	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Female	White	1734	70	848	306	81	3039
	Black	290	57	313	31	36	727
	Asian	14	2	5	7	0	28
	American Indian	3	2	4	0	0	9
	Unknown	68	10	33	19	7	137
	<i>Subtotal</i>		2109	141	1203	363	124
Gender	Race	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Male	White	2914	170	1873	1009	102	6068
	Black	695	395	694	118	60	1962
	Asian	19	3	21	7	0	50
	American Indian	8	2	5	6	0	21
	Unknown	195	45	99	38	14	391
	<i>Subtotal</i>		3831	615	2692	1178	176
Gender	Race	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Unknown	Unknown	0	0	0	0	3	3
	<i>Subtotal</i>	0	0	0	0	3	3
TOTAL		5940	756	3895	1541	303	12435

Table 18 Number and Rate of Deaths by Gender and Race, 2017

Gender	White			Black			Asian			American Indian			Unknown		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	3039	33.4	82.0	727	27.0	60.4	28	35.9	17.9	9	30.0	10.3	137	25.8	ND
Male	6068	66.6	169.7	1962	73.0	184.4	50	64.1	35.4	21	70.0	23.8	391	73.6	ND
Unknown	0	0.0	ND	0	0.0	ND	0	0.0	ND	0	0.0	ND	3	0.6	ND
TOTAL	9107	73.2%	125.1	2689	21.6%	118.6	78	0.6%	26.2	30	0.2%	17.1	531	4.3%	ND

Figure 9 Number and Rate of Deaths by Gender and Race, 2017



CHAPTER 2

Accidental Deaths

SUMMARY

47.7% ($n = 5,940$) of deaths investigated by the medical examiner system were certified as accidental deaths.

65.5% ($n = 3,831$) were male. Overall, males had the highest rate with 76.8 per 100,000. Males over 85 years of age had the highest rate with 488.4 per 100,000.

78.2% ($n = 4,648$) were white. Overall, whites had the highest rate with 63.8 per 100,000.

16.5% ($n = 980$) were between 25 and 34 years of age. Individuals over 85 years of age had the highest rate with 401.1 per 100,000.

40.0% ($n = 2,378$) were unintentional poisonings. 68.0% ($n = 1,618$) were male, 82.6% ($n = 1,963$) were white, and 28.1% ($n = 668$) were between 25 and 34 years of age.

26.0% ($n = 1,545$) were transportation-related accidents. 71.1% ($n = 1,099$) were male, 64.5% ($n = 997$) were white, and 16.6% ($n = 256$) were between 25 and 34 years of age.

Mecklenburg County had the highest number of accidental deaths based on county of death ($n = 560$), but Buncombe County had the highest rate with 130.1 per 100,000.

Table 19 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by Means of Death, 2017

Means of Death	Total	% Total	Rate
Poisoning	2378	40.0	23.2
Transportation	1545	26.0	15.0
Fall/Jump	1439	24.2	14.0
Fire/Burn Injuries	153	2.6	1.5
Drowning	144	2.4	1.4
Asphyxia	121	2.0	1.2
Other or Unknown Blunt Instrument	58	1.0	0.6
Environmental Exposure	36	0.6	0.4
Sharp Trauma	23	0.4	0.2
Other	22	0.4	0.2
Electrocution	12	0.2	0.1
Firearms	9	0.2	0.1
TOTAL	5940	100%	57.8

Table 20 Number of Accidental Deaths by Means of Death, 2017

Means of Death	Total
Asphyxia	121
Choking	66
Hanging	3
Mechanical	18
Positional	16
Strangulation/Neck Compression	2
Suffocation/Smothering	13
Other	3
Drowning	144
Bathtub	12
Freshwater	79
Pool	15
Saltwater	28
Other	10
Electrocution	12
High Voltage	4
Low Voltage	4
Lightning	3
Unknown	1
Environmental Exposure	36
Hyperthermia	13
Hypothermia	19
Anaphylaxis/Anaphylactoid Reaction	4
Fire/Burn Injuries	153
Thermal Injuries	52
Inhalation of Combustion Products/Carbon Monoxide (Fire)	62
Thermal Injuries + Inhalation of Combustion Products	38
Chemical Burns	1
Firearms	9
Handgun	7
Rifle	1
Unknown Firearm	1
Blunt Trauma	3042

Means of Death	Total
Aircraft	8
Bicycle	30
Motorcycle	145
Pedestrian	214
Train	13
Motor Vehicle	1040
Other Vehicle ¹	94
Watercraft	1
Other Blunt Instrument	54
Unknown	5
Fall/Jump	1438
Sharp Trauma	23
Animals	2
Other Sharp Instrument	21
Poisoning	2378
Ethanol	42
Opioids	523
Non-Opioid Prescription Drugs	23
Non-Opioid Illicit Drugs	231
Over-the-Counter (OTC) Drugs	13
Carbon Monoxide	9
Multiple Categories	1510
Other Poisoning	27
Other	22
TOTAL	5940

¹This category includes all-terrain vehicles, mopeds, tractors, etc.

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

County of Death	Total	Rate
Mecklenburg	560	52.2
Wake	444	42.3
Forsyth	389	104.3
Guilford	363	68.7
Buncombe	337	130.1

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

County of Death	Total	Rate
Buncombe	337	130.1
Pitt	226	127.2
Jones	12	118.5
Forsyth	389	104.3
New Hanover	216	94.3

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

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Mecklenburg	385	35.9
Wake	359	34.2
Guilford	275	52.1
Forsyth	218	58.5
Buncombe	206	79.5

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

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Jones	11	108.7
Haywood	65	104.0
Washington	12	97.4
Beaufort	45	94.8
Tyrrell	4	92.9

Table 25 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by County of Death, 2017

County of Death	Total	Rate
Alamance	109	66.9
Alexander	6	15.8
Alleghany	7	61.5
Anson	6	23.5
Ashe	4	14.7
Avery	5	27.8
Beaufort	38	80.1
Bertie	8	40.4
Bladen	12	34.8
Brunswick	71	53.9
Buncombe	337	130.1
Burke	59	64.8
Cabarrus	155	75.7
Caldwell	27	32.4
Camden	3	29.0
Carteret	49	69.8
Caswell	17	72.4
Catawba	82	52.1
Chatham	32	44.1
Cherokee	18	62.3
Chowan	7	49.3
Clay	6	52.4
Cleveland	41	41.7
Columbus	40	70.5
Craven	55	53.2
Cumberland	196	59.7
Currituck	11	41.2
Dare	21	57.3
Davidson	68	40.8
Davie	16	37.5
Duplin	18	30.2

County of Death	Total	Rate
Durham	225	73.4
Edgecombe	22	41.4
Forsyth	389	104.3
Franklin	22	33.0
Gaston	111	50.8
Gates	8	66.6
Graham	8	91.4
Granville	27	44.9
Greene	4	18.8
Guilford	363	68.7
Halifax	20	38.5
Harnett	67	51.1
Haywood	50	80.0
Henderson	87	75.4
Hertford	14	58.2
Hoke	20	37.5
Hyde	5	91.9
Iredell	73	41.5
Jackson	22	50.5
Johnston	61	31.5
Jones	12	118.5
Lee	39	65.2
Lenoir	16	28.0
Lincoln	21	25.3
Macon	23	64.6
Madison	7	31.5
Martin	9	38.6
McDowell	22	47.7
Mecklenburg	560	52.2
Mitchell	4	26.4
Montgomery	19	68.5

County of Death	Total	Rate
Moore	60	61.5
Nash	33	34.8
New Hanover	216	94.3
Northampton	11	52.6
Onslow	52	26.5
Orange	129	90.5
Pamlico	3	22.7
Pasquotank	21	52.8
Pender	32	52.7
Perquimans	7	51.2
Person	14	35.1
Pitt	226	127.2
Polk	9	42.2
Randolph	69	48.0
Richmond	22	48.7
Robeson	76	57.6
Rockingham	37	40.5
Rowan	106	74.9
Rutherford	43	63.0
Sampson	29	45.4
Scotland	16	44.6

County of Death	Total	Rate
Stanly	39	62.2
Stokes	23	49.3
Surry	54	73.9
Swain	5	34.0
Transylvania	28	81.2
Tyrrell	1	23.2
Union	69	30.3
Vance	30	66.5
Wake	444	42.3
Warren	5	24.7
Washington	4	32.5
Watauga	12	21.3
Wayne	73	58.8
Wilkes	29	41.6
Wilson	33	40.4
Yadkin	15	39.3
Yancey	5	27.3
Subtotal	5934	57.8
OUT OF STATE	6	ND
Subtotal	6	ND
TOTAL	5940	57.8

Table 26 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by County of Residence, 2017

County of Death	Total	Rate
Alamance	123	75.4
Alexander	12	31.5
Alleghany	9	79.1
Anson	11	43.2
Ashe	10	36.6
Avery	5	27.8
Beaufort	45	94.8
Bertie	15	75.8
Bladen	22	63.7
Brunswick	85	64.6
Buncombe	206	79.5
Burke	70	76.9
Cabarrus	132	64.4
Caldwell	39	46.9
Camden	5	48.3
Carteret	47	66.9
Caswell	19	80.9
Catawba	89	56.5
Chatham	44	60.6
Cherokee	13	45.0
Chowan	9	63.4
Clay	5	43.6
Cleveland	54	54.9
Columbus	38	67.0
Craven	58	56.1
Cumberland	181	55.1
Currituck	8	30.0
Dare	15	40.9
Davidson	106	63.6
Davie	23	53.9
Duplin	35	58.7

County of Death	Total	Rate
Durham	142	46.3
Edgecombe	35	65.8
Forsyth	218	58.5
Franklin	42	63.1
Gaston	116	53.1
Gates	9	74.9
Graham	5	57.1
Granville	31	51.6
Greene	12	56.3
Guilford	275	52.1
Halifax	29	55.8
Harnett	75	57.2
Haywood	65	104.0
Henderson	88	76.3
Hertford	16	66.5
Hoke	23	43.1
Hyde	5	91.9
Iredell	81	46.0
Jackson	26	59.7
Johnston	96	49.5
Jones	11	108.7
Lee	51	85.3
Lenoir	40	70.0
Lincoln	41	49.4
Macon	30	84.2
Madison	13	58.5
Martin	14	60.1
McDowell	26	56.4
Mecklenburg	385	35.9
Mitchell	9	59.3
Montgomery	24	86.5

County of Death	Total	Rate
Moore	55	56.3
Nash	46	48.5
New Hanover	141	61.5
Northampton	12	57.4
Onslow	70	35.6
Orange	46	32.3
Pamlico	11	83.1
Pasquotank	18	45.2
Pender	32	52.7
Perquimans	5	36.6
Person	25	62.7
Pitt	110	61.9
Polk	14	65.7
Randolph	118	82.2
Richmond	26	57.6
Robeson	92	69.7
Rockingham	58	63.4
Rowan	122	86.3
Rutherford	53	77.6
Sampson	45	70.5
Scotland	18	50.2

County of Death	Total	Rate
Stanly	55	87.7
Stokes	41	88.0
Surry	56	76.7
Swain	12	81.6
Transylvania	28	81.2
Tyrrell	4	92.9
Union	92	40.3
Vance	38	84.2
Wake	359	34.2
Warren	12	59.3
Washington	12	97.4
Watauga	11	19.5
Wayne	60	48.4
Wilkes	47	67.3
Wilson	44	53.9
Yadkin	35	91.8
Yancey	15	82.0
Subtotal	5604	54.6
OUT OF STATE	336	ND
Subtotal	336	ND
TOTAL	5940	57.8

Table 27 Number of Accidental Deaths by Gender, Age Group, and Race, 2017

Gender	Age Group	White	Black	Asian	American Indian	Unknown	Total
Female	<1	2	4	0	0	2	8
	1-4	9	10	0	0	3	22
	5-9	5	5	0	0	2	12
	10-14	3	2	0	0	2	7
	15-19	34	6	0	0	7	47
	20-24	70	15	0	1	7	93
	25-34	218	50	2	0	9	279
	35-44	231	34	0	1	13	279
	45-54	184	35	2	1	4	226
	55-64	194	39	1	0	6	240
	65-74	159	30	2	0	4	195
	75-84	240	24	3	0	2	269
	85+	385	36	4	0	7	432
	<i>Subtotal</i>	1734	290	14	3	68	2109
Gender	Age Group	White	Black	Asian	American Indian	Unknown	Total
Male	<1	14	4	0	0	2	20
	1-4	14	7	0	0	2	23
	5-9	7	0	0	0	2	9
	10-14	15	7	0	0	2	24
	15-19	62	26	3	0	10	101
	20-24	201	47	4	0	29	281
	25-34	523	121	4	3	50	701
	35-44	509	115	7	2	33	666
	45-54	397	127	1	1	28	554
	55-64	372	137	0	1	17	527
	65-74	248	71	0	1	8	328
	75-84	270	24	0	0	7	301
	85+	282	9	0	0	5	296
	<i>Subtotal</i>	2914	695	19	8	195	3831
TOTAL		4648	985	33	11	263	5940

Table 28 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by Gender, 2017

Gender	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	2109	35.5	39.9
Male	3831	65.5	76.8
TOTAL	5940	100%	57.8

Table 29 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by Race, 2017

Race/Ethnicity	Total	% Total	Rate
White	4648	78.2	63.8
Black	985	16.6	43.4
Unknown	263	4.4	ND
Asian	33	0.6	11.1
American Indian	11	0.2	6.3
TOTAL	5940	100%	57.8

Figure 10 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by Race, 2017

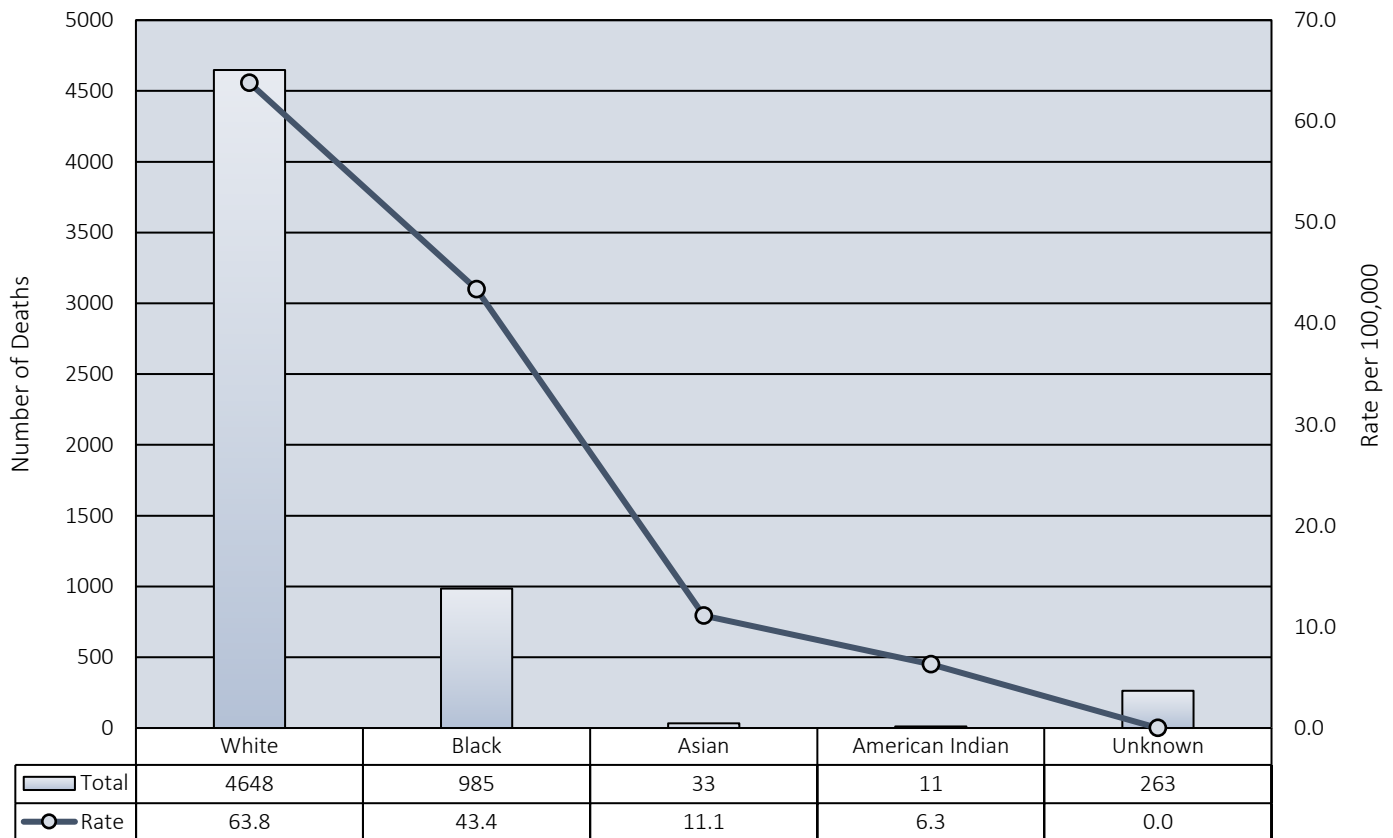


Table 30 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by Age Group, 2017

Age Group	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	28	0.5	23.3
1-4	45	0.8	9.3
5-9	21	0.4	3.3
10-14	31	0.5	4.6
15-19	148	2.5	21.1
20-24	374	6.3	51.8
25-34	980	16.5	73.9
35-44	945	15.9	72.1
45-54	780	13.1	56.2
55-64	767	12.9	58.8
65-74	523	8.8	54.2
75-84	570	9.6	121.5
85+	728	12.3	401.1
TOTAL	5940	100%	57.8

Figure 11 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by Age Group, 2017

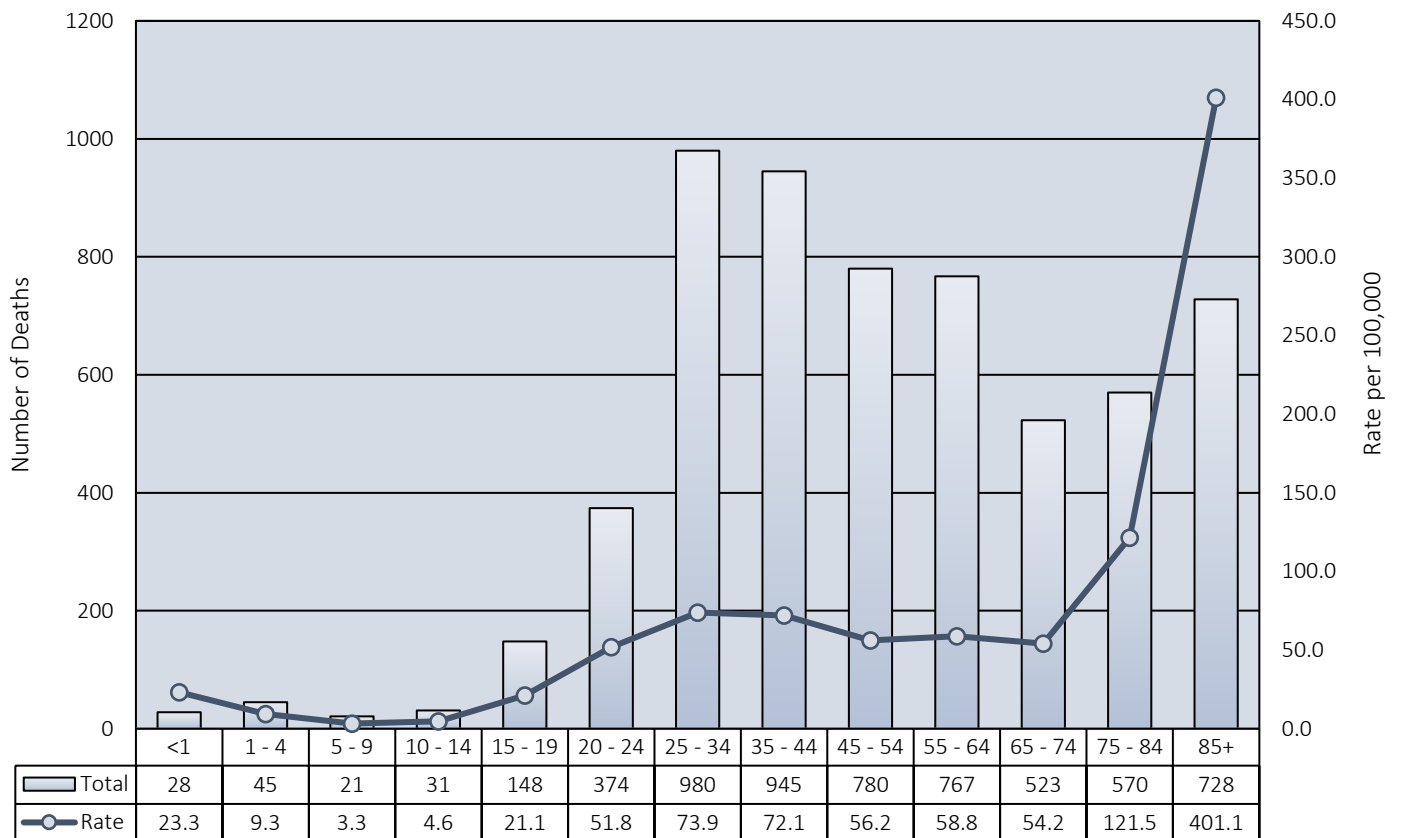


Table 31 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2017

Age Group	Female			Male		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	8	0.4	13.7	20	0.5	32.5
1-4	22	1.0	9.3	23	0.6	9.3
5-9	12	0.6	3.9	9	0.2	2.8
10-14	7	0.3	2.1	24	0.6	7.0
15-19	47	2.2	13.7	101	2.6	28.3
20-24	93	4.4	26.6	281	7.3	75.4
25-34	279	13.2	41.4	701	18.3	107.7
35-44	279	13.2	41.3	666	17.4	104.8
45-54	226	10.7	31.8	554	14.5	81.8
55-64	240	11.4	35.0	527	13.8	85.1
65-74	195	9.2	37.4	328	8.6	73.7
75-84	269	12.8	100.2	301	7.9	150.1
85+	432	20.5	357.4	296	7.7	488.4
TOTAL	2109	35.5%	39.9	3831	65.5%	76.8

Figure 12 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by Gender and Age Group, 2017

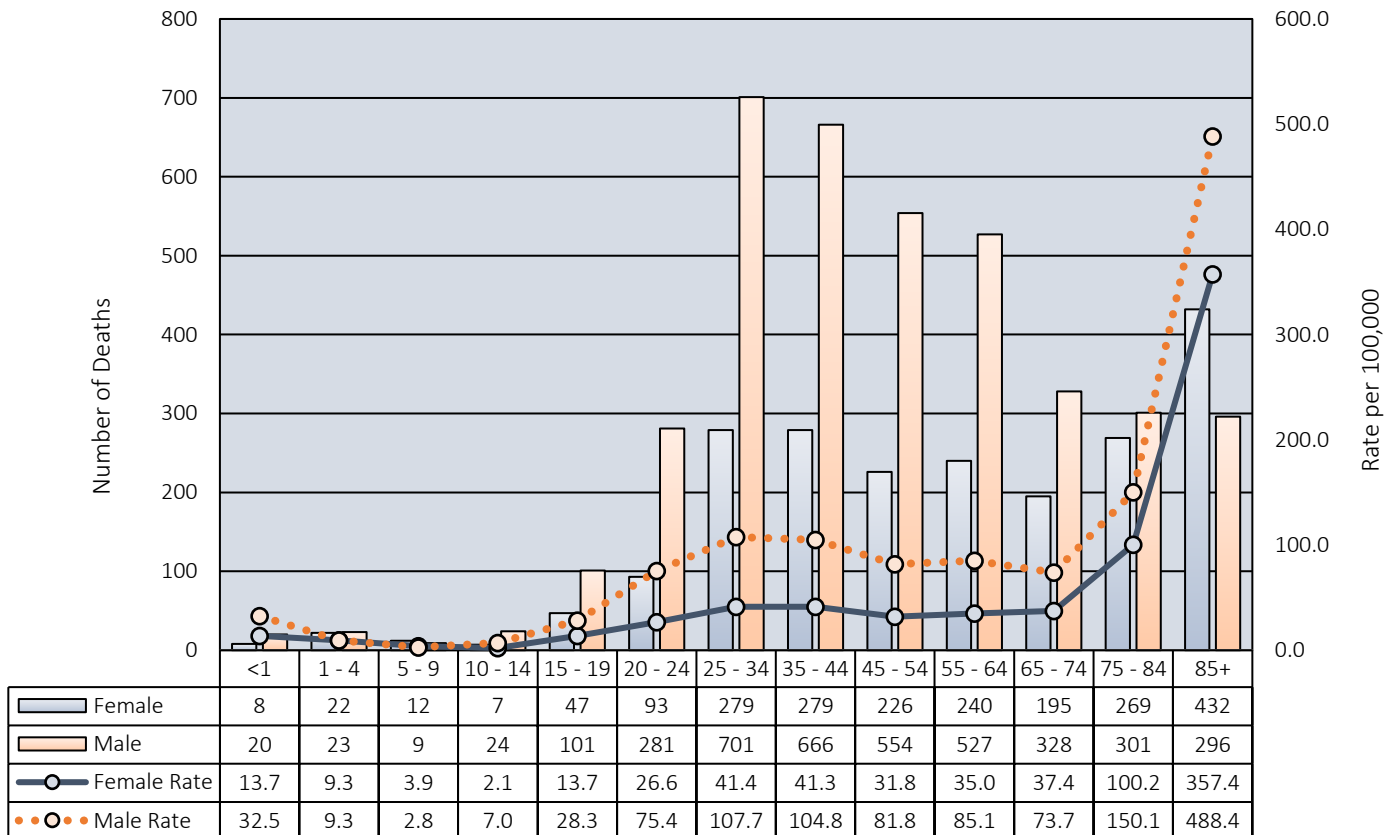
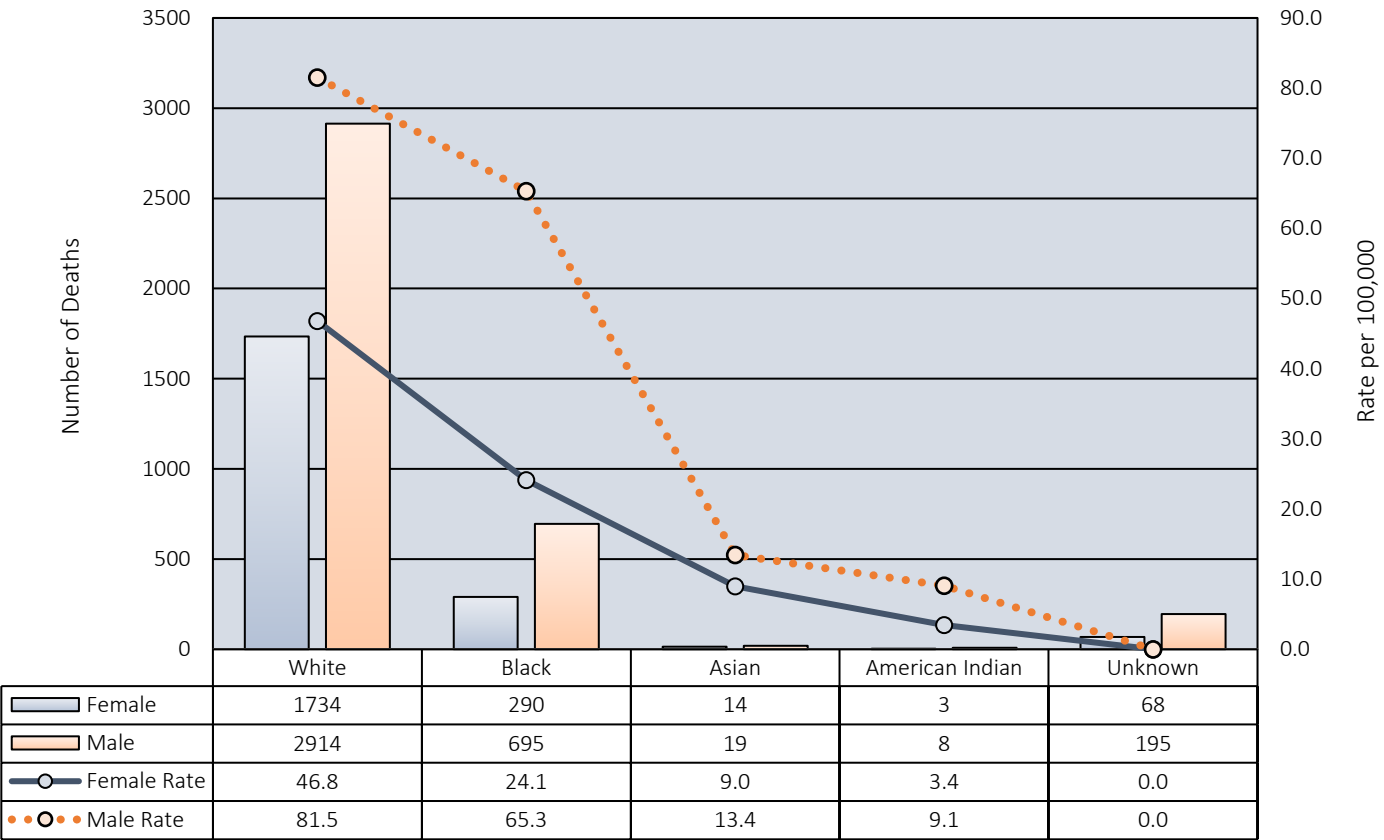


Table 32 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by Gender and Race, 2017

Gender	White			Black			Asian			American Indian			Unknown		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	1734	37.3	46.8	290	29.4	24.1	14	42.4	9.0	3	27.3	3.4	68	25.9	ND
Male	2914	62.7	81.5	695	70.6	65.3	19	57.6	13.4	8	72.7	9.1	195	74.1	ND
TOTAL	4648	78.2%	63.8	985	16.6%	43.4	33	0.6%	11.1	11	0.2%	6.3	263	4.4%	ND

Figure 13 Number and Rate of Accidental Deaths by Gender and Race, 2017



CHAPTER 3

Homicide Deaths

SUMMARY

6.1% ($n = 756$) of deaths investigated by the medical examiner system were certified as homicide deaths.

81.3% ($n = 615$) were male. Overall, males had the highest homicide rate with 12.3 per 100,000. Males between 25 and 34 years of age had the highest homicide rate of any age group with 28.6 per 100,000.

59.8% ($n = 452$) were black. Overall, Blacks had the highest homicide rate with 37.1 per 100,000.

26.2% ($n = 198$) were between 25 and 34 years of age. Individuals between 20 and 24 years of age had the highest homicide rate with 15.1 per 100,000.

77.0% ($n = 582$) were attributed to firearms. 86.9% ($n = 506$) of firearm-related homicides were male, 64.3% ($n = 374$) were Black, and 30.6% ($n = 178$) were between 25 and 34 years of age.

8.6% ($n = 65$) were attributed to blunt force. 66.2% ($n = 43$) of blunt force-related homicides were male, 52.3% ($n = 34$) were white, and 26.2% ($n = 17$) were between 55 and 64 years of age.

Mecklenburg County had the highest number of homicides based on county of death ($n = 106$), but Vance County had the highest homicide rate with 24.4 per 100,000.

Table 33 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by Means of Death, 2017

Means of Death	Total	% Total	Rate
Firearms	582	77.0	5.7
Blunt Trauma	65	8.6	0.6
Sharp Trauma	60	7.9	0.6
Other	29	3.8	0.3
Asphyxia	15	2.0	0.1
Fire/Burn Injuries	5	0.7	0.0
TOTAL	756	100%	7.4

Table 34 Number of Homicide Deaths by Means of Death, 2017

Means of Death	Total
Firearms	582
Handgun	359
Rifle	28
Shotgun	47
Other Firearm	5
Unknown Firearm	132
Law Enforcement Involved	10
Multiple Categories	1
Blunt Trauma	65
Bodily Force	12
Abuse	3
Pedestrian	1
Other Blunt Instrument	25
Unknown Blunt Instrument	23
Multiple Categories	1
Sharp Trauma	60
Knife	39
Other Sharp Instrument	3
Unknown Sharp Instrument	16
Multiple Categories	2
Asphyxia	15
Strangulation/Neck Compression	13
Suffocation/Smothering	1
Other Asphyxia	1
Fire/Burn Injuries	5
Inhalation of Combustion Products	4
Thermal Injuries	1
Other	29
TOTAL	756

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

County of Death	Total	Rate
Mecklenburg	106	9.9
Guilford	65	12.1
Cumberland	44	13.4
Durham	42	13.7
Forsyth	42	11.3

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

County of Death	Total	Rate
Vance	11	24.4
Columbus	13	22.9
Halifax	11	21.2
Scotland	7	19.5
Robeson	23	17.4

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

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Mecklenburg	89	8.3
Guilford	50	9.5
Cumberland	42	12.8
Forsyth	31	8.3
Durham	29	9.5

Table 38 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by County of Residence, Sorted by Highest Rate

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Halifax	14	26.9
Vance	12	26.6
Anson	6	23.5
Robeson	27	20.4
Bladen	7	20.3

Table 39 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by County of Death, 2017

County of Death	Total	Rate
Alamance	5	3.1
Alexander	1	2.6
Alleghany	1	8.8
Anson	4	15.7
Ashe	0	0.0
Avery	0	0.0
Beaufort	2	4.2
Bertie	2	10.1
Bladen	3	8.7
Brunswick	2	1.5
Buncombe	15	5.8
Burke	5	5.5
Cabarrus	3	1.5
Caldwell	0	0.0
Camden	0	0.0
Carteret	1	1.4
Caswell	1	4.3
Catawba	16	10.2
Chatham	3	4.1
Cherokee	0	0.0
Chowan	1	7.0
Clay	0	0.0
Cleveland	8	8.1
Columbus	13	22.9
Craven	8	7.7
Cumberland	44	13.4
Currituck	0	0.0
Dare	0	0.0
Davidson	6	3.6
Davie	0	0.0
Duplin	1	1.7

County of Death	Total	Rate
Durham	42	13.7
Edgecombe	2	3.8
Forsyth	42	11.3
Franklin	4	6.0
Gaston	14	6.4
Gates	0	0.0
Graham	0	0.0
Granville	5	8.3
Greene	3	14.1
Guilford	64	12.1
Halifax	11	21.2
Harnett	9	6.9
Haywood	3	4.8
Henderson	1	0.9
Hertford	0	0.0
Hoke	6	11.3
Hyde	0	0.0
Iredell	5	2.8
Jackson	0	0.0
Johnston	5	2.6
Jones	1	9.9
Lee	5	8.4
Lenoir	9	15.7
Lincoln	2	2.4
Macon	1	2.8
Madison	0	0.0
Martin	1	4.3
McDowell	2	4.3
Mecklenburg	106	9.9
Mitchell	0	0.0
Montgomery	1	3.6

County of Death	Total	Rate
Moore	4	4.1
Nash	15	15.8
New Hanover	33	14.4
Northampton	3	14.3
Onslow	6	3.1
Orange	14	9.8
Pamlico	0	0.0
Pasquotank	4	10.1
Pender	4	6.6
Perquimans	0	0.0
Person	2	5.0
Pitt	18	10.1
Polk	0	0.0
Randolph	11	7.7
Richmond	6	13.3
Robeson	23	17.4
Rockingham	4	4.4
Rowan	13	9.2
Rutherford	2	2.9
Sampson	5	7.8
Scotland	7	19.5

County of Death	Total	Rate
Stanly	2	3.2
Stokes	2	4.3
Surry	5	6.8
Swain	0	0.0
Transylvania	1	2.9
Tyrrell	0	0.0
Union	6	2.6
Vance	11	24.4
Wake	33	3.1
Warren	0	0.0
Washington	1	8.1
Watauga	1	1.8
Wayne	14	11.3
Wilkes	1	1.4
Wilson	8	9.8
Yadkin	2	5.2
Yancey	1	5.5
Subtotal	751	7.3
OUT OF STATE	5	ND
Subtotal	5	ND
TOTAL	756	7.4

Table 40 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by County of Residence, 2017

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Alamance	12	7.4
Alexander	0	0.0
Alleghany	1	8.8
Anson	6	23.5
Ashe	0	0.0
Avery	0	0.0
Beaufort	2	4.2
Bertie	1	5.1
Bladen	7	20.3
Brunswick	5	3.8
Buncombe	12	4.6
Burke	4	4.4
Cabarrus	4	2.0
Caldwell	6	7.2
Camden	2	19.3
Carteret	1	1.4
Caswell	1	4.3
Catawba	15	9.5
Chatham	3	4.1
Cherokee	0	0.0
Chowan	2	14.1
Clay	0	0.0
Cleveland	8	8.1
Columbus	10	17.6
Craven	8	7.7
Cumberland	42	12.8
Currituck	0	0.0
Dare	0	0.0
Davidson	8	4.8
Davie	0	0.0
Duplin	0	0.0

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Durham	29	9.5
Edgecombe	6	11.3
Forsyth	31	8.3
Franklin	10	15.0
Gaston	12	5.5
Gates	0	0.0
Graham	0	0.0
Granville	6	10.0
Greene	2	9.4
Guilford	50	9.5
Halifax	14	26.9
Harnett	13	9.9
Haywood	4	6.4
Henderson	2	1.7
Hertford	1	4.2
Hoke	5	9.4
Hyde	0	0.0
Iredell	6	3.4
Jackson	0	0.0
Johnston	5	2.6
Jones	1	9.9
Lee	5	8.4
Lenoir	8	14.0
Lincoln	2	2.4
Macon	1	2.8
Madison	0	0.0
Martin	1	4.3
McDowell	4	8.7
Mecklenburg	89	8.3
Mitchell	0	0.0
Montgomery	1	3.6

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Moore	3	3.1
Nash	15	15.8
New Hanover	22	9.6
Northampton	2	9.6
Onslow	10	5.1
Orange	9	6.3
Pamlico	1	7.6
Pasquotank	2	5.0
Pender	7	11.5
Perquimans	2	14.6
Person	5	12.5
Pitt	7	3.9
Polk	0	0.0
Randolph	10	7.0
Richmond	7	15.5
Robeson	27	20.4
Rockingham	6	6.6
Rowan	11	7.8
Rutherford	2	2.9
Sampson	6	9.4
Scotland	5	13.9

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Stanly	3	4.8
Stokes	2	4.3
Surry	5	6.8
Swain	0	0.0
Transylvania	1	2.9
Tyrrell	0	0.0
Union	2	0.9
Vance	12	26.6
Wake	25	2.4
Warren	1	4.9
Washington	1	8.1
Watauga	2	3.6
Wayne	16	12.9
Wilkes	3	4.3
Wilson	10	12.3
Yadkin	2	5.2
Yancey	1	5.5
Subtotal	713	6.9
OUT OF STATE	43	ND
Subtotal	43	ND
TOTAL	756	7.4

Table 41 Number of Homicide Deaths by Gender, Age Group, and Race, 2017

Gender	Age Group	Black	White	Asian	American Indian	Unknown	Total
Female	<1	5	3	0	0	0	8
	1-4	1	2	0	0	1	4
	5-9	0	1	0	1	0	2
	10-14	1	1	0	0	0	2
	15-19	5	5	0	0	0	10
	20-24	7	6	0	0	0	13
	25-34	9	9	1	1	2	22
	35-44	12	11	0	0	4	27
	45-54	7	11	0	0	1	19
	55-64	3	11	0	0	1	15
	65-74	4	6	0	0	0	10
	75-84	3	3	0	0	1	7
	85+	0	1	1	0	0	2
	<i>Subtotal</i>		57	70	2	2	10
Gender	Age Group	Black	White	Asian	American Indian	Unknown	Total
Male	<1	0	4	0	0	1	5
	1-4	4	3	0	0	1	8
	5-9	3	0	0	0	0	3
	10-14	2	2	0	0	0	4
	15-19	38	10	0	0	3	51
	20-24	79	10	1	1	5	96
	25-34	123	40	1	0	12	176
	35-44	80	32	1	1	12	126
	45-54	31	26	0	0	5	62
	55-64	22	20	0	0	6	48
	65-74	12	8	0	0	0	20
	75-84	1	7	0	0	0	8
	85+	0	8	0	0	0	8
	<i>Subtotal</i>		395	170	3	2	45
TOTAL		452	240	5	4	55	756

Table 42 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by Gender, 2017

Gender	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	141	18.7	2.7
Male	615	81.3	12.3
TOTAL	756	100%	7.4

Table 43 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by Race, 2017

Race/Ethnicity	Total	% Total	Rate
Black	452	59.8	19.9
White	240	31.7	3.3
Unknown	55	7.3	ND
Asian	5	0.7	1.7
American Indian	4	0.5	2.3
TOTAL	756	100%	7.4

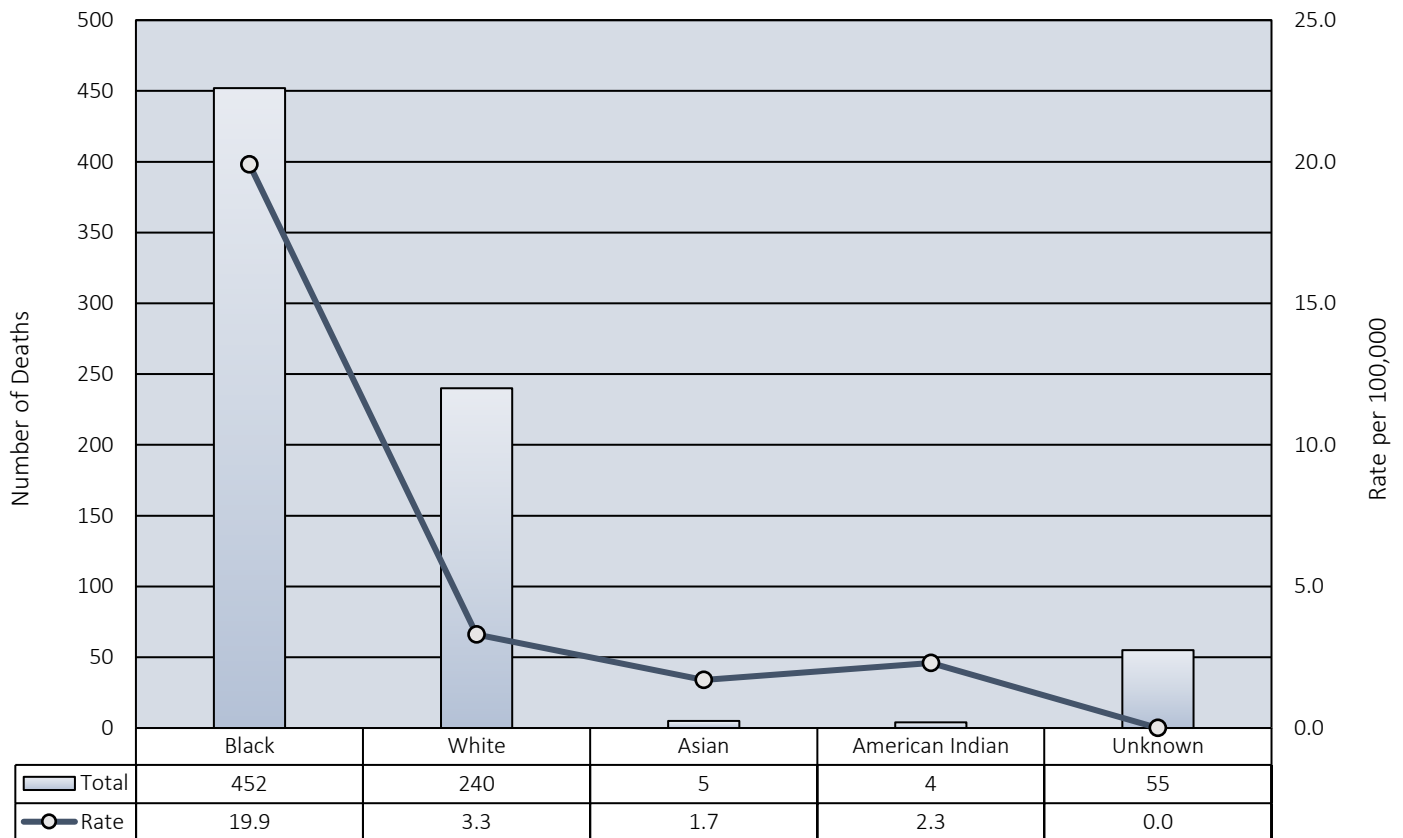
Figure 14 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by Race, 2017

Table 44 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by Age Group, 2017

Age Group	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	13	1.7	10.8
1-4	12	1.6	2.5
5-9	5	0.7	0.8
10-14	6	0.8	0.9
15-19	61	8.1	8.7
20-24	109	14.4	15.1
25-34	198	26.2	14.9
35-44	153	20.2	11.7
45-54	81	10.7	5.8
55-64	63	8.3	4.8
65-74	30	4.0	3.1
75-84	15	2.0	3.2
85+	10	1.3	5.5
TOTAL	756	100%	7.4

Figure 15 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by Age Group, 2017

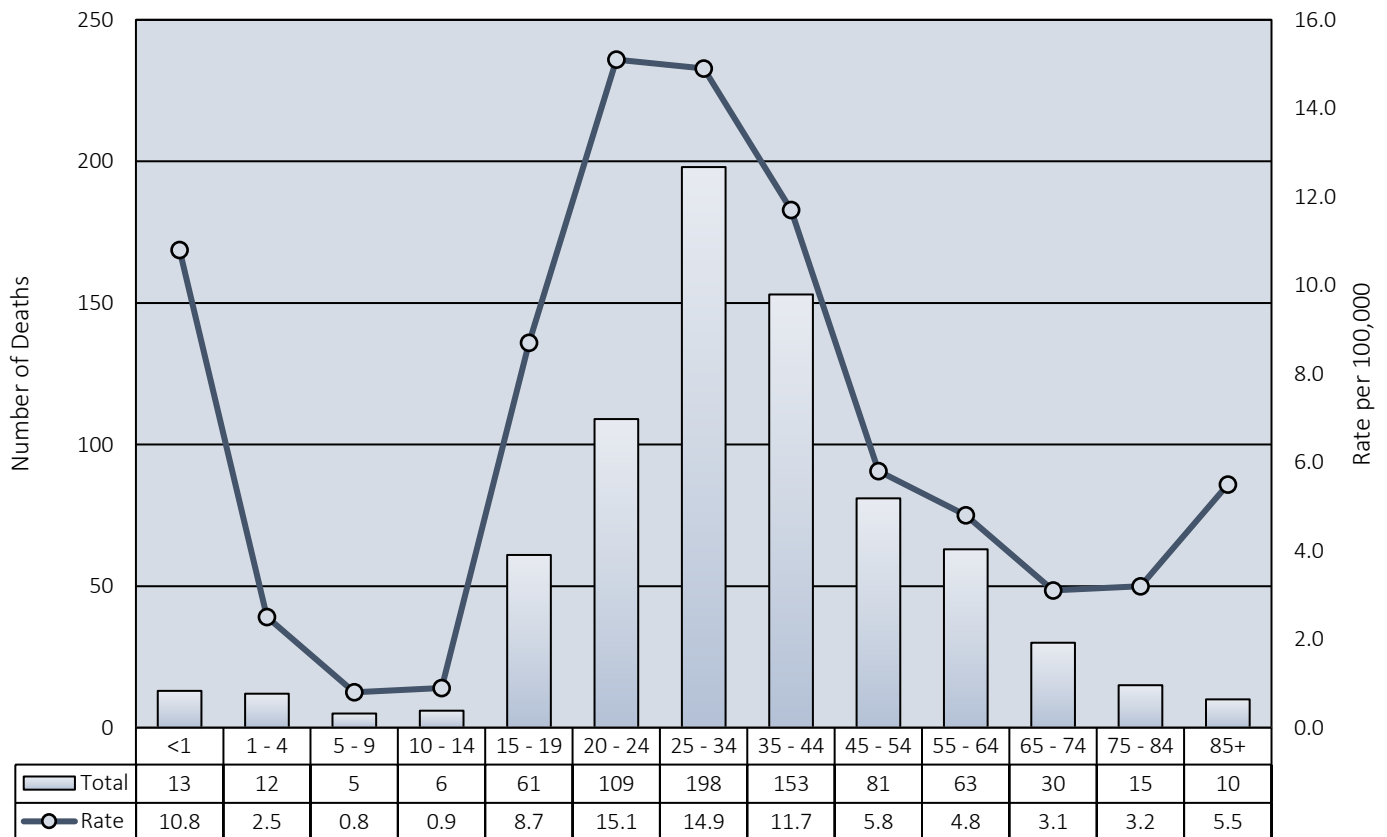


Table 45 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2017

Age Group	Female			Male		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	8	5.7	13.7	5	0.8	8.1
1-4	4	2.8	1.7	8	1.3	3.2
5-9	2	1.4	0.6	3	0.5	0.9
10-14	2	1.4	0.6	4	0.7	1.2
15-19	10	7.1	2.9	51	8.3	14.3
20-24	13	9.2	3.7	96	15.6	25.7
25-34	22	15.6	3.3	176	28.6	27.0
35-44	27	19.1	4.0	126	20.5	19.8
45-54	19	13.5	2.7	62	10.1	9.2
55-64	15	10.6	2.2	48	7.8	7.8
65-74	10	7.1	1.9	20	3.3	4.5
75-84	7	5.0	2.6	8	1.3	4.0
85+	2	1.4	1.7	8	1.3	13.2
TOTAL	141	18.7%	2.7	615	81.3%	12.3

Figure 16 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by Gender and Age Group, 2017

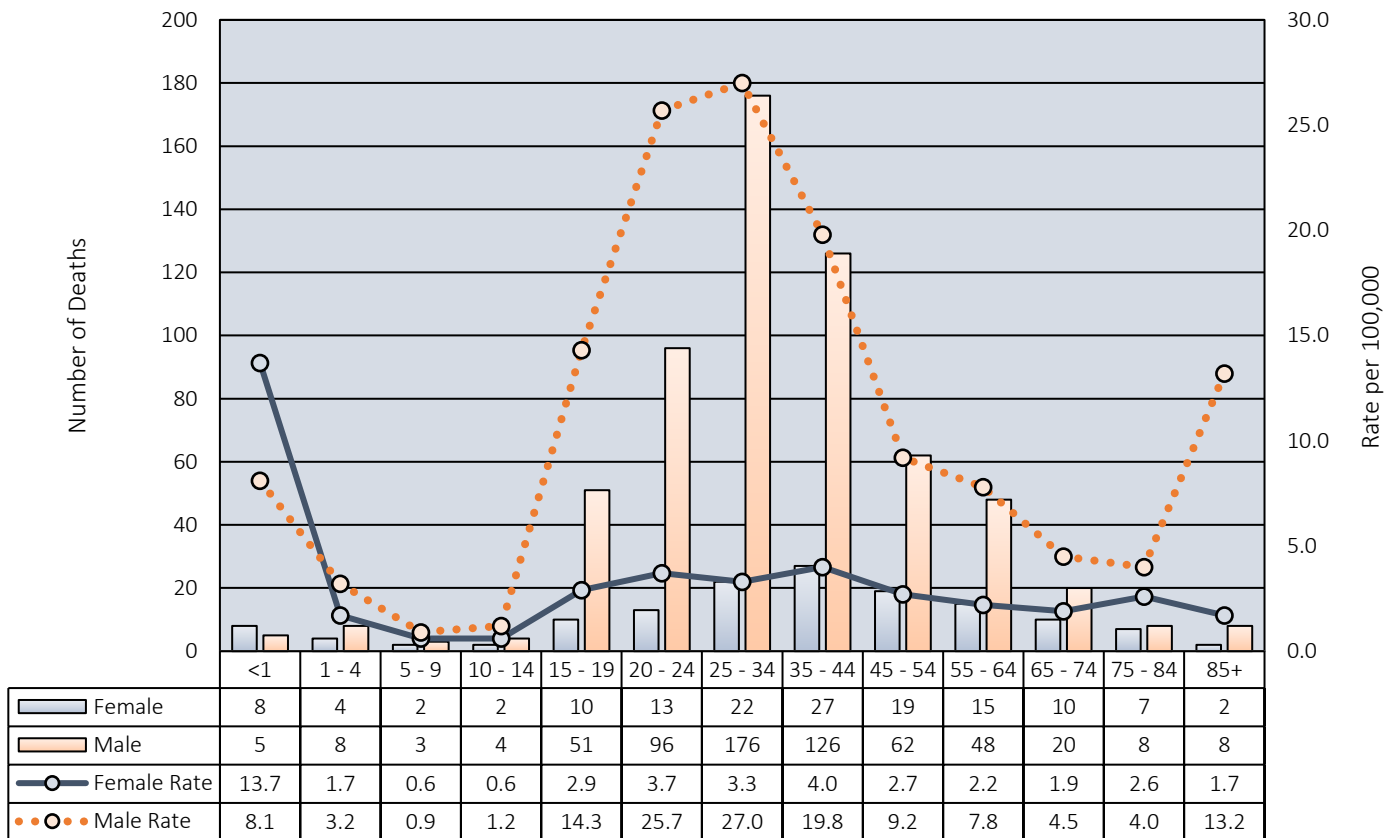
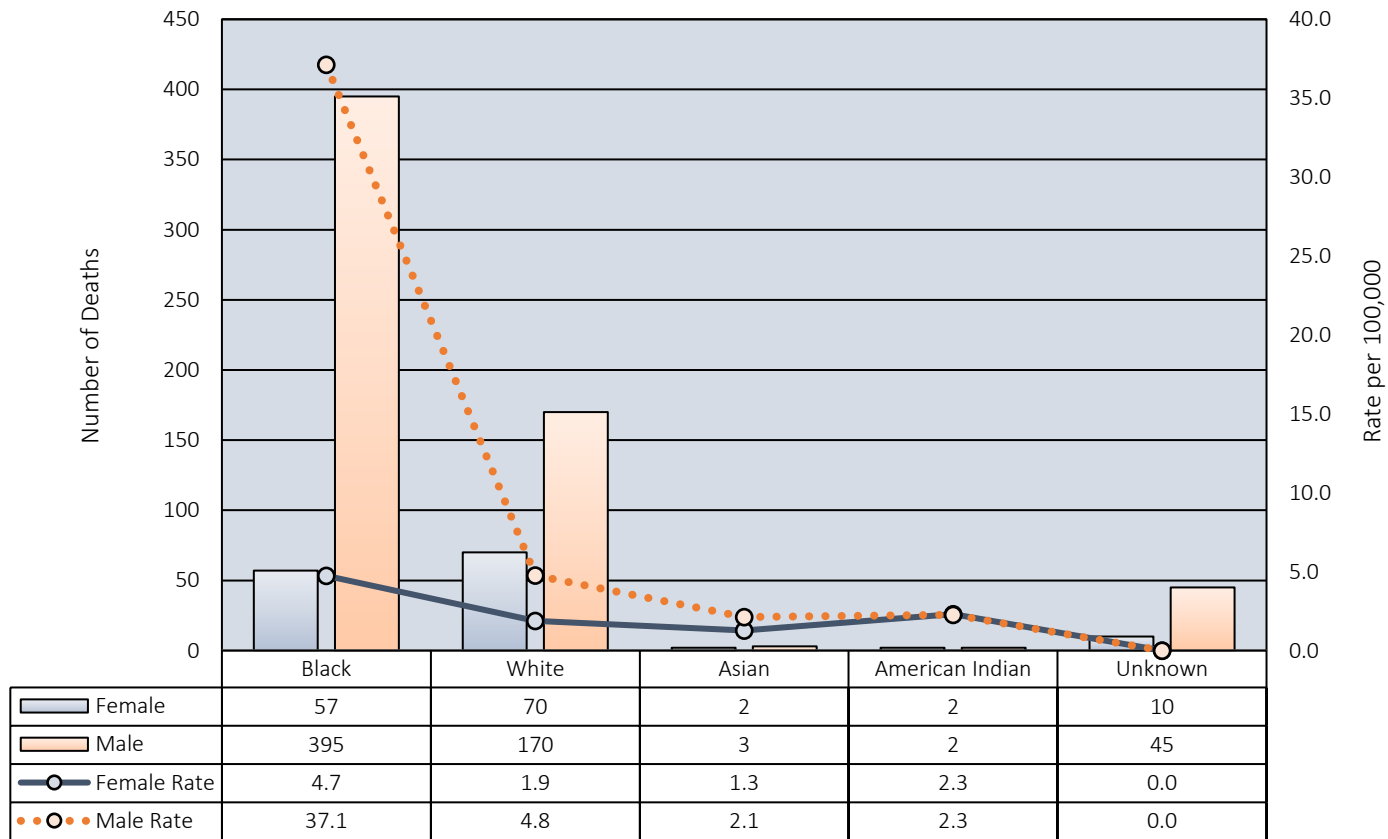


Table 46 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by Gender and Race, 2017

Gender	Black			White			Asian			American Indian			Unknown		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	57	12.6	4.7	70	29.2	1.9	2	40.0	1.3	2	50.0	2.3	10	18.2	ND
Male	395	87.4	37.1	170	70.8	4.8	3	60.0	2.1	2	50.0	2.3	45	81.8	ND
TOTAL	452	59.8%	19.9	240	31.8%	3.3	5	0.7%	1.7	4	0.5%	2.3	55	7.3%	ND

Figure 17 Number and Rate of Homicide Deaths by Gender and Race, 2017



CHAPTER 4

Natural Deaths

SUMMARY

31.3% ($n = 3,895$) of deaths investigated by the medical examiner system were certified as natural deaths.

69.1% ($n = 2,692$) were male. Overall, males had the highest rate with 53.9 per 100,000. Males between 55 and 64 years of age had the highest rate of any age group with 140.9 per 100,000.

69.9% ($n = 2,721$) were white. Overall, Blacks had the highest rate with 44.4 per 100,000.

30.4% ($n = 1,185$) were between 55 and 64 years of age. Individuals between 55 and 64 years of age had the highest rate with 90.8 per 100,000.

67.0% ($n = 2,611$) were caused by diseases of the circulatory system. 71.9% ($n = 1,876$) of these deaths were male, 70.8% ($n = 1,849$) were white, and 32.1% ($n = 839$) were between 55 and 64 years of age.

13.0% ($n = 507$) were caused by systemic diseases. 67.5% ($n = 342$) of deaths were male, 71.4% ($n = 362$) were white, and 29.2% ($n = 148$) were between 55 and 64 years of age.

Wake County had the highest number of natural deaths based on county of death ($n = 234$), but Tyrrell County had the highest rate with 6 per 100,000.

Table 47 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by Cause of Death, 2017

Cause of Death	Total	% Total	Rate
Cardiovascular Diseases/Disorders	2611	67.0	25.4
Systemic Diseases/Disorders	507	13.0	4.9
Pulmonary Diseases/Disorders	343	8.8	3.3
Gastrointestinal Diseases/Disorders	179	4.6	1.7
Central Nervous System Diseases/Disorders	121	3.1	1.2
Other Natural Deaths/Disorders	72	1.8	0.7
Genitourinary Diseases/Disorders	47	1.2	0.5
Perinatal and Pediatric Diseases/Disorders	15	0.4	0.1
TOTAL	3895	100%	37.9

Table 48 Number of Natural Deaths by Cause of Death, 2017

Cause of Death	Total
Central Nervous System Diseases/Disorders	121
Seizure Disorder	47
Vascular Malformation/Aneurysm	15
Degenerative Disease	26
Meningitis (Bacterial or Viral)	5
Malignancy	5
Other Central Nervous System Disease/Disorder	23
Cardiovascular Diseases/Disorders	2611
Atherosclerosis	1101
Hypertension	311
Hypertension and Atherosclerosis	1015
Congenital Anomaly	6
Vascular Dissection/Rupture	27
Valvular Heart Disease	15
Myocarditis	19
Cardiac Arrhythmia of Unknown Etiology	17
Cardiomyopathy, Not Otherwise Specified	48
Myocardial Rupture	4
Other Cardiovascular Disease/Disorder	48
Gastrointestinal Diseases/Disorders	179
Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage	60
Cirrhosis, Not Otherwise Specified	24
Malignancy	54
Other Gastrointestinal Disease/Disorder	41
Genitourinary Diseases/Disorders	47
Renal Disease, Not Otherwise Specified	12
Malignancy	28
Other Genitourinary Disease/Disorder	7
Perinatal and Pediatric Diseases/Disorders	15
Maternal Complications	3
Fetal Complications	4
Other Perinatal and Pediatric Disease/Disorder	8
Pulmonary Diseases/Disorders	343

Cause of Death	Total
Asthma	19
COPD/Emphysema	82
Thromboemboli	82
Pneumonia	103
Malignancy	38
Other Pulmonary Disease/Disorder	19
Systemic Diseases/Disorders	507
Blood Disorders	4
Diabetes Mellitus	103
HIV/AIDS	8
Sepsis	49
Other Infectious Disease	13
Morbid Obesity	45
Dehydration	3
Chronic Ethanolism	233
Chronic Drug Use	15
Metastatic Malignancy	9
Other Systemic Disease/Disorder	25
Other Natural Deaths/Disorders	72
Other Malignancy	36
Other Natural Disease/Disorder	36
TOTAL	3895

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

County of Death	Total	Rate
Wake	234	22.3
Mecklenburg	226	21.1
Durham	192	62.6
Cumberland	167	50.8
Guilford	140	26.5

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

County of Death	Total	Rate
Tyrrell	6	139.4
Haywood	87	139.2
Graham	11	125.7
Dare	38	103.6
Swain	15	102.0

Table 51 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by County of Residence, Sorted by Highest Number

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Mecklenburg	208	19.4
Wake	192	18.3
Cumberland	162	49.3
Forsyth	118	31.6
Guilford	116	22.0

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

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Tyrrell	6	139.4
Haywood	79	126.4
Swain	18	122.3
Gates	11	91.5
Graham	8	91.4

Table 53 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by County of Death, 2017

County of Death	Total	Rate
Alamance	71	43.5
Alexander	14	36.8
Alleghany	4	35.2
Anson	9	35.3
Ashe	19	69.6
Avery	13	72.3
Beaufort	19	40.0
Bertie	9	45.5
Bladen	22	63.7
Brunswick	83	63.0
Buncombe	102	39.4
Burke	57	62.6
Cabarrus	74	36.1
Caldwell	27	32.4
Camden	2	19.3
Carteret	43	61.2
Caswell	8	34.1
Catawba	71	45.1
Chatham	11	15.2
Cherokee	23	79.6
Chowan	10	70.4
Clay	5	43.6
Cleveland	43	43.7
Columbus	35	61.7
Craven	50	48.3
Cumberland	167	50.8
Currituck	15	56.2
Dare	38	103.6
Davidson	32	19.2
Davie	19	44.6
Duplin	21	35.2

County of Death	Total	Rate
Durham	192	62.6
Edgecombe	40	75.2
Forsyth	120	32.2
Franklin	17	25.5
Gaston	48	22.0
Gates	10	83.2
Graham	11	125.7
Granville	29	48.2
Greene	13	61.0
Guilford	140	26.5
Halifax	18	34.6
Harnett	52	39.7
Haywood	87	139.2
Henderson	60	52.0
Hertford	11	45.7
Hoke	14	26.3
Hyde	4	73.5
Iredell	46	26.1
Jackson	11	25.3
Johnston	55	28.4
Jones	5	49.4
Lee	17	28.4
Lenoir	39	68.2
Lincoln	24	28.9
Macon	27	75.8
Madison	8	36.0
Martin	17	73.0
McDowell	17	36.9
Mecklenburg	226	21.1
Mitchell	9	59.3
Montgomery	9	32.5

County of Death	Total	Rate
Moore	47	48.1
Nash	65	68.5
New Hanover	95	41.5
Northampton	10	47.8
Onslow	81	41.2
Orange	33	23.1
Pamlico	4	30.2
Pasquotank	32	80.4
Pender	22	36.2
Perquimans	3	21.9
Person	16	40.1
Pitt	105	59.1
Polk	8	37.6
Randolph	78	54.3
Richmond	23	50.9
Robeson	26	19.7
Rockingham	28	30.6
Rowan	70	49.5
Rutherford	28	41.0
Sampson	17	26.6
Scotland	18	50.2

County of Death	Total	Rate
Stanly	19	30.3
Stokes	19	40.8
Surry	36	49.3
Swain	15	102.0
Transylvania	13	37.7
Tyrrell	6	139.4
Union	40	17.5
Vance	16	35.4
Wake	234	22.3
Warren	11	54.3
Washington	6	48.7
Watauga	21	37.3
Wayne	56	45.1
Wilkes	38	54.4
Wilson	49	60.1
Yadkin	7	18.4
Yancey	6	32.8
Subtotal	3893	37.9
OUT OF STATE	2	ND
Subtotal	2	ND
TOTAL	3895	37.9

Table 54 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by County of Residence, 2017

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Alamance	73	44.8
Alexander	19	49.9
Alleghany	4	35.2
Anson	7	27.5
Ashe	19	69.6
Avery	10	55.6
Beaufort	27	56.9
Bertie	8	40.4
Bladen	23	66.6
Brunswick	75	57.0
Buncombe	70	27.0
Burke	61	67.0
Cabarrus	68	33.2
Caldwell	32	38.4
Camden	5	48.3
Carteret	35	49.8
Caswell	8	34.1
Catawba	61	38.7
Chatham	21	28.9
Cherokee	22	76.2
Chowan	10	70.4
Clay	4	34.9
Cleveland	41	41.7
Columbus	32	56.4
Craven	53	51.2
Cumberland	162	49.3
Currituck	9	33.7
Dare	22	60.0
Davidson	40	24.0
Davie	19	44.6
Duplin	22	36.9

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Durham	69	22.5
Edgecombe	44	82.8
Forsyth	118	31.6
Franklin	22	33.0
Gaston	50	22.9
Gates	11	91.5
Graham	8	91.4
Granville	31	51.6
Greene	17	79.8
Guilford	116	22.0
Halifax	13	25.0
Harnett	60	45.8
Haywood	79	126.4
Henderson	63	54.6
Hertford	11	45.7
Hoke	18	33.8
Hyde	2	36.8
Iredell	45	25.6
Jackson	14	32.2
Johnston	56	28.9
Jones	6	59.3
Lee	18	30.1
Lenoir	40	70.0
Lincoln	24	28.9
Macon	25	70.2
Madison	8	36.0
Martin	16	68.7
McDowell	15	32.5
Mecklenburg	208	19.4
Mitchell	11	72.5
Montgomery	13	46.9

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Moore	39	39.9
Nash	59	62.2
New Hanover	71	31.0
Northampton	9	43.0
Onslow	81	41.2
Orange	22	15.4
Pamlico	6	45.3
Pasquotank	26	65.4
Pender	21	34.6
Perquimans	5	36.6
Person	18	45.1
Pitt	73	41.1
Polk	9	42.2
Randolph	85	59.2
Richmond	23	50.9
Robeson	31	23.5
Rockingham	30	32.8
Rowan	64	45.2
Rutherford	27	39.5
Sampson	19	29.7
Scotland	19	53.0

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Stanly	18	28.7
Stokes	23	49.3
Surry	29	39.7
Swain	18	122.3
Transylvania	12	34.8
Tyrrell	6	139.4
Union	37	16.2
Vance	15	33.2
Wake	192	18.3
Warren	11	54.3
Washington	8	64.9
Watauga	16	28.4
Wayne	62	50.0
Wilkes	35	50.1
Wilson	39	47.8
Yadkin	6	15.7
Yancey	8	43.7
Subtotal	3565	34.7
OUT OF STATE	330	ND
Subtotal	330	ND
TOTAL	3895	37.9

Table 55 Number of Natural Deaths by Gender, Age Group, and Race, 2017

Gender	Age Group	White	Black	Asian	American Indian	Unknown	Total
Female	<1	8	8	0	0	2	18
	1-4	1	2	0	0	0	3
	5-9	1	3	0	0	1	5
	10-14	1	1	0	0	0	2
	15-19	4	4	0	0	0	8
	20-24	13	7	0	0	1	21
	25-34	42	35	0	0	7	84
	35-44	64	33	0	0	4	101
	45-54	150	60	0	3	2	215
	55-64	228	74	2	1	8	313
	65-74	173	43	3	0	3	222
	75-84	92	28	0	0	5	125
	85+	71	15	0	0	0	86
	Subtotal	848	313	5	4	33	1203
Gender	Age Group	White	Black	Asian	American Indian	Unknown	Total
Male	<1	11	8	0	1	2	22
	1-4	2	2	1	0	0	5
	5-9	2	3	0	1	1	7
	10-14	2	1	0	0	0	3
	15-19	7	2	0	0	0	9
	20-24	7	17	0	0	0	24
	25-34	60	39	1	0	7	107
	35-44	165	83	4	1	17	270
	45-54	341	131	1	2	18	493
	55-64	622	214	6	0	30	872
	65-74	411	132	3	0	15	561
	75-84	184	47	3	0	8	242
	85+	59	15	2	0	1	77
	Subtotal	1873	694	21	5	99	2692
	TOTAL	2721	1007	26	9	132	3895

Table 56 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by Gender, 2017

Gender	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	1203	30.9	22.8
Male	2692	69.1	53.9
TOTAL	3895	100%	37.9

Table 57 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by Race, 2017

Race/Ethnicity	Total	% Total	Rate
White	2721	69.9	37.4
Black	1007	25.9	44.4
Unknown	132	3.4	ND
Asian	26	0.7	8.7
American Indian	9	0.2	5.1
TOTAL	3895	100%	37.9

Figure 18 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by Race, 2017

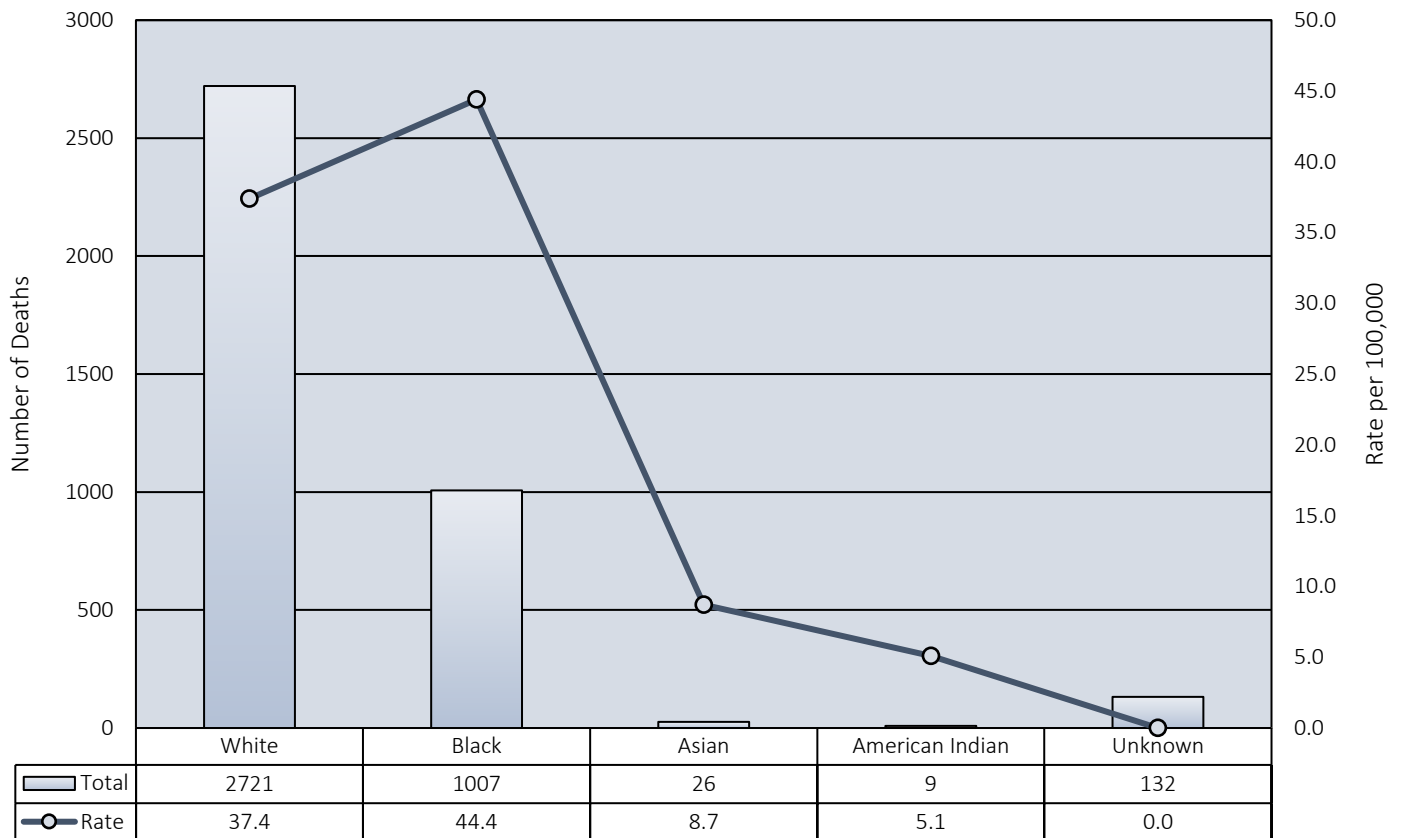


Table 58 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by Age Group, 2017

Age Group	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	40	1.0	33.3
1-4	8	0.2	1.7
5-9	12	0.3	1.9
10-14	5	0.1	0.7
15-19	17	0.4	2.4
20-24	45	1.2	6.2
25-34	191	4.9	14.4
35-44	371	9.5	28.3
45-54	708	18.2	51.0
55-64	1185	30.4	90.8
65-74	783	20.1	81.1
75-84	367	9.4	78.2
85+	163	4.2	89.8
TOTAL	3895	100%	37.9

Figure 19 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by Age Group, 2017

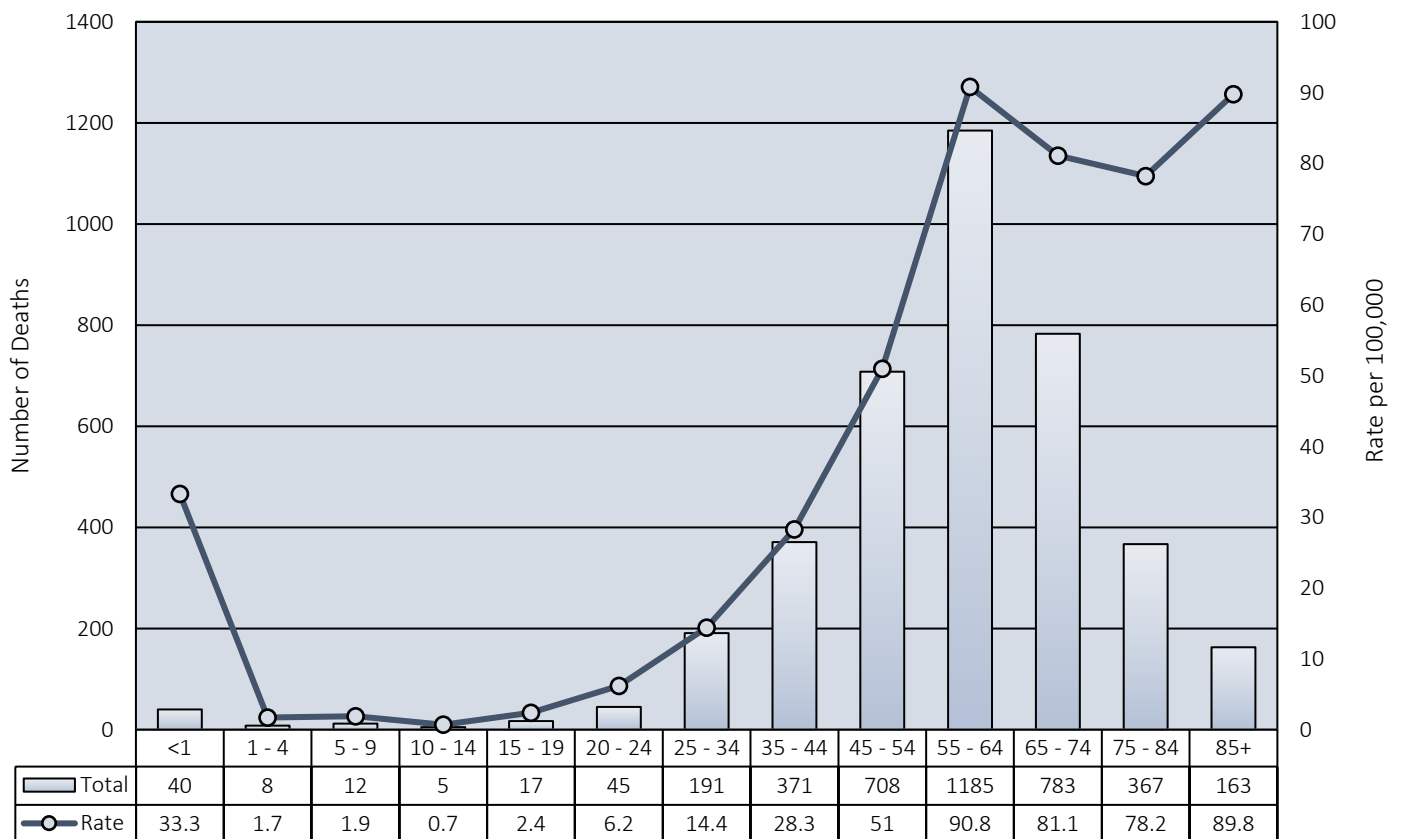


Figure 20 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2017

Age Group	Female			Male		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	18	1.5	30.8	22	0.8	35.7
1-4	3	0.2	1.3	5	0.2	2.0
5-9	5	0.4	1.6	7	0.3	2.2
10-14	2	0.2	0.6	3	0.1	0.9
15-19	8	0.7	2.3	9	0.3	2.5
20-24	21	1.7	6.0	24	0.9	6.4
25-34	84	7.0	12.5	107	4.0	16.4
35-44	101	8.4	15.0	270	10.0	42.5
45-54	215	17.9	30.3	493	18.3	72.8
55-64	313	26.0	45.7	872	32.4	140.9
65-74	222	18.5	42.6	561	20.8	126.1
75-84	125	10.4	46.6	242	9.0	120.6
85+	86	7.1	71.1	77	2.9	127.0
TOTAL	1203	30.9%	22.8	2692	69.1%	53.9

Figure 21 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2017

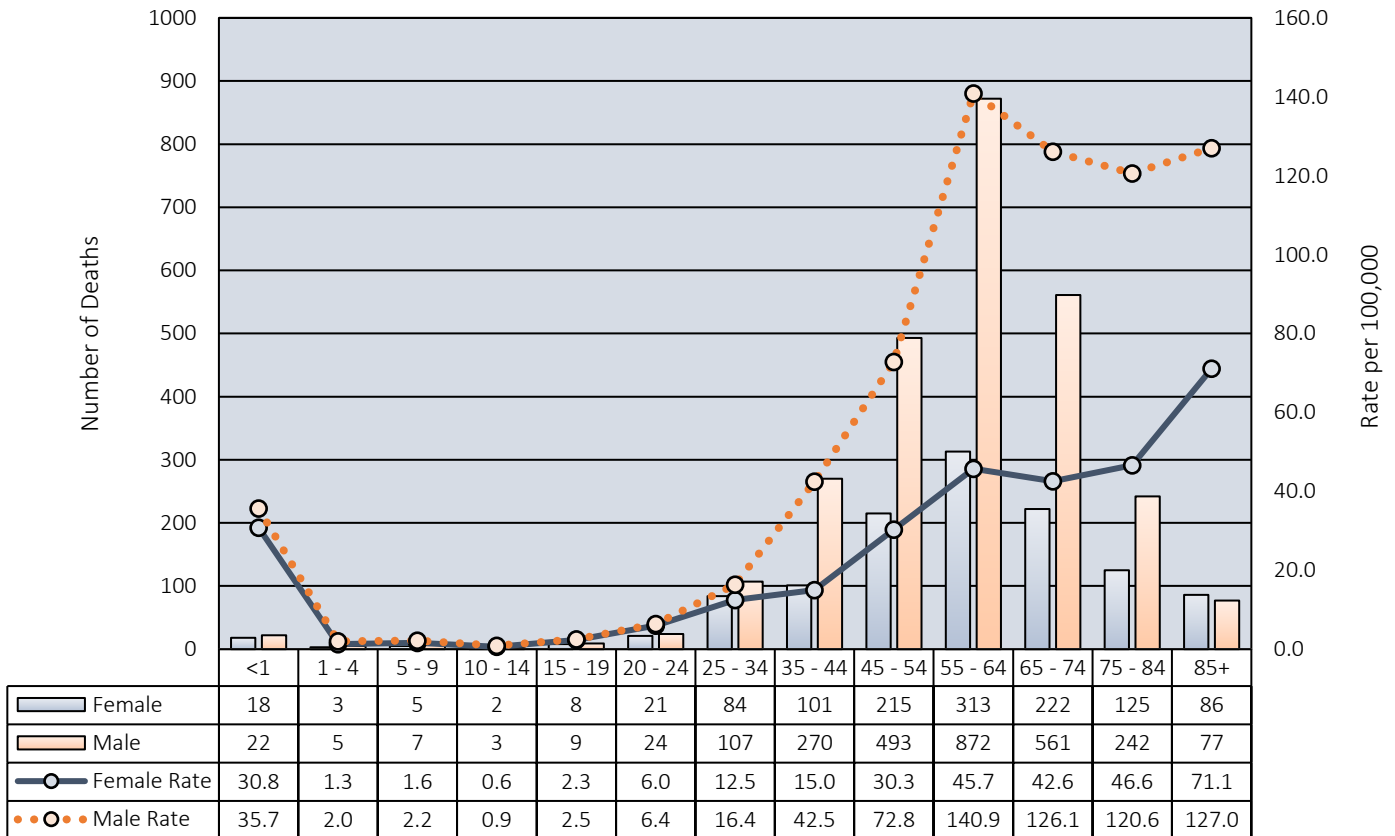
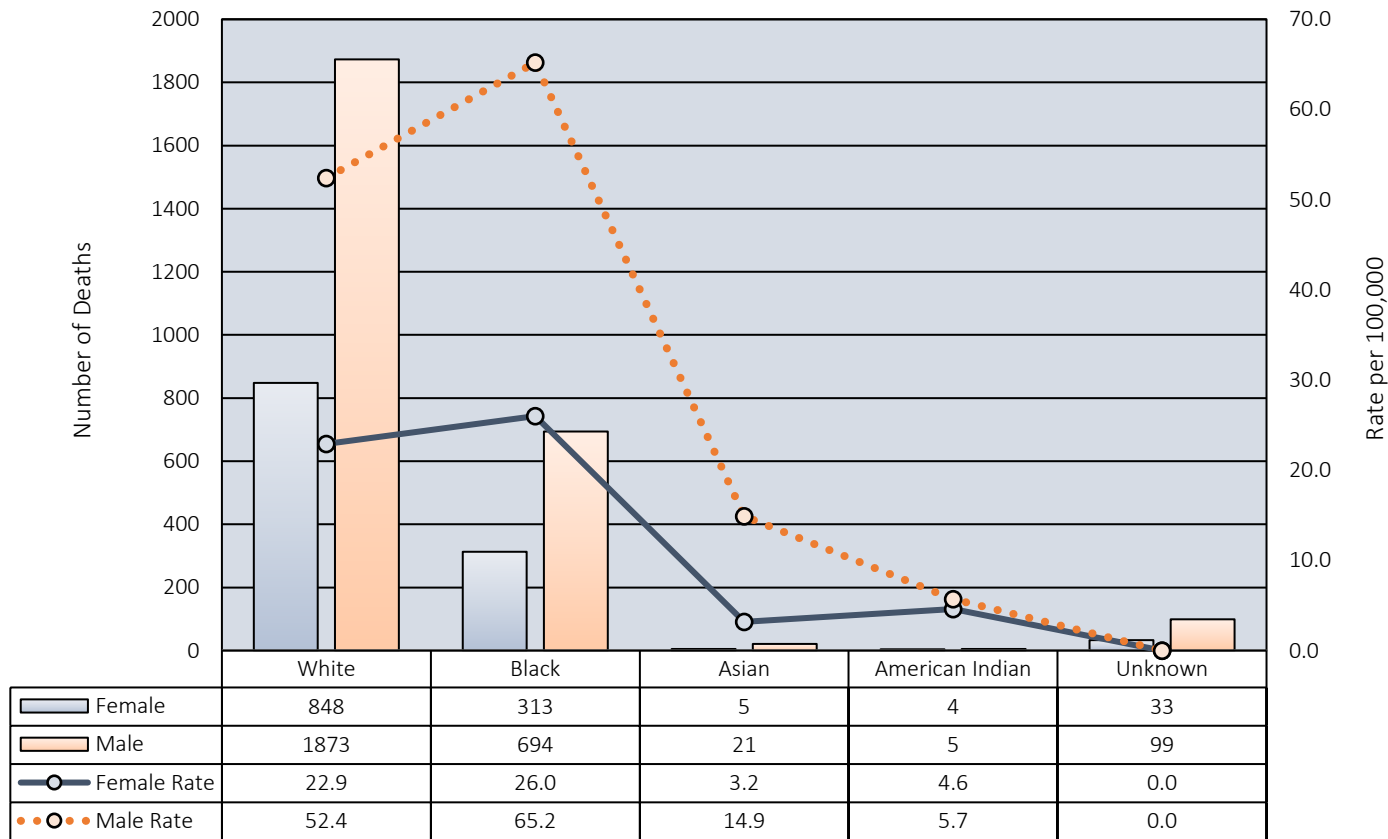


Table 59 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by Gender and Race, 2017

Gender	White			Black			Asian			American Indian			Unknown		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	848	31.2	22.9	313	31.1	26.0	5	19.2	3.2	4	44.4	4.6	33	25.0	ND
Male	1873	68.8	52.4	694	68.9	65.2	21	80.8	14.9	5	55.5	5.7	99	75.0	ND
TOTAL	2721	69.9%	37.4	1007	25.9%	44.4	26	0.7%	8.7	9	0.2%	5.1	132	3.4%	ND

Figure 22 Number and Rate of Natural Deaths by Gender and Race, 2017



CHAPTER 5

Suicide Deaths

SUMMARY

12.4% ($n = 1,541$) of deaths investigated by the medical examiner system were certified as suicide deaths.

76.4% ($n = 1,178$) were male. Overall, males had the highest rate with 23.6 per 100,000. Males over 85 years of age had the highest rate of any age group with 64.3 per 100,000.

85.3% ($n = 1,315$) were white. Overall, whites had the highest rate with 18.1 per 100,000.

17.3% ($n = 267$) were between 35 and 44 years of age. Individuals over 85 years of age had the highest rate with 22.0 per 100,000.

55.7% ($n = 858$) were attributed to firearms. 84.9% ($n = 728$) of firearm-related suicide deaths were male, 86.6% ($n = 743$) were white, and 16.6% ($n = 142$) were between 55 and 64 years of age.

22.8% ($n = 352$) were attributed to hanging. 77.3% ($n = 272$) of suicide deaths caused by hanging were male, 81.5% ($n = 287$) were white, and 23.6% ($n = 83$) were between 35 and 44 years of age.

Mecklenburg County had the highest number of suicide deaths based on county of death ($n = 127$), but Swain County had the highest rate with 47.6 per 100,000.

Table 60 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by Means of Death, 2017

Means of Death	Total	% Total	Rate
Firearms	858	55.7	8.4
Hanging	352	22.8	3.4
Poisoning	220	14.3	2.1
Blunt Trauma	39	2.5	0.4
Other Asphyxia	34	2.2	0.3
Sharp Trauma	20	1.3	0.2
Drowning	10	0.6	0.1
Fire/Burn Injuries	7	0.5	0.1
Other	1	0.1	0.0
TOTAL	1371	100%	15.0

Table 61 Number of Suicide Deaths by Means of Death, 2017

Means of Death	Total
Hanging	352
Belt	60
Bedding	19
Chain	2
Rope	132
Other Ligature	126
Unknown Ligature	13
Other Asphyxia	34
Strangulation/Neck Compression	2
Suffocation/Smothering	14
Helium or Other Gases	17
Drowning	10
Freshwater	10
Fire/Burn Injuries	7
Thermal Injuries	4
Inhalation of Combustion Products/Carbon Monoxide (Fire)	2
Thermal Injuries + Inhalation of Combustion Products	1
Firearms	858
Handgun	675
Rifle	58
Shotgun	101
Other Firearm	1
Unknown Firearm	23
Blunt Trauma	39
Fall/Jump	15
Pedestrian	7
Motor Vehicle	9
Train	6
Other Blunt Instrument	2
Sharp Trauma	20
Knife	13

Means of Death	Total
Other Sharp Instrument	6
Unknown Sharp Instrument	1
Poisoning	220
Opioids	20
Non-Opioid Prescription Drugs	35
Non-Opioid Illicit Drugs	2
Over-the-Counter (OTC) Drugs	14
Ethylene Glycol	4
Carbon Monoxide	12
Multiple Categories	127
Other Poisoning	6
Other	1
TOTAL	1541

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

County of Death	Total	Rate
Mecklenburg	127	11.8
Wake	110	10.5
Forsyth	72	19.3
Buncombe	67	25.9
Guilford	58	11.0

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

County of Death	Total	Rate
Swain	7	47.6
Montgomery	10	36.1
Surry	26	35.6
Alleghany	4	35.2
Transylvania	11	31.9

Table 64 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by County of Residence, Sorted by Highest Number

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Mecklenburg	118	11.0
Wake	101	9.6
Guilford	62	11.7
Buncombe	58	22.4
Cumberland	49	14.9

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

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Surry	29	39.7
Swain	5	34.0
Montgomery	9	32.5
Dare	11	30.0
Transylvania	10	29.0

Table 66 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by County of Death, 2017

County of Death	Total	Rate
Alamance	25	15.3
Alexander	6	15.8
Alleghany	4	35.2
Anson	8	31.4
Ashe	6	22.0
Avery	5	27.8
Beaufort	9	19.0
Bertie	2	10.1
Bladen	3	8.7
Brunswick	22	16.7
Buncombe	67	25.9
Burke	17	18.7
Cabarrus	18	8.8
Caldwell	15	18.0
Camden	2	19.3
Carteret	16	22.8
Caswell	3	12.8
Catawba	21	13.3
Chatham	7	9.6
Cherokee	7	24.2
Chowan	0	0.0
Clay	2	17.5
Cleveland	22	22.4
Columbus	5	8.8
Craven	17	16.4
Cumberland	57	17.4
Currituck	7	26.2
Dare	11	30.0
Davidson	28	16.8
Davie	12	28.1
Duplin	4	6.7

County of Death	Total	Rate
Durham	41	13.4
Edgecombe	8	15.0
Forsyth	72	19.3
Franklin	8	12.0
Gaston	34	15.6
Gates	1	8.3
Graham	2	22.9
Granville	7	11.6
Greene	2	9.4
Guilford	58	11.0
Halifax	8	15.4
Harnett	17	13.0
Haywood	19	30.4
Henderson	19	16.5
Hertford	1	4.2
Hoke	5	9.4
Hyde	1	18.4
Iredell	23	13.1
Jackson	6	13.8
Johnston	24	12.4
Jones	1	9.9
Lee	4	6.7
Lenoir	9	15.7
Lincoln	9	10.8
Macon	9	25.3
Madison	2	9.0
Martin	2	8.6
McDowell	5	10.8
Mecklenburg	127	11.8
Mitchell	2	13.2
Montgomery	10	36.1

County of Death	Total	Rate
Moore	20	20.5
Nash	20	21.1
New Hanover	45	19.6
Northampton	1	4.8
Onslow	32	16.3
Orange	27	18.9
Pamlico	2	15.1
Pasquotank	6	15.1
Pender	9	14.8
Perquimans	2	14.6
Person	3	7.5
Pitt	30	16.9
Polk	6	28.2
Randolph	31	21.6
Richmond	8	17.7
Robeson	19	14.4
Rockingham	12	13.1
Rowan	30	21.2
Rutherford	8	11.7
Sampson	4	6.3
Scotland	5	13.9

County of Death	Total	Rate
Stanly	12	19.1
Stokes	8	17.2
Surry	26	35.6
Swain	7	47.6
Transylvania	11	31.9
Tyrrell	0	0.0
Union	21	9.2
Vance	3	6.6
Wake	110	10.5
Warren	3	14.8
Washington	1	8.1
Watauga	9	16.0
Wayne	13	10.5
Wilkes	15	21.5
Wilson	7	8.6
Yadkin	8	21.0
Yancey	2	10.9
Subtotal	1540	15.0
OUT OF STATE	1	ND
Subtotal	1	ND
TOTAL	1541	15.0

Table 67 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by County of Residence, 2017

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Alamance	30	18.4
Alexander	7	18.4
Alleghany	2	17.6
Anson	5	19.6
Ashe	6	22.0
Avery	3	16.7
Beaufort	11	23.2
Bertie	2	10.1
Bladen	2	5.8
Brunswick	19	14.4
Buncombe	58	22.4
Burke	17	18.7
Cabarrus	21	10.3
Caldwell	14	16.8
Camden	3	29.0
Carteret	16	22.8
Caswell	3	12.8
Catawba	23	14.6
Chatham	10	13.8
Cherokee	7	24.2
Chowan	0	0.0
Clay	2	17.5
Cleveland	17	17.3
Columbus	6	10.6
Craven	17	16.4
Cumberland	49	14.9
Currituck	4	15.0
Dare	11	30.0
Davidson	31	18.6
Davie	12	28.1
Duplin	4	6.7

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Durham	34	11.1
Edgecombe	8	15.0
Forsyth	45	12.1
Franklin	10	15.0
Gaston	34	15.6
Gates	1	8.3
Graham	2	22.9
Granville	8	13.3
Greene	2	9.4
Guilford	62	11.7
Halifax	6	11.5
Harnett	19	14.5
Haywood	18	28.8
Henderson	19	16.5
Hertford	1	4.2
Hoke	7	13.1
Hyde	0	0.0
Iredell	24	13.6
Jackson	5	11.5
Johnston	28	14.4
Jones	1	9.9
Lee	6	10.0
Lenoir	9	15.7
Lincoln	8	9.6
Macon	7	19.7
Madison	3	13.5
Martin	3	12.9
McDowell	6	13.0
Mecklenburg	118	11.0
Mitchell	3	19.8
Montgomery	9	32.5

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Moore	21	21.5
Nash	18	19.0
New Hanover	43	18.8
Northampton	1	4.8
Onslow	35	17.8
Orange	16	11.2
Pamlico	1	7.6
Pasquotank	6	15.1
Pender	8	13.2
Perquimans	2	14.6
Person	4	10.0
Pitt	22	12.4
Polk	6	28.2
Randolph	30	20.9
Richmond	9	19.9
Robeson	23	17.4
Rockingham	13	14.2
Rowan	32	22.6
Rutherford	13	19.0
Sampson	5	7.8
Scotland	4	11.2

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Stanly	15	23.9
Stokes	10	21.5
Surry	29	39.7
Swain	5	34.0
Transylvania	10	29.0
Tyrrell	0	0.0
Union	24	10.5
Vance	4	8.9
Wake	101	9.6
Warren	3	14.8
Washington	2	16.2
Watauga	9	16.0
Wayne	14	11.3
Wilkes	14	20.1
Wilson	6	7.4
Yadkin	8	21.0
Yancey	2	10.9
Subtotal	1486	14.5
OUT OF STATE	55	ND
Subtotal	55	ND
TOTAL	1541	15.0

Table 68 Number of Suicide Deaths by Gender, Age Group, and Race, 2017

Gender	Age Group	White	Black	Asian	American Indian	Unknown	Total
Female	<1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1-4	0	0	0	0	0	0
	5-9	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10-14	3	2	1	0	0	6
	15-19	8	3	0	0	2	13
	20-24	13	5	0	0	5	23
	25-34	43	7	2	0	2	54
	35-44	65	5	3	0	4	77
	45-54	73	1	0	0	5	79
	55-64	62	6	0	0	0	68
	65-74	30	2	0	0	1	33
	75-84	8	0	1	0	0	9
	85+	1	0	0	0	0	1
	<i>Subtotal</i>		306	31	7	0	19
Gender	Age Group	White	Black	Asian	American Indian	Unknown	Total
Male	<1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1-4	0	0	0	0	0	0
	5-9	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10-14	9	3	0	0	2	14
	15-19	34	12	0	0	5	51
	20-24	68	23	0	1	5	97
	25-34	155	33	3	3	8	202
	35-44	155	20	3	2	10	190
	45-54	167	14	0	0	4	185
	55-64	183	7	1	0	2	193
	65-74	118	5	0	0	0	123
	75-84	81	1	0	0	2	84
	85+	39	0	0	0	0	39
	<i>Subtotal</i>		1009	118	7	6	38
TOTAL		1315	149	14	6	57	1541

Table 69 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by Gender, 2017

Gender	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	363	23.6	6.9
Male	1178	76.4	23.6
TOTAL	1541	100%	15.0

Table 70 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by Race, 2017

Race/Ethnicity	Total	% Total	Rate
White	1315	85.3	18.1
Black	149	9.7	6.6
Unknown	57	3.7	4.7
Asian	14	0.9	3.4
American Indian	6	0.4	ND
TOTAL	1541	100%	15.0

Figure 23 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by Race, 2017

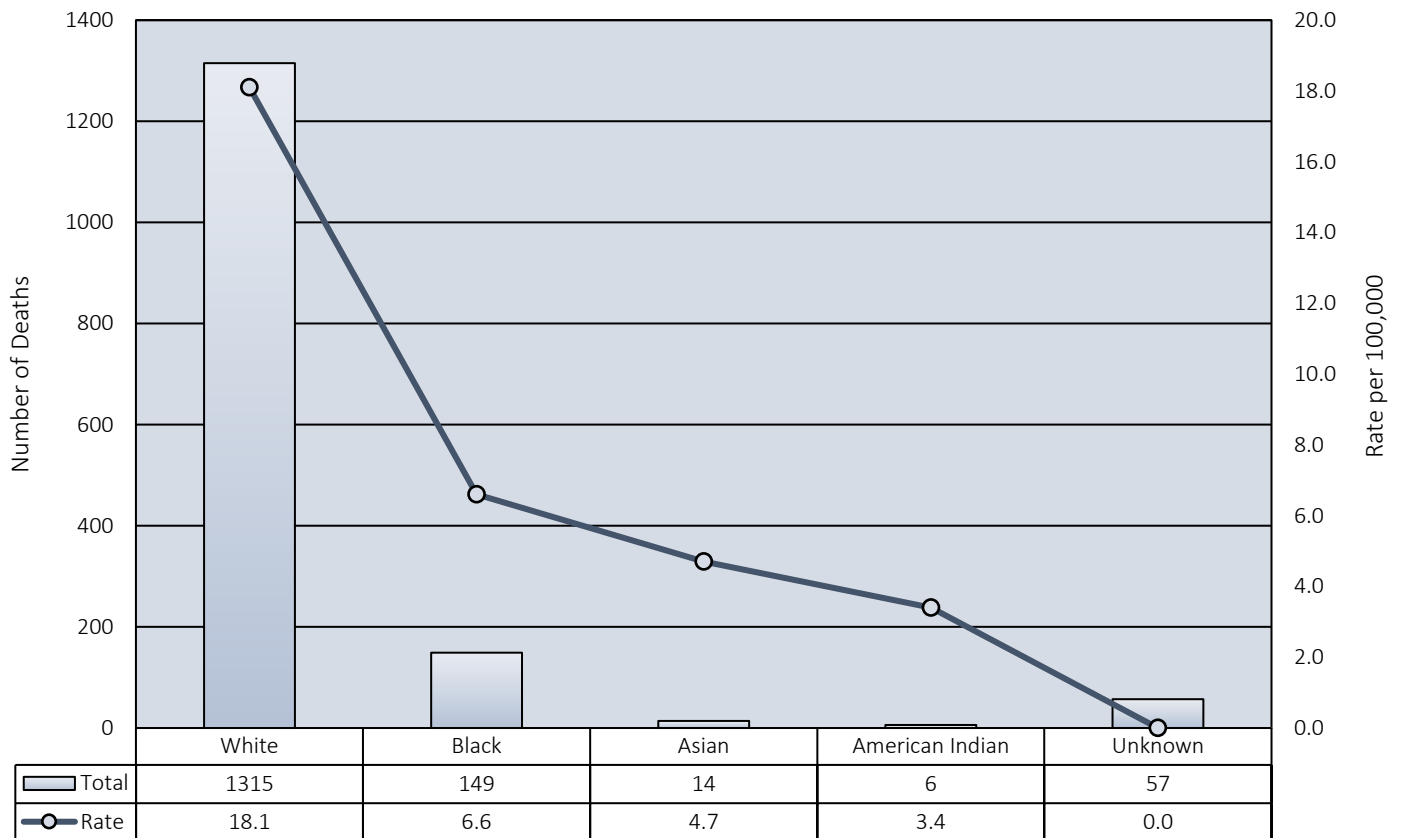


Table 71 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by Age Group, 2017

Age Group	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	0	0.0	0.0
1-4	0	0.0	0.0
5-9	0	0.0	0.0
10-14	20	1.3	3.0
15-19	64	4.2	9.1
20-24	120	7.8	16.6
25-34	256	16.6	19.3
35-44	267	17.3	20.4
45-54	264	17.1	19.0
55-64	261	16.9	20.0
65-74	156	10.1	16.2
75-84	93	6.0	19.8
85+	40	2.6	22.0
TOTAL	1541	100%	15.0

Figure 24 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by Age Group, 2017

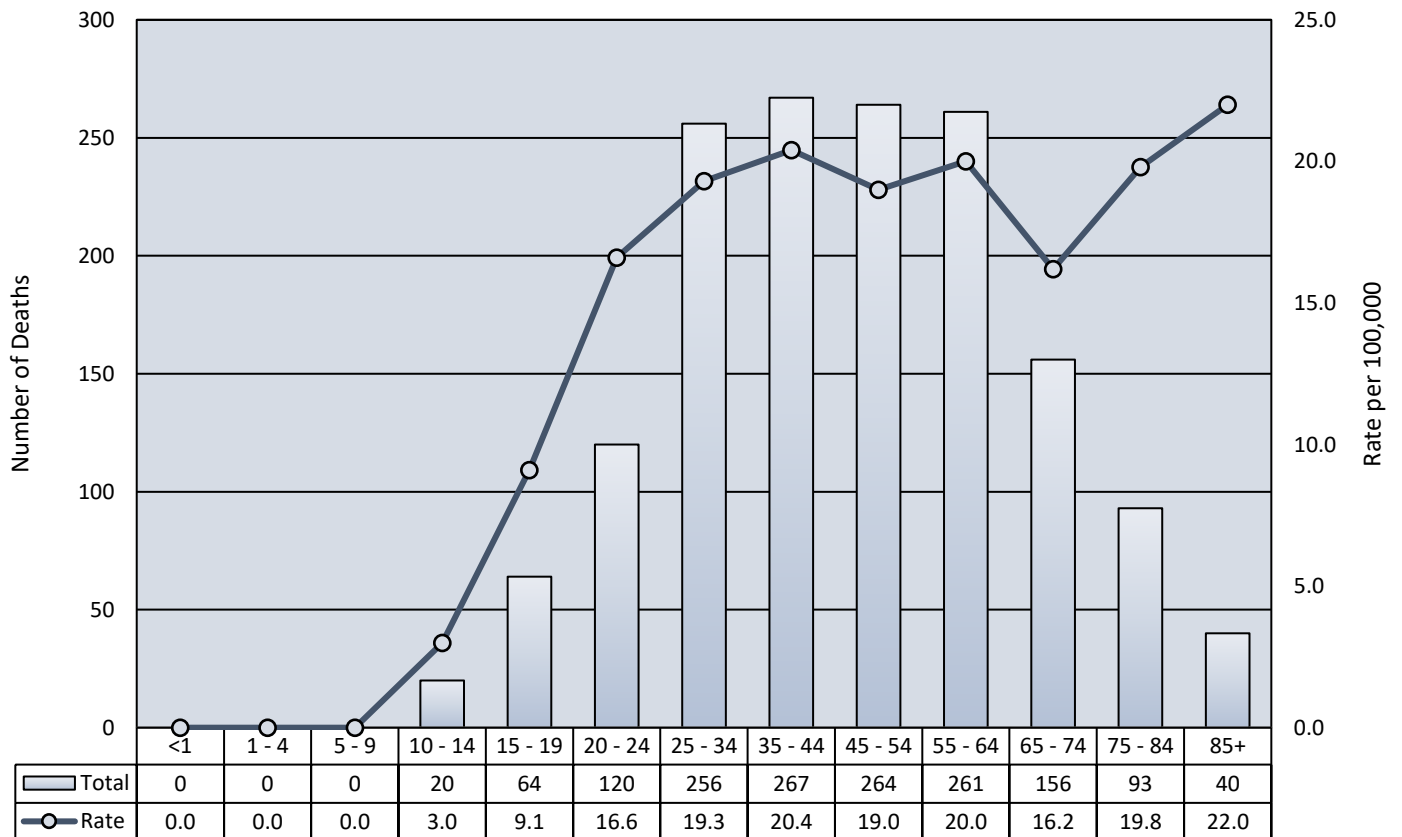


Table 72 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2017

Age Group	Female			Male		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
1-4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
5-9	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
10-14	6	1.7	1.8	14	1.2	4.1
15-19	13	3.6	3.8	51	4.3	14.3
20-24	23	6.3	6.6	97	8.2	26.0
25-34	54	14.9	8.0	202	17.1	31.0
35-44	77	21.2	11.4	190	16.1	29.9
45-54	79	21.8	11.1	185	15.7	27.3
55-64	68	18.7	9.9	193	16.4	31.2
65-74	33	9.1	6.3	123	10.4	27.6
75-84	9	2.5	3.4	84	7.1	41.9
85+	1	0.3	0.8	39	3.3	64.3
TOTAL	363	23.6%	6.9	1178	76.4%	23.6

Figure 25 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2017

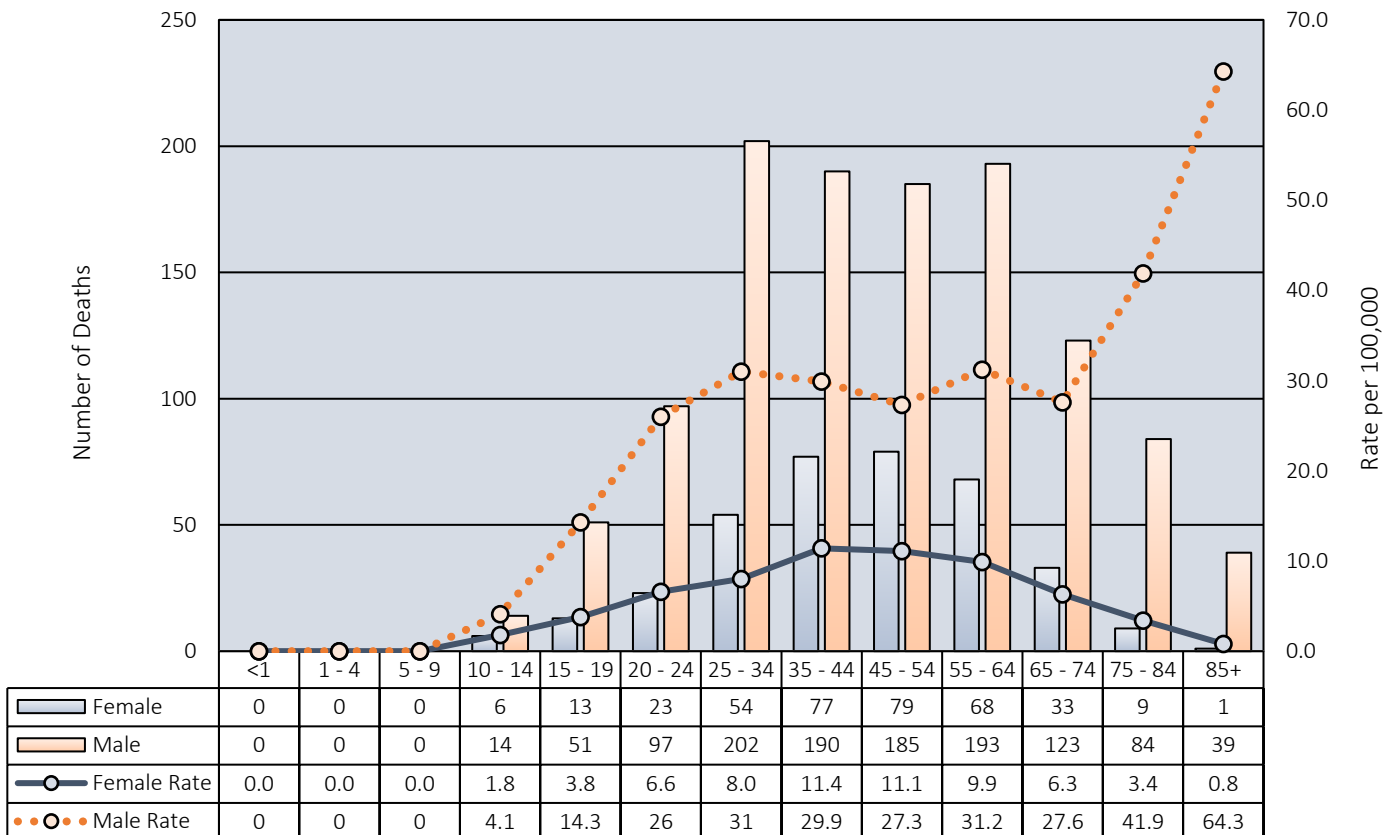
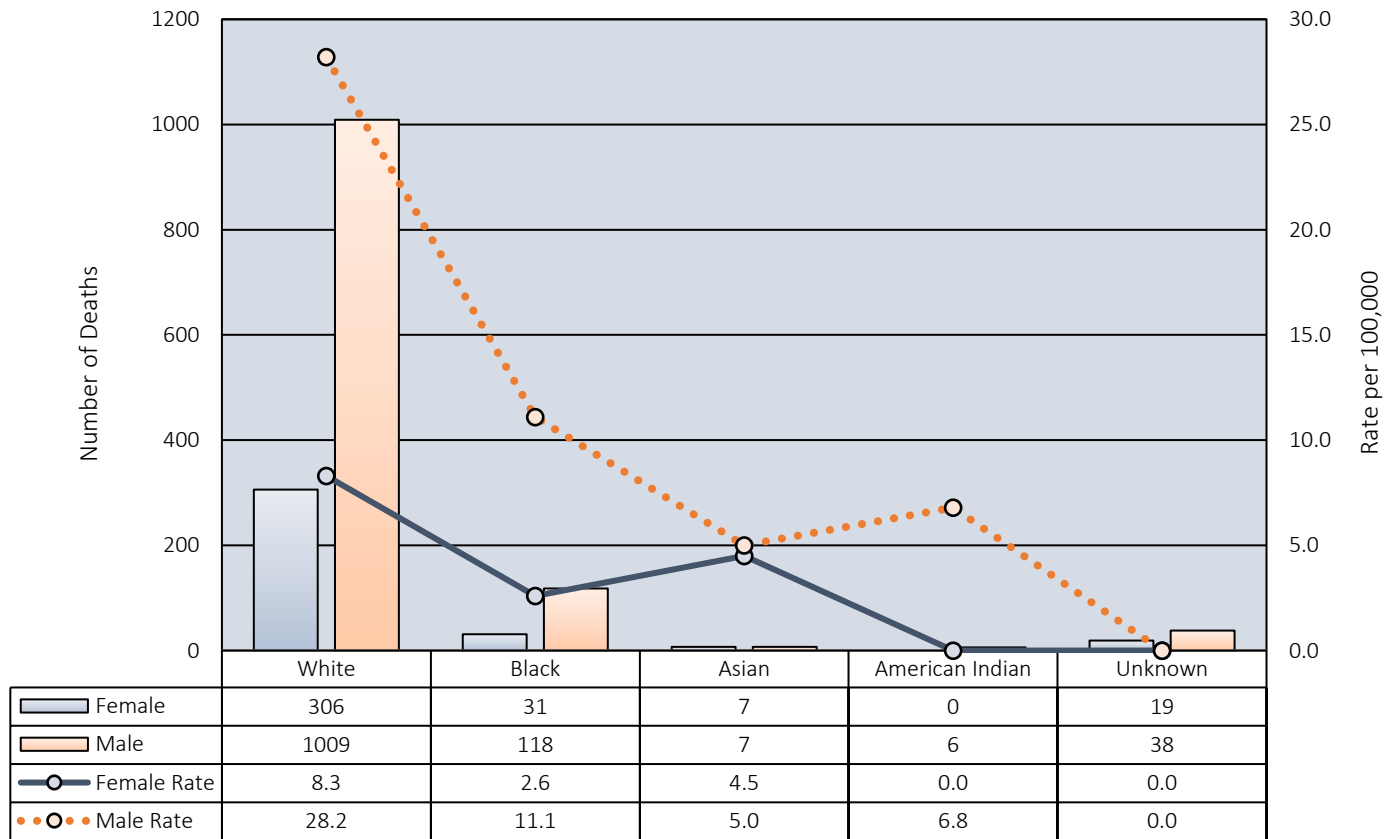


Table 73 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by Gender and Race, 2017

Gender	White			Black			Asian			American Indian			Unknown		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	306	23.3	8.3	31	20.8	2.6	7	50.0	4.5	0	0.0	0.0	19	33.3	ND
Male	1009	76.7	28.2	118	79.2	11.1	7	50.0	5.0	6	100	6.8	38	66.7	ND
TOTAL	1315	85.3%	18.1	149	9.7%	6.6	14	0.9%	4.7	6	0.4%	3.4	57	3.7%	ND

Figure 26 Number and Rate of Suicide Deaths by Gender and Race, 2017



CHAPTER 6

Undetermined Deaths

SUMMARY

2.4% ($n = 303$) of deaths investigated by the medical examiner system were certified as undetermined deaths.

58.1% ($n = 176$) were male. Overall, males had the highest rate with 3.5 per 100,000.

60.4% ($n = 183$) were white. Overall, Blacks had the highest rate with 4.2 per 100,000.

41.9% ($n = 127$) were less than 1 year of age. Individuals less than 1 year of age had the highest rate with 105.8 per 100,000.

47.9% ($n = 145$) had an undetermined cause of death. 62.1% ($n = 90$) of these deaths were male, 51.0% ($n = 74$) were white, and 81.4% ($n = 118$) were less than 1 year of age.

15.8% ($n = 48$) were attributed to poisoning of undetermined intent. 50.0% ($n = 24$) of these deaths were male, 83.3% ($n = 40$) were white, and 33.3% ($n = 16$) were between 45 and 54 years of age.

Mecklenburg County had the highest number of undetermined deaths based on county of death ($n = 31$), but Gates County had the highest rate with 16.6 per 100,000.

Table 74 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by Means of Death, 2017

Means of Death	Total	% Total	Rate
Undetermined	145	47.9	1.4
Other	66	21.8	0.6
Poisoning	48	15.8	0.5
Blunt Trauma	28	9.2	0.3
Firearms	6	2.0	0.1
Drowning	5	1.7	0.0
Asphyxia	3	1.0	0.0
Fire/Burn Injuries	1	0.3	0.0
Sharp Trauma	1	0.3	0.0
TOTAL	303	100%	3.0

Table 75 Number of Undetermined Deaths by Means of Death, 2017

Means of Death	Total
Asphyxia	3
Hanging	2
Other Asphyxia	1
Blunt Trauma	28
Motor Vehicle	4
Pedestrian	6
Fall	7
Other Blunt Instrument	1
Unknown Blunt Instrument	10
Drowning	5
Bathtub	1
Freshwater	3
Saltwater	1
Fire/Burn Injuries	1
Thermal Injuries	1
Firearms	6
Handgun	4
Unknown Firearm	2
Poisoning	48
Opioids	10
Non-Opioid Prescription Drugs	11
Non-Opioid Illicit Drugs	2
Carbon Monoxide	3
Multiple Categories	22
Sharp Trauma	1
Knife	1
Undetermined	145
Infant	121
Skeletal/Mummified Remains	13
Decomposed Remains, Not Skeletal	11
Other	66
TOTAL	303

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

County of Death	Total	Rate
Mecklenburg	31	2.9
Forsyth	25	6.7
Cumberland	22	6.7
Guilford	19	3.6
Wake	19	1.8

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

County of Death	Total	Rate
Gates	2	16.6
Jackson	5	11.5
Lenoir	6	10.5
Dare	3	8.2
Cherokee	2	6.9

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

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Mecklenburg	22	2.1
Wake	20	1.9
Guilford	18	3.4
Cumberland	16	4.9
Forsyth	16	4.3

Table 79 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by County of Residence, Sorted by Highest Rate

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Gates	2	16.6
Jackson	6	13.8
Lenoir	7	12.2
Surry	7	9.6
Hoke	5	8.7

Table 80 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by County of Death, 2017

County of Death	Total	Rate
Alamance	2	1.2
Alexander	0	0.0
Alleghany	0	0.0
Anson	1	3.9
Ashe	0	0.0
Avery	0	0.0
Beaufort	2	4.2
Bertie	0	0.0
Bladen	1	2.9
Brunswick	3	2.3
Buncombe	9	3.5
Burke	4	4.4
Cabarrus	4	2.0
Caldwell	1	1.2
Camden	0	0.0
Carteret	1	1.4
Caswell	0	0.0
Catawba	5	3.2
Chatham	0	0.0
Cherokee	2	6.9
Chowan	0	0.0
Clay	0	0.0
Cleveland	2	2.0
Columbus	2	3.5
Craven	5	4.8
Cumberland	22	6.7
Currituck	0	0.0
Dare	3	8.2
Davidson	5	3.0
Davie	1	2.3
Duplin	2	3.4

County of Death	Total	Rate
Durham	8	2.6
Edgecombe	1	1.9
Forsyth	25	6.7
Franklin	0	0.0
Gaston	8	3.7
Gates	2	16.6
Graham	0	0.0
Granville	2	3.3
Greene	1	4.7
Guilford	19	3.6
Halifax	1	1.9
Harnett	3	2.3
Haywood	1	1.6
Henderson	6	5.2
Hertford	0	0.0
Hoke	2	3.8
Hyde	0	0.0
Iredell	5	2.8
Jackson	5	11.5
Johnston	5	2.6
Jones	0	0.0
Lee	1	1.7
Lenoir	6	10.5
Lincoln	2	2.4
Macon	2	5.6
Madison	0	0.0
Martin	0	0.0
McDowell	1	2.2
Mecklenburg	31	2.9
Mitchell	0	0.0
Montgomery	0	0.0

County of Death	Total	Rate
Moore	2	2.0
Nash	1	1.1
New Hanover	7	3.1
Northampton	1	4.8
Onslow	7	3.6
Orange	5	3.5
Pamlico	0	0.0
Pasquotank	0	0.0
Pender	1	1.6
Perquimans	0	0.0
Person	2	5.0
Pitt	8	4.5
Polk	1	4.7
Randolph	1	0.7
Richmond	3	6.6
Robeson	6	4.5
Rockingham	2	2.2
Rowan	4	2.8
Rutherford	3	4.4
Sampson	1	1.6
Scotland	0	0.0

County of Death	Total	Rate
Stanly	1	1.6
Stokes	1	2.1
Surry	3	4.1
Swain	1	6.8
Transylvania	0	0.0
Tyrrell	0	0.0
Union	2	0.9
Vance	3	6.6
Wake	19	1.8
Warren	0	0.0
Washington	0	0.0
Watauga	1	1.8
Wayne	0	0.0
Wilkes	2	2.9
Wilson	0	0.0
Yadkin	1	2.6
Yancey	0	0.0
Subtotal	303	3.0
OUT OF STATE	0	ND
Subtotal	0	ND
TOTAL	303	3.0

Table 81 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by County of Residence, 2017

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Alamance	2	1.2
Alexander	1	2.6
Alleghany	0	0.0
Anson	2	7.8
Ashe	0	0.0
Avery	0	0.0
Beaufort	2	4.2
Bertie	0	0.0
Bladen	1	2.9
Brunswick	3	2.3
Buncombe	6	2.3
Burke	5	5.5
Cabarrus	2	1.0
Caldwell	1	1.2
Camden	0	0.0
Carteret	1	1.4
Caswell	0	0.0
Catawba	6	3.8
Chatham	0	0.0
Cherokee	1	3.5
Chowan	0	0.0
Clay	1	8.7
Cleveland	2	2.0
Columbus	2	3.5
Craven	7	6.8
Cumberland	16	4.9
Currituck	0	0.0
Dare	3	8.2
Davidson	6	3.6
Davie	2	4.7
Duplin	1	1.7

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Durham	6	2.0
Edgecombe	2	3.8
Forsyth	16	4.3
Franklin	2	3.0
Gaston	7	3.2
Gates	2	16.6
Graham	0	0.0
Granville	2	3.3
Greene	0	0.0
Guilford	18	3.4
Halifax	1	1.9
Harnett	4	3.1
Haywood	1	1.6
Henderson	4	3.5
Hertford	0	0.0
Hoke	5	9.4
Hyde	0	0.0
Iredell	3	1.7
Jackson	6	13.8
Johnston	4	2.1
Jones	0	0.0
Lee	1	1.7
Lenoir	7	12.2
Lincoln	2	2.4
Macon	0	0.0
Madison	1	4.5
Martin	0	0.0
McDowell	2	4.3
Mecklenburg	22	2.1
Mitchell	0	0.0
Montgomery	0	0.0

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Moore	2	2.0
Nash	1	1.1
New Hanover	7	3.1
Northampton	1	4.8
Onslow	6	3.1
Orange	2	1.4
Pamlico	0	0.0
Pasquotank	0	0.0
Pender	2	3.3
Perquimans	1	7.3
Person	3	7.5
Pitt	5	2.8
Polk	1	4.7
Randolph	1	0.7
Richmond	3	6.6
Robeson	7	5.3
Rockingham	3	3.3
Rowan	5	3.5
Rutherford	4	5.9
Sampson	2	3.1
Scotland	0	0.0

County of Residence	Total	Rate
Stanly	1	1.6
Stokes	1	2.1
Surry	7	9.6
Swain	1	6.8
Transylvania	0	0.0
Tyrrell	0	0.0
Union	3	1.3
Vance	3	6.6
Wake	20	1.9
Warren	0	0.0
Washington	0	0.0
Watauga	1	1.8
Wayne	2	1.6
Wilkes	2	2.9
Wilson	0	0.0
Yadkin	3	7.9
Yancey	0	0.0
Subtotal	291	2.8
OUT OF STATE	12	ND
Subtotal	12	ND
TOTAL	303	3.0

Table 82 Number of Undetermined Deaths by Gender, Age Group, and Race, 2017

Gender	Age Group	White	Black	Asian	American Indian	Unknown	Total
Female	<1	25	24	0	0	3	52
	1-4	1	0	0	0	0	1
	5-9	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10-14	1	1	0	0	0	2
	15-19	1	1	0	0	1	3
	20-24	0	1	0	0	0	1
	25-34	10	1	0	0	1	12
	35-44	11	2	0	0	2	15
	45-54	13	4	0	0	0	17
	55-64	10	0	0	0	0	10
	65-74	3	0	0	0	0	3
	75-84	5	1	0	0	0	6
	85+	1	1	0	0	0	2
	<i>Subtotal</i>		81	36	0	0	7
Gender	Age Group	White	Black	Asian	American Indian	Unknown	Total
Male	<1	38	31	0	0	5	74
	1-4	3	2	0	0	3	8
	5-9	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10-14	2	0	0	0	0	2
	15-19	0	2	0	0	0	2
	20-24	5	3	0	0	0	8
	25-34	11	3	0	0	2	16
	35-44	16	4	0	0	0	20
	45-54	12	6	0	0	1	19
	55-64	11	5	0	0	1	17
	65-74	2	3	0	0	0	5
	75-84	2	1	0	0	1	4
	85+	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	1	1
	<i>Subtotal</i>		102	60	0	0	14
Unknown	<1	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	2	2
	<i>Subtotal</i>	0	0	0	0	3	3
TOTAL		183	96	0	0	24	303

Table 83 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by Gender, 2017

Gender	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	124	40.9	2.4
Male	176	58.1	3.5
Unknown	3	1.0	ND
TOTAL	303	100%	3.0

Table 84 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by Race, 2017

Race/Ethnicity	Total	% Total	Rate
White	183	60.4	2.5
Black	96	31.7	4.2
Unknown	24	7.9	ND
American Indian	0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	303	100%	3.0

Figure 27 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by Race, 2017

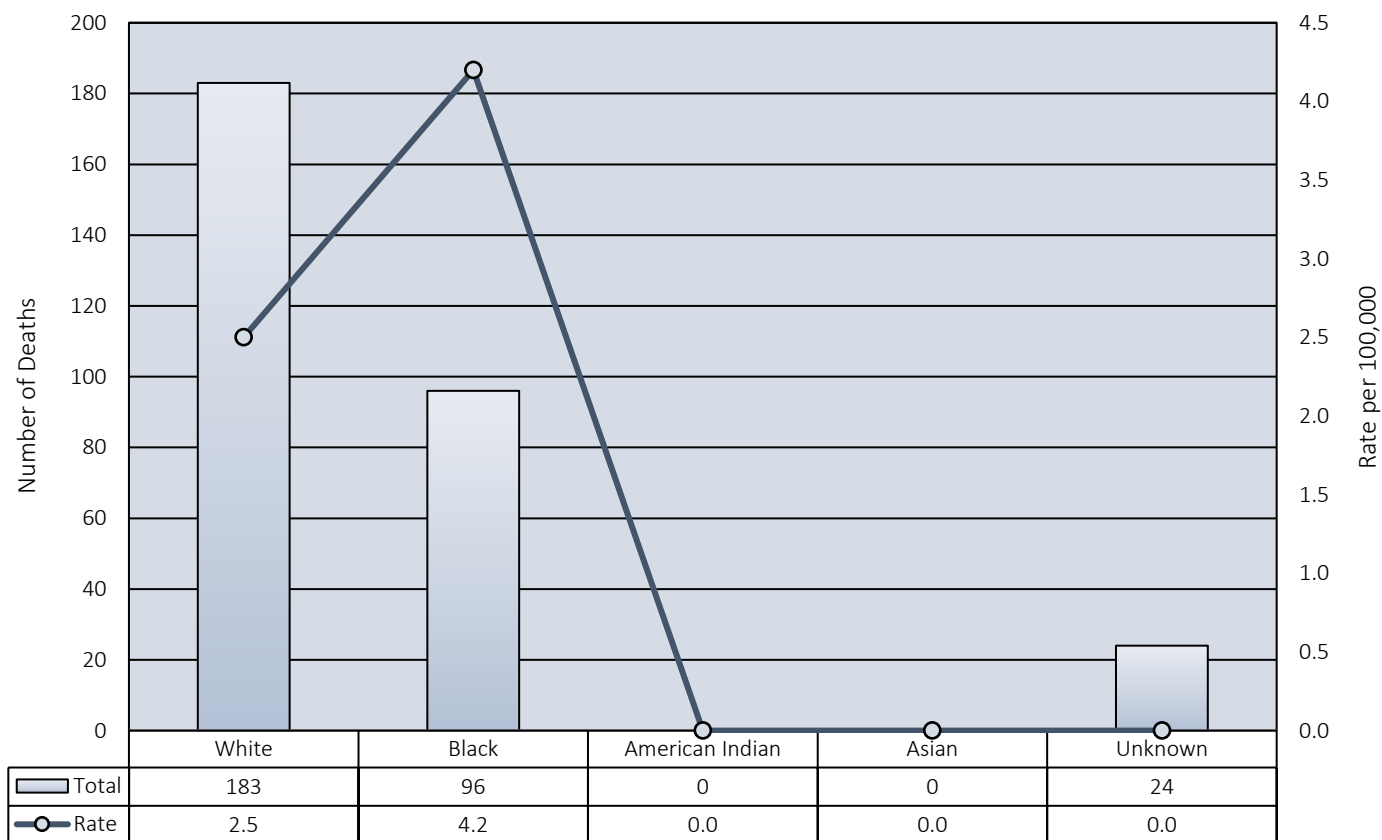


Table 85 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by Age Group, 2017

Age Group	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	127	41.9	105.8
1-4	9	3.0	1.9
5-9	0	0.0	0.0
10-14	4	1.3	0.6
15-19	5	1.7	0.7
20-24	9	3.0	1.2
25-34	28	9.2	2.1
35-44	35	11.6	2.7
45-54	36	11.9	2.6
55-64	27	8.9	2.1
65-74	8	2.6	0.8
75-84	10	3.3	2.1
85+	2	0.7	1.1
Unknown	3	1.0	ND
TOTAL	303	100%	3.0

Figure 28 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by Age Group, 2017

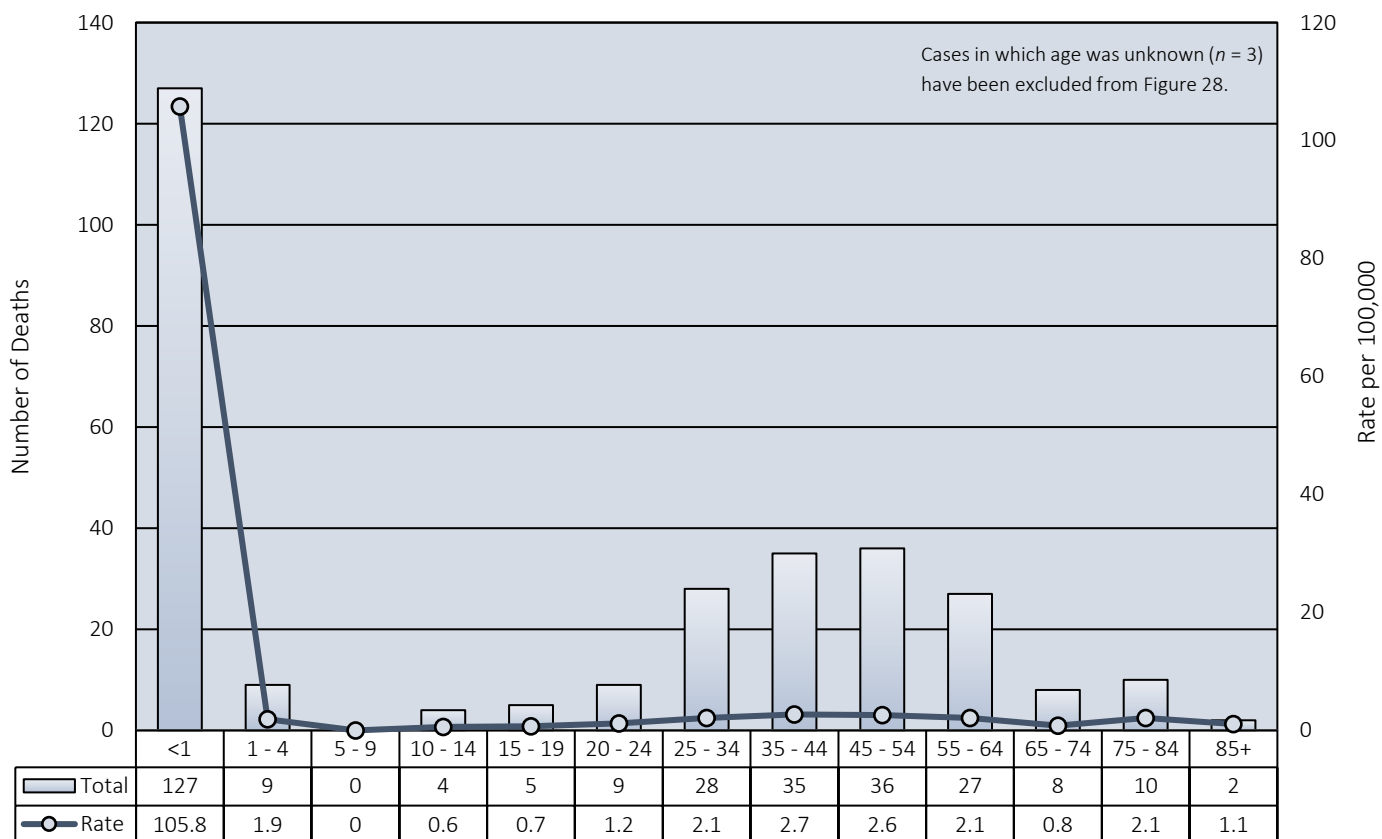


Table 86 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2017

Age Group	Female			Male			Unknown		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
<1	52	41.9	88.9	74	42.0	120.2	1	33.3	ND
1-4	1	0.8	0.4	8	4.5	3.2	0	0.0	ND
5-9	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	ND
10-14	2	1.6	0.6	2	1.1	0.6	0	0.0	ND
15-19	3	2.4	0.9	2	1.1	0.6	0	0.0	ND
20-24	1	0.8	0.3	8	4.5	2.1	0	0.0	ND
25-34	12	9.7	1.8	16	9.1	2.5	0	0.0	ND
35-44	15	12.1	2.2	20	11.4	3.1	0	0.0	ND
45-54	17	13.7	2.4	19	10.8	2.8	0	0.0	ND
55-64	10	8.1	1.5	17	9.7	2.7	0	0.0	ND
65-74	3	2.4	0.6	5	2.8	1.1	0	0.0	ND
75-84	6	4.8	2.2	4	2.3	2.0	0	0.0	ND
85+	2	1.6	1.7	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	ND
Unknown	0	0.0	ND	1	0.6	ND	2	66.7	ND
TOTAL	124	40.9%	2.3	176	58.1%	3.5	3	1.0%	ND

Figure 29 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by Age Group and Gender, 2017

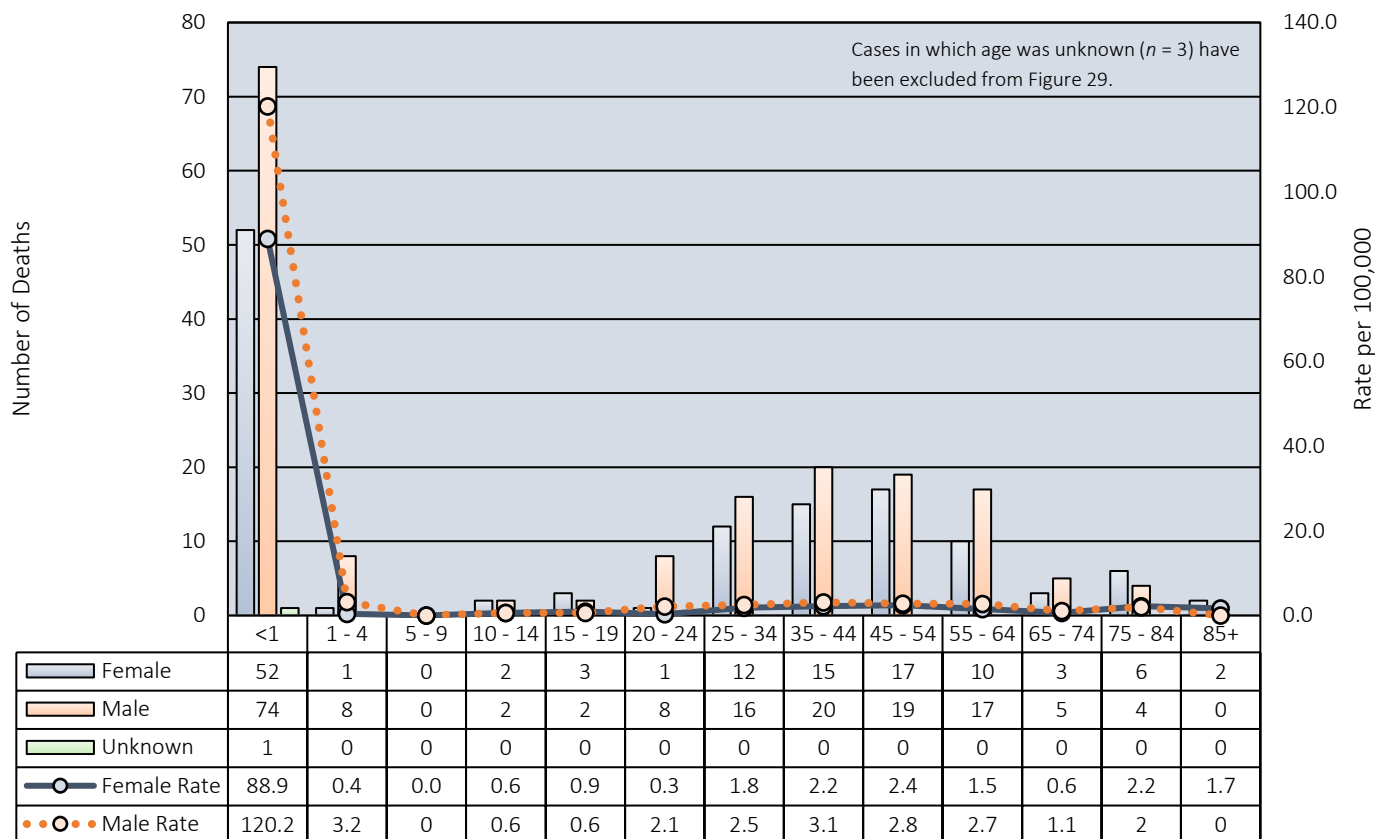
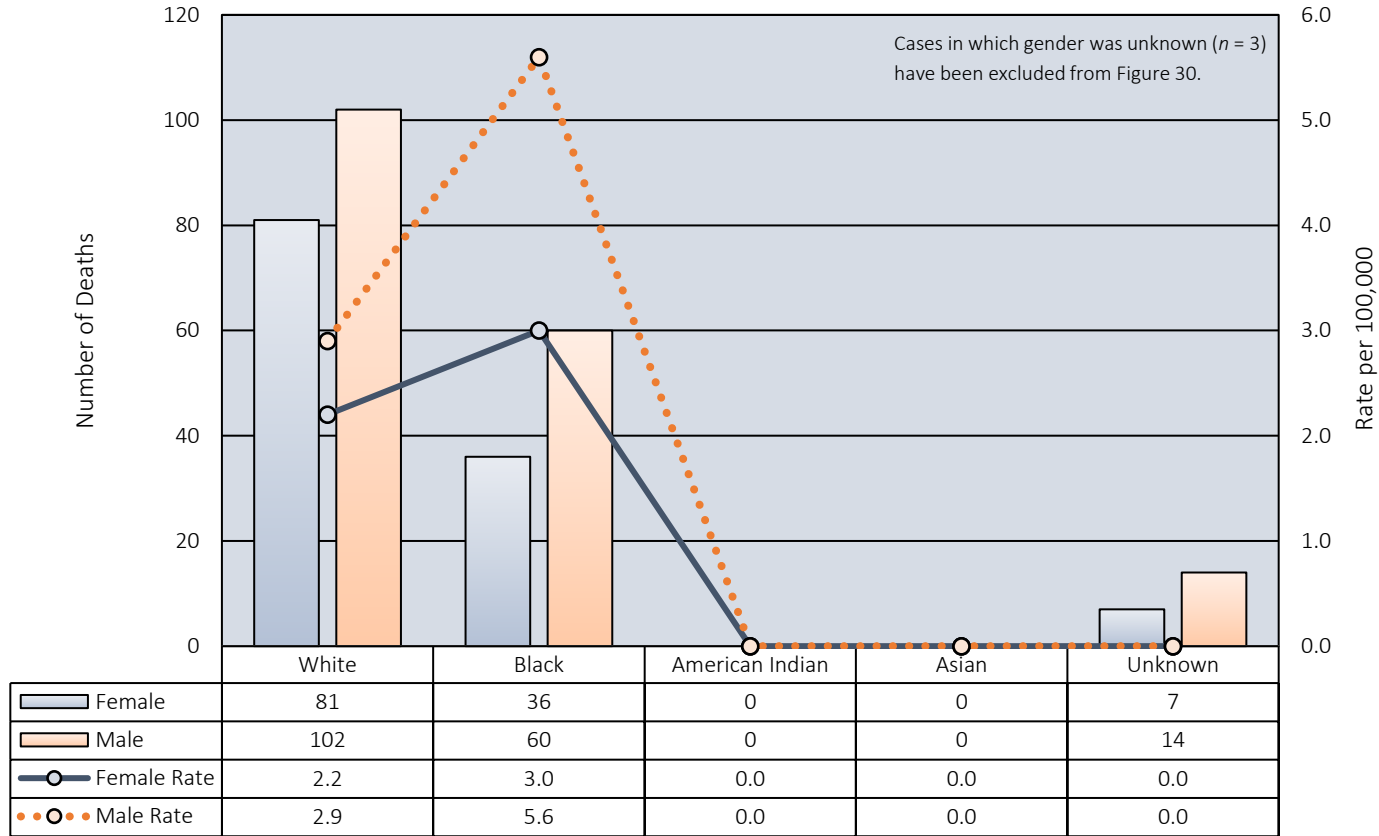


Table 87 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by Gender and Race, 2017

Gender	White			Black			Asian			American Indian			Unknown		
	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate	Total	% Total	Rate
Female	81	44.3	2.2	36	37.5	3.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	7	29.2	ND
Male	102	55.7	2.9	60	62.5	5.6	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	14	58.3	ND
Unknown	0	0.0	ND	0	0.0	ND	0	0.0	ND	0	0.0	ND	3	12.5	ND
TOTAL	183	60.4%	2.5	96	31.7%	4.2	0	0.0%	0.0	0	0.0%	0.0	24	7.9%	ND

Figure 30 Number and Rate of Undetermined Deaths by Gender and Race, 2017



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*.

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.

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).

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.)

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.

Natural

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

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.

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).

REFERENCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2003. *Medical Examiners' and Coroners' Handbook on Death Registration and Fetal Death Reporting*. 1 – 138.

Hanzlick R, Hunsaker JC, Davis GJ. 2002. *A Guide for Manner of Death Classification*. National Association of Medical Examiners: 1 – 29.

National Association of Medical Examiners. 2014. *Inspection and Accreditation Checklist*. 1-32.

North Carolina General Statutes, Article 16, § 130A-389.