

| 2023 | Injuries Data Brief



Key Findings from 2021 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 the public availability of the data.

- In 2021, 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 158 deaths in 2020 to 244 in 2021, were due primarily to adverse reactions to prescription and nonprescription use of opioid drugs. This is a 54.5% increase from 2020 to 2021.
- The leading causes of injury deaths among females were unintentional poisoning, motor vehicle injuries, and unintentional falls, respectively. Unintentional poisoning was the most common cause of injury death among males, followed by homicide, motor vehicle injury deaths, and suicide.
- Homicide deaths have been on the increase since 2009. In 2021, the Guilford County homicide rate was 13.5 per 100,000 population, as compared to 9.5 for North Carolina. African American males ages 20-39 are most at risk of homicide.
- After a one-year increase in 2020, suicides decreased in 2021.
- Firearms were used in 83.6% of the homicides and 60% of the suicides in 2021.

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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, 2017-2021

All Residents

Injury Type	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Unintentional Poisoning	118	22.3	113	21.2	131	24.4	158	29.2	244	45.0
Unintentional Falls	67	12.7	84	15.7	102	19.0	96	17.7	105	19.4
Motor Vehicle Injury	71	13.4	72	13.5	74	13.8	74	13.7	86	15.9
Homicide	51	9.6	51	9.6	62	11.5	73	13.5	73	13.5
Suicide, Self-Inflicted Injury	63	11.9	69	12.9	58	10.8	65	12.0	58	10.7
Guilford County Population	529,496		533,670		537,174		541,299		542,410	

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, 2017-2021

Female Residents

Injury Type	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Motor Vehicle Injury	18	6.5	23	8.2	22	7.8	14	4.9	62	21.8
Unintentional Falls	34	12.2	43	15.3	54	19.1	67	23.5	59	20.7
Suicide, Self-Inflicted Injury	13	4.7	15	5.3	13	4.6	10	3.5	9	3.2
Homicide	10	3.6	9	3.2	10	3.5	13	4.6	13	4.6
Unintentional Poisoning	36	12.9	38	13.5	52	18.5	59	20.7	67	23.5
Female Population	278,877		280,983		282,962		285,264		284,759	

Male Residents

Injury Type	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Motor Vehicle Injury	53	21.1	49	19.4	52	20.5	60	23.3	62	21.8
Unintentional Falls	33	13.2	41	16.2	48	18.9	29	11.3	46	17.9
Suicide, Self-Inflicted Injury	50	20.0	54	21.4	45	17.7	55	21.4	49	19.0
Homicide	41	16.4	42	16.6	52	20.5	60	23.3	60	23.3
Unintentional Poisoning	82	32.7	75	29.7	79	31.1	99	38.5	177	68.7
Male Population	250,619		252,687		254,212		257,035		257,651	

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, 2017-2021

White Residents*

Injury Type	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Motor Vehicle Injury	31	10.1	31	10.2	35	11.4	25	8.2	41	16.0
Unintentional Falls	56	18.3	71	23.2	93	30.4	80	26.4	79	30.9
Suicide, Self-Inflicted Injury	50	16.4	55	18.0	44	14.4	55	18.1	37	14.5
Homicide	8	2.6	10	3.3	6	2.0	11	3.6	11	4.3
Unintentional Poisoning	96	31.4	91	29.8	95	31.0	103	34.0	155	60.7
Population	305,444		305,332		306,101		303,127		255,479*	

*White, non-Hispanic population

African American Residents*

Injury Type	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Motor Vehicle Injury	30	15.7	31	16.0	36	18.3	43	22.4	36	19.5
Unintentional Falls	9	4.7	11	5.7	8	4.1	13	6.8	16	8.7
Suicide, Self-Inflicted Injury	11	5.8	12	6.2	10	5.1	8	4.2	15	8.1
Homicide	42	22.0	40	20.6	54	27.5	56	29.2	50	27.1
Unintentional Poisoning	18	9.4	21	10.8	31	15.8	47	24.5	75	40.6
Population	190,736		193,628		196,492		191,619		184,574*	

*African American/Black, non-Hispanic population

Number of Deaths among Asian and Hispanic Residents, 2020-2021*

Injury Type	2020		2021	
	Asian	Hispanic	Asian	Hispanic
	Number	Number	Number	Number
Motor Vehicle Injury	0	6	2	2
Unintentional Falls	2	2	6	4
Suicide, Self-Inflicted Injury	2	1	1	4
Homicide and Intentional Injury	2	2	0	9
Unintentional Poisoning	2	5	2	9

*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, 2021

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	76
V00-V09	Pedestrian injured in transport accident	13
V20-V29	Motorcycle rider injured in transport accident	14
V40-V49	Car occupant injured in transport accident	1
V50-V59	Occupant of pick-up truck or van injured in transport accident	1
V60-V69	Occupant of heavy transport vehicle injured in transport accident	1
V80-V89	Other land transport accidents	46
Deaths due to Falls		
W00-W19	Deaths due to Falls	105
W01	Fall from slipping, tripping, or stumbling	2
W05	Fall from non-moving wheelchair or mobility scooter	1
W06	Fall from bed	4
W07	Fall from chair	1
W10	Fall from stairs or steps	6
W11	Fall on and from ladder	1
W13	Fall from building or structure	3
W17	Other fall from one level to another	3
W18	Other slipping, tripping, stumbling, and falls	41
W19	Unspecified fall	43
Exposure to Inanimate Mechanical Forces		
W20-W49	Exposure to inanimate mechanical forces	10
W20	Struck by thrown, projected, or falling object	4
W22	Striking against or struck by other objects	1
W28	Contact with powered lawnmower	1
W32	Accidental handgun or other firearm discharge and malfunction	3
W34	Accidental discharge and malfunction from other unspecified firearms and guns	1
Deaths Due to Drowning and other Unintentional Threats to Breathing		
W65-W84	Accidental drowning and other unintentional threats to breathing	14
W65	Accidental drowning and submersion while in bathtub	1
W67	Accidental drowning and submersion while in swimming pool	1
W69	Accidental drowning and submersion while in natural water	2
W78	Inhalation of gastric contents	1
W79	Inhalation and ingestion of food causing obstruction of respiratory tract	1
W80	Inhalation and ingestion of other objects causing obstruction of respiratory tract	6
W84	Unspecified threat to breathing	2
Exposure to Smoke, Fire and Flames		
X00	Exposure to uncontrolled fire in building or structure	6

Deaths due to Unintentional Poisoning by and Exposure to Noxious Substances

X40-X49	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances	244
X41	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic, anti-parkinsonism, and psychotropic drugs	7
X42	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens], Not Elsewhere Classified (NEC)	157
X44	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified drugs, medicaments, and biological substances	76
X45	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	4

Deaths due to Suicide

X60-X84	Intentional self-harm	58
X60	Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to non-opioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics	1
X64	Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to other drugs and biological substances	5
X70	Intentional self-harm by hanging, strangulation, and suffocation	9
X72	Intentional self-harm by handgun discharge	12
X73	Intentional self-harm by rifle, shotgun and larger	4
X74	Intentional self-harm by other and unspecified firearm and gun discharge	19
X80	Intentional self-harm by jumping from a high place	5
X81	Intentional self-harm by jumping or lying in front of moving object	3

Deaths due to Homicide

X85-Y09, Y87.1	Assault	73
Y91	Assault by hanging, strangulation, and suffocation	1
Y93	Assault by handgun discharge	7
X94	Assault by rifle, shotgun, and larger firearm discharge	2
X95	Assault by other and unspecified firearm discharge	52
X99	Assault by sharp object	4
Y08	Assault by other specified means	1
Y09	Assault by unspecified means	5
Y87.1	Sequelae of assault	1

All Drug Overdose Deaths* (includes overdoses from all drugs and for all intents)

X41-Y64	Unintentional and intentional drug overdose deaths	250
X41	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic, anti-parkinsonism, and psychotropic drugs	7
X42	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens], NEC	157
X44	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified drugs, medicaments, and biological substances	76
X45	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	4
X60	Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to non-opioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics	1
X64	Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to other drugs and biological substances	5

*This table includes both accidental drug overdoses and overdoses due to suicide or unintentional self-harm.

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

Opioid Drug Trends in Guilford County: Annual Data Trends: 2013-2022

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Heroin Overdose ED Visits ¹	70	191	107	156	291	173	176	150	145	116
Opioid Overdose ED Visits ¹	184	305	243	263	390	261	257	348	365	426
Heroin-Related ED Visits ¹	104	234	180	611	1,009	750	752	479	209	150
Opiate Poisoning Deaths ^{2,3}	17	42	47	71	99	98	114	136	206	---
Heroin Poisoning Deaths ^{2,4}	9	25	23	40	29	40	44	25	15	---
Synthetic Opioid Poisoning Deaths ^{2,5}	1	18	11	34	84	72	89	113	188	---

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

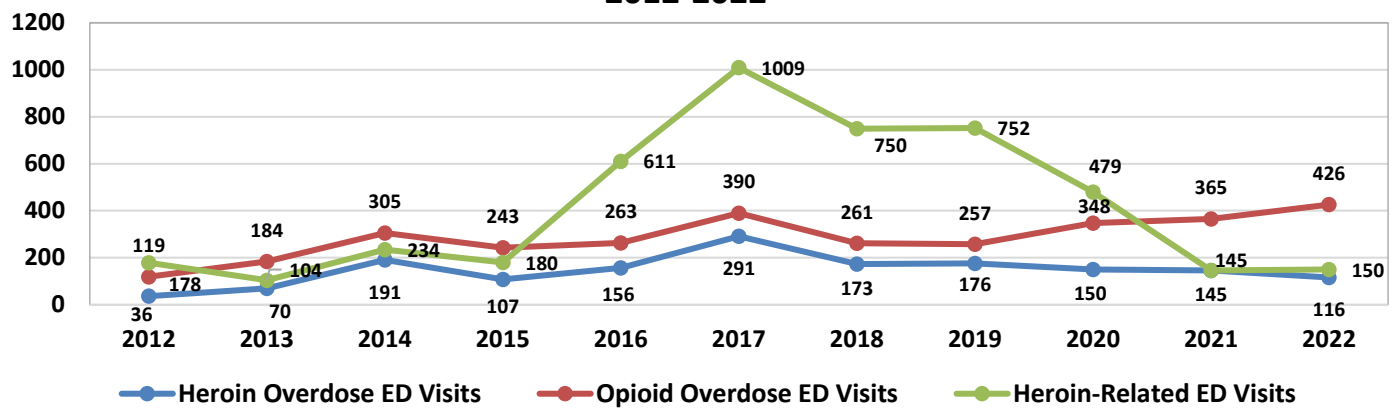
²Source: Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, NCDHHS.

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).

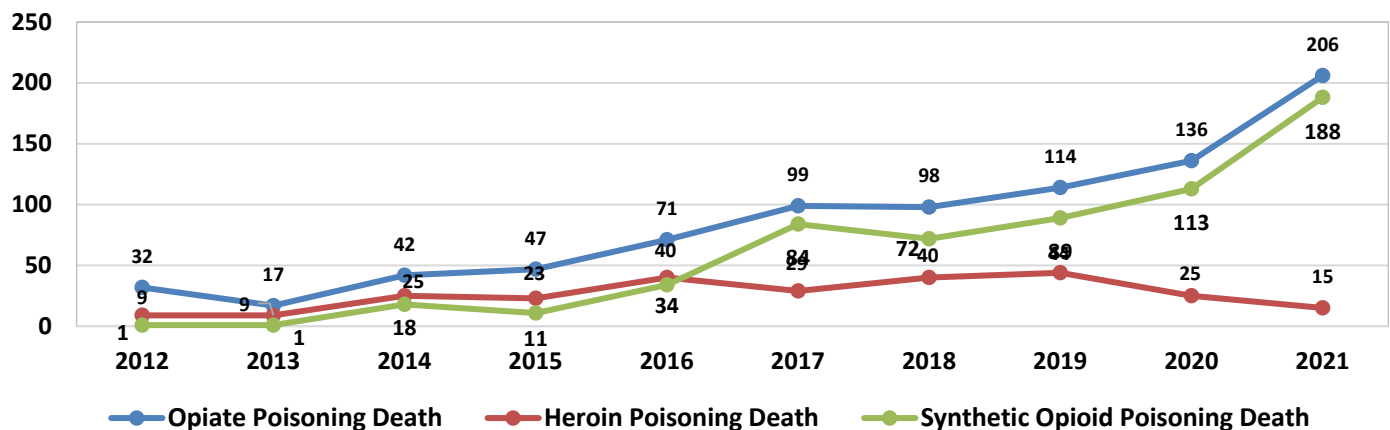
⁴Cause of Death Codes used: Any mention (cod1-cod21) of T40.1 (Heroin).

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

Guilford County Emergency Department Visits by Overdose Type, 2012-2022



Guilford County Overdose Deaths by Drug Type by Year, 2012-2021



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

Drug Overdose Mortality for All Intents, 2021, Guilford County

	Deaths	Mortality Rate per 100,000
Guilford County	250	46.1
Male	180	69.9
Female	70	24.6
White	159	62.2
Black	76	41.2

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics; NC Mortality File, 2021.

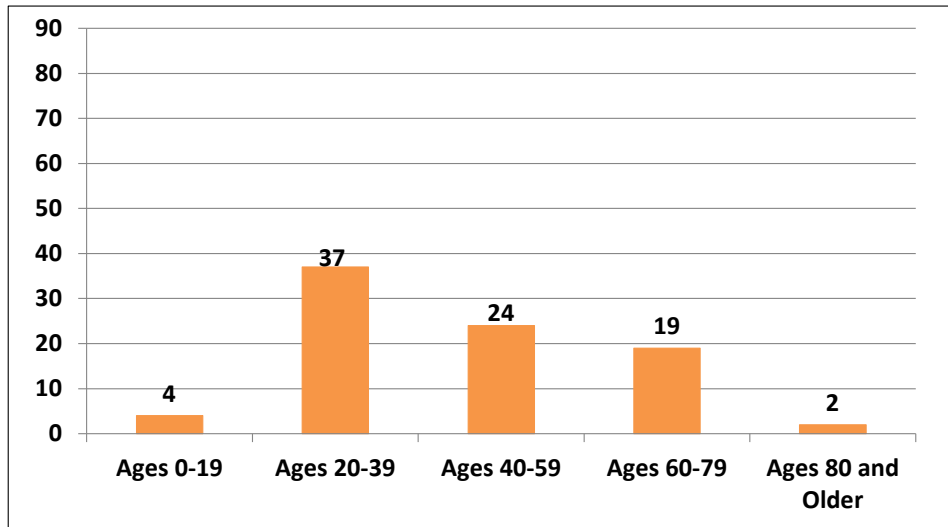
Note: Includes fatal overdoses from all types of medications and drugs, whether unintentional or intentional.

Injury Mortality by Age Group

Motor Vehicle Injury Deaths by Age Group Guilford County, 2021

Number of Deaths

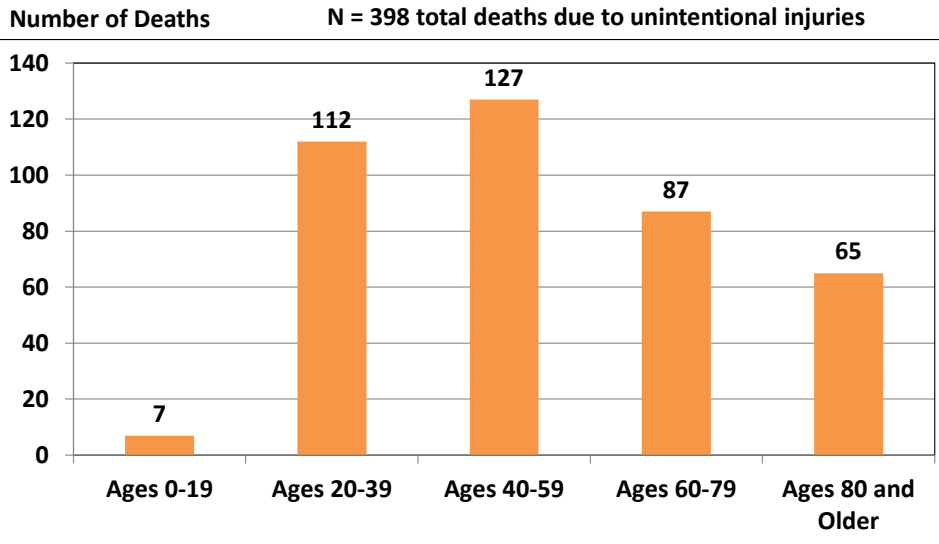
N = 86 total deaths due to motor vehicle crash injuries



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, 2021*

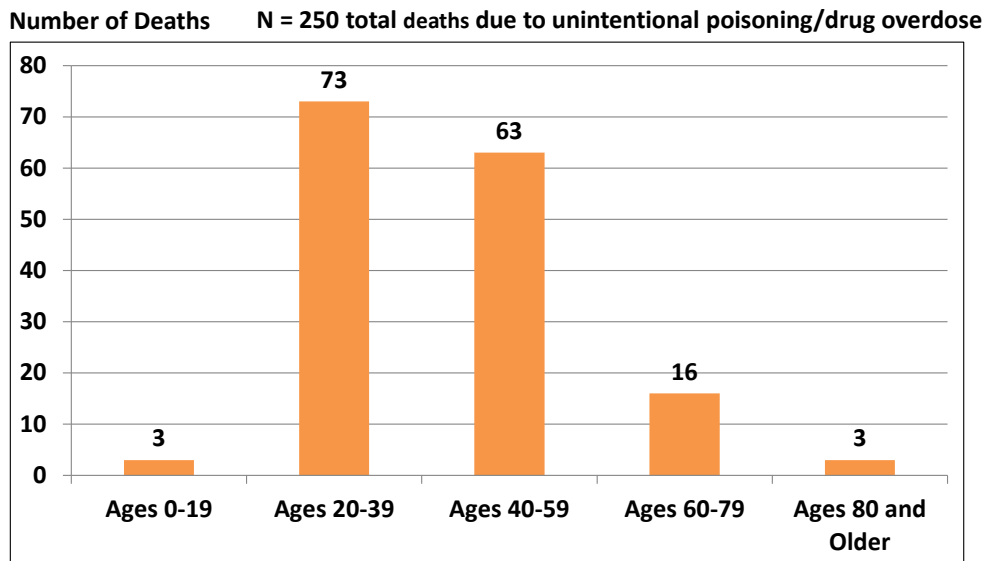


* Unintentional injury deaths include deaths due to unintentional poisoning; falls; drowning or other unintentional threats to breathing; exposure to smoke, fire, and flames; and mechanical forces.

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

Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

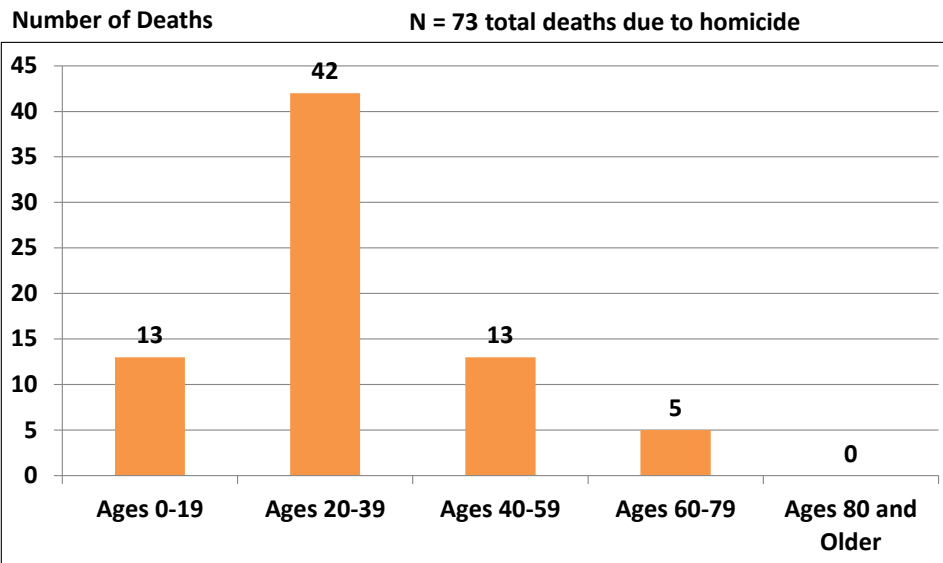
Poisoning/Drug Overdose Deaths by Age Group All Intentions,* Guilford County, 2021



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

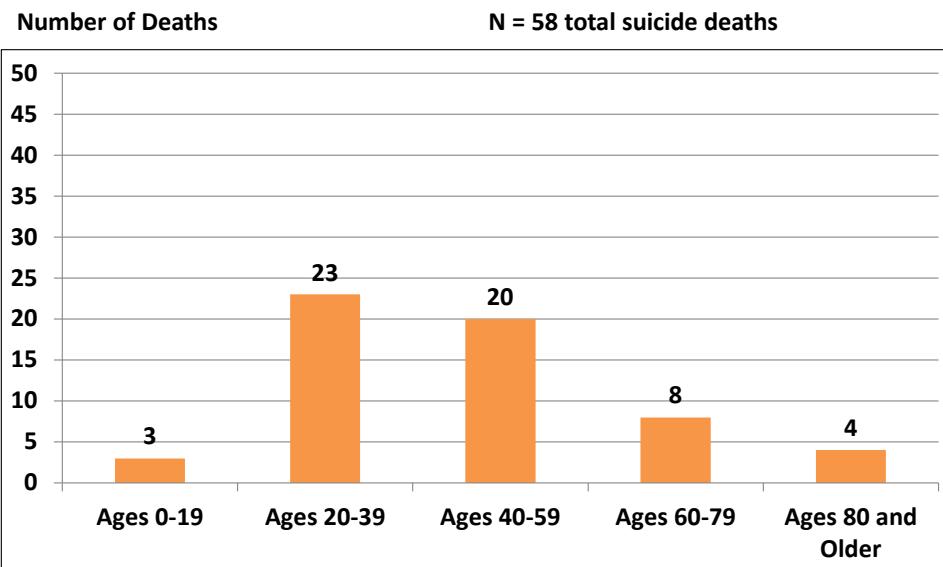
*Includes unintentional and intentional drug overdose deaths.

Homicide Deaths by Age Group Guilford County, 2021



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

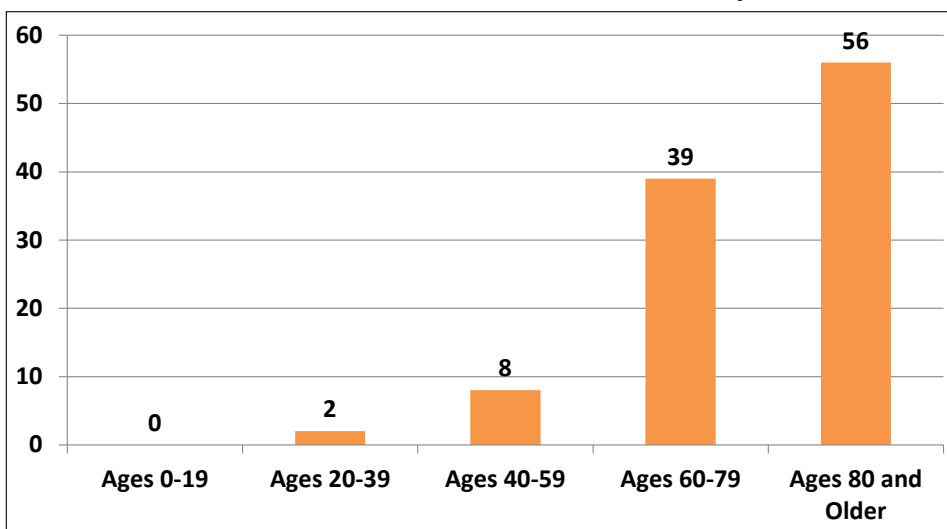
Suicide Deaths by Age Group Guilford County, 2021



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, 2021

Number of Deaths N = 150 total deaths due to injuries from falls

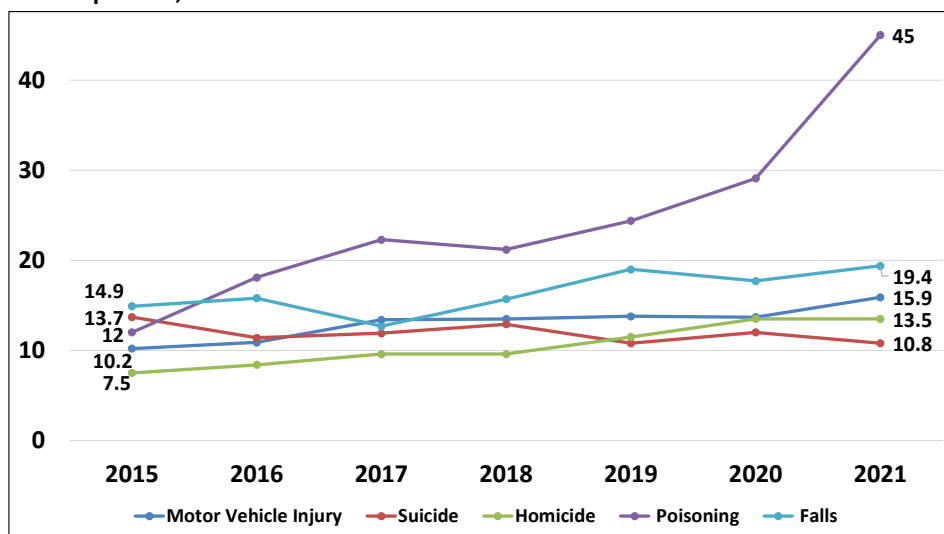


Source: Data provided by the NC Center for Health Statistics.
Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Injury Mortality Trends

Trends in Injury Mortality Guilford County, 2015-2021

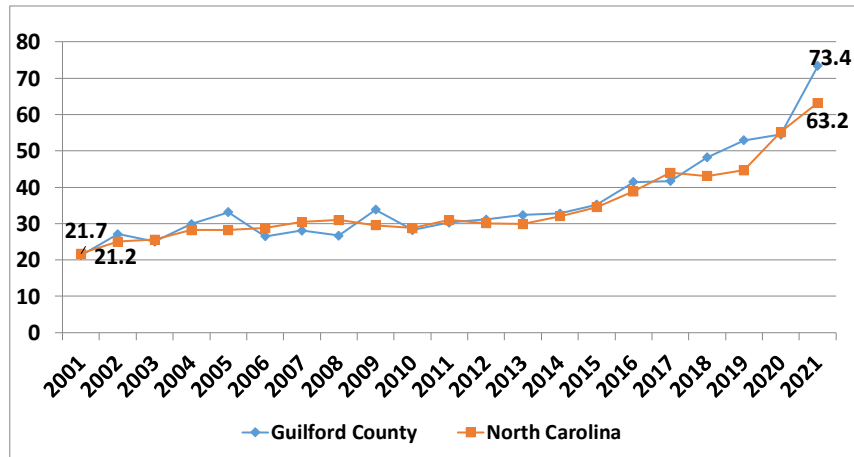
Rate per 100,000



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 Injuries* Guilford County and NC, 2001-2021

Rate per 100,000



Note: Rates are not age-adjusted.

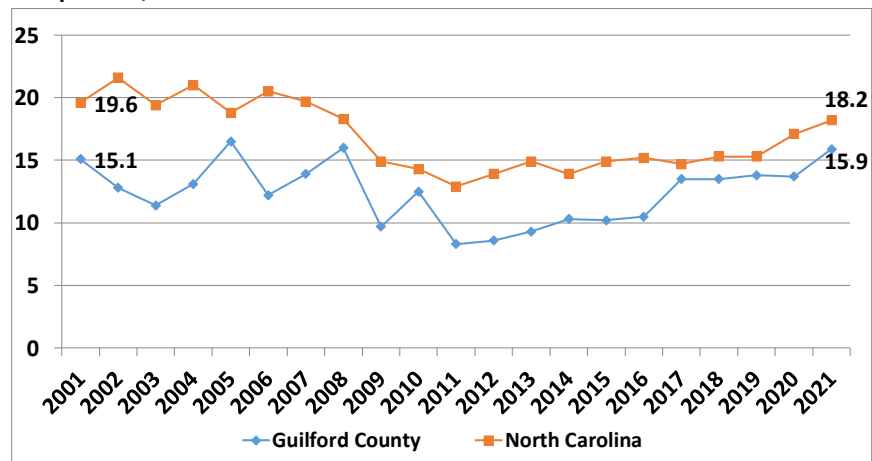
* Unintentional injury deaths include deaths due to unintentional poisoning; falls; drowning or other unintentional threats to breathing; exposure to smoke, fire, and flames; and mechanical forces.

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, 2001-2021

Rate per 100,000



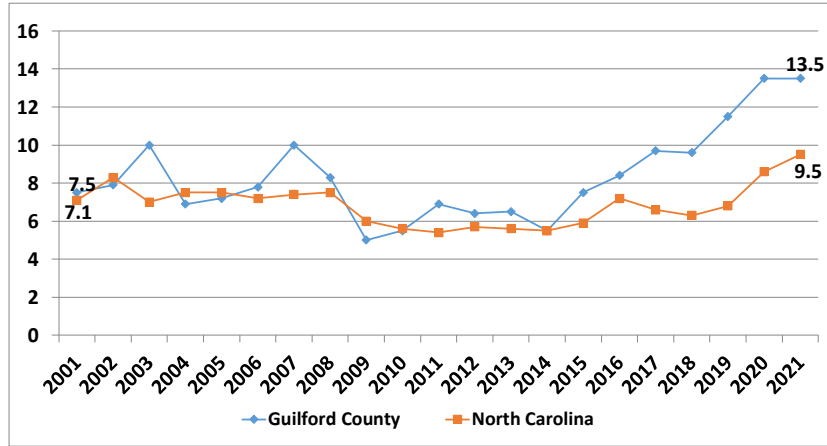
Note: Rates are not age-adjusted.

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, 2001-2021

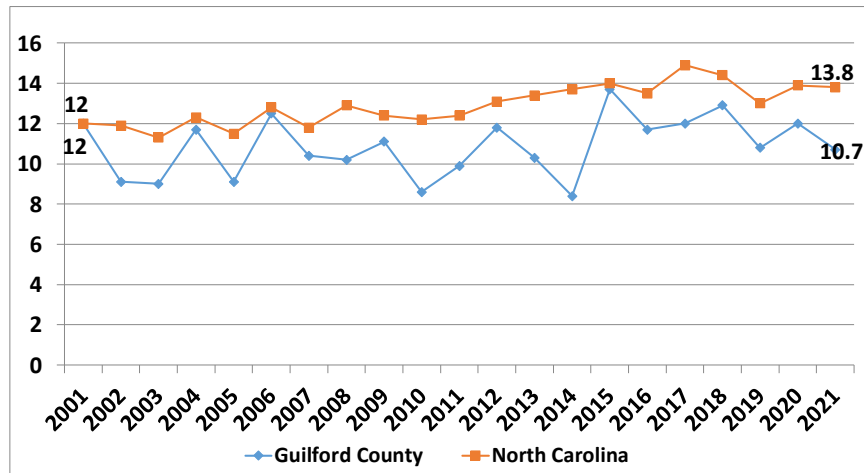
Rate per 100,000



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, 2001-2021

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.