

| 2022 | Injuries Data Brief



Key Findings from 2020 Guilford County Injury 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.

- In 2020, the overall leading cause of injury deaths was unintentional poisoning, followed by unintentional falls, motor vehicle injury deaths, homicide, and suicide.
- Unintentional poisoning deaths—which increased from 131 deaths in 2019 to 158 in 2020-- were due primarily to adverse reactions to prescription and nonprescription use of opioid drugs.
- The leading causes of injury deaths among females were unintentional falls and unintentional poisoning. Among males, unintentional poisoning was the most common cause of injury death, followed by homicide, motor vehicle injury deaths, and suicide.
- Homicide deaths have been on the increase since 2009. Those most at risk of homicide are African American males ages 20-39.
- After a one-year decline in 2019, suicides increased in 2020.
- Firearms were used in 86.7% of the homicides and 63% of the suicides in 2020.

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

Leading Causes of Injury Mortality and Rates per 100,000 Guilford County, 2016-2020

All Residents

Injury Type	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Unintentional Poisoning	95	18.1	118	22.3	113	21.2	131	24.4	158	29.2
Unintentional Falls	83	15.8	67	12.7	84	15.7	102	19.0	96	17.7
Motor Vehicle Injury	57	10.9	71	13.4	72	13.5	74	13.8	74	13.7
Homicide	44	8.4	51	9.6	51	9.6	62	11.5	73	13.5
Suicide, Self-Inflicted Injury	60	11.4	63	11.9	69	12.9	58	10.8	65	12.0
Guilford County Population	525,055		529,496		533,670		537,174		541,299	

Source: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health. State Center for Health Statistics.

Leading Causes of Injury Mortality and Rates per 100,000 by Sex Guilford County, 2016-2020

Female Residents

Injury Type	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Motor Vehicle Injury	19	6.9	18	6.5	23	8.2	22	7.8	14	4.9
Unintentional Falls	50	18.1	34	12.2	43	15.3	54	19.1	67	23.5
Suicide, Self-Inflicted Injury	18	6.5	13	4.7	15	5.3	13	4.6	10	3.5
Homicide	6	2.2	10	3.6	9	3.2	10	3.5	13	4.6
Unintentional Poisoning	29	10.5	36	12.9	38	13.5	52	18.5	59	20.7
Female Population	276,311		278,877		280,983		282,962		285,264	

Male Residents

Injury Type	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Motor Vehicle Injury	38	15.3	53	21.1	49	19.4	52	20.5	60	23.3
Unintentional Falls	33	13.3	33	13.2	41	16.2	48	18.9	29	11.3
Suicide, Self-Inflicted Injury	42	16.9	50	20.0	54	21.4	45	17.7	55	21.4
Homicide	38	15.3	41	16.4	42	16.6	52	20.5	60	23.3
Unintentional Poisoning	66	26.5	82	32.7	75	29.7	79	31.1	99	38.5
Male Population	248,744		250,619		252,687		254,212		257,035	

Source: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health. State Center for Health Statistics.

Leading Causes of Injury Mortality and Rates per 100,000, by Race Guilford County, 2016-2020

White Residents

Injury Type	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Motor Vehicle Injury	33	10.8	31	10.1	31	10.2	35	11.4	25	8.2
Unintentional Falls	74	24.2	56	18.3	71	23.2	93	30.4	80	26.4
Suicide, Self-Inflicted Injury	53	17.4	50	16.4	55	18.0	44	14.4	55	18.1
Homicide	6	2.0	8	2.6	10	3.3	6	2.0	11	3.6
Unintentional Poisoning	72	23.6	96	31.4	91	29.8	95	31.0	103	34.0
Population	305,425		305,444		305,332		306,101		303,127	

African American Residents

Injury Type	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Motor Vehicle Injury	19	10.1	30	15.7	31	16.0	36	18.3	43	22.4
Unintentional Falls	9	4.8	9	4.7	11	5.7	8	4.1	13	6.8
Suicide, Self-Inflicted Injury	4	2.1	11	5.8	12	6.2	10	5.1	8	4.2
Homicide	34	18.1	42	22.0	40	20.6	54	27.5	56	29.2
Unintentional Poisoning	21	11.2	18	9.4	21	10.8	31	15.8	47	24.5
Population	187,728		190,736		193,628		196,492		191,619	

Asian and Hispanic Residents, 2020

Injury Type	Asian	Hispanic
	Number	Number
Motor Vehicle Injury	0	6
Unintentional Falls	2	2
Suicide, Self-Inflicted Injury	2	1
Homicide and Intentional Injury	2	2
Unintentional Poisoning	2	5

Note: Rate not calculated for Asian and Hispanic residents due to small numbers.

Source: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health. State Center for Health Statistics.

Detailed External Injury Causes of Mortality, 2020

ICD-10 Cause of Death Codes	Cause of Death Description	Number of Deaths
Deaths due to Motor Vehicle and other Transport-Related Injuries		
V00-V99	Transport Accidents	75
V00-V09	Pedestrian injured in transport accident	14
V20-V29	Motorcycle rider injured in transport accident	13
V40-V49	Car occupant injured in transport accident	3
V60-V69	Occupant of heavy transport vehicle injured in transport accident	1
V80-V89	Other land transport accidents	44
Deaths due to Falls		
W00-W19	Deaths due to Falls	96
W01	Fall from slipping, tripping, or stumbling	2
W05	Fall from non-moving wheelchair or mobility scooter	2
W06	Fall from bed	3
W07	Fall from chair	3
W10	Fall from stairs or steps	4
W13	Fall from building or structure	2
W14	Fall from tree	1
W18	Other slipping, tripping, stumbling, and falls	24
W19	Unspecified fall	55
Exposure to Inanimate Mechanical Forces		
W20	Struck by thrown, projected, or falling object	1
W29	Contact with powered hand tools or household machinery	1
W30	Contact with agricultural machinery	3
W32, W34	Accidental handgun or other firearm discharge and malfunction	4
W40	Explosion of other materials	1
Deaths Due to Drowning and other Unintentional Threats to Breathing		
W69	Accidental drowning and submersion while in natural water	2
W79	Inhalation and ingestion of food causing obstruction of respiratory tract	1
W80	Inhalation and ingestion of other objects causing obstruction of respiratory tract	11
Exposure to Smoke, Fire and Flames		
X00	Exposure to uncontrolled fire in building or structure	1
Deaths due to Unintentional Poisoning by and Exposure to Noxious Substances		
X40-X49	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances	158
X40	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to non-opioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics	2
X41	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic, anti-parkinsonism, and psychotropic drugs	5
X42	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens], Not Elsewhere Classified (NEC)	86

X44	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified drugs, medicaments, and biological substances	58
X45	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	5
X47	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other gases and vapors	2
Deaths due to Suicide		
X60-X84	Intentional self-harm	65
X60	Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to non-opioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics	1
X62	Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens], NEC	1
X64	Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to other drugs and biological substances	6
X66	Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to other gases and vapors	1
X70	Intentional self-harm by hanging, strangulation, and suffocation	11
X72	Intentional self-harm by handgun discharge	12
X73	Intentional self-harm by rifle, shotgun and larger	3
X74	Intentional self-harm by other and unspecified firearm and gun discharge	26
X76	Intentional self-harm by smoke, fire, and flame	1
X80	Intentional self-harm by jumping from a high place	1
X81	Intentional self-harm by jumping or lying in front of moving object	2
Deaths due to Homicide		
X85-Y09	Assault	73
X94	Assault by rifle, shotgun, and larger firearm discharge	1
X95	Assault by other and unspecified firearm discharge	64
X99	Assault by sharp object	3
Y04	Assault by bodily force	1
Y09	Assault by unspecified means	4
Drug Overdose Deaths (includes overdoses from all drugs and for all intents)		164
X40	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to non-opioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics	2
X41	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic, anti-parkinsonism, and psychotropic drugs	5
X42	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens], NEC	86
X44	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified drugs, medicaments, and biological substances	58
X45	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	5
X60	Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to non-opioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics	1
X62	Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens], NEC	1
X64	Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to other drugs and biological substances	6

Source: Detailed Mortality Statistics, North Carolina Residents, 2020, NC State Center for Health Statistics.

Opioid Drug Trends in Guilford County: Annual Data Trends: 2012-2021

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Heroin Overdose ED Visits ¹	36	70	191	107	156	291	173	176	150	145
Opioid Overdose ED Visits ¹	119	184	305	243	263	390	261	257	348	365
Heroin-Related ED Visits ¹	178	104	234	180	611	1,009	750	752	479	209
Opiate Poisoning Deaths ^{2,3}	32	17	42	47	71	99	98	114	136	--
Heroin Poisoning Deaths ^{2,4}	9	9	25	23	40	29	40	44	25	--
Synthetic Opioid Poisoning Deaths ^{2,5}	1	1	18	11	34	84	72	89	113	--

¹Source: NC DETECT (NC Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool), Emergency Department data.

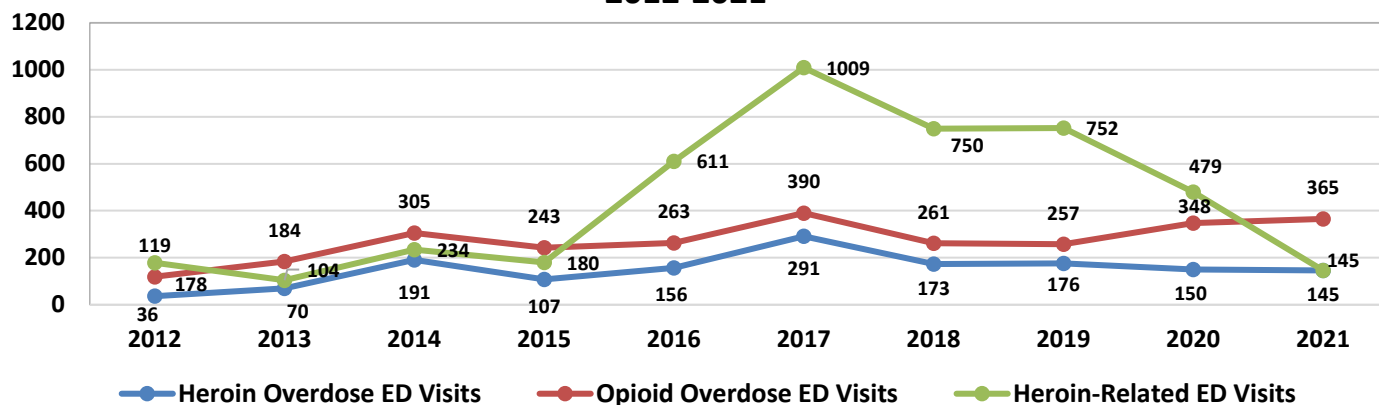
²Source: Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, NCDHHS.

³Cause of Death Codes used: Any mention (cod1-cod21) of T40.0 (Opium), T40.1 (Heroin), T40.2 (Other Opioids), T40.3 (Methadone) and/or T40.4 (Other synthetic opioid).

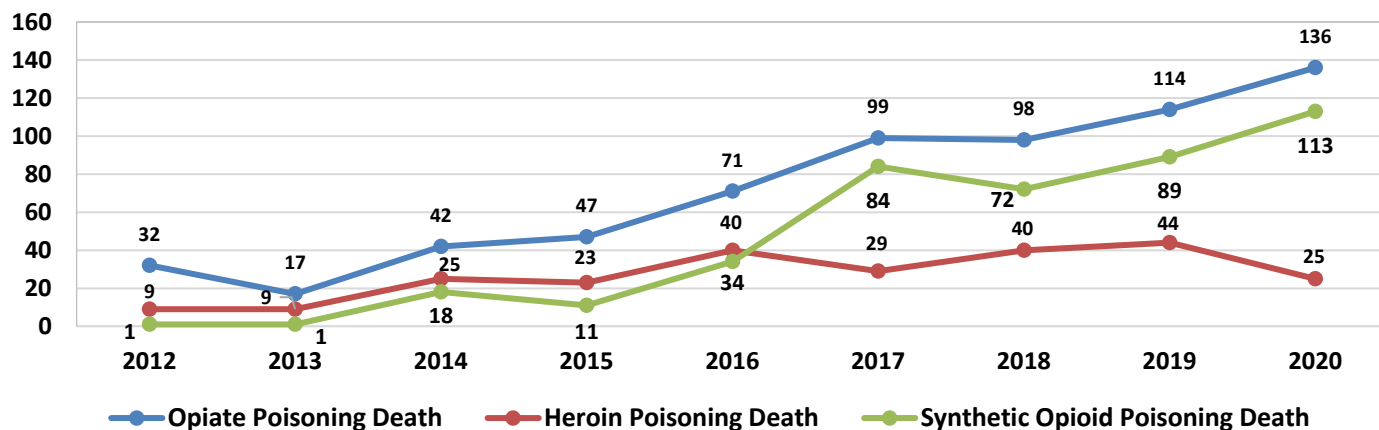
⁴Cause of Death Codes used: Any mention (cod1-cod21) of T40.1 (Heroin).

⁵Cause of Death Codes used: Any mention (cod1-cod21) of T40.4 (Other Synthetic Opioids).

Guilford County Emergency Department Visits by Overdose Type, 2012-2021



Guilford County Overdose Deaths by Drug Type by Year, 2012-2020



Source: NC DETECT (NC Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool); NC DHHS Injury and Violence Prevention Branch.

Drug Overdose Mortality for All Intents, 2020, Guilford County

	Deaths	Unadjusted Mortality Rate per 100,000	Age-Adjusted Mortality Rate per 100,000
Guilford County	164	30.5	30.5
Male	102	40.4	40.1
Female	62	21.7	21.9
White	111	36.6	36.3
Black	45	23.5	22.9

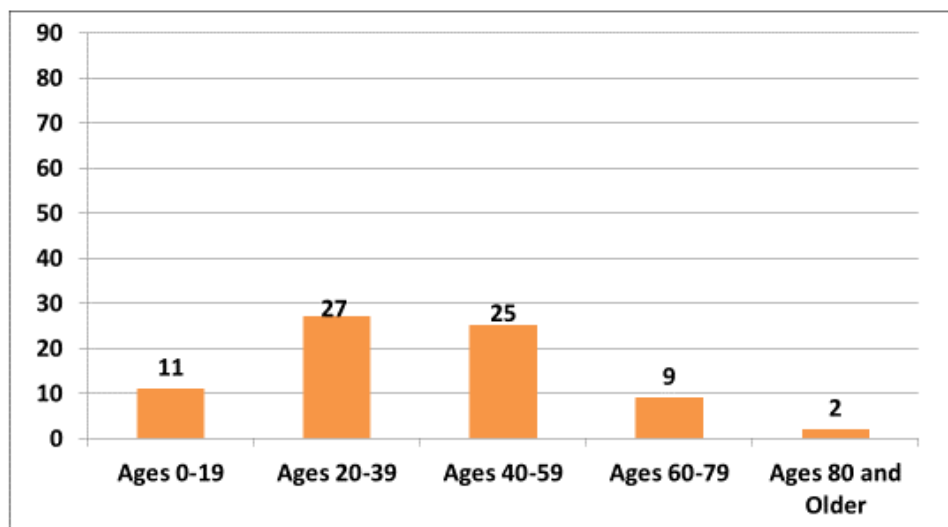
Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics; NC Mortality File, 2020.

Note: Includes fatal overdoses from all types of medications and drugs, whether unintentional or intentional.

Injury Mortality by Age Group

Motor Vehicle Injury Deaths by Age Group Guilford County, 2020

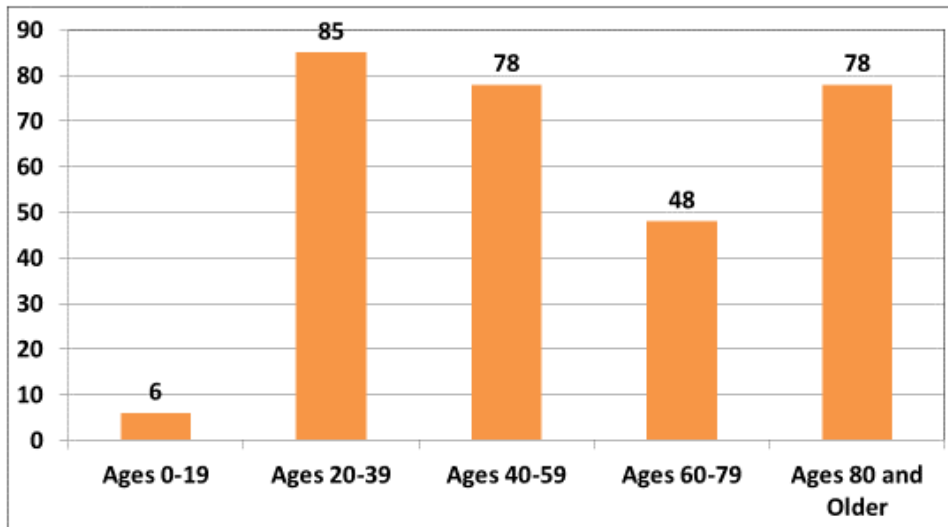
Number of Deaths



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

Unintentional Injury Deaths other than Motor Vehicle by Age Group Guilford County, 2020

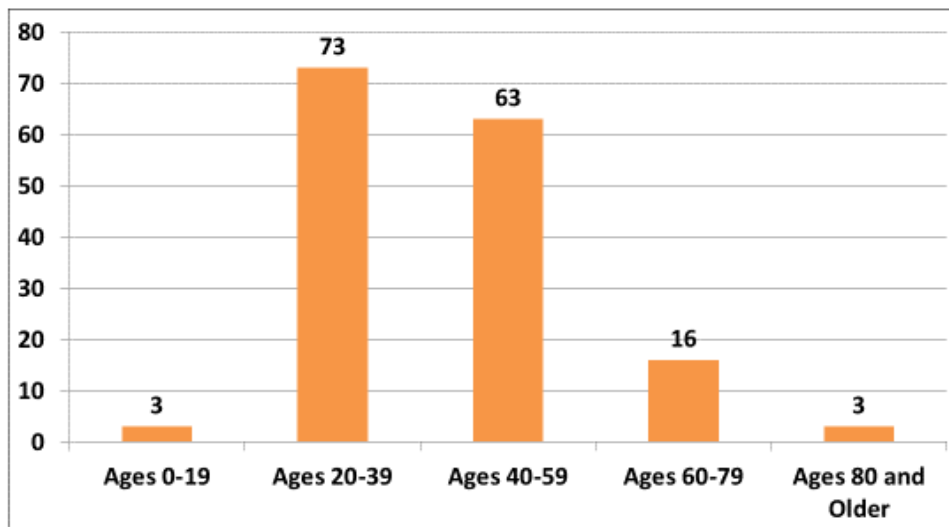
Number of Deaths



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

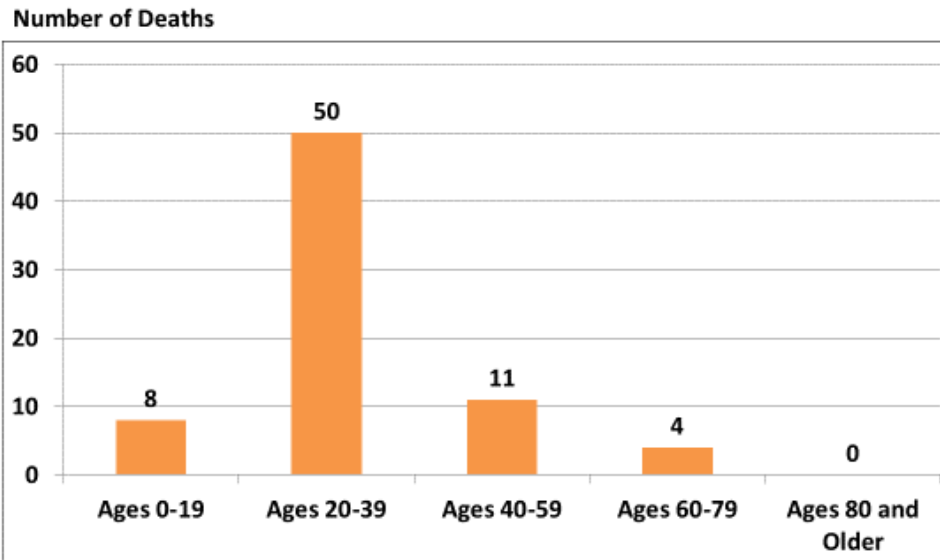
Unintentional Poisoning Deaths by Age Group Guilford County, 2020

Number of Deaths



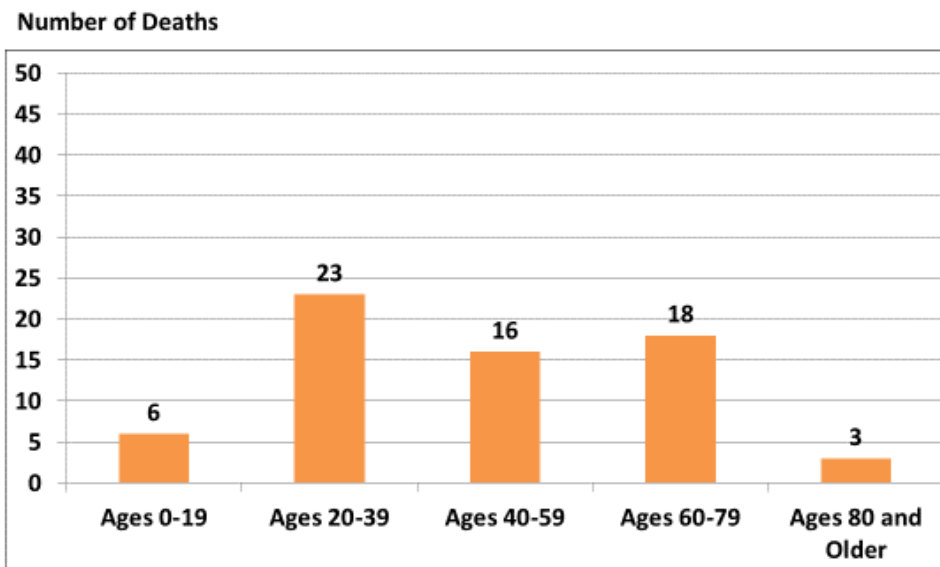
Source: Data provided by the NC Center for Health Statistics.
Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Homicide Deaths by Age Group Guilford County, 2020



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

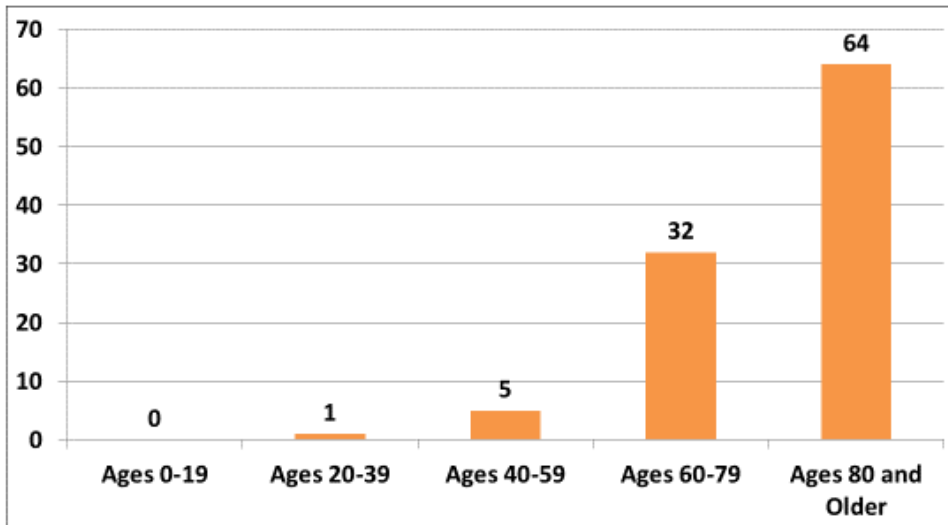
Suicide Deaths by Age Group Guilford County, 2020



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

Deaths from Injuries due to Falls by Age Group, Guilford County, 2020

Number of Deaths

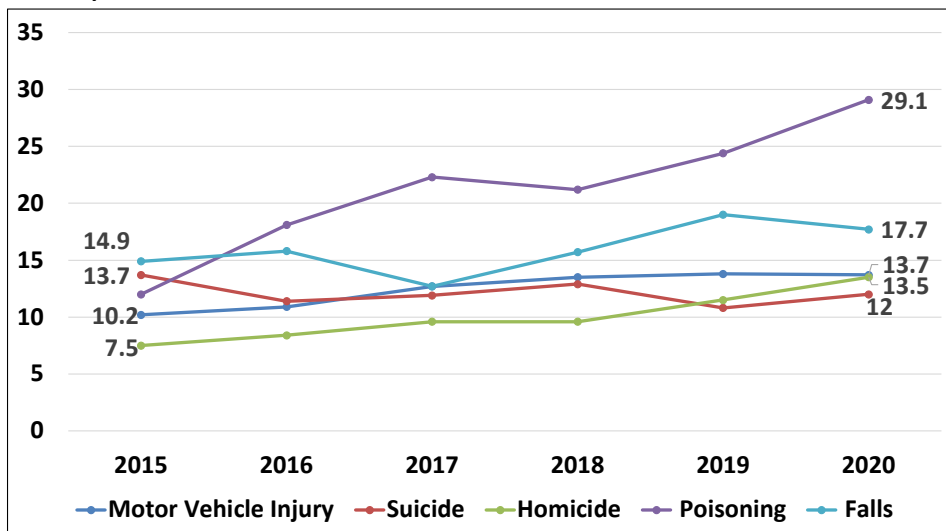


Source: Data provided by the NC Center for Health Statistics.
Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Injury Trends

Trends in Injury Mortality Guilford County, 2015-2020

Rate per 100,000



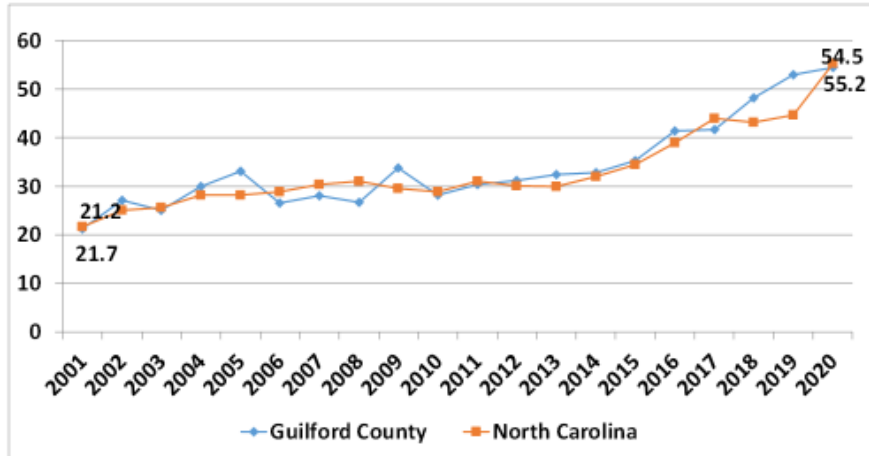
Notes: Rates not age-adjusted.

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, 2001-2020

Rate per 100,000



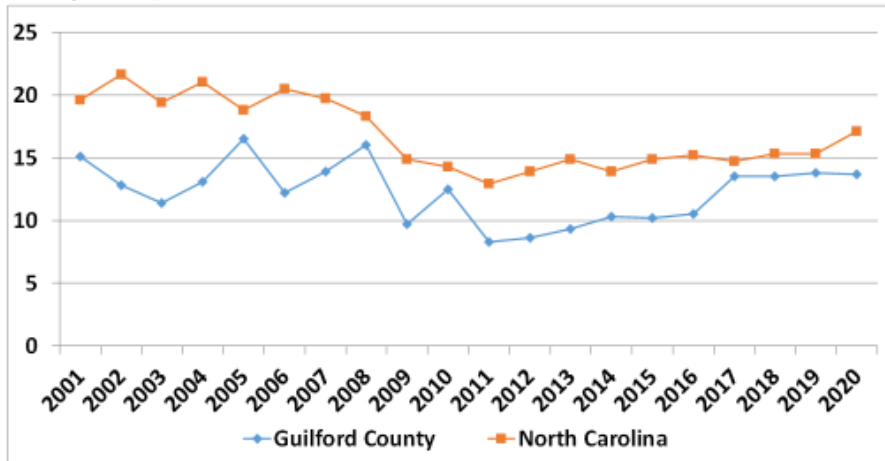
Note: Rates are not age-adjusted. This category of Unintentional Injury primarily includes unintentional poisonings, falls and other external causes of injury related deaths.

Source: Data provided by the NC Center for Health Statistics.

Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Motor Vehicle Injury Mortality Guilford County and NC, 2001-2020

Rate per 100,000



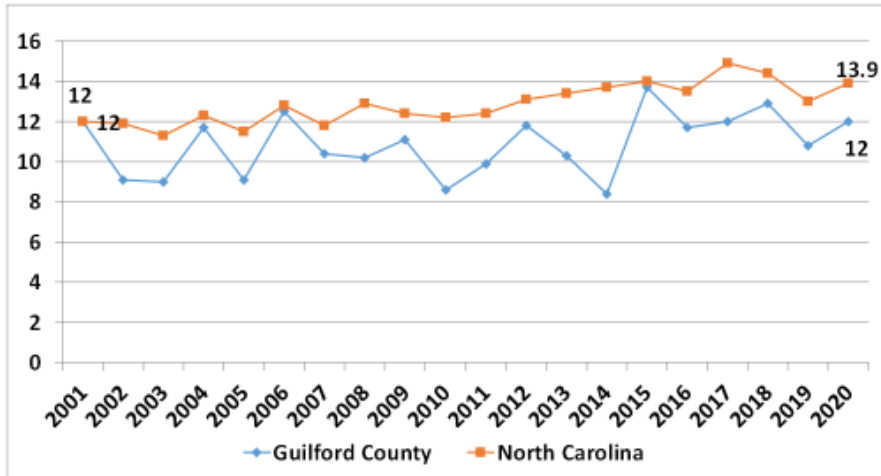
Note: Rates are not age-adjusted.

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, 2001-2020

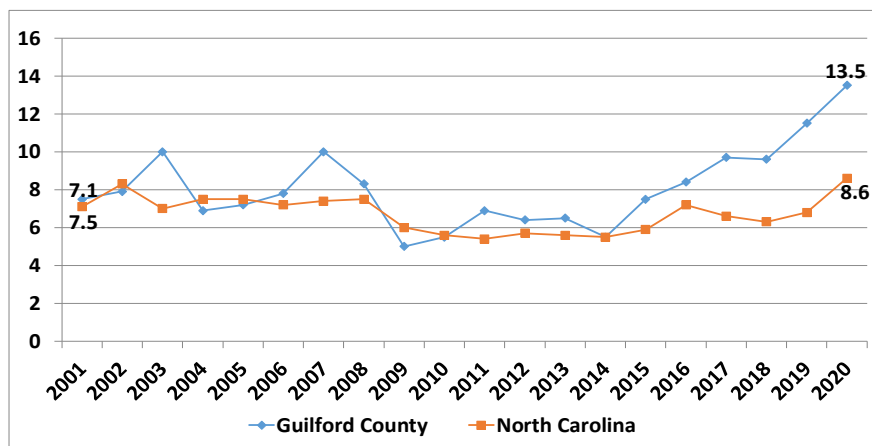
Rate per 100,000



Note: Rates are not age-adjusted.
 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, 2001-2020

Rate per 100,000



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