

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES North Carolina Injury & Violence Prevention Branch

10 Leading Causes of Injury Deaths By Age Group* North Carolina Residents, 2021

ALL AGES

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	3,968	37.6
2	MVT - Unintentional	1,867	17.7
3	Fall - Unintentional	1,651	15.6
4	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	923	8.7
5	Firearm - Assault	854	8.1
6	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	320	3.0
7	Suffocation - Unintentional	251	2.4
8	Unspecified - Unintentional	249	2.4
9	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	134	1.3
	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	134	1.3

Total Injury Case Count: 11,218 Rate: 106.2

INFANTS (<1)

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Suffocation - Unintentional	32	27.6
2	Suffocation - Undetermined	7	6.0 ¹
3	MVT - Unintentional	3	*
4	Nat/Env - Unintentional	2	*
	Poisoning - Unintentional	2	*
	Unspecified - Assault	2	*
5	Drowning - Unintentional	1	*
	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	1	*
	Other Specified - Assault	1	*
	Other-NEC - Undetermined	1	*

Total Injury Case Count: 55 Rate: 47.4

1 - 4 YEARS

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	MVT - Unintentional	13	2.8
2	Drowning - Unintentional	9	1.9 ¹
3	Unspecified - Assault	7	1.5 ¹
4	Firearm - Unintentional	4	*
5	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	3	*
	Firearm - Assault	3	*
	Nat/Env - Unintentional	3	*
	Poisoning - Unintentional	3	*
6	Other-NEC - Assault	2	*
	Poisoning - Undetermined	2	*

Total Injury Case Count: 54 Rate: 11.4

5 - 14 YEARS

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	MVT - Unintentional	44	3.4
2	Firearm - Assault	14	1.1
3	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	11	0.9
4	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	9	0.7 ¹
5	Drowning - Unintentional	6	0.5 ¹
	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	6	0.5 ¹
6	Firearm - Unintentional	3	*
7	Pedal Cyclist Other - Unintentional	2	*
8	Cut/Pierce - Assault	1	*
	Nat/Env - Unintentional	1	*

Total Injury Case Count: 106 Rate: 8.2

* Rate suppressed, count between 1 and 4. ¹ Rate should be interpreted with caution, count between 5 and 10. Rates are reported per 100,000.
NEC=Not Elsewhere Classifiable; MV=Motor Vehicle; MVT=Motor Vehicle Traffic; Nat/Env=Natural/Environmental



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Note: Leading causes do not sum to the total number of injuries.
Data Source: State Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificate Data, 2021
Analysis conducted by the NCDHHS, DPH, Injury Epidemiology, Surveillance & Informatics Unit.
Date of analysis: 19 March 2024
For more information on these data, go to the Injury Surveillance Technical Notes Document:
<https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/DataSurveillance/Technical-Notes.pdf>
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10 Leading Causes of Injury Deaths By Age Group* North Carolina Residents, 2021

15 - 24 YEARS

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	MVT - Unintentional	302	21.0
2	Poisoning - Unintentional	289	20.1
3	Firearm - Assault	264	18.4
4	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	160	11.1
5	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	47	3.3
6	Drowning - Unintentional	15	1.0
	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	15	1.0
7	Cut/Pierce - Assault	10	0.7
	Other Land Trans - Unintentional	10	0.7
8	Firearm - Unintentional	9	0.6 ¹

Total Injury Case Count: 1,188 Rate: 82.6

25 - 44 YEARS

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	2,179	79.4
2	MVT - Unintentional	624	22.7
3	Firearm - Assault	403	14.7
4	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	246	9.0
5	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	149	5.4
6	Drowning - Unintentional	43	1.6
7	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	40	1.5
8	Poisoning - Undetermined	33	1.2
9	Fall - Unintentional	30	1.1
10	Cut/Pierce - Assault	16	0.6

Total Injury Case Count: 3,961 Rate: 144.3

45 - 64 YEARS

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	1,366	50.4
2	MVT - Unintentional	511	18.9
3	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	256	9.4
4	Fall - Unintentional	173	6.4
5	Firearm - Assault	142	5.2
6	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	81	3.0
7	Suffocation - Unintentional	52	1.9
8	Unspecified - Unintentional	51	1.9
9	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	48	1.8
10	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	38	1.4

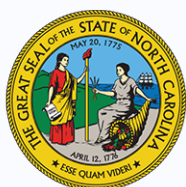
Total Injury Case Count: 2,981 Rate: 110.0

AGES 65 & OVER

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Fall - Unintentional	1,443	80.2
2	MVT - Unintentional	370	20.6
3	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	252	14.0
4	Unspecified - Unintentional	180	10.0
5	Suffocation - Unintentional	148	8.2
6	Poisoning - Unintentional	128	7.1
7	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	71	3.9
8	Nat/Env - Unintentional	36	2.0
9	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	32	1.8
10	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	31	1.7

Total Injury Case Count: 2,873 Rate: 159.7

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10 Leading Causes of Injury Deaths By Race/Ethnicity* North Carolina Residents, 2021

NON-HISPANIC WHITE

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	2,733	41.8
2	Fall - Unintentional	1,439	22.0
3	MVT - Unintentional	1,110	17.0
4	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	723	11.0
5	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	250	3.8
6	Firearm - Assault	191	2.9
7	Unspecified - Unintentional	180	2.8
8	Suffocation - Unintentional	162	2.5
9	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	114	1.7
10	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	82	1.3

Total Injury Case Count: 7,533 Rate: 115.1

NON-HISPANIC BLACK

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	905	40.3
2	Firearm - Assault	563	25.1
3	MVT - Unintentional	522	23.3
4	Fall - Unintentional	140	6.2
5	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	124	5.5
6	Suffocation - Unintentional	76	3.4
7	Unspecified - Unintentional	60	2.7
8	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	41	1.8
9	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	27	1.2
10	Drowning - Unintentional	26	1.2

Total Injury Case Count: 2,682 Rate: 119.5

NON-HISPANIC AMERICAN INDIAN

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	118	107.1
2	MVT - Unintentional	52	47.2
3	Firearm - Assault	31	28.1
4	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	9	8.2 ¹
5	Fall - Unintentional	5	4.5 ¹
6	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	3	*
	Suffocation - Unintentional	3	*
7	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	2	*
8	Cut/Pierce - Assault	1	*
	Cut/Pierce - Self-Inflicted	1	*

Total Injury Case Count: 234 Rate: 212.4

NON-HISPANIC ASIAN

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Fall - Unintentional	20	5.6
2	MVT - Unintentional	19	5.3
3	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	14	3.9
4	Poisoning - Unintentional	10	2.8
5	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	7	1.9 ¹
6	Drowning - Unintentional	4	*
7	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	3	*
8	Firearm - Unintentional	2	*
	Suffocation - Unintentional	2	*
9	Drowning - Undetermined	1	*

Total Injury Case Count: 85 Rate: 23.7

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10 Leading Causes of Injury Deaths By Race/Ethnicity & Gender* North Carolina Residents, 2021

HISPANIC

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	177	17.0
2	MVT - Unintentional	142	13.7
3	Firearm - Assault	56	5.4
4	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	47	4.5
5	Fall - Unintentional	42	4.0
6	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	31	3.0
7	Drowning - Unintentional	13	1.3
8	Cut/Pierce - Assault	8	0.8 ¹
	Struck - Unintentional	8	0.8 ¹
	Suffocation - Unintentional	8	0.8 ¹

Total Injury Case Count: 599 Rate: 57.6

FEMALE

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	1,176	21.8
2	Fall - Unintentional	834	15.5
3	MVT - Unintentional	560	10.4
4	Firearm - Assault	147	2.7
5	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	123	2.3
6	Unspecified - Unintentional	117	2.2
7	Suffocation - Unintentional	102	1.9
8	Poisoning - Self-Inflicted	78	1.4
9	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	58	1.1
10	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	47	0.9

Total Injury Case Count: 3,476 Rate: 64.5

MALE

Rank	Cause	Count	Rate
1	Poisoning - Unintentional	2,792	53.9
2	MVT - Unintentional	1,307	25.2
3	Fall - Unintentional	817	15.8
4	Firearm - Self-Inflicted	800	15.4
5	Firearm - Assault	707	13.7
6	Suffocation - Self-Inflicted	262	5.1
7	Suffocation - Unintentional	149	2.9
8	Unspecified - Unintentional	132	2.5
9	Drowning - Unintentional	95	1.8
10	Fire/Burn - Unintentional	87	1.7

Total Injury Case Count: 7,742 Rate: 149.5

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