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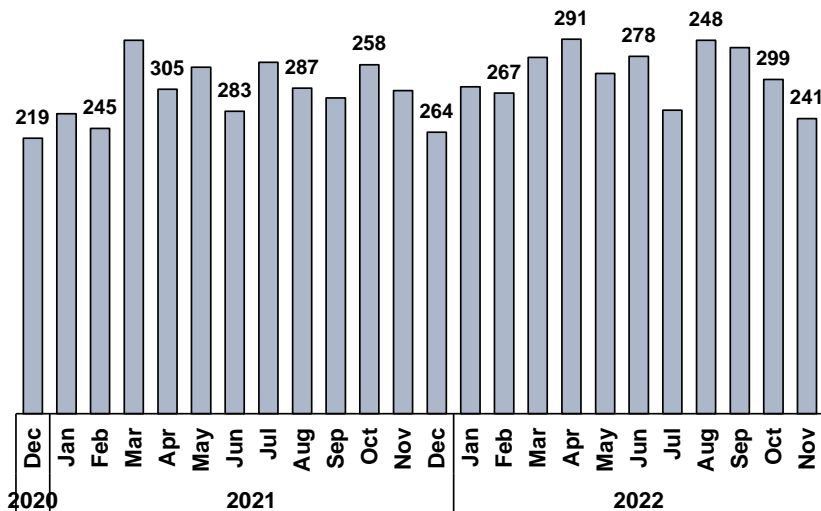
Fentanyl-Positive Deaths, North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) Toxicology Data: Nov 2022*

241 Fentanyl-Positive Deaths[^], November 2022*

Compared to **264** in November 2021

[^]Deaths included in this report tested positive for fentanyl at the time of the death when toxicology testing was performed. Toxicology results are based on analytical testing of specimens performed by NC OCME Toxicology. The detection of fentanyl only indicates deaths with positive fentanyl toxicology results. The presence of fentanyl at time of death does not necessarily indicate fentanyl as the cause of death.

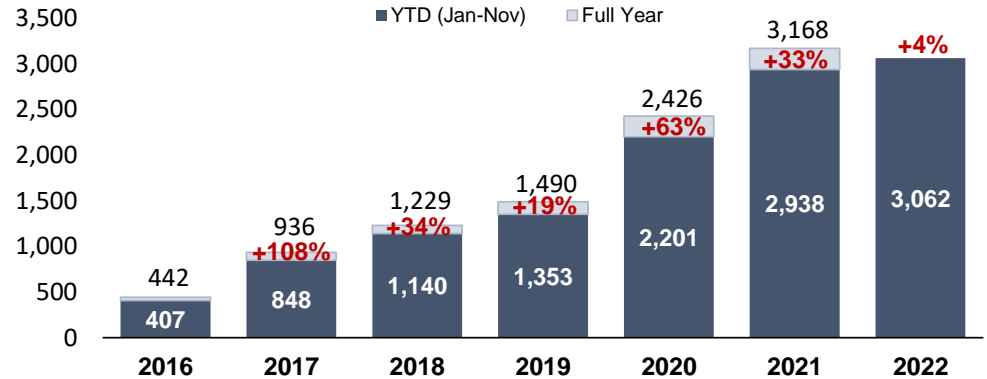
Last 24 Months of Fentanyl-Positive Deaths*



*Data are provisional and subject to change.

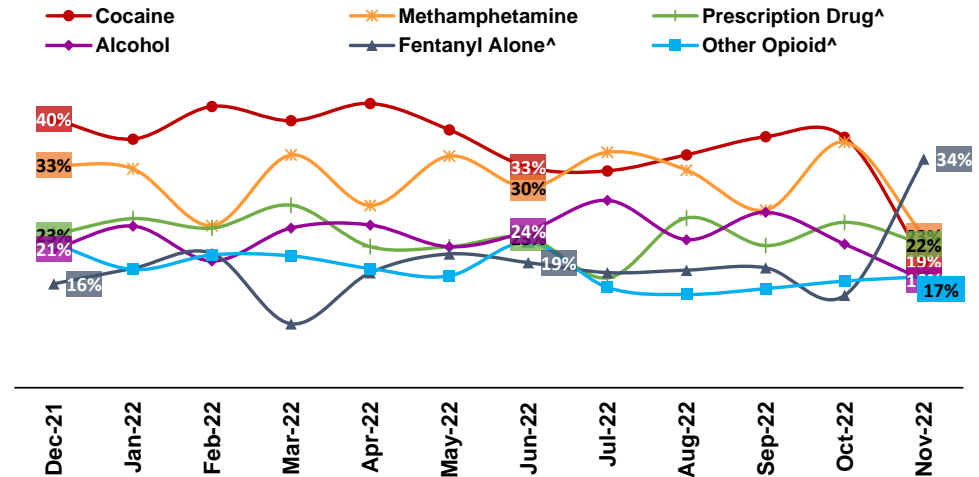
Data Source: NC OCME Toxicology data; NC OCME Toxicology is nationally accredited by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology, Inc. NC OCME Toxicology provides forensic analytical testing of specimens for all 100 counties of the statewide medical examiner system. Toxicology results are based on blood, vitreous fluid, or other specimens used for testing at the discretion of the pathologist and/or toxicologist.

Fentanyl-Positive Deaths: 2016-2022*



Percent change: Year-to-date (YTD) fentanyl-positive deaths compared to YTD total of previous year.

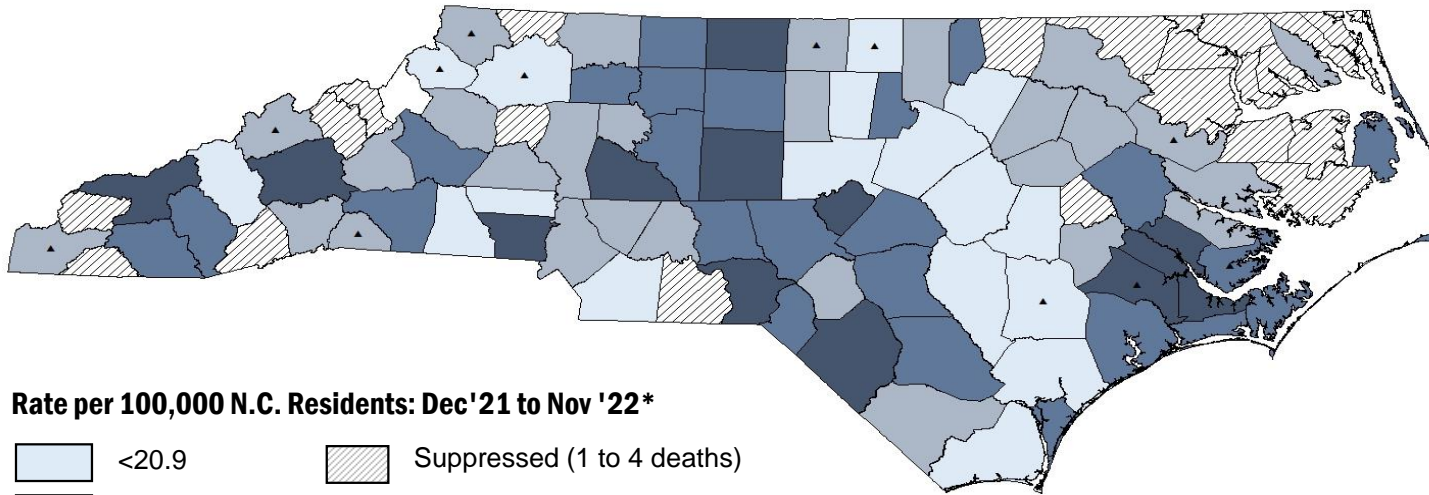
Last 12 Months Polysubstance Use in Fentanyl-Positive Deaths*[^]



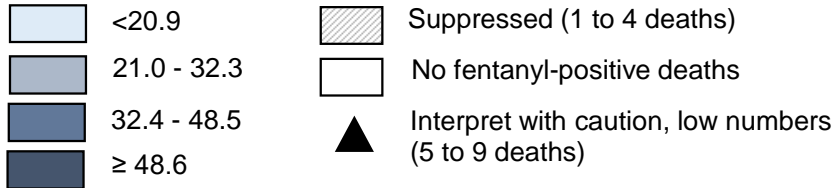
[^]Categories are not mutually exclusive. Prescription drugs are defined as benzodiazepines and gabapentin/pregabalin. Other opioids include heroin, prescription opioids, and illicit opioids (excluding fentanyl). Fentanyl alone indicates that alcohol, cocaine, prescription drugs (benzodiazepines and gabapentin/pregabalin), methamphetamine, and other opioids were not present.



Rate of Fentanyl-Positive Deaths in North Carolina by County: Dec '21 to Nov '22*



Rate per 100,000 N.C. Residents: Dec'21 to Nov '22*



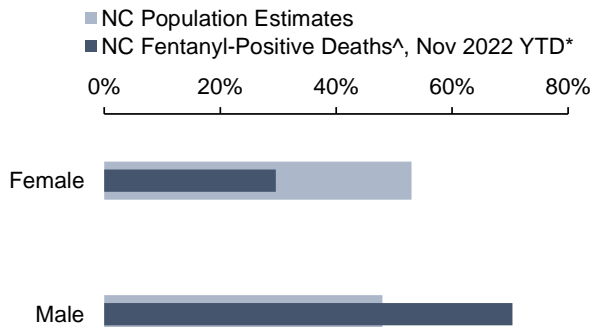
Highest Rates of Fentanyl-Positive Deaths Among Counties with >4 deaths: Dec'21 to Nov '22*

County	Deaths	Rate
Jones	9	97.3
Swain	11	77.6
Richmond	30	67.7
Craven	67	66.2
Robeson	85	65.4
Rowan	88	61.8
Randolph	86	59.5
Buncombe	142	53.9
Lee	33	52.9
Gaston	116	51.2
Statewide	3,292	31.3

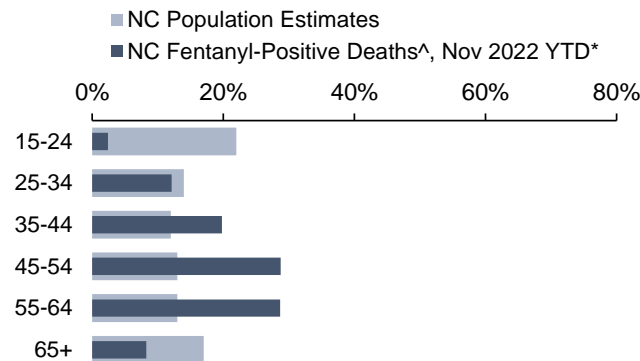
*2022 data are considered provisional and should not be considered final. Deaths included in this report tested positive for fentanyl at the time of the death when toxicology testing was performed. Toxicology results are based on analytical testing of specimens performed by NC OCME Toxicology. The detection of fentanyl only indicates deaths with positive fentanyl toxicology results. The presence of fentanyl at time of death does not necessarily indicate fentanyl as the

Demographics of Fentanyl-Positive Deaths Compared to Overall NC Population Estimates: 2022 YTD^*

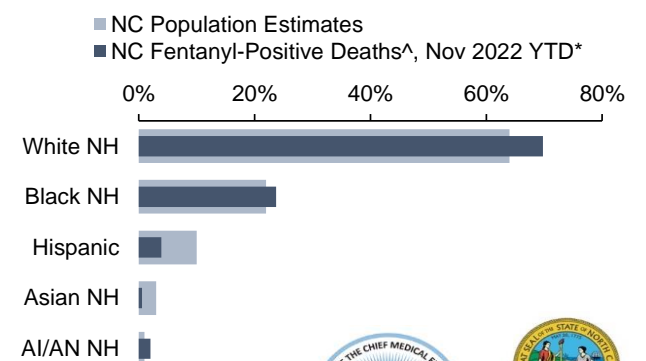
Deaths by Sex



Deaths by Age Group



Deaths by Race/Ethnicity



^Data Sources: Toxicology Data—NC OCME Toxicology; Demographic Data—OCME medical examiner system; Population Data—U.S. Census Bureau, <http://quickfacts.census.gov>; 2022 data are considered provisional and should not be considered final. Year-to-date (YTD).

Note: NH (Non-Hispanic); AI/AN (American Indian/Alaskan Native)



NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Public Health