



OVERVIEW

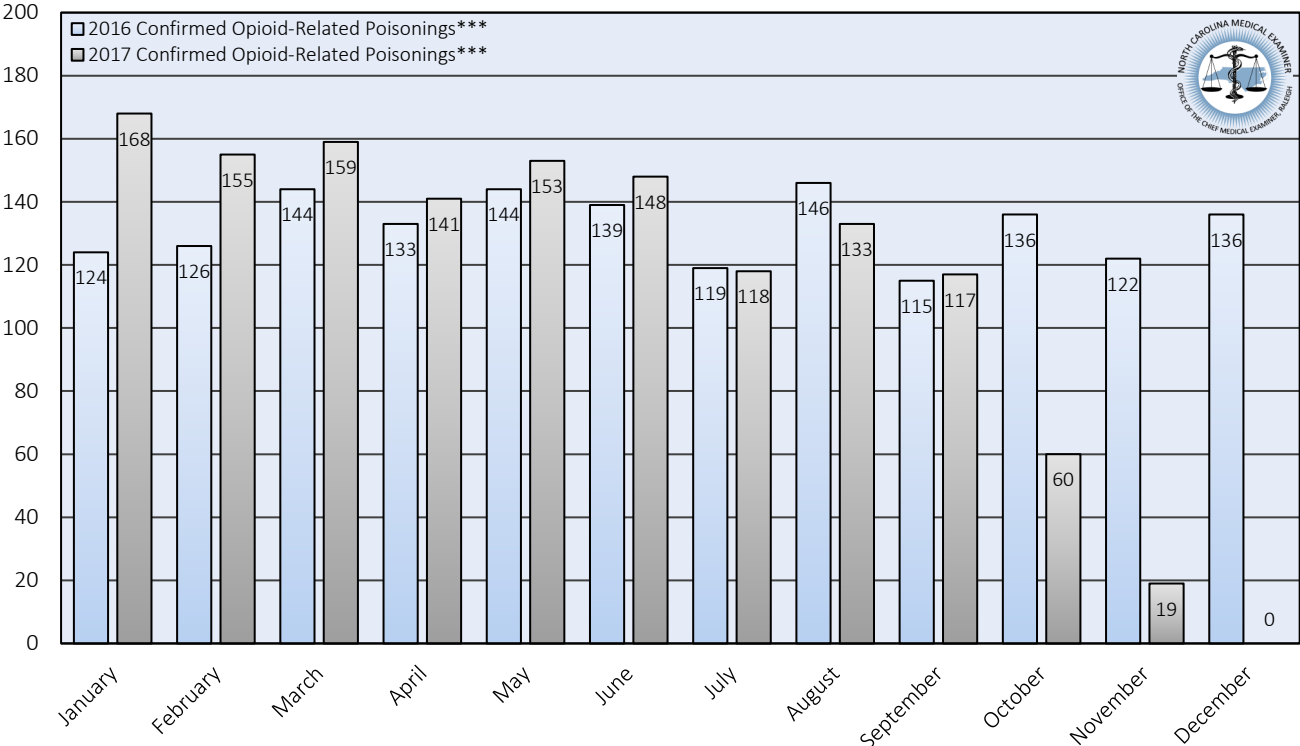
The North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (NC OCME) investigates all sudden, unexpected, and violent deaths in North Carolina, including all suspected drug-related or poisoning deaths, and oversees the operations of the state’s entire medical examiner system. The NC OCME collects data from autopsy reports, death certificates, investigation reports, and toxicology reports on all deaths investigated by the medical examiner system in North Carolina. The data collected by the NC OCME can be used to identify trends relating to deaths in North Carolina, inform public health initiatives, and develop prevention strategies.

NC OCME TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY

The NC OCME Toxicology Laboratory is accredited by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT) and performs toxicology testing on all drug-related deaths in North Carolina to assist the pathologist in determining cause and manner of death. The NC OCME Toxicology Laboratory screens for more than 600 compounds. The number of novel compounds detected during screening has risen dramatically in the last several years.

NC OCME DATA AND SURVEILLANCE

Confirmed Opioid-Related Poisoning Deaths in North Carolina, 2016 – 2017

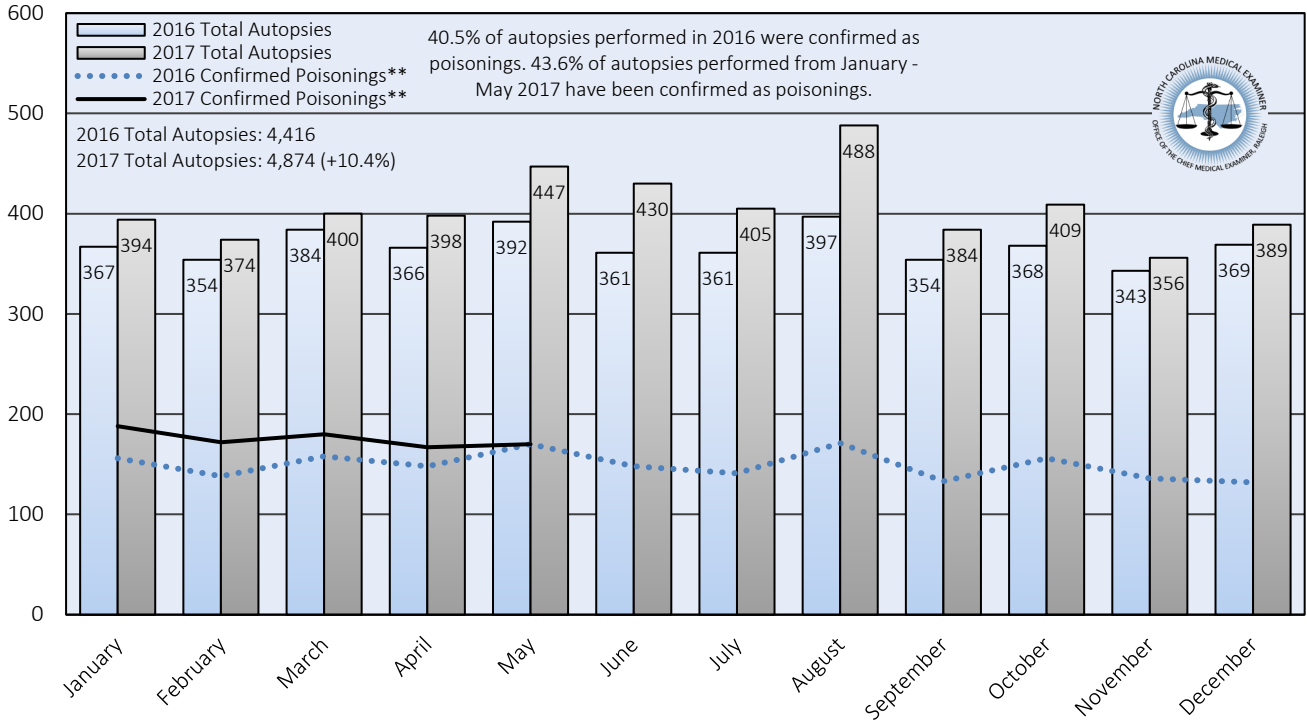


2017 data are considered provisional and subject to change as cases continue to be finalized. NC OCME will update graphs on a monthly basis to reflect recently confirmed poisoning deaths. For additional information, please contact alison.miller@dhhs.nc.gov.

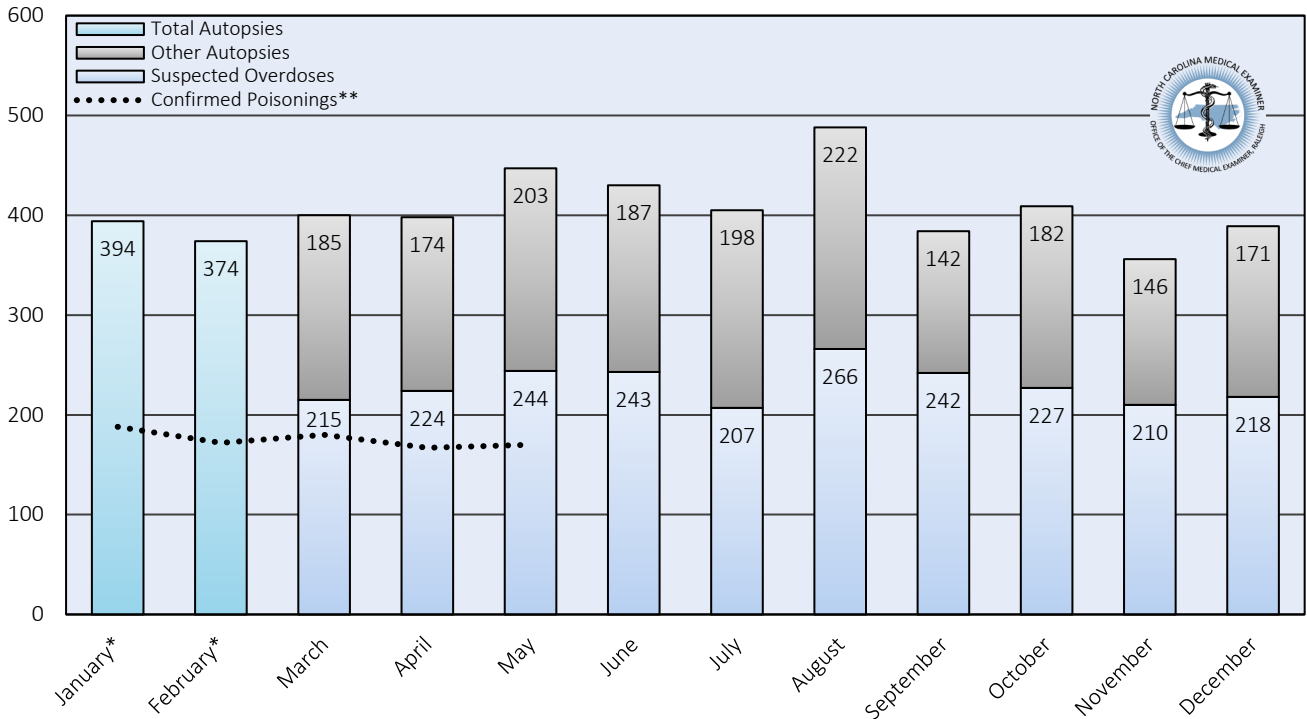
*The NC OCME began tracking autopsies performed to rule out overdose by the entire medical examiner system in March 2017.
 **This category reflects the number of deaths that have been confirmed as poisonings based on the results of a comprehensive investigation. Confirmed poisoning deaths that did not receive an autopsy examination have been excluded. Poisoning deaths attributed solely to carbon monoxide have been excluded.
 ***This category includes confirmed opioid-related poisoning deaths that did not receive an autopsy examination.



Autopsies Performed by the North Carolina Medical Examiner System, 2016 – 2017



Autopsies Performed by the North Carolina Medical Examiner System, 2017



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