

| 2019 | Leading Causes of Death Data Brief |



Key Findings from 2017 Mortality Data

A note on data in this report: The processing requirements of birth and death certificate records results in a delay in public availability of the data.

- Cancers and heart disease together comprised about 38% of all deaths in Guilford County in 2017.
- Males had more deaths due to cancer, heart disease, unintentional injuries, chronic liver disease, suicide and homicide, while females had higher mortality rates of dementia, stroke, Alzheimer's disease and chronic lower respiratory disease.
- African-Americans had higher age-adjusted mortality rates than Whites for heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes, while Whites had higher mortality rates due to chronic lower respiratory disease chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, and unintentional injuries.
- Lung cancer is the leading type of cancer mortality, followed by colon and breast cancers.
- In 2017, the leading causes of death among children and young adults were motor vehicle crashes and other unintentional injuries, followed by homicide and suicide.
- Since 2010, the diabetes mortality rate in Guilford County shows an increasing trend.

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For more information about Guilford County health statistics, visit:
www.guilfordcountync.gov/our-county/human-services/health-department/health-statistics.

Selected Leading Causes of Death, All Residents Unadjusted Mortality Rates, Guilford County, NC, 2017

Cause of Death	Deaths	Rate per 100,000
1. Total Deaths—All Causes	4,598	872.6
2. Cancer (all types)	914	173.5
3. Diseases of the Heart	831	157.7
4. Alzheimer's Disease	262	49.7
5. Dementia	262	49.7
6. Stroke	258	49.0
7. Non-Motor Vehicle Injuries	220	41.7
8. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	198	37.6
9. Nephritis, Kidney disease	132	25.0
10. Diabetes	152	28.8
11. Pneumonia and Influenza	129	24.5
12. Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	78	14.8
13. Motor Vehicle-related Injuries	71	13.5
14. Septicemia	64	12.1
15. Suicide	63	12.0
16. Essential (Primary) Hypertension	63	12.0
17. Parkinson's Disease	58	11.0
18. Homicide	51	9.7
19. Urinary Tract Infection	36	6.8
20. Other Causes	746	NA
2017 Guilford County Population Estimate	526,953	

Deaths from Cancer by Type, All Residents, Guilford County, NC, 2017

Cancer Cause of Death	Deaths	Rate per 100,000
1. Lung	229	43.5
2. Colon	89	16.9
3. Breast	73	26.3
4. Pancreatic	63	12.0
5. Prostate	57	22.8
6. Liver	31	5.9
7. Leukemia	30	5.7
8. Stomach	25	4.7
9. Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	23	4.4
10. Brain	22	4.2
11. Ovary	22	7.9
12. Lip	21	4.0
13. Bladder	20	3.8
14. Skin	10	1.9
15. Larynx	9	1.7
16. Cervical	8	2.9
Other Cancer Deaths	182	NA
Total Cancer Deaths	914	173.5

Source: NC Mortality File, Center for Health Statistics; NC Demographers Office.

Note: Rates for Breast and Prostate cancer are based on the population of females and males in Guilford County, respectively.

Leading Causes of Death by Sex

Deaths and Unadjusted Rates per 100,000, Guilford County, NC, 2017

Cause of Death	Females		Males	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Cancer (all types)	455	164.2	459	183.7
Diseases of the Heart	377	136.0	454	181.7
Dementia	196	70.7	66	26.4
Alzheimer's Disease	193	69.6	69	27.6
Stroke	150	54.1	108	43.2
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	111	40.1	87	34.8
Non-Motor Vehicle Injuries	79	28.5	141	56.4
Nephritis, Kidney disease	68	24.5	64	25.6
Pneumonia and Influenza	68	24.5	61	24.4
Diabetes	63	22.7	89	35.6
Essential (Primary) Hypertension	37	13.4	26	10.4
Septicemia	36	13.0	28	11.2
Urinary Tract Infection	28	10.1	8	3.2
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	24	8.7	54	21.6
Parkinson's Disease	21	7.6	37	14.8
Motor Vehicle-related Injuries	18	6.5	53	21.2
Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period	16	5.8	17	6.8
Suicide	13	4.7	50	20.0
Homicide	10	3.6	41	16.4
Congenital Malformations and Abnormalities	9	3.2	8	3.2
HIV Infection	4	1.4	7	2.8
Other Causes	358	NA	337	NA
Total Deaths—All Causes	2,334	842.2	2,264	906.3
2017 Total Population by Sex	277,132		249,821	

Source: NC Mortality File, Center for Health Statistics.

Note: Use caution when interpreting rates based on small numbers, i.e., less than 10.

Leading Causes of Death, by Race and Ethnicity

Deaths and Unadjusted Mortality Rates per 100,000, Guilford County, NC, 2017

Cause of Death	White		Black		Asian		Hispanic	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Cancer (all types)	601	197.2	280	148.0	31	108.0	17	40.0
Diseases of the Heart	587	192.6	227	120.0	15	52.2	4	9.4
Alzheimer's Disease	209	68.6	51	27.0	2	7.0	1	2.4
Dementia	194	63.7	64	33.8	3	10.4	0	0.0
Stroke	181	59.4	74	39.1	3	10.4	1	2.4
Non-Motor Vehicle Injuries	174	57.1	39	20.6	6	20.9	7	16.5
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	156	51.2	37	19.6	3	10.4	1	2.4
Nephritis, Kidney disease	67	22.0	59	31.2	6	20.9	2	4.7
Diabetes	88	28.9	60	31.7	3	10.4	2	4.7
Pneumonia and Influenza	94	30.8	33	17.4	2	7.0	1	2.4
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	52	17.1	23	12.2	3	10.4	1	2.4
Motor Vehicle-related Injuries	31	10.2	30	15.9	6	20.9	6	14.1
Septicemia	43	14.1	19	10.0	2	7.0	1	2.4
Suicide	50	16.4	11	5.8	2	7.0	1	2.4
Essential (Primary) Hypertension	33	10.8	27	14.3	3	10.4	1	2.4
Parkinson's Disease	53	17.4	4	2.1	1	3.5	0	0.0
Homicide	8	2.6	42	22.2	1	3.5	1	2.4
Urinary Tract Infection	27	8.9	9	4.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period	10	3.3	19	10.0	3	10.4	6	14.1
Congenital Malformations and Abnormalities	6	2.0	8	4.2	3	10.4	2	4.7
HIV Infection	1	0.3	10	5.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other Causes	471	NA	203	NA	19	66.2	10	NA
Total	3,136	1029.1	1,329	702.6	119	414.5	65	153.1
2017 Population by Race and Ethnicity	304,724		189,159		28,711		42,456	

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.

Note: Use caution when interpreting rates based on small numbers, i.e., less than 10.

Selected Leading Causes of Death, by Race
5-Year Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates per 100,000, Guilford County, NC, 2013-2017

Cause of Death	White		Black/African American		Guilford County Overall	
	Deaths 2013-2017	Rate per 100,000	Deaths 2013-2017	Rate per 100,000	Deaths 2013-2017	Rate per 100,000
All Causes of Death	14,793	726.5	5,975	873.1	21,432	751.1
Cancer (all types)	3,086	150.8	1,280	179.2	4,539	156.7
Lung Cancer	877	42.8	294	42.1	1,221	42.2
Pancreatic Cancer	213	10.3	121	17.8	351	12.2
Colon Cancer	251	12.1	107	14.2	368	12.3
Diseases of the Heart	2,777	130.6	1,140	167.9	3,996	138.2
Stroke	834	38.6	356	55.5	1,231	43.0
Alzheimer's Disease	851	37.7	220	41.7	1,087	37.9
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	847	40.8	156	23.0	1,013	35.4
Influenza and Pneumonia	370	17.6	124	18.5	506	17.7
Diabetes	362	17.5	249	36.4	630	22.0
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	239	12.7	67	8.3	327	11.0
Kidney Disease, Nephritis, Nephrosis	297	14.1	239	36.1	554	19.4
Unintentional Injuries	741	45.4	170	22.9	950	35.1
Unintentional Motor Vehicle Injuries	148	10.2	103	11.8	281	10.6
Suicide	232	16.3	41	4.5	289	11.0
Homicide	33	2.4	144	15.4	195	7.6

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics, County Health Databook.

Note on Age-Adjustment. When comparing mortality rates of age-related conditions—i.e., when the mortality risk increases with age, as with chronic diseases—across groups that have different age distributions, it can be misleading to use crude or unadjusted rates. In such situations, it is advisable to use age-adjusted rates that take into account the differences in age distribution. In Guilford County, Whites and African-Americans have substantially different age distribution, with Whites having an older age distribution than African-Americans.

Detailed Causes of Death for Infants, Birth through Age One Guilford County, 2017

ICD-10 Codes	Cause of Death	Number of Deaths
A090	Gastroenteritis and colitis of infectious origin	1
A749	Chlamydial infection	1
B348	Viral infection of unspecified site	1
E711	Disorder of branched-chain amino-acid metabolism	1
G959	Disease of spinal cord	1
Disorders Originating in the Perinatal Period		
P01.0	Newborn (suspected to be) affected by incompetent cervix	4
P01.1	Newborn (suspected to be) affected by premature rupture of membranes	1
P059	Newborn affected by slow intrauterine growth	1
P072	Extreme immaturity of newborn	3
P073	Prematurity of newborn	7
P220	Respiratory distress of the newborn	2
P229	Respiratory distress of newborn, unspecified	1
P240	Neonatal aspiration of meconium	1
P293	Problem of fetal circulation	1
P351	Congenital cytomegalovirus infection	1
P363	Sepsis of newborn due to staphylococci infection	1
P364	Sepsis of newborn due to Escherichia coli	1
P369	Bacterial sepsis of newborn, unspecified	6
P523	Intraventricular (nontraumatic) hemorrhage of fetus and newborn	1
P780	Perinatal intestinal perforation	1
P916	Hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy of newborn	1
Congenital Malformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities		
Q040	Congenital malformations of corpus callosum	1
Q042	Holoprosencephaly	1
Q248	Congenital malformation of heart	1
Q249	Congenital malformation of heart, unspecified	1
Q336	Hypoplasia and dysplasia of lung	5
Q423	Congenital absence, atresia and stenosis of anus without fistula	1
Q913	Edwards syndrome (chromosomal abnormality)	2
Q928	Trisomies and partial trisomies of autosomes (chromosomal abnormality)	1
Ill-defined and Unknown Cause of Mortality		
R99	Other ill-defined and unspecified causes of mortality	6
W75	Accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed	1
Y20	Hanging, strangulation and suffocation, undetermined intent	2
Other Causes of Infant Death		
V877	Motor vehicle collision injury	1
Total Infant Deaths		61

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.

Leading Causes of Death, by Age Group Deaths and Rates per 100,000, Guilford County, NC, 2017

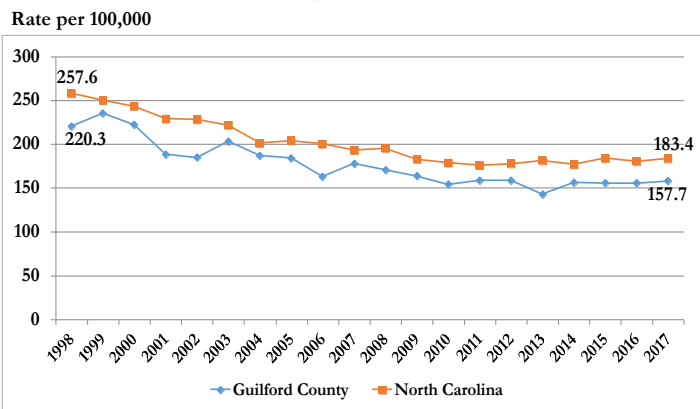
Cause of Death	Ages 1-19		Ages 20-39		Ages 40-59		Ages 60-79		Ages 80 and Over	
	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate
Cancer (all types)	1	0.8	10	7.0	164	118.8	485	536.1	254	1350.3
Diseases of the Heart	2	1.5	11	7.6	94	68.1	323	357.0	401	2131.7
Alzheimer's Disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	42	46.4	220	1169.5
Dementia	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.4	40	44.2	220	1169.5
Stroke	0	0.0	2	1.4	24	17.4	93	102.8	139	738.9
Non-Motor Vehicle Injuries	2	1.5	71	49.4	62	44.9	25	27.6	59	313.6
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	0	0.0	2	1.4	17	12.3	108	119.4	71	377.4
Nephritis, Kidney disease	0	0.0	5	3.5	19	13.8	55	60.8	533	2833.4
Diabetes	0	0.0	4	2.8	26	18.8	76	84.0	46	244.5
Pneumonia and Influenza	1	0.8	4	2.8	13	9.4	38	42.0	73	388.1
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	0	0.0	0	0.0	37	26.8	35	38.7	6	31.9
Motor Vehicle-related Injuries	9	6.9	27	18.8	19	13.8	12	13.3	3	15.9
Septicemia	0	0.0	0	0	5	3.6	25	27.6	34	180.7
Suicide	7	5.4	26	18.1	14	10.1	13	14.4	3	15.9
Essential (Primary) Hypertension	0	0.0	2	1.4	12	8.7	18	19.9	31	164.8
Parkinson's Disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	21	23.2	37	196.7
Homicide	5	3.8	35	24.4	9	6.5	2	2.2	0	0.0
Urinary Tract Infection	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.4	12	13.3	22	117.0
HIV Infection	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	5.1	4	4.4	0	0.0
Other Cause	9	NA	30	NA	92	NA	322	NA	491	NA
Total	36	27.7	224	156.0	636	460.8	1,708	1,887.9	1,933	10,275.9
2017 Guilford County Population Estimate	129,905		143,632		138,012		90,472		18,811	

Source: NC Mortality File, Center for Health Statistics.

Note: Use caution when interpreting rates based on small numbers, i.e., less than 10.

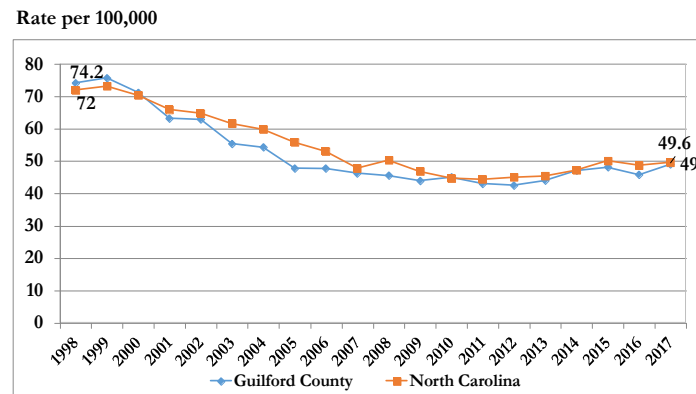
Trends in Selected Leading Causes of Death

Heart Disease Mortality, Guilford County and NC, 1998-2017



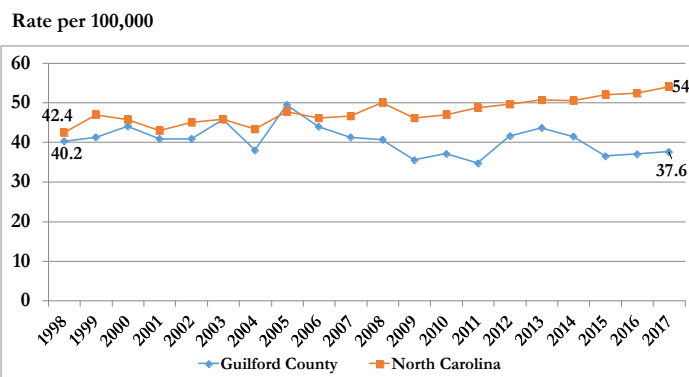
Source: Data provided by the NC Center for Health Statistics.
Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Cerebrovascular Disease (Stroke) Mortality, Guilford County and NC, 1998-2017



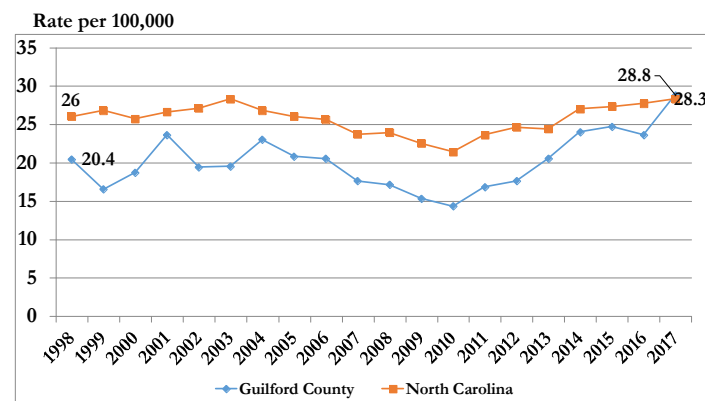
Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.
Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease, Guilford County and NC, 1998-2017



Notes: Rates are not age-adjusted; Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (CLRD) is also known as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).
Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.
Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

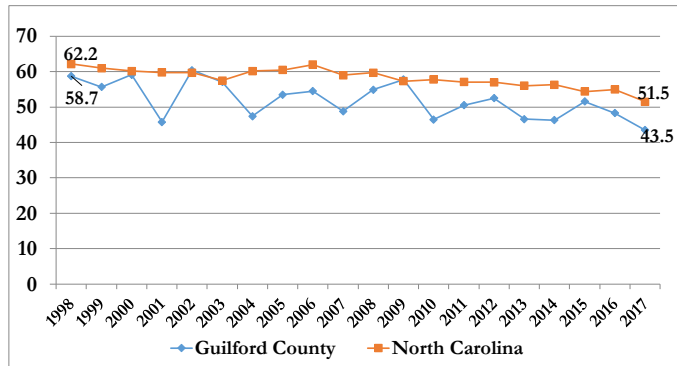
Diabetes Mortality, Guilford County and NC, 1998-2017



Note: Rates are not age-adjusted.
Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.
Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Lung Cancer Mortality, Guilford County and NC, 1998-2017

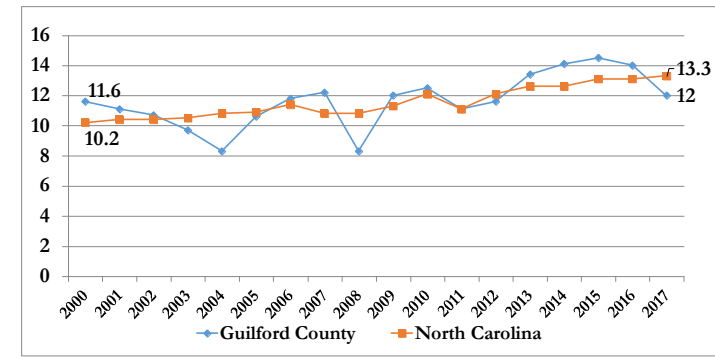
Rate per 100,000



Note: Lung cancer includes cancers of the trachea, bronchus and lungs.
 Note: Rates are not age-adjusted.
 Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.
 Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Pancreatic Cancer Mortality, Guilford County and NC, 2000-2017

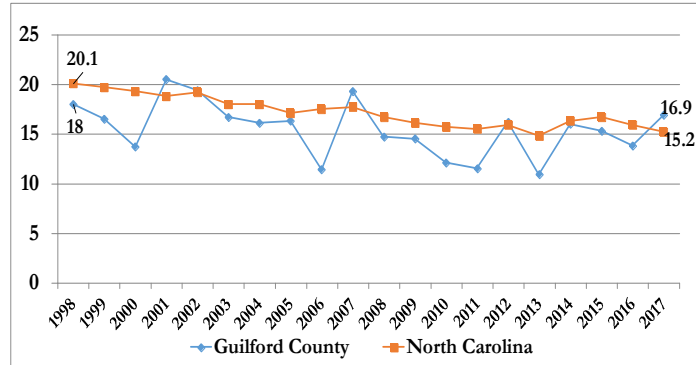
Rate per 100,000



Note: Rates are not age-adjusted.
 Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.
 Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Colorectal Cancer Mortality, Guilford County and NC, 1998-2017

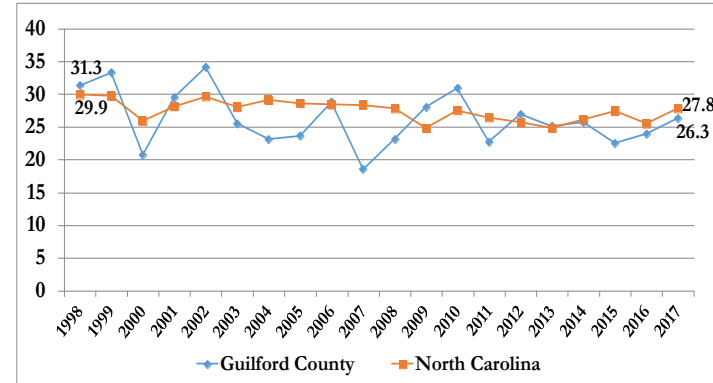
Rate per 100,000



Note: Rates are not age-adjusted.
 Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.
 Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Breast Cancer Mortality, Guilford County and NC, 1998-2017

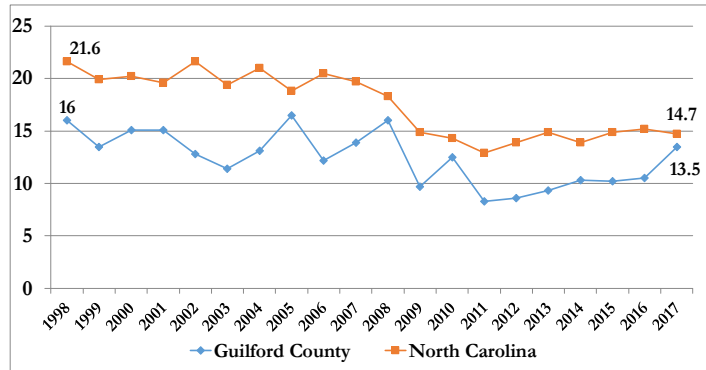
Rate per 100,000



Note: Rates are not age-adjusted.
 Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.
 Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Motor Vehicle Injury Mortality, Guilford County and NC, 1998-2017

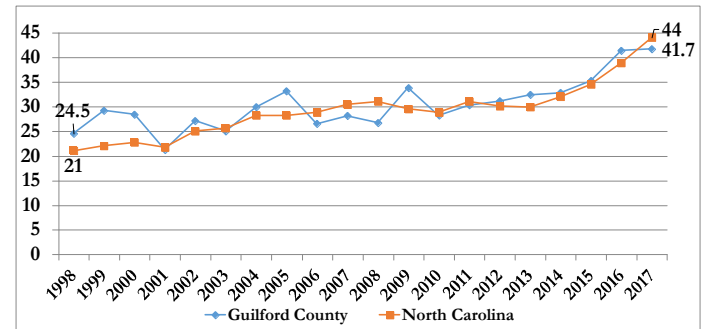
Rate per 100,000



Source: Data provided by the NC Center for Health Statistics.
Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Mortality Due to Unintentional Injury other than Motor Vehicle Injury, Guilford County and NC, 1998-2017

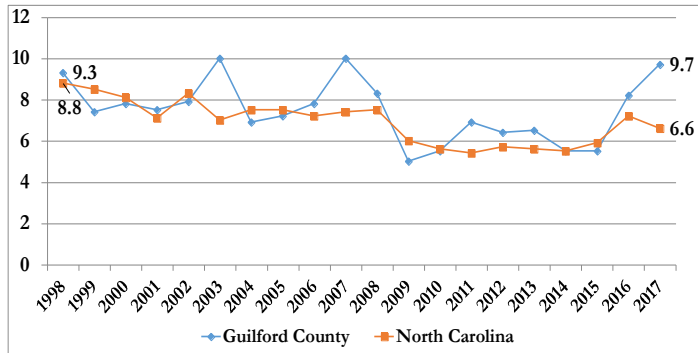
Rate per 100,000



Source: Data provided by the NC Center for Health Statistics.
Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Homicide Mortality, Guilford County and NC, 1998-2017

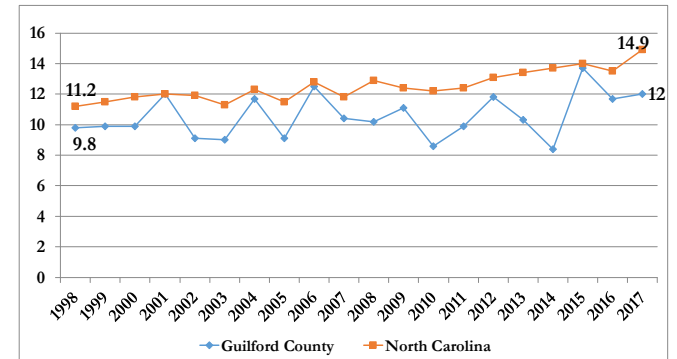
Rate per 100,000



Source: Data provided by the NC Center for Health Statistics.
Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Suicide Mortality, Guilford County and NC, 1998-2017

Rate per 100,000



Source: Data provided by the NC Center for Health Statistics.
Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.