

| 2021 | Leading Causes of Death Data Brief



Key Findings from 2019 Mortality Data

A note on the data in this report: The processing requirements for birth and death certificate records result in a delay in public availability of the data.

- Together, cancers and heart disease 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. Females had more deaths due to dementia, Alzheimer's Disease and chronic lower respiratory disease.
- African Americans had higher age-adjusted death rates than Whites for heart disease, cancers, stroke, diabetes and homicide, while Whites had higher age-adjusted death rates than African Americans due to chronic lower respiratory disease, chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, and unintentional injuries (5-year age-adjusted mortality rates, 2014-2018).
- Lung cancer is the leading type of cancer mortality, followed by breast, prostate, and colorectal cancers.
- In 2019, the leading causes of death among children and young adults aged one to 20 were motor vehicle crashes, homicide, suicide and unintentional injuries.
- 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, 2019

	Cause of Death	Deaths	Mortality Rate per 100,000
1	Cancer	932	173.5
2	Heart Disease	890	165.7
3	Dementia	282	52.5
4	Stroke	271	50.4
5	Other Unintentional Injuries*	284	52.9
6	Alzheimer's Disease	217	40.4
7	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	203	37.8
8	Diabetes	163	30.3
9	Kidney Disease	126	23.5
10	Flu and Pneumonia	109	20.3
11	Motor Vehicle Injuries	74	13.8
12	Liver Disease	68	12.7
13	Homicide	62	11.5
14	Septicemia	61	11.4
15	Suicide	58	10.8
16	Parkinson's Disease	43	8.0
17	HIV Disease	10	1.9
	Other Causes	888	NA
	Total 2019 Deaths from all Causes	4,741	862.7
	2019 Guilford County Population	537,174	

*Other unintentional injuries primarily include unintentional poisonings, falls and other external causes of injury related deaths.

Deaths from Cancer by Type, All Residents, Guilford County, 2019

Cancer Cause of Death	Deaths	Rate per 100,000
Lung Cancer	225	41.9
Breast Cancer	75	26.5
Colorectal Cancer	72	13.4
Pancreatic Cancer	69	12.8
Leukemia	46	8.6
Prostate Cancer	44	22.4
Liver Cancer	37	6.9
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	30	5.6
Ovarian Cancer	25	8.8
Bladder Cancer	24	4.5
Brain Cancer	22	4.1
Oral Cancer	20	3.7
Stomach Cancer	16	3.0
Skin Cancer	10	1.9
Cervical Cancer	5	1.8
2019 Guilford County Population	537,174	

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

Note: Rates for Breast, Ovarian, Cervical 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, 2019

Cause of Death	Females		Males	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Cancer	457	161.5	475	186.9
Heart Disease	422	149.1	468	184.1
Other Unintentional Injuries*	124	43.8	160	62.9
Dementia	197	69.6	85	33.4
Stroke	139	49.1	132	51.9
Alzheimer's Disease	152	53.7	65	25.6
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	124	43.8	79	31.1
Diabetes	76	26.9	87	34.2
Kidney Disease	63	22.3	63	24.8
Pneumonia and Flu	56	19.8	53	20.8
Liver Disease	35	12.4	44	17.3
Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths	22	7.8	52	20.5
Homicide	10	3.5	52	20.5
Septicemia	22	7.8	39	15.3
Suicide	13	4.6	45	17.7
Parkinson's Disease	19	6.7	24	9.4
HIV Disease	2	0.7	8	3.1
Other Causes of Death	457	NA	420	NA
Total Deaths All Causes	2,390	844.6	2,351	824.8
2019 Total Population by Sex	282,962		254,212	

Source: NC Mortality File, Center for Health Statistics.

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

*Other unintentional injuries primarily include unintentional poisonings, falls and other external causes of injury related deaths.

Selected Leading Causes of Death, by Race and Ethnicity
Deaths and Unadjusted Mortality Rates per 100,000, Guilford County, 2019**

Cause of Death	White		Black/African American		Asian		Hispanic	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Cancer	630	205.8	272	138.4	17	56.7	15	13.3
Heart Disease	628	205.2	244	124.1	16	53.4	6	35.4
Other Unintentional Injuries*	215	70.2	62	31.5	1	3.3	9	6.6
Dementia	218	71.2	63	32.0	1	3.3	3	2.2
Stroke	172	56.2	93	47.3	5	16.7	1	4.4
Alzheimer's Disease	159	51.9	52	26.5	3	10.0	2	2.2
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	161	52.6	39	19.8	1	3.3	1	8.9
Diabetes	77	25.2	78	39.7	2	6.7	4	6.6
Kidney Disease	68	22.2	55	28.0	1	3.3	3	2.2
Pneumonia and Flu	87	28.4	21	10.7	0	0.0	1	8.9
Liver Disease	62	20.3	15	7.6	0	0.0	4	11.1
Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths	35	11.4	36	18.3	2	6.7	5	6.6
Homicide	6	2.0	54	27.5	1	3.3	3	0.0
Septicemia	40	13.1	20	10.2	1	3.3	0	8.9
Suicide	44	14.4	10	5.1	1	3.3	4	0.0
Parkinson's Disease	38	12.4	5	2.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
HIV Disease	0	0.0	10	5.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other Causes	574	NA	280	NA	14	NA	15	NA
Total Deaths—All Causes	3,214	1050.0	1,407	716.1	66	220.2	77	170.4
2019 Population by Race and Ethnicity	306,101		196,492		29,971		45,191	

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.

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

*Other unintentional injuries primarily include unintentional poisonings, falls and other external causes of injury related deaths.

**Rates are not adjusted for difference in age distributions among racial and ethnic groups.

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 American		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	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: Upon publication of this Data Brief, these 5-Year Age-Adjusted Mortality rates by race (2014-2018) had not been updated by the NC State Center for Health Statistics.

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, 2019

ICD-10 Codes	Cause of Death	Number of Deaths
I678	Other cerebrovascular disease	1
J111	Influenza with other respiratory manifestations	1
J984	Other disorders of lungs	1
M622	Nontraumatic ischemic infarction	1
N009	Acute nephritic syndrome	1
N119	Chronic tubule-interstitial nephritis	1
Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period		
P011	Newborn (suspected to be) affected by premature rupture of membranes	3
P021	Newborn affected by other forms of placental separation and hemorrhage	2
P027	Newborn affected by chorioamnionitis	1
P039	Newborn affected by complications of labor and delivery, unspecified	1
P059	Newborn affected by slow intrauterine growth	2
P072	Extreme immaturity of newborn	9
P073	Prematurity of newborn	4
P229	Respiratory distress of the newborn	1
P280	Primary atelectasis of newborn	1
P284	Other apnea of newborn	1
P290	Neonatal cardiac failure	1
P293	Persistent fetal circulation	2
P368	Sepsis of newborn due to other and unspecified streptococci	1
P369	Bacterial sepsis of newborn, unspecified	1
P523	Unspecified intraventricular hemorrhage of newborn	1
P701	Syndrome of infant of a diabetic mother	1
P702	Neonatal diabetes mellitus	1
P77	Necrotizing enterocolitis of newborn	1
P916	Hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy	2
Congenital Malformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities		
Q234	Hypoplastic left heart syndrome	1
Q248	Other specified congenital malformations of heart	1
Q249	Congenital malformation of heart, unspecified	1
Q336	Congenital hypoplasia and dysplasia of lung	1
Q913	Trisomy 18, unspecified	2
Q917	Trisomy 13, unspecified	3
Ill-defined and Unknown Cause of Mortality		
R95	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	2
R99	Ill-defined and unspecified causes of mortality	2
W75	Accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed	1
Total Infant Deaths		56

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.

Leading Causes of Death, by Age Group

Deaths and Rates per 100,000, Guilford County, 2019

Cause of Death	Ages 0-19		Ages 20-39		Ages 40-59		Ages 60-79		Ages 80 and Over	
	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate
Cancer	4	2.9	14	9.6	141	103.1	489	510.1	284	1451.9
Heart Disease	1	0.7	12	8.2	110	80.5	326	340.1	441	2254.5
Other Unintentional Injuries*	4	2.9	71	48.7	72	52.7	59	61.5	78	398.8
Dementia	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.7	44	45.9	237	1211.6
Stroke	1	0.7	2	1.4	22	16.1	91	94.9	155	792.4
Alzheimer's Disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.7	40	41.7	176	899.7
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	1	0.7	2	1.4	19	13.9	106	110.6	75	383.4
Diabetes	0	0.0	2	1.4	39	28.5	77	80.3	45	230.0
Kidney Disease	3	2.2	1	0.7	12	8.8	53	55.3	57	291.4
Pneumonia and Flu	1	0.7	2	1.4	8	5.9	32	33.4	66	337.4
Liver Disease	0	0.0	5	3.4	29	21.2	38	39.6	7	35.8
Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths	6	4.3	14	9.6	35	25.6	16	16.7	3	15.3
Homicide	8	5.7	43	29.5	7	5.1	2	2.1	2	10.2
Septicemia	1	0.7	1	0.7	6	4.4	33	34.4	20	102.2
Suicide	5	3.6	22	15.1	14	10.2	14	14.6	3	15.3
Parkinson's Disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	12	12.5	31	158.5
HIV Disease	0	0.0	3	2.1	4	2.9	3	3.1	0	0.0
Other Causes of Death	58	NA	41	NA	132	NA	326	NA	315	NA
Total Deaths	93	66.7	235	161.3	653	477.7	1762	1837.9	1998	10214.2
2019 Guilford County Population Estimate	132,332		145,333		137,498		93,185		19,181	

Source: NC Mortality File, Center for Health Statistics.

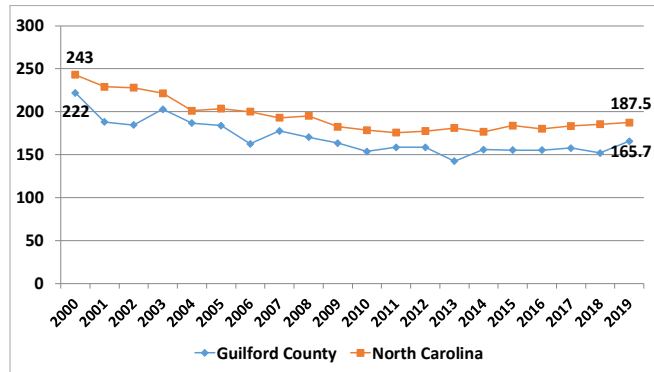
Note: Use caution when interpreting rates based on small numbers, i.e., less than 10.

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Trends in Select Leading Causes of Death

Heart Disease Mortality Guilford County and NC, 2000-2019

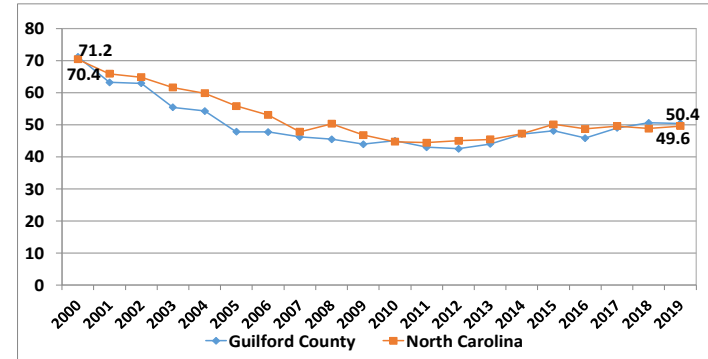
Rate per 100,000



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.

Cerebrovascular Disease (Stroke) Mortality Guilford County and NC, 2000-2019

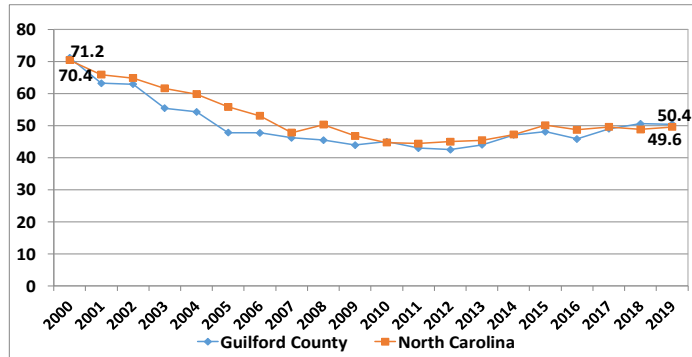
Rate per 100,000



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

Cerebrovascular Disease (Stroke) Mortality Guilford County and NC, 2000-2019

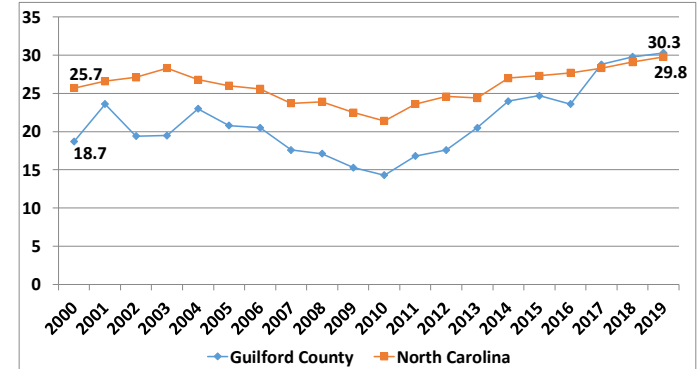
Rate per 100,000



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

Diabetes Mortality Guilford County and NC, 2000-2019

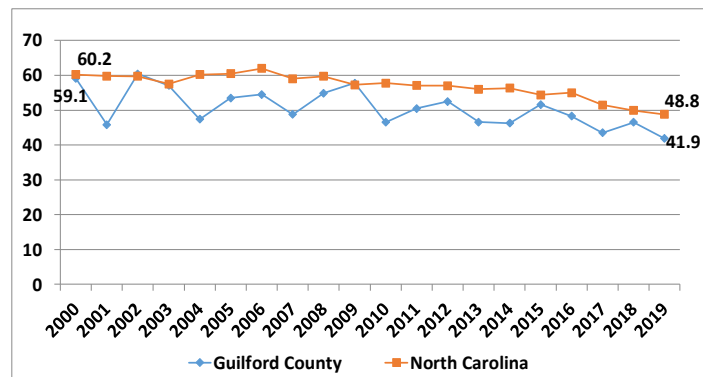
Rate per 100,000



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, 2000-2019

Rate per 100,000



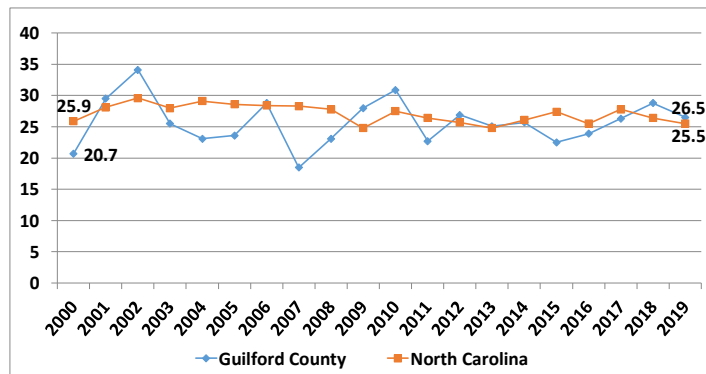
Note: Lung cancer includes cancers of the trachea, bronchus and lungs. Rates are not age-adjusted.

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.

Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Breast Cancer Mortality Guilford County and NC, 2000-2019

Rate per 100,000



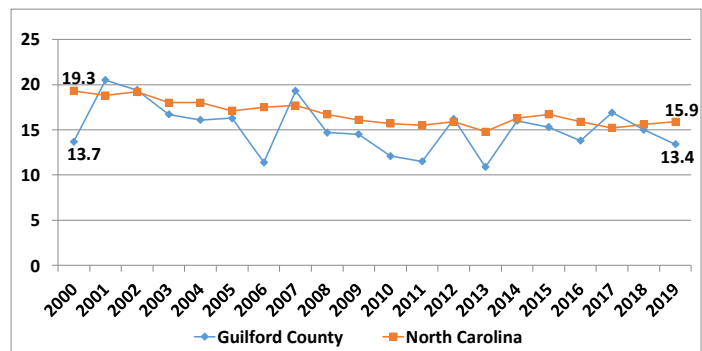
Note: Rates are not age-adjusted.

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.

Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Colorectal Cancer Mortality Guilford County and NC, 2000-2019

Rate per 100,000



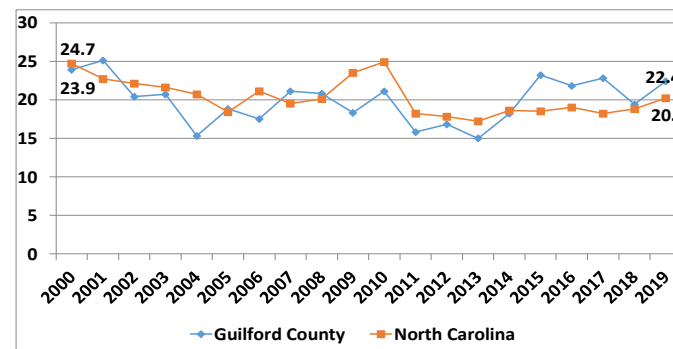
Note: Rates are not age-adjusted.

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.

Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Prostate Cancer Mortality Guilford County and NC, 2000-2019

Rate per 100,000



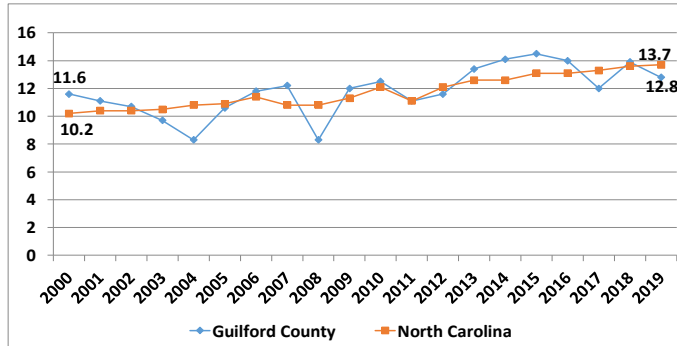
Note: Rates are not age-adjusted.

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.

Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Pancreatic Cancer Mortality Guilford County and NC, 2000-2019

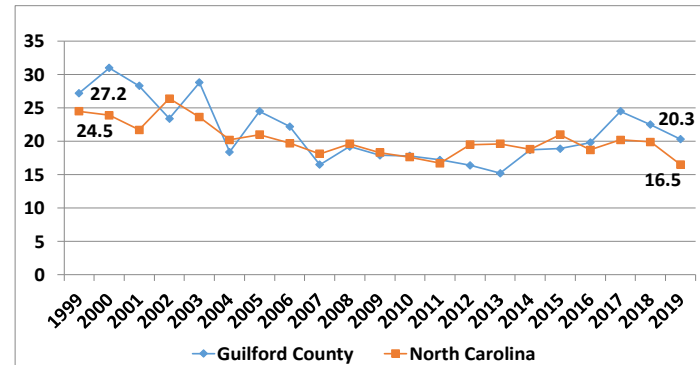
Rate per 100,000



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

Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality Guilford County and NC, 2000-2019

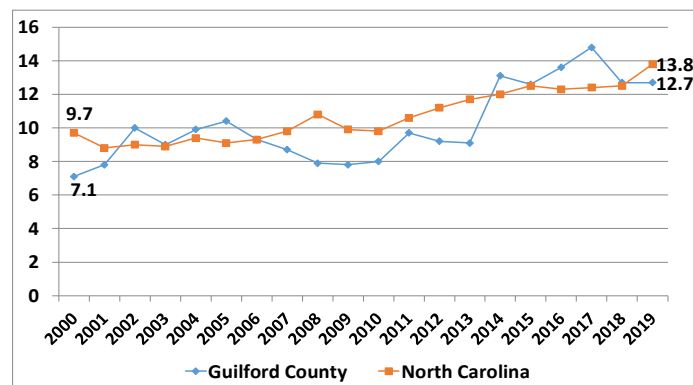
Rate per 100,000



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.

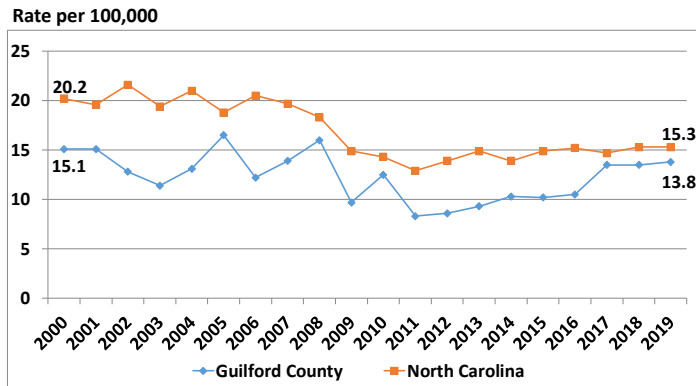
Chronic Liver Disease/Cirrhosis Mortality Guilford County and NC, 2000-2019

Rate per 100,000



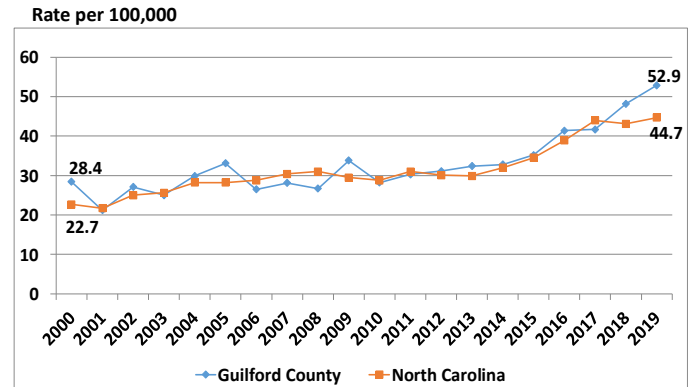
Note: Rates are not age-adjusted.
Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics.
Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Motor Vehicle Injury Mortality Guilford County and NC, 2000-2019



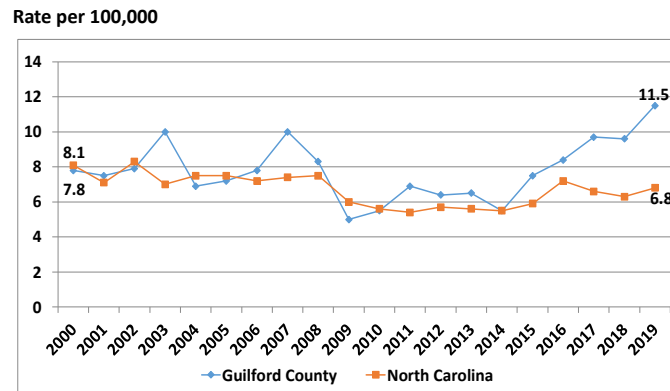
Note: Rates are not age-adjusted.
Source: Data provided by the NC Center for Health Statistics.
Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Mortality Due to Unintentional Injury other than Motor Vehicle Injury Guilford County and NC, 2000-2019



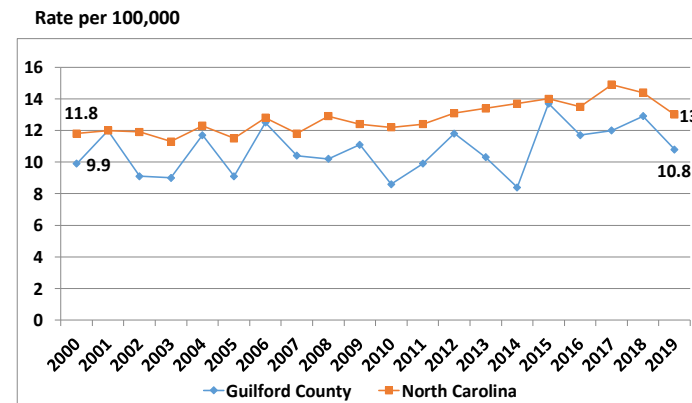
Note: Rates are not age-adjusted. This category of Unintentional Injury primarily includes unintentional poisonings, falls and other external causes of injury related deaths.
Source: Data provided by the NC Center for Health Statistics.
Chart prepared by the GCDHHS, Division of Public Health.

Homicide Mortality Guilford County and NC, 2000-2019



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, 2000-2019



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.