



Child Fatality Prevention Team 2017-2018 Annual Report

The North Carolina General Assembly has established a network of local Child Fatality Prevention Teams across the state to confidentially review details related to the deaths of any county residents under the age of 18. We review deaths that occurred over one year ago to allow for time to collect medical records, medical examiner reports, death certificates and any other applicable records. Each local team consists of representatives of public agencies and nonpublic agencies in the community, such as: Law Enforcement, Department of Social Services, Guardian Ad Litem, Health Department, among others, that provide services to children and their families.

The purpose of this report is to give a summary of the causes of death, number of cases reviewed, and share our team recommendations. We look to you to help us advocate for system improvements and needed resources to prevent such fatalities in the future.

Our Ashe County Child Fatality Prevention Team meets every other month in conjunction with the Community Child Protection Team.

In 2017:

- Ashe County CFPT reviewed 5 deaths.
 - Three deaths were caused by complications from existing illnesses, all of which received appropriate medical care.
 - One death was due to premature birth, although appropriate prenatal care had been provided.
 - One death was caused by suicide. The CFPT recommends community education around suicide prevention.
- In comparison with state statistics:
 - There were 270 child deaths related to illnesses, of which Ashe had three deaths.
 - There were 452 infant deaths related to perinatal conditions, of which Ashe had one death.
 - There were 44 child deaths related to suicide, of which Ashe had one death.

In 2018:

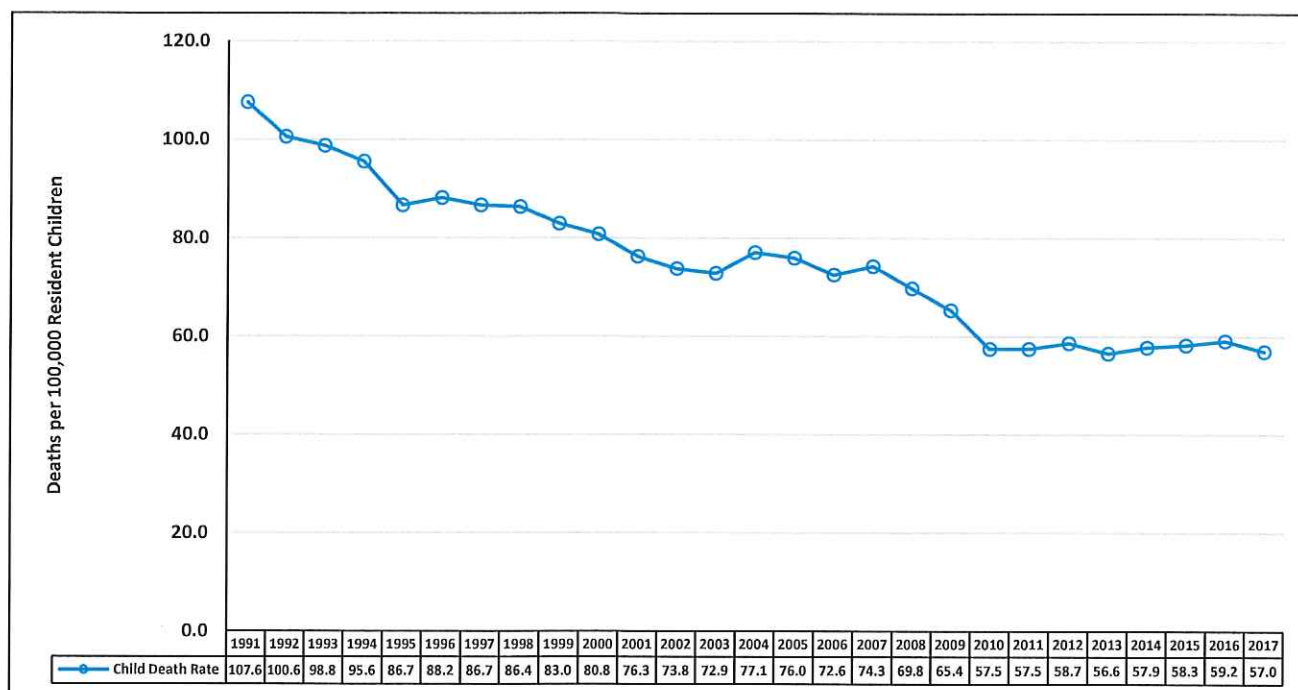
- Ashe County CFPT reviewed 3 deaths.
 - All three deaths were due to perinatal conditions with premature birth, although appropriate prenatal care had been provided in all cases.
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- In comparison with state statistics:
 - There were 460 infant deaths related to perinatal conditions, of which Ashe had three deaths.

I have enclosed additional excerpts from the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force. They provide statistics and background for the consideration of public health stakeholders and child advocates.

Thank you to the members of the County Commissioners for the opportunity to share the dedicated work of your Child Fatality Prevention Team as we continue to review child fatalities, make recommendations, and take actions to prevent future child deaths in Ashe County.

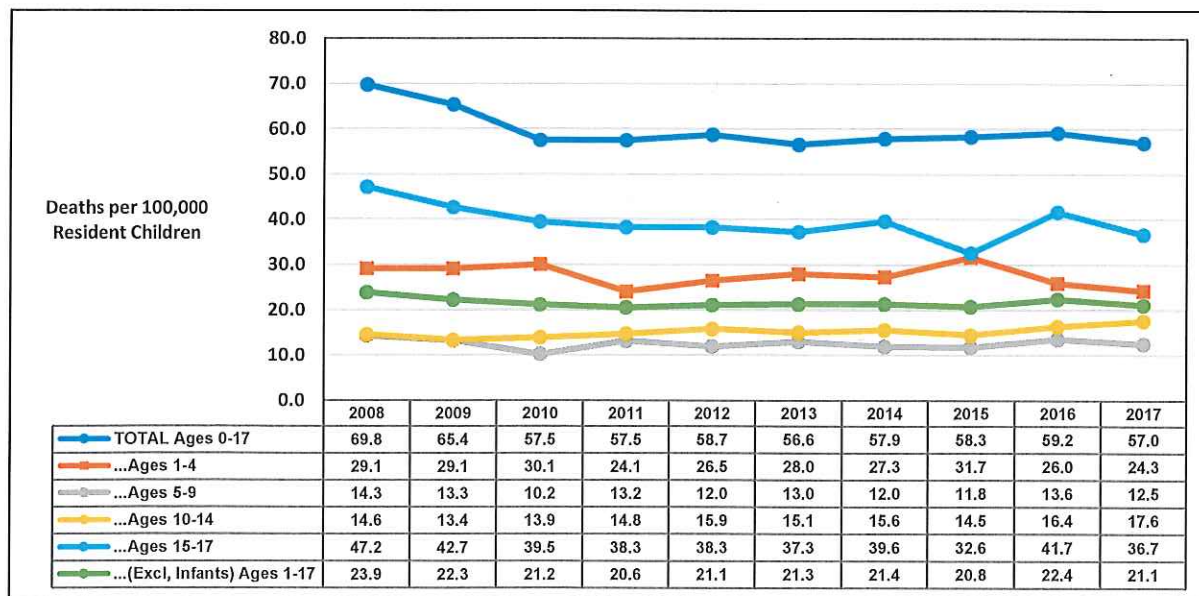
CHILD DEATHS IN NORTH CAROLINA: ANNUAL REPORT

1991-2017 Trends in North Carolina Resident Child Death Rates, Ages Birth Through 17 Years



CHILD DEATHS IN NORTH CAROLINA: ANNUAL REPORT

2008-2017 Trends in North Carolina Child Death Rates[†] by Age Group



2017 NC Resident Child Deaths By Age Group & Cause of Death												
	TOTAL, AGES 0-17		AGE GROUP (years)									
			Infants		1-4		5-9		10-14		15-17	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
TOTAL DEATHS	1313	100	852	64.9	119	9.1	79	6	116	8.8	147	11
Cause of Death:												
Perinatal Conditions	460	35.0	458	34.9	1	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0
Illnesses	253	19.3	90	6.9	39	3	45	3.4	44	3.4	35	2.7
Birth Defects	172	13.1	145	11	11	0.8	6	0.5	8	0.6	2	0.2
Motor Vehicle Injuries	100	7.6	5	0.4	17	1.3	11	0.8	26	2	41	3.1
Other Unintentional Injuries	75	5.7	15	1.1	26	2	9	0.7	4	0.3	21	1.6
...Suffocation/Choking/Strangulation	21	1.6	13	1	7	0.5	0	0	1	0.1	0	0
...Drowning	25	1.9	1	0.1	9	0.7	5	0.4	2	0.2	8	0.6
...Poisoning	12	0.9	1	0.1	3	0.2	0	0	1	0.1	7	0.5
...Bicycle	1	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
...All Other Accidental Injuries	16	1.2	0	0	7	0.5	4	0.3	0	0	5	0.4
Homicide	55	4.2	15	1.1	9	0.7	6	0.5	6	0.5	19	1.4
...Involving Firearm	26	2	0	0	1	0.1	3	0.2	4	0.3	18	1.4
...All Other Homicides	29	2.2	15	1.1	8	0.6	3	0.2	2	0.2	1	0.1
Suicide	44	3.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	1.5	24	1.8
...by Firearm	18	1.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0.8	8	0.6
...by Hanging	24	1.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0.8	14	1.1
...by Poisoning	1	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
...All Other Suicides	1	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
All Other Causes of Death	154	11.7	124	9.4	16	1.2	2	0.2	7	0.5	5	0.4

† Child death rates prior to 2017 have been recalculated using the latest available population data

Note on Cause of Death Figures: Numbers in this report from the State Center for Health Statistics (SCHS) may differ slightly from numbers reported later by the office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). The State Center for Health Statistics bases its statistics on death certificate coding only, and closes out annual data at a specific point in time. The OCME makes its determinations utilizing a variety of information sources when conducting its death reviews, does not close out its data, and some of its cases are still pending when the State Center for Health Statistics closes its annual data files. Therefore, the cause and manner determined by the OCME may be modified based on OCME review after the time period during which the SCHS finalizes annual data files.

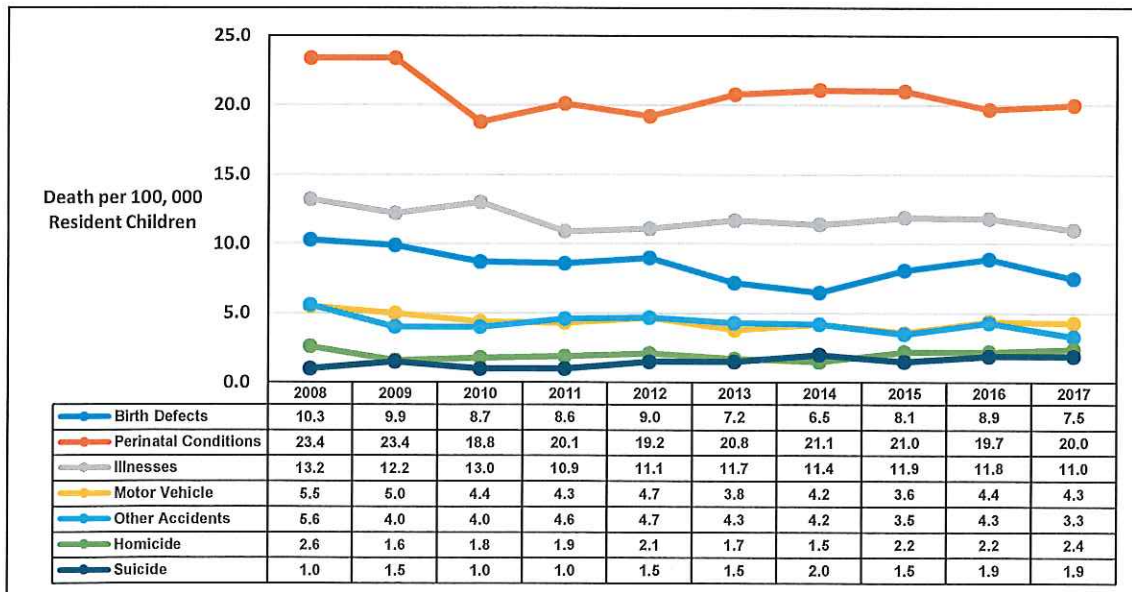
CHILD DEATHS IN NORTH CAROLINA: ANNUAL REPORT

2008-2017 Trends in North Carolina Resident Child Death Rates
by Race/Ethnicity, Ages Birth Through 17 Years



CHILD DEATHS IN NORTH CAROLINA: ANNUAL REPORT

2008-2017 Trends in North Carolina Resident Child Death Rates
for Selected Cause of Death, Ages Birth Through 17 years



CHILD DEATHS IN NORTH CAROLINA: ANNUAL REPORT
 Leading Causes of Child Death by Age Group, NC Residents 2017

All Ages, 0-17			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Conditions originating in the perinatal period	460	35.0
2	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	172	13.1
3	Motor vehicle injuries	100	7.6
4	Other Unintentional injuries	73	5.6
5	Homicide	55	4.2
6	Cancer	46	3.5
7	Suicide	44	3.4
8	Diseases of the heart	32	2.4
9	Pneumonia & influenza	14	1.1
10	Cerebrovascular disease	12	0.9
	All other causes (Residual)	305	23.2
Total Deaths --- All Causes		1,313	100.0

Ages 1 to 17			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Motor vehicle injuries	95	20.6
2	Other Unintentional injuries	59	12.8
3	Cancer	45	9.8
4	Suicide	44	9.5
5	Homicide	40	8.7
6	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	27	5.9
7	Diseases of the heart	22	4.8
8	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	10	2.2
9	Cerebrovascular disease	8	1.7
9	Pneumonia & influenza	8	1.7
	All other causes (Residual)	103	22.3
Total Deaths --- All Causes		461	100.0

Infants			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Short gestation - low birthweight	162	19.0
2	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	145	17.0
3	Maternal complications of pregnancy	59	6.9
4	Complications of placenta, cord, and membranes	35	4.1
5	Bacterial sepsis	30	3.5
6	Respiratory distress	25	2.9
7	Diseases of the circulatory system	17	2.0
8	Atelectasis	16	1.9
9	Homicide	15	1.8
10	Other unintentional injuries	14	1.6
	All other causes (Residual)	334	39.2
Total Deaths --- All Causes		852	100.0

Ages 1 to 4			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Other Unintentional injuries	25	21.0
2	Motor vehicle injuries	17	14.3
3	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	11	9.2
4	Homicide	9	7.6
5	Cancer	7	5.9
6	Diseases of the heart	4	3.4
6	Cerebrovascular disease	4	3.4
8	Pneumonia & influenza	2	1.7
9	In-situ/benign neoplasms	1	0.8
9	Acute bronchitis & bronchiolitis	1	0.8
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, & nephrosis	1	0.8
9	Conditions originating in the perinatal period	1	0.8
	All other causes (Residual)	36	30.3
Total Deaths --- All Causes		119	100.0

CHILD DEATHS IN NORTH CAROLINA: ANNUAL REPORT
Leading Causes of Child Death by Age Group, NC Residents 2017

Ages 5 to 9			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Cancer	14	17.7
2	Motor vehicle injuries	11	13.9
3	Other Unintentional injuries	9	11.4
4	Diseases of the heart	8	10.1
5	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	6	7.6
5	Homicide	6	7.6
7	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	5	6.3
8	Pneumonia & influenza	4	5.1
9	In-situ/benign neoplasms	2	2.5
	All other causes (Residual)	14	17.7
Total Deaths --- All Causes		79	100.0

Ages 10 to 14			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Motor vehicle injuries	26	22.4
2	Suicide	20	17.2
3	Cancer	12	10.3
4	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	8	6.9
5	Homicide	6	5.2
6	Diseases of the heart	5	4.3
7	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	4	3.4
7	Other Unintentional injuries	4	3.4
9	Cerebrovascular disease	3	2.6
10	Septicemia	2	1.7
10	Pneumonia & influenza	2	1.7
	All other causes (Residual)	24	20.7
Total Deaths --- All Causes		116	100.0

Ages 15 to 17			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Motor vehicle injuries	41	27.9
2	Suicide	24	16.3
3	Other Unintentional injuries	21	14.3
4	Homicide	19	12.9
5	Cancer	12	8.2
6	Diseases of the heart	5	3.4
7	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	2	1.4
8	Anemias	1	0.7
8	Cerebrovascular disease	1	0.7
8	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	1	0.7
8	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, & nephrosis	1	0.7
8	Complications of medical and surgical care	1	0.7
	All other causes (Residual)	18	12.2
Total Deaths --- All Causes		147	100.0