

| 2020 | Leading Causes of Death Data Brief |



Key Findings from 2018 Mortality 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.

- Cancers and heart disease together comprised about 39% of all deaths in Guilford County in 2019.
- Males had more deaths due to cancer, heart disease, unintentional injuries, chronic liver disease, Parkinson's Disease, suicide and homicide, while females had higher mortality rates of dementia, stroke, Alzheimer's Disease and chronic lower respiratory disease.
- African-Americans had higher age-adjusted mortality rates than Whites for heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes and homicide, while Whites had higher age-adjusted mortality rates due to chronic lower respiratory disease chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, and unintentional injuries.
- Lung cancer is the leading type of cancer mortality, followed by colorectal and breast cancers.
- In 2017, the leading causes of death among children and young adults were motor vehicle crashes and other unintentional injuries, followed by homicide and suicide.
- Since 2010, the diabetes mortality rate in Guilford County shows an increasing trend.

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

Selected Leading Causes of Death, All Residents, Guilford County, 2018

Cause of Death	Deaths	Mortality Rate per 100,000
Total Deaths from All Causes	4604	862.7
Cancer	968	181.4
Heart Disease	812	152.2
Dementia	274	51.3
Stroke	270	50.6
Non-Motor Vehicle Injuries	257	48.2
Alzheimer's Disease	247	46.3
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	199	37.3
Diabetes	159	29.8
Flu and Pneumonia	120	22.5
Kidney Disease	106	19.9
Septicemia	87	16.3
Motor Vehicle Injuries	72	13.5
Suicide	69	12.9
Liver Disease	68	12.7
Homicide	51	9.6
Parkinson's Disease	51	9.6
Congenital Malformations	24	4.5
Perinatal Conditions	23	4.3
Essential (Primary) Hypertension	20	3.7
Other Causes	715	NA
2018 Guilford County Population	533,670	

Deaths from Cancer by Type, All Residents, Guilford County, 2018

Cancer Cause of Death	Deaths	Rate per 100,000
Lung Cancer	248	46.5
Breast Cancer	81	28.8
Prostate Cancer	49	19.4
Colorectal Cancer	80	15.0
Pancreatic Cancer	74	13.9
Ovarian Cancer	28	10.0
Leukemia	39	7.3
Bladder Cancer	35	6.6
Liver Cancer	33	6.2
Oral Cancer	23	4.3
Brain Cancer	21	3.9
Stomach Cancer	19	3.6
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	18	3.4
Kidney Cancer	18	3.4
Skin Cancer	15	2.8
Cervical Cancer	5	1.8
Larynx Cancer	9	1.7
Other cancer deaths	173	NA

Source: NC Mortality File, Center for Health Statistics; NCHS Bridged Population Estimates

Note: Rates for Breast and Prostate cancer are based on the population of females and males in Guilford County, respectively.

Leading Causes of Death by Sex

Deaths and Unadjusted Rates per 100,000, Guilford County, 2018

Cause of Death	Females		Males	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Cancer	476	169.4	492	194.7
Heart Disease	393	139.9	419	165.8
Alzheimer's Disease	177	63.0	70	27.7
Dementia	175	62.3	99	39.2
Stroke	165	58.7	105	41.6
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	131	46.6	68	26.9
Non-Motor Vehicle Injuries	109	38.8	148	58.6
Diabetes	71	25.3	88	34.8
Flu and Pneumonia	58	20.6	62	24.5
Kidney Disease	55	19.6	51	20.2
Septicemia	43	15.3	44	17.4
Liver Disease	31	11.0	37	14.6
Motor Vehicle Injuries	23	8.2	49	19.4
Suicide	15	5.3	54	21.4
Parkinson's Disease	14	5.0	37	14.6
Hypertension	13	4.6	7	2.8
Congenital Malformations	13	4.6	11	4.4
Homicide	9	3.2	42	16.6
Perinatal Conditions	7	2.5	16	6.3
HIV	3	1.1	9	3.6
Other Causes	359	NA	356	NA
Total Deaths All Causes	2,340	832.8	2,264	896.0
2018 Total Population by Sex	280,983		252,687	

Source: NC Mortality File, Center for Health Statistics.

Note: Use caution when interpreting rates based on small numbers, i.e., less than 10.

Leading Causes of Death, by Race and Ethnicity

Deaths and Unadjusted Mortality Rates per 100,000, Guilford County, 2018

Cause of Death	White		Black		Asian		Hispanic	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Cancer	655	214.5	286	147.7	23	76.2	19	43.7
Heart Disease	551	180.5	243	125.5	13	43.1	9	20.7
Dementia	206	67.5	66	34.1	1	3.3	2	4.6
Stroke	195	63.9	63	32.5	12	39.8	6	13.8
Non-Motor Vehicle Injuries	196	64.2	58	30.0	3	9.9	5	11.5
Alzheimer's Disease	196	64.2	48	24.8	3	9.9	1	2.3
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	156	51.1	40	20.7	2	6.6	1	2.3
Diabetes	83	27.2	72	37.2	4	13.3	3	6.9
Flu and Pneumonia	95	31.1	23	11.9	2	6.6	1	2.3
Kidney Disease	53	17.4	50	25.8	3	9.9	1	2.3
Septicemia	61	20.0	23	11.9	3	9.9	2	4.6
Motor Vehicle Injuries	31	10.2	31	16.0	10	33.1	7	16.1
Suicide	55	18.0	12	6.2	2	6.6	4	9.2
Liver Disease	48	15.7	18	9.3	0	0.0	0	0.9
Parkinson's Disease	46	15.1	5	2.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
Homicide	10	3.3	40	20.7	1	3.3	1	2.3
Congenital Malformations	10	3.3	10	5.2	4	13.3	3	6.9
Perinatal Conditions	1	0.3	19	9.8	3	9.9	0	0.0
Essential (Primary) Hypertension	9	2.9	10	5.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other Causes	498	NA	194	NA	20	NA	15	NA
Total Deaths—All Causes	3,156	1033.6	1,320	681.7	110	364.4	81	186.2
2018 Population by Race and Ethnicity	305,332		193,628		30,186		43,496	

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.

Note: Use caution when interpreting rates based on small numbers, i.e., less than 10.

Selected Leading Causes of Death, by Race

5-Year Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates per 100,000, Guilford County, 2014-2018

Cause of Death	White		Black/African		Guilford County Overall	
	Deaths 2014-2018	Rate per 100,000	Deaths 2014-2018	Rate per 100,000	Deaths 2014-2018	Rate per 100,000
Diseases of Heart	2,768	127.8	1,165	165.3	4,027	135.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	868	39.7	361	54.1	1,278	43.7
Cancer	3,140	151.2	1,318	177.2	4,645	156.2
Colon, Rectum, and Anus	265	12.9	118	15.2	393	13
Pancreas	222	10.5	119	16.9	357	12
Trachea, Bronchus, and Lung	874	41.8	311	42.1	1,233	41.4
Breast	199	17.7	130	27.7	343	20.7
Prostate	159	18	99	42.1	266	22.6
Diabetes Mellitus	389	18.8	275	37.8	685	23.3
Pneumonia and Influenza	403	18.5	132	19.1	546	18.6
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	817	38.4	162	23.3	991	33.7
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	256	13.7	73	8.6	349	11.6
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, and Nephrosis	292	13.7	249	36.3	563	19.2
Unintentional Motor Vehicle Injuries	153	10.6	114	12.9	306	11.6
All Other Unintentional Injuries	808	49.7	194	24.7	1,043	38
Suicide	248	17.4	39	4.2	306	11.5
Homicide	32	2.3	165	17.1	213	8.2
Alzheimer's disease	906	39.7	232	42.7	1,155	39.5
All Causes	15,110	733	6,209	874.6	22,060	756.5

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics, County Health Databook.

Note on Age-Adjustment: When comparing mortality rates of age-related conditions—i.e., when the mortality risk increases with age, as with chronic diseases—across groups that have different age distributions, it can be misleading to use crude or unadjusted rates. In such situations, it is advisable to use age-adjusted rates that take into account the differences in age distribution. In Guilford County, Whites and African-Americans have substantially different age distribution, with Whites having an older age distribution than African-Americans.

Detailed Causes of Death for Infants, Birth through Age One Guilford County, 2018

ICD 10 Codes	Cause of Death	Number of Deaths
A419	Sepsis, unspecified organism	1
B004	Herpes viral encephalitis	1
B348	Other viral infection of unspecified site	1
G709	Myoneural disorder, unspecified	1
G938	Other specified disorders of the brain	1
I279	Pulmonary heart disease, unspecified	1
Disorders Originating in the Perinatal Period		
P010	Newborn (suspected to be) affected by incompetent cervix	1
P011	Newborn (suspected to be) affected by premature rupture of membranes	1
P021	Newborn affected by other forms of placental separation and hemorrhage	1
P027	Newborn affected by chorioamnionitis	1
P072	Extreme immaturity of newborn	7
P073	Prematurity of newborn	1
P220	Respiratory distress of the newborn	3
P280	Primary atelectasis of newborn	2
P291	Neonatal cardiac dysrhythmia	1
P361	Sepsis of newborn due to other and unspecified streptococci	1
P399	Infection specific to the perinatal period, unspecified	1
P616	Other transient neonatal disorders of coagulation	1
P77	Necrotizing enterocolitis of newborn	1
P832	Hydrops fetalis not due to hemolytic disease	1
Congenital Malformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities		
Q000	Anencephaly	1
Q049	Congenital malformation of brain, unspecified	1
Q213	Tetralogy of Fallot	1
Q248	Congenital malformation of heart	1
Q249	Congenital malformation of heart, unspecified	2
Q336	Hypoplasia and dysplasia of lung	1
Q878	Other specified congenital malformation syndromes	1
Q897	Multiple congenital malformations, not elsewhere classified	1
Q899	Congenital malformation, unspecified	1
Q913	Trisomy 18, unspecified	3
Q917	Trisomy 13, unspecified	2
Ill defined and Unknown Cause of Mortality		
R99	Ill-defined and unspecified causes of mortality	5
W75	Accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed	1
Other Causes of Infant Death		
X95	Assault by other and unspecified firearm and gun discharge	1
Y09	Assault by unspecified means	1
Total Infant Deaths		52

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.

Leading Causes of Death, by Age Group Deaths and Rates per 100,000, Guilford County, 2018

Cause of Death	Ages 1 19		Ages 20 39		Ages 40 59		Ages 60 79		Ages 80 and Over	
	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate
Cancer (all cancer types)	1	0.8	11	7.6	166	120.7	517	554.8	273	1423.3
Heart Disease	0	0.0	13	8.9	120	87.3	290	311.2	388	2022.8
Dementia	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	44	47.2	230	1199.1
Stroke	0	0.0	1	0.7	17	12.4	101	108.4	151	787.2
Non-Motor Vehicle Injuries	10	7.6	65	44.7	57	41.5	50	53.7	74	385.8
Alzheimer's Disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.7	35	37.6	211	1100.0
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	1	0.8	0	0.0	14	10.2	90	96.6	94	490.1
Diabetes	1	0.8	4	2.8	35	25.5	82	88.0	37	192.9
Flu and Pneumonia	0	0.0	0	0.0	11	8.0	35	37.6	74	385.8
Kidney Disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	13	9.5	44	47.2	49	255.5
Septicemia	0	0.0	2	1.4	11	8.0	37	39.7	36	187.7
Motor Vehicle Injuries	7	5.3	32	22.0	20	14.5	9	9.7	4	20.9
Suicide	1	0.8	25	17.2	29	21.1	14	15.0	0	0.0
Liver Disease	0	0.0	5	3.4	29	21.1	31	33.3	3	15.6
Parkinson's Disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.5	16	17.2	33	172.0
Homicide	8	6.0	31	21.3	7	5.1	3	3.2	0	0.0
Congenital Malformations	0	0.0	1	0.7	2	1.5	4	4.3	2	10.4
Perinatal Conditions	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Hypertension	0	0.0	2	1.4	2	1.5	3	3.2	13	67.8
HIV	0	0.0	5	3.4	2	1.5	5	5.4	0	0.0
Other Causes of Mortality	8	--	46	--	95	--	280	--	277	--
Total deaths	37	28.0	243	167.2	633	460.4	1690	1,813.6	1,949	10,161.1
2018 Guilford County Population Estimate	132,332		145,333		137,498		93,185		19,181	

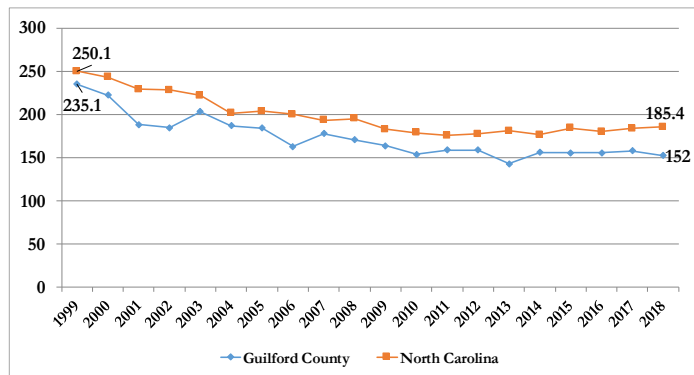
Source: NC Mortality File, Center for Health Statistics.

Note: Use caution when interpreting rates based on small numbers, i.e., less than 10.

Trends in Selected Leading Causes of Death

Heart Disease Mortality Guilford County and NC, 1999-2018

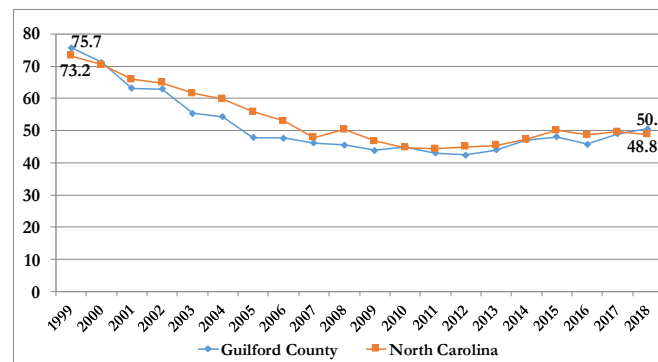
Rate per 100,000



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

Cerebrovascular Disease (Stroke) Mortality, Guilford County and NC, 1999-2018

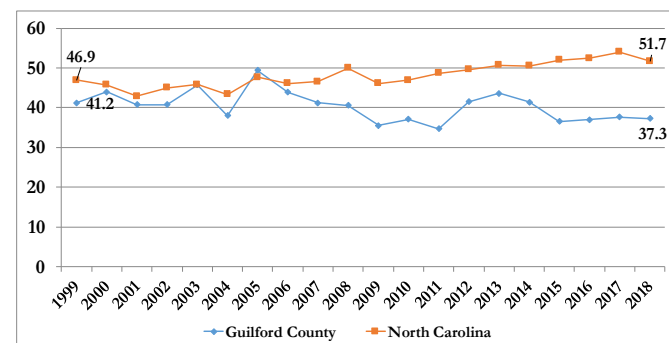
Rate per 100,000



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

Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease, Guilford County and NC, 1999-2018

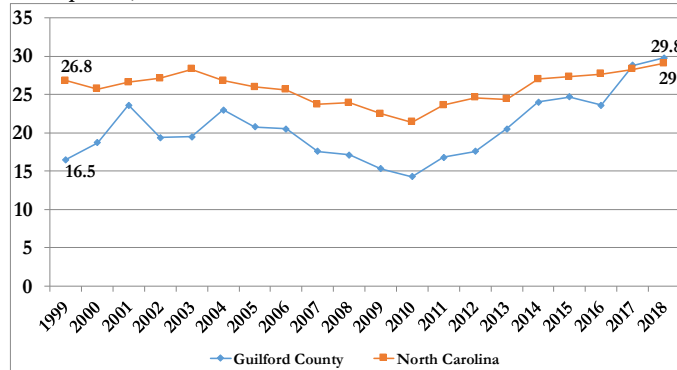
Rate per 100,000



Notes: Rates are not age-adjusted; Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (CLRD) is also known as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).
Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.
Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Diabetes Mortality, Guilford County and NC, 1999-2018

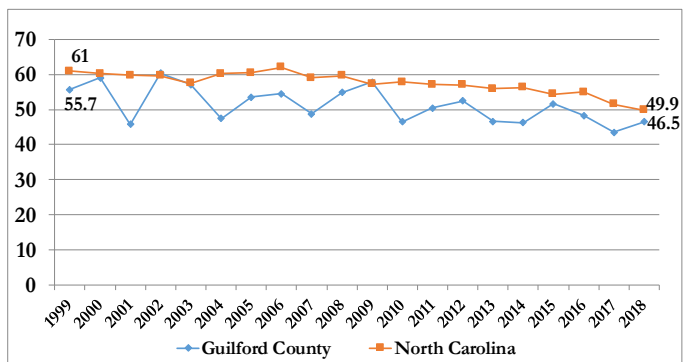
Rate per 100,000



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

Lung Cancer Mortality Guilford County and NC, 1999-2018

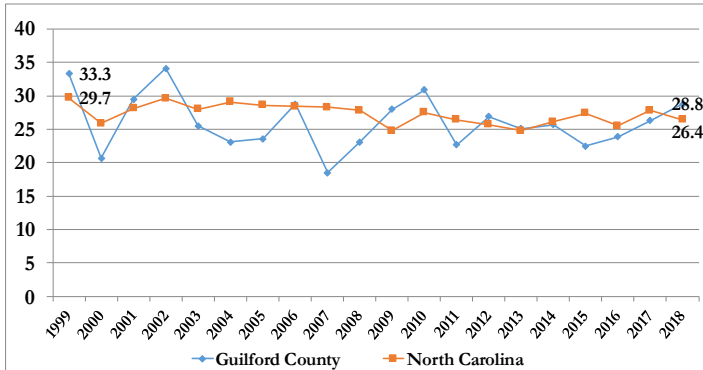
Rate per 100,000



Note: Lung cancer includes cancers of the trachea, bronchus and lungs.
Note: Rates are not age-adjusted.
Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.
Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Breast Cancer Mortality, Guilford County and NC, 1999-2018

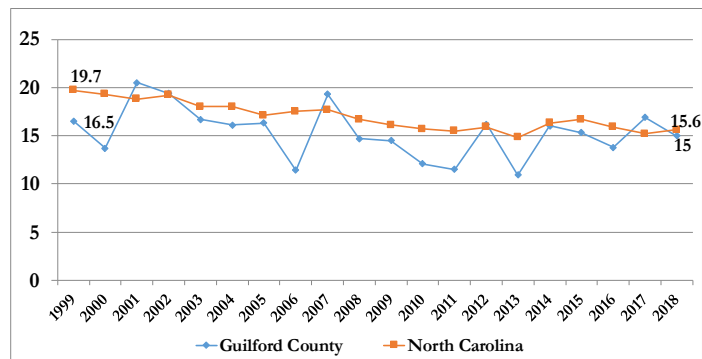
Rate per 100,000



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

Colorectal Cancer Mortality, Guilford County and NC, 1999-2018

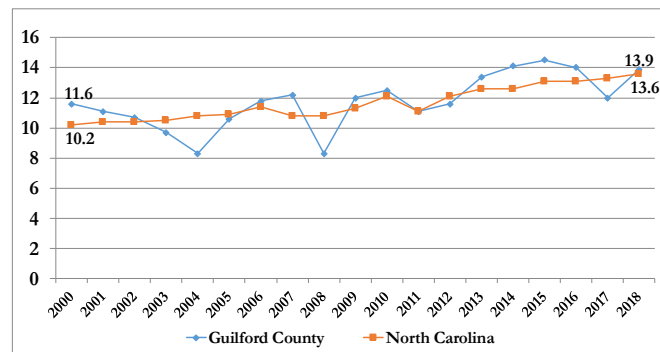
Rate per 100,000



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

Pancreatic Cancer Mortality, Guilford County and NC, 2000-2018

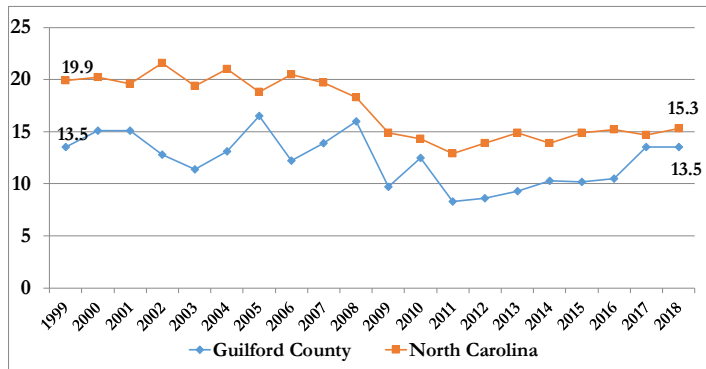
Rate per 100,000



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

Motor Vehicle Injury Mortality, Guilford County and NC, 1999-2018

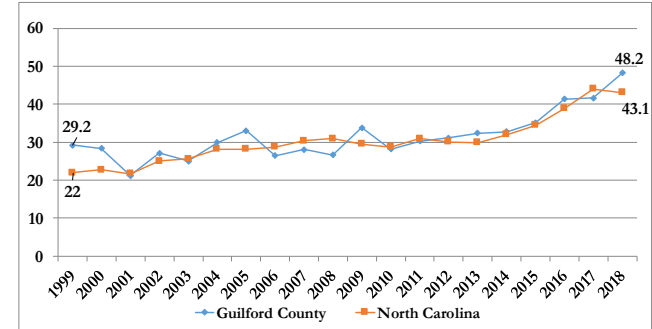
Rate per 100,000



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, 1999-2018

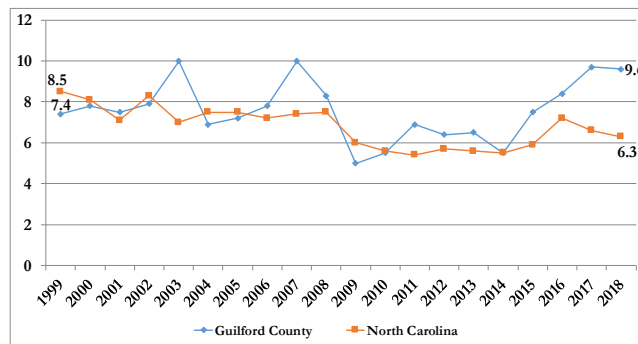
Rate per 100,000



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, 1999-2018

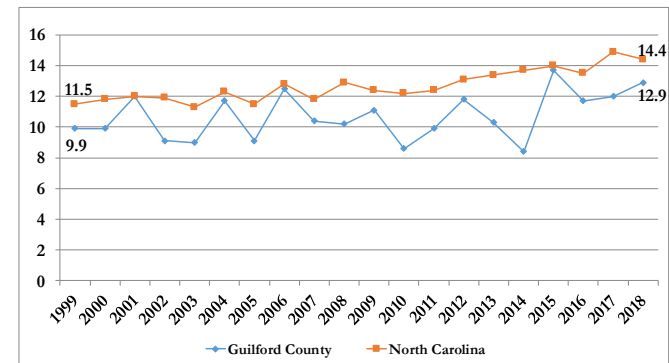
Rate per 100,000



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, 1999-2018

Rate per 100,000



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