

3,163

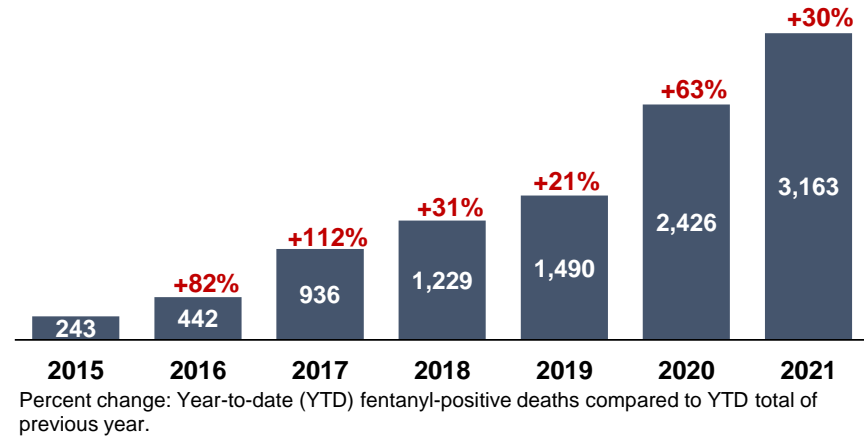
Fentanyl-Positive Deaths, North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) Toxicology Data: 2021^{^*}

3,163 Fentanyl-Positive Deaths, 2021^{^*}

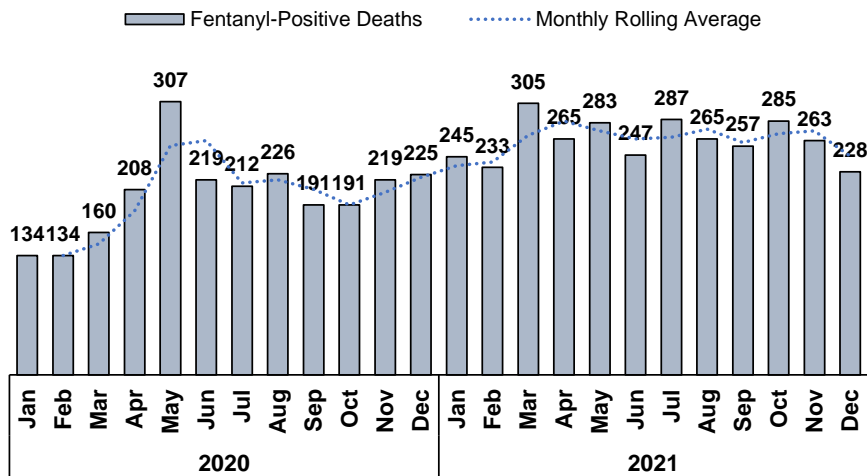
Compared to 2,426 in 2020

[^]Deaths included in this report tested positive for fentanyl at the time of the death when toxicology testing was performed. Toxicology results are based on analytical testing of specimens performed by NC OCME Toxicology. The detection of fentanyl only indicates deaths with positive fentanyl toxicology results. The presence of fentanyl at time of death does not necessarily indicate fentanyl as the cause of death.

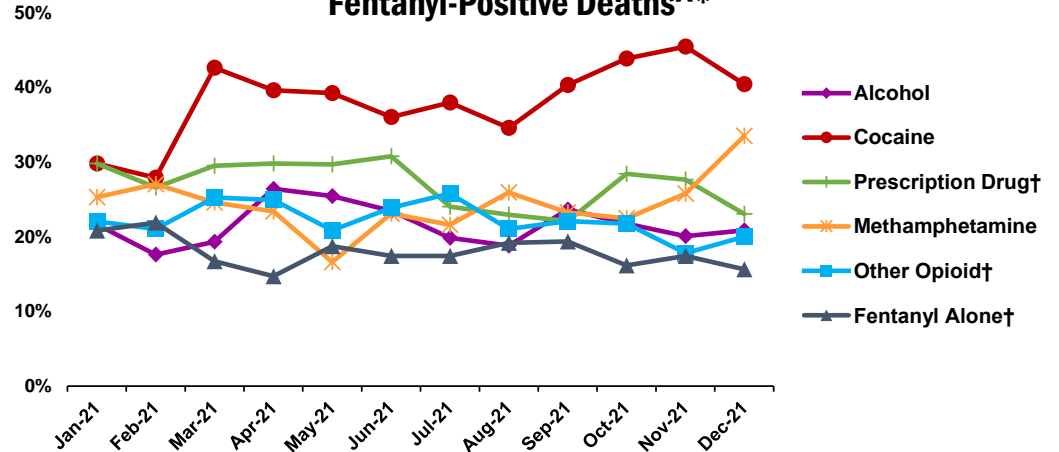
Fentanyl-Positive Deaths: 2015-2021^{^*}



Fentanyl-Positive Deaths: 2020-2021^{^*}



Last 12 Months Polysubstance Use in Fentanyl-Positive Deaths^{^*}



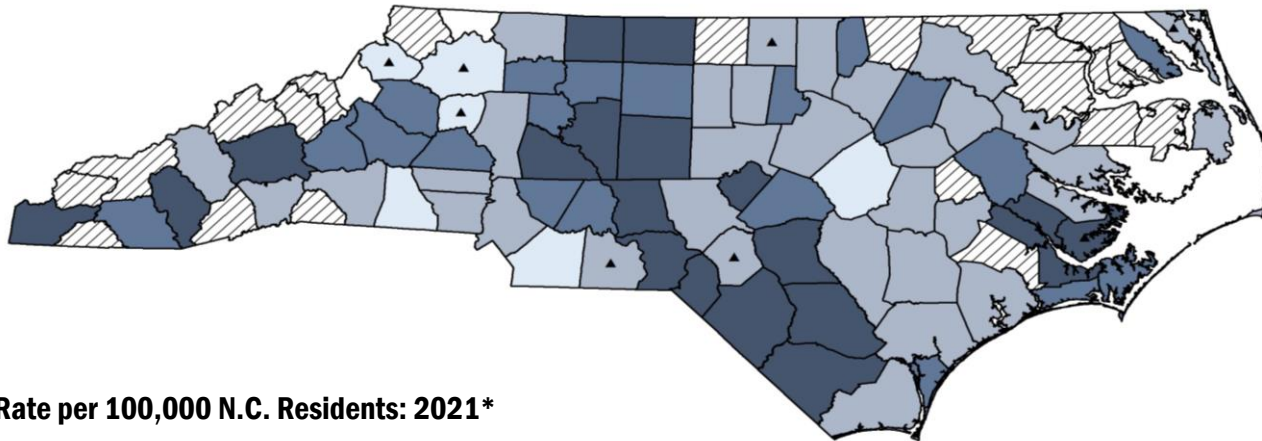
†Categories are not mutually exclusive. Prescription drugs are defined as benzodiazepines and gabapentin/pregabalin. Other opioids include heroin, prescription opioids, and illicit opioids (excluding fentanyl). Fentanyl alone indicates that alcohol, cocaine, prescription drugs (benzodiazepines and gabapentin/pregabalin), methamphetamine, and other opioids were not present.



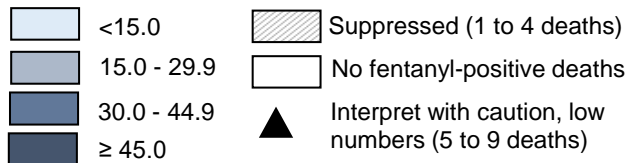
*2021 data are provisional and subject to change.

Data Source: NC OCME Toxicology data; NC OCME Toxicology is nationally accredited by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology, Inc. NC OCME Toxicology provides forensic analytical testing of specimens for all 100 counties of the statewide medical examiner system. Toxicology results are based on blood, vitreous fluid, or other specimens used for testing at the discretion of the pathologist and/or toxicologist.

Rate of Fentanyl-Positive Deaths in North Carolina by County: 2021*



Rate per 100,000 N.C. Residents: 2021*



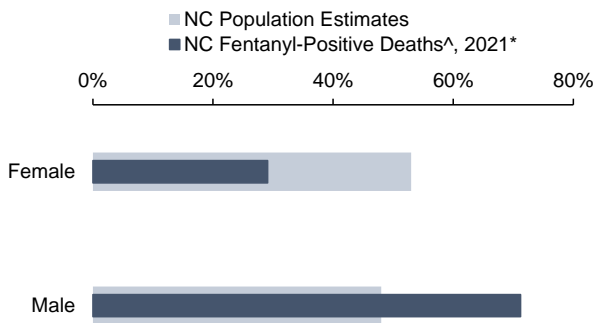
Highest Rates of Fentanyl-Positive Deaths Among Counties with >4 deaths: 2021*

County	Deaths	Rate per 100,000
Robeson	94	80.7
Montgomery	19	73.8
Bladen	21	70.9
Columbus	33	65.2
Pamlico	8	65.2
Scotland	22	64.4
Cherokee	18	62.6
Randolph	86	59.7
Lee	37	58.5
Rockingham	53	58.2
Statewide	3,163	29.8

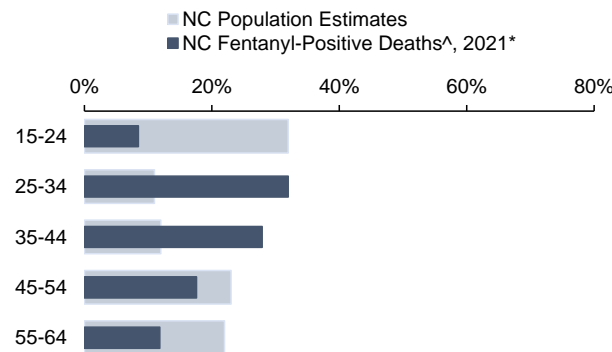
*2021 data are considered provisional and should not be considered final. Deaths included in this report tested positive for fentanyl at the time of the death when toxicology testing was performed. Toxicology results are based on analytical testing of specimens performed by NC OCME Toxicology. The detection of fentanyl only indicates deaths with positive fentanyl toxicology results. The presence of fentanyl at time of death does not necessarily indicate fentanyl as the cause of death.

Demographics of Fentanyl-Positive Deaths Compared to Overall NC Population Estimates: 2021^*

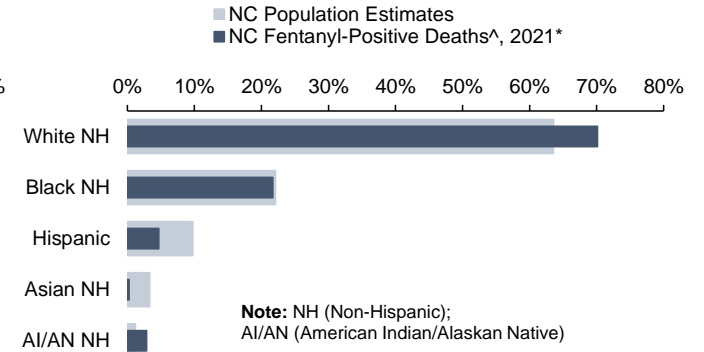
Deaths by Sex



Deaths by Age Group



Deaths by Race/Ethnicity



^Data Sources: Toxicology Data—NC OCME Toxicology; Demographic Data—OCME medical examiner system; Population Data—U.S. Census Bureau, <http://quickfacts.census.gov>; 2021 data are considered provisional and should not be considered final.



NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Public Health