

**Table A:  
Leading Causes of Death\* by Age Group  
North Carolina Residents, 2007**

<i>All Ages</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Diseases of the heart	17,500
2	Cancer	17,425
3	Cerebrovascular disease	4,335
4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	4,228
5	Other unintentional injuries	2,546
6	Alzheimer's disease	2,449
7	Diabetes mellitus	2,150
8	Motor vehicle injuries	1,787
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	1,717
10	Pneumonia and influenza	1,644
	All other causes (Residual)	20,022
	<b>Total Deaths — All Causes</b>	<b>75,803</b>

<i>Infants (Age &lt;1)</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Short gestation — low birthweight	204
2	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	201
3	Maternal complications	101
4	SIDS	98
5	Other unintentional injuries	43
6	Complications of the placenta	37
7	Bacterial sepsis	35
8	Respiratory distress	28
9	Necrotizing enterocolitis	26
10	Diseases of the circulatory system	25
	All other causes (Residual)	309
	<b>Total Deaths — All Causes</b>	<b>1,107</b>

<i>1–4 Years</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Other unintentional injuries	26
2	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	20
3	Motor vehicle injuries	19
4	Diseases of the heart	12
5	Cancer	11
6	Homicide	9
7	In-situ/benign neoplasms	6
8	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	4
9	Septicemia	2
10	Salmonella infections	1
	Acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis	1
	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	1
	Conditions originating in perinatal period	1
	All other causes (Residual)	31
	<b>Total Deaths — All Causes</b>	<b>144</b>

<i>5–14 Years</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Motor vehicle injuries	51
2	Other unintentional injuries	33
3	Cancer	22
4	Homicide	14
5	Diseases of the heart	12
6	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	10
7	Pneumonia and influenza	8
	Suicide	8
9	In-situ/benign neoplasms	6
10	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	3
	All other causes (Residual)	54
	<b>Total Deaths — All Causes</b>	<b>221</b>

\* Leading causes of death are generated from a list of 51 causes of death categories developed by the National Center for Health Statistics to promote comparability in analyses of mortality. For deaths under one year of age, a list of 72 causes of death was used. See Appendices for the ICD-10 codes for these lists of causes.

**Table A: (cont.)**  
**Leading Causes of Death\* by Age Group**  
**North Carolina Residents, 2007**

<i>15–24 Years</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Motor vehicle injuries	401
2	Other unintentional injuries	178
3	Homicide	172
4	Suicide	117
5	Cancer	49
6	Diseases of the heart	25
7	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	11
8	Pneumonia and influenza	8
9	Septicemia	6
	Cerebrovascular disease	6
	Pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium	6
	All other causes (Residual)	105
<b>Total Deaths — All Causes</b>		<b>1,084</b>

<i>25–44 Years</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Other unintentional injuries	602
2	Motor vehicle injuries	601
3	Cancer	568
4	Diseases of the heart	541
5	Suicide	389
6	Homicide	299
7	HIV disease	166
8	Diabetes mellitus	98
9	Cerebrovascular disease	78
10	Chronic liver disease/cirrhosis	73
	All other causes (Residual)	786
<b>Total Deaths — All Causes</b>		<b>4,201</b>

<i>45–64 Years</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Cancer	5,137
2	Diseases of the heart	3,396
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	665
4	Other unintentional injuries	653
5	Cerebrovascular disease	616
6	Diabetes mellitus	582
7	Chronic liver disease/cirrhosis	485
8	Motor vehicle injuries	450
9	Suicide	381
10	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	307
	All other causes (Residual)	3,189
<b>Total Deaths — All Causes</b>		<b>15,861</b>

<i>Ages 65 &amp; Over</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Diseases of the heart	13,493
2	Cancer	11,637
3	Cerebrovascular disease	3,631
4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	3,508
5	Alzheimer's disease	2,408
6	Diabetes mellitus	1,465
7	Pneumonia and influenza	1,435
8	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	1,352
9	Other unintentional injuries	1,011
10	Septicemia	901
	All other causes (Residual)	12,344
<b>Total Deaths — All Causes</b>		<b>53,185</b>

\* Leading causes of death are generated from a list of 51 causes of death categories developed by the National Center for Health Statistics to promote comparability in analyses of mortality. For deaths under one year of age, a list of 72 causes of death was used. See Appendices for the ICD-10 codes for these lists of causes.

**Table B:  
Leading Causes of Death by Race\*  
North Carolina Residents, 2007**

*Note: Hispanic and Non-Hispanic deaths are in Table D on page 8.*

<i>White</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Diseases of the heart	13,728
2	Cancer	13,605
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	3,755
4	Cerebrovascular disease	3,253
5	Other unintentional injuries	2,155
6	Alzheimer's disease	2,110
7	Pneumonia and influenza	1,378
8	Diabetes mellitus	1,358
9	Motor vehicle injuries	1,349
10	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	1,117
	All other causes (Residual)	14,954
	<b>Total Deaths — All Causes</b>	<b>58,762</b>

<i>Black</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Cancer	3,583
2	Diseases of the heart	3,556
3	Cerebrovascular disease	1,010
4	Diabetes mellitus	742
5	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	573
6	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	437
7	Motor vehicle injuries	367
8	Other unintentional injuries	350
9	Homicide	345
10	Septicemia	337
	All other causes (Residual)	4,682
	<b>Total Deaths — All Causes</b>	<b>15,982</b>

<i>American Indian</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Diseases of the heart	156
2	Cancer	143
3	Motor vehicle injuries	52
4	Cerebrovascular disease	41
5	Diabetes mellitus	33
6	Other unintentional injuries	30
7	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	29
8	Homicide	22
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	19
10	Conditions originating in perinatal period	18
	All other causes (Residual)	170
	<b>Total Deaths — All Causes</b>	<b>713</b>

<i>All Other Races</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Cancer	94
2	Diseases of the heart	60
3	Cerebrovascular disease	31
4	Motor vehicle injuries	19
5	Diabetes mellitus	17
6	Other unintentional injuries	11
7	Conditions originating in perinatal period	9
8	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	8
9	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	7
10	Homicide	6
	All other causes (Residual)	84
	<b>Total Deaths — All Causes</b>	<b>346</b>

\* Caution should be taken when comparing the number of deaths across racial groupings. Population size varies considerably from one racial group to another. The number of deaths for each group is to a large extent a reflection of that population size.

**Table C:  
Leading Causes of Death by Sex  
North Carolina Residents, 2007**

<i>Female</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Diseases of the heart	8,593
2	Cancer	8,236
3	Cerebrovascular disease	2,604
4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	2,226
5	Alzheimer's disease	1,804
6	Diabetes mellitus	1,091
7	Other unintentional injuries	1,053
8	Pneumonia and influenza	923
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	907
10	Septicemia	672
	All other causes (Residual)	10,195
	<b>Total Deaths — All Causes</b>	<b>38,304</b>

<i>Male</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Cancer	9,189
2	Diseases of the heart	8,907
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	2,001
4	Cerebrovascular disease	1,731
5	Other unintentional injuries	1,493
6	Motor vehicle injuries	1,285
7	Diabetes mellitus	1,059
8	Suicide	818
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	810
10	Pneumonia and influenza	721
	All other causes (Residual)	9,482
	<b>Total Deaths — All Causes</b>	<b>37,496</b>

**Table D:  
Leading Causes of Death by Hispanicity  
North Carolina Residents, 2007**

<i>Hispanic</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Motor vehicle injuries	143
2	Cancer	120
3	Diseases of the heart	82
4	Homicide	79
5	Conditions originating in perinatal period	69
6	Other unintentional injuries	56
7	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	44
8	Suicide	30
9	Cerebrovascular disease	24
10	Diabetes mellitus	22
	All other causes (Residual)	183
	<b>Total Deaths — All Causes</b>	<b>852</b>

<i>Non-Hispanic</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Diseases of the heart	17,418
2	Cancer	17,305
3	Cerebrovascular disease	4,311
4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	4,221
5	Other unintentional injuries	2,490
6	Alzheimer's disease	2,432
7	Diabetes mellitus	2,128
8	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	1,709
9	Motor vehicle injuries	1,644
10	Pneumonia and influenza	1,634
	All other causes (Residual)	19,659
	<b>Total Deaths — All Causes</b>	<b>74,951</b>

NOTE: Overall totals may not add up to the sum of the individual categories due to records with unknown gender or ethnicity.

**Table E:  
North Carolina Resident Mortality Statistics  
Summary for 2003–2007**

Leading Causes of Death	Number of Deaths 2007	Death Rate 2007	Number of Deaths 2003–2007	Unadjusted Death Rate 2003–2007	Age-Adjusted Death Rate 2003–2007
Diseases of Heart	17,500	193.0	88,563	203.3	210.7
Acute Myocardial Infarction	3,659	40.3	20,073	46.1	47.6
Other Ischemic Heart Disease	7,529	83.0	38,392	88.1	91.2
Hypertension	677	7.5	3,581	8.2	8.6
Cerebrovascular Disease	4,335	47.8	23,869	54.8	57.6
Atherosclerosis	233	2.6	1,292	3.0	3.2
Cancer	17,425	192.1	83,910	192.6	194.9
Lip, Oral cavity, and Pharynx	229	2.5	1,200	2.8	2.7
Stomach	319	3.5	1,554	3.6	3.6
Colon, Rectum, and Anus	1,604	17.7	7,640	17.5	17.8
Liver	446	4.9	2,023	4.6	4.6
Pancreas	1,029	11.3	4,798	11.0	11.2
Larynx	121	1.3	609	1.4	1.4
Trachea, Bronchus, and Lung	5,344	58.9	25,811	59.2	59.6
Malignant Melanoma of Skin	263	2.9	1,287	3.0	3.0
Bladder	379	4.2	1,749	4.0	4.2
Brain Tumors	373	4.1	1,812	4.2	4.1
Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma	578	6.4	2,872	6.6	6.8
Leukemia	637	7.0	3,016	6.9	7.1
Diabetes Mellitus	2,150	23.7	11,269	25.9	26.4
Pneumonia and Influenza	1,644	18.1	8,837	20.3	21.4
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	4,228	46.6	19,851	45.6	47.5
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	885	9.8	3,994	9.2	8.9
Septicemia	1,206	13.3	5,989	13.7	14.2
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, and Nephrosis	1,717	18.9	7,750	17.8	18.5
Unintentional Motor Vehicle Injuries	1,787	19.7	8,398	19.3	19.1
All Other Unintentional Injuries	2,546	28.1	11,874	27.3	27.8
Suicide	1,074	11.8	5,132	11.8	11.7
Homicide	668	7.4	3,136	7.2	7.1
Alzheimer's Disease	2,449	27.0	11,449	26.3	28.3
HIV Disease	382	4.2	2,081	4.8	4.7
Total Deaths — All Causes	75,803	835.8	370,019	849.2	875.3

**Table F:  
North Carolina Resident Sex-Specific Mortality Statistics  
Summary for 2003–2007**

Sex-Specific Causes of Cancer Death	Number of Deaths 2007	Death Rate 2007	Number of Deaths 2003–2007	Unadjusted Death Rate 2003–2007	Age-Adjusted Death Rate 2003–2007
Breast	1,298	28.3	6,242	28.2	25.5
Cervix Uteri	120	2.6	579	2.6	2.4
Ovary	397	8.6	2,076	9.4	8.4
Prostate	873	19.5	4,313	20.1	28.3

*Notes: All death rates are per 100,000 population. The sex-specific death rates cannot be compared to the other leading causes of death because the denominators are sex-specific. Therefore, in ranking the causes of death—for example, in ranking the leading cancer sites—one must use the observed numbers of deaths. Breast cancer includes a few deaths to males, while the denominator of the rate is the female population, the primary population at risk. See Appendices for cause of death codes.*