CHILD HOMICIDES

2007-2016

North Carolina Child Fatality Prevention Team
North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

February, 6 2018
Overview of North Carolina Child Death Data

North Carolina child deaths

Medical Examiner Accepted Cases
NC General Statute 130A-383

Non-Medical Examiner Accepted Cases
Natural cause and manner of death

Reviewed Cases
By CFPT Researcher

State Team Review Cases
NC General Statute 7B-1405

Cases not reviewed by
State Team

Review of Child Homicides
2007-2016

NC CFPT 2018
OBJECTIVES

1. Quantify all child homicide deaths from 2007-2016
   A. Child homicide by parent or caregiver
   B. Child homicides not by parent or caregiver

2. Identify trends, improvements, etc.
1. QUANTIFY ALL HOMICIDE DEATHS FROM 2007-2016
Total Homicide 2007-2016 Parameters

INCLUDED CRITERIA
• Age restriction: 0-17
• Homicide
  • OCME definition: One person taking life of another

EXCLUDED CRITERIA
• Age: 18+ years
• All other manners of death

Total: 499 cases
## Total Homicide 2007-2016 Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Race</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male: 333</td>
<td>Black: 273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female: 166</td>
<td>White: 159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asian: 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Native American: 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unknown-Hispanic: 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unknown: 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total Homicide 2007-2016 by Age Category

Total: 499

- Less than 1 year: 91
- 1-4 years: 132
- 5-9 years: 37
- 10-14 years: 54
- 15-17 years: 185
Total Homicide 2007-2016 by Year

Total: 499

2007: 67
2008: 64
2009: 37
2010: 45
2011: 43
2012: 50
2013: 46
2014: 38
2015: 53
2016: 56
Total Homicide 2007-2016 by Means

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abuse/Neglect</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asphyxia</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blunt</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drowning</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall/Jump</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire/Burns</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gun</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malnutrition with failure to thrive</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor vehicle</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharp</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smothering</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toxin</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 499

Homicide By Means

- **Abuse/Neglect** 17
- **Asphyxia** 26
- **Blunt** 144
- **Drowning** 2
- **Environmental** 3
- **Exposure** 3
- **Fall/Jump** 1
- **Fire/Burns** 4
- **Gun** 241
- **Malnutrition with failure to thrive** 1
- **Motor vehicle** 3
- **Other** 7
- **Sharp** 33
- **Smothering** 1
- **Toxin** 6
- **Unknown** 7

**Note:** Homicide parent/caregiver vs. Homicide (non parent/caregiver)
Total Homicide 2007-2016 Number of Homicides by County

Total County of Residence

Series 1: 52

Total County of Death

Series 1: 70

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1. QUANTIFY PARENT OR CAREGIVER HOMICIDE DEATHS FROM 2007-2016
Parent or Caregiver Homicide 2007-2016 Parameters

INCLUDED CRITERIA

• Age restriction: 0-17

• Homicides by ME Manner of death
  • OCME definition: One person taking life of another

• Homicide by parent or caregiver
  • Child Fatality definition: Homicide by parent or caregiver is a death that is in the direct result of the action(s) of the person(s) responsible for the child’s well-being at the time of the death. This classification is assigned by the NC Child Fatality Prevention Team based on the injuries and circumstances of the death.

EXCLUDED CRITERIA

• Age: 18+ years

• All other manners of death

Total: 257 of 499 (52%)
## Parent or Caregiver Homicide 2007-2016 Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Race</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male: 143</td>
<td>Black: 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female: 114</td>
<td>White: 115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asian: 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Native American: 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unknown-Hispanic: 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unknown: 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Parent or Caregiver Homicide 2007-2016 by Age Category

Total: 257

- Less than 1 year: 83
- 1-4 years: 117
- 5-9 years: 26
- 10-14 years: 19
- 15-17 years: 12
Parent or Caregiver Homicide 2007-2016 by Years

Year | Number of deaths
--- | ---
2007 | 28
2008 | 36
2009 | 17
2010 | 20
2011 | 25
2012 | 29
2013 | 27
2014 | 15
2015 | 32
2016 | 26

NC CFPT 2018
Caregiver Homicide 2007-2016 by Means

Total: 257

- Abuse/Neglect: 17
- Asphyxia: 22
- Blunt: 137
- Drowning: 2
- Environmental: 2
- Exposure: 3
- Fire/Burns: 3
- Gun: 42
- Other: 6
- Sharp: 11
- Smothering: 1
- Toxin: 5
- Unknown: 4
- Malnutrition with failure to thrive: 1
- Motor vehicle: 1

Number of deaths

Means
Number of Parent or Caregiver Homicide 2007-2016 by County of Residence

Number of deaths

- Mecklenburg
- Wake
- Pitt
- Onslow
- Guilford
Number of Parent or Caregiver Homicide 2007-2016 by County of Death
Parent or Caregiver Homicide 2007-2016 Perpetrator Demographics

**Sex**
- Male: 191
- Female: 89
- Unknown: 5

**Age**
- Under 18: 21
- 19-29: 153
- 31-40: 75
- 41-50: 18
- 51+: 9
- Unknown: 20

**Demographics**
- Mother: 26%
- Father: 34%
- Mother's boyfriend: 22%
- Step-parent: 5%
- Unspecified caretaker: 6%
- Other relatives: 5%
- Grandparent: 5%
- Babysitter: 4%
- Unspecified: 20%
Most common Parent or Caregiver Homicide 2007-2016

Perpetrator Demographics

- Perpetrator Charge
  - First degree murder
  - Second degree murder
  - Murder
  - Suicide
  - Felony Child Abuse

- Perpetrator Conviction
  - First degree murder
  - Second degree murder
  - Involuntary Manslaughter
  - Child Abuse ISBI
  - Child Abuse ISI
  - Child Abuse
  - Unknown
  - Not convicted

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1. QUANTIFY OTHER HOMICIDE DEATHS FROM 2007-2016

*Other defined as Homicide not by parent or caregiver
Non-Parent/Caregiver Homicide 2007-2016 Parameters

INCLUDED CRITERIA

• Age restriction: 0-17
• Homicides outside of OCME Child Fatality definition of Homicide by Parent or Caregiver

EXCLUDED CRITERIA

• Age: 18+ years
• All other manners of death
• Death occurred under OCME Child Fatality definition of Homicide by Parent or Caregiver

Total: 242 of 499 (48%)
### Child Demographics

<table>
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<th>Sex</th>
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<td>Male: 190</td>
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<td>Female: 52</td>
<td>White: 44</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Non-Parent/Caregiver Homicide 2007-2016 by Age Category

Total: 242

- Less than 1 year: 8
- 1-4 years: 15
- 5-9 years: 11
- 10-14 years: 35
- 15-17 years: 173
Non-Parent/Caregiver Homicide 2007-2016 by Year

Year | Number of deaths
---|---
2007 | 39
2008 | 28
2009 | 20
2010 | 25
2011 | 18
2012 | 21
2013 | 19
2014 | 23
2015 | 21
2016 | 28

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Non-Parent/Caregiver Homicide 2007-2016 by Means

Total: 242
- Asphyxia: 4
- Blunt: 7
- Environmental: 1
- Fall/Jump: 1
- Fire/Burns: 1
- Gun: 199
- Motor vehicle: 2
- Other: 1
- Sharp: 22
- Toxin: 1
- Unknown: 3

Number of deaths
Number of Non-Parent/Caregiver Homicide 2007-2016 by County of Death
2. IDENTIFY TRENDS, IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
Age and means discrepancy in homicides by parent or caregiver vs homicides by non-parent or caregiver

Fairly even split between the two subcategories by year

Deaths are seen across the state, not concentrated in one county or region

Mothers and fathers are the primary perpetrators charged and convicted of these deaths

First degree murder is primary charge, however, such does not hold for convictions

Reminder that data presented are numbers, not rates.