

**Table A:
Leading Causes of Death* by Age Group
North Carolina Residents, 2008**

<i>All Ages</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Diseases of the heart	17,417
2	Cancer	17,403
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	4,527
4	Cerebrovascular disease	4,477
5	Other unintentional injuries	2,713
6	Alzheimer's disease	2,620
7	Diabetes mellitus	2,164
8	Pneumonia and influenza	1,750
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	1,725
10	Motor vehicle injuries	1,544
	All other causes (Residual)	20,717
	Total Deaths — All Causes	77,057

<i>Infants (Age <1)</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Short gestation — low birthweight	209
2	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	203
3	SIDS	136
4	Maternal complications of pregnancy	75
5	Complications of the placenta	43
6	Other unintentional injuries	31
7	Diseases of the circulatory system	29
8	Respiratory distress	26
9	Bacterial sepsis	23
10	Necrotizing enterocolitis	18
	All other causes (Residual)	273
	Total Deaths — All Causes	1,066

<i>1–4 Years</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Other unintentional injuries	35
2	Motor vehicle injuries	18
3	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	15
4	Homicide	13
5	Cancer	9
6	Diseases of the heart	7
7	Pneumonia and influenza	3
8	In-situ/benign neoplasms	2
9	Cerebrovascular disease	1
	Acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis	1
	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	1
	Complications of medical and surgical care	1
	All other causes (Residual)	40
	Total Deaths — All Causes	146

<i>5–14 Years</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Motor vehicle injuries	32
	Other unintentional injuries	32
3	Cancer	31
4	Homicide	12
5	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	8
6	Diseases of the heart	7
7	In-situ/benign neoplasms	5
	Suicide	5
9	Cerebrovascular disease	3
	Pneumonia and influenza	3
	Conditions originating in the perinatal period	3
	All other causes (Residual)	38
	Total Deaths — All Causes	179

* 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, 2008

<i>15–24 Years</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Motor vehicle injuries	344
2	Other unintentional injuries	196
3	Homicide	177
4	Suicide	136
5	Cancer	43
6	Diseases of the heart	36
7	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	16
8	Cerebrovascular disease	10
9	Diabetes mellitus	8
10	In-situ/benign neoplasms	5
	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	5
	All other causes (Residual)	113
	Total Deaths — All Causes	1,089

<i>25–44 Years</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Other unintentional injuries	604
2	Diseases of the heart	530
3	Cancer	525
4	Motor vehicle injuries	503
5	Suicide	414
6	Homicide	285
7	HIV disease	134
8	Cerebrovascular disease	90
9	Chronic liver disease/cirrhosis	84
10	Diabetes mellitus	77
	All other causes (Residual)	766
	Total Deaths — All Causes	4,012

<i>45–64 Years</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Cancer	5,078
2	Diseases of the heart	3,497
3	Other unintentional injuries	697
4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	666
5	Cerebrovascular disease	606
6	Diabetes mellitus	592
7	Chronic liver disease/cirrhosis	515
8	Suicide	429
9	Motor vehicle injuries	413
10	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	303
	All other causes (Residual)	3,409
	Total Deaths — All Causes	16,205

<i>Ages 65 & Over</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Diseases of the heart	13,321
2	Cancer	11,717
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	3,802
4	Cerebrovascular disease	3,761
5	Alzheimer's disease	2,585
6	Diabetes mellitus	1,487
7	Pneumonia and influenza	1,477
8	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	1,368
9	Other unintentional injuries	1,118
10	Septicemia	1,030
	All other causes (Residual)	12,694
	Total Deaths — All Causes	54,360

* 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, 2008**

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

<i>White</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Diseases of the heart	13,739
2	Cancer	13,703
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	4,003
4	Cerebrovascular disease	3,394
5	Other unintentional injuries	2,286
6	Alzheimer's disease	2,247
7	Pneumonia and influenza	1,437
8	Diabetes mellitus	1,375
9	Motor vehicle injuries	1,173
10	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	1,130
	All other causes (Residual)	15,689
	Total Deaths — All Causes	60,176

<i>Black</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Diseases of the heart	3,472
2	Cancer	3,465
3	Cerebrovascular disease	1,028
4	Diabetes mellitus	747
5	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	561
6	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	498
7	Other unintentional injuries	375
8	Alzheimer's disease	348
9	Septicemia	341
10	Homicide	325
	All other causes (Residual)	4,641
	Total Deaths — All Causes	15,801

<i>American Indian</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Cancer	146
2	Diseases of the heart	142
3	Other unintentional injuries	38
4	Motor vehicle injuries	36
5	Diabetes mellitus	31
6	Cerebrovascular disease	28
7	Homicide	25
8	Alzheimer's disease	22
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	21
10	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	19
	All other causes (Residual)	196
	Total Deaths — All Causes	704

<i>All Other Races</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Cancer	89
2	Diseases of the heart	64
3	Cerebrovascular disease	27
4	Suicide	19
5	Motor vehicle injuries	15
6	Other unintentional injuries	14
7	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	13
8	Diabetes mellitus	11
	Homicide	11
10	Chronic liver disease/cirrhosis	9
	Conditions originating in perinatal period	9
	All other causes (Residual)	95
	Total Deaths — All Causes	376

* 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, 2008**

<i>Female</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Diseases of the heart	8,493
2	Cancer	8,186
3	Cerebrovascular disease	2,677
4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	2,387
5	Alzheimer's disease	1,937
6	Diabetes mellitus	1,096
7	Other unintentional injuries	1,093
8	Pneumonia and influenza	1,001
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	885
10	Septicemia	747
	All other causes (Residual)	10,500
	Total Deaths — All Causes	39,002

<i>Male</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Cancer	9,217
2	Diseases of the heart	8,924
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	2,140
4	Cerebrovascular disease	1,800
5	Other unintentional injuries	1,620
6	Motor vehicle injuries	1,101
7	Diabetes mellitus	1,068
8	Suicide	890
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	840
10	Pneumonia and influenza	749
	All other causes (Residual)	9,705
	Total Deaths — All Causes	38,054

**Table D:
Leading Causes of Death by Hispanicity
North Carolina Residents, 2008**

<i>Hispanic</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Cancer	142
2	Motor vehicle injuries	132
3	Diseases of the heart	88
4	Homicide	80
5	Conditions originating in perinatal period	62
6	Other unintentional injuries	62
7	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)	44
8	Cerebrovascular disease	35
9	Suicide	35
10	Diabetes mellitus	20
	All other causes (Residual)	208
	Total Deaths — All Causes	908

<i>Non-Hispanic</i>		
Rank	Cause	Number
1	Diseases of the heart	17,329
2	Cancer	17,261
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	4,513
4	Cerebrovascular disease	4,442
5	Other unintentional injuries	2,651
6	Alzheimer's disease	2,612
7	Diabetes mellitus	2,144
8	Pneumonia and influenza	1,734
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, nephrosis	1,716
10	Motor vehicle injuries	1,412
	All other causes (Residual)	20,335
	Total Deaths — All Causes	76,149

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 2004–2008**

Leading Causes of Death	Number of Deaths 2008	Death Rate 2008	Number of Deaths 2004–2008	Unadjusted Death Rate 2004–2008	Age-Adjusted Death Rate 2004–2008
Diseases of the Heart	17,417	188.8	87,332	196.8	202.2
Acute Myocardial Infarction	3,724	40.4	19,302	43.5	44.5
Other Ischemic Heart Disease	7,309	79.2	37,538	84.6	86.7
Hypertension	757	8.2	3,637	8.2	8.5
Cerebrovascular Disease	4,477	48.5	23,158	52.2	54.4
Atherosclerosis	177	1.9	1,175	2.6	2.8
Cancer	17,403	188.6	85,206	192.0	192.5
Lip, Oral Cavity, and Pharynx	248	2.7	1,199	2.7	2.7
Stomach	310	3.4	1,535	3.5	3.5
Colon, Rectum, and Anus	1,503	16.3	7,627	17.2	17.3
Liver	522	5.7	2,179	4.9	4.8
Pancreas	998	10.8	4,909	11.1	11.1
Larynx	138	1.5	637	1.4	1.4
Trachea, Bronchus, and Lung	5,353	58.0	26,325	59.3	59.1
Malignant Melanoma of Skin	291	3.2	1,347	3.0	3.0
Bladder	373	4.0	1,803	4.1	4.2
Brain Tumors	399	4.3	1,826	4.1	4.1
Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma	549	5.9	2,845	6.4	6.5
Leukemia	608	6.6	3,039	6.8	7.0
Diabetes Mellitus	2,164	23.5	11,049	24.9	25.2
Pneumonia and Influenza	1,750	19.0	8,599	19.4	20.3
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	4,527	49.1	20,522	46.2	47.8
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	952	10.3	4,199	9.5	9.1
Septicemia	1,350	14.6	6,130	13.8	14.2
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, and Nephrosis	1,725	18.7	8,089	18.2	18.8
Unintentional Motor Vehicle Injuries	1,544	16.7	8,308	18.7	18.6
All Other Unintentional Injuries	2,713	29.4	12,435	28.0	28.4
Suicide	1,160	12.6	5,343	12.0	11.9
Homicide	664	7.2	3,208	7.2	7.2
Alzheimer's Disease	2,620	28.4	11,926	26.9	28.7
HIV Disease	355	3.8	1,982	4.5	4.4
Total Deaths — All Causes	77,057	835.1	373,846	842.4	861.4

**Table F:
North Carolina Resident Sex-Specific Mortality Statistics
Summary for 2004–2008**

Sex-Specific Causes of Cancer Death	Number of Deaths 2008	Death Rate 2008	Number of Deaths 2004–2008	Unadjusted Death Rate 2004–2008	Age-Adjusted Death Rate 2004–2008
Breast	1,257	26.9	6,301	28.0	25.0
Cervix Uteri	111	2.4	586	2.6	2.4
Ovary	411	8.8	2,081	9.3	8.2
Prostate	895	19.6	4,314	19.7	27.3

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.