

Deaths From CARBON MONOXIDE Poisoning

North Carolina, 2014

In 2014, **11** North Carolina residents died from unintentional, non-fire related carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

The victims ranged in age from **12** to **75**.

All but one of the victims were **male**.

EXPOSURE SOURCES

Vehicle in garage

4 deaths

Portable generator

3 deaths

Kerosene/propane heater

2 deaths

Propane cooker

1 death

Propane refrigerator

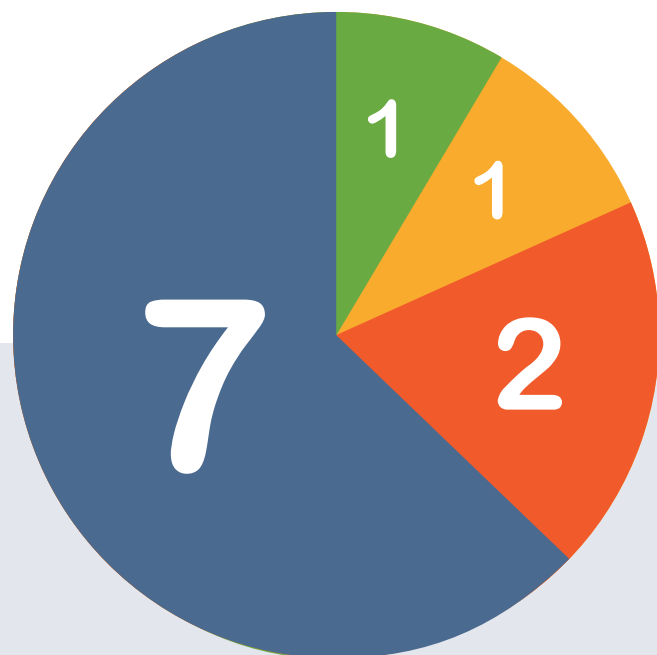
1 death

All of the deaths occurred at a **private residence** and were **non-work related**.

DEATHS PER SEASON

- Spring - 1 Death
- Summer - 1 Death
- Fall - 2 Deaths
- Winter - 7 Deaths

Most deaths (64%) occurred during the winter.



All of the deaths were caused by **operating fuel-burning devices in an enclosed area without adequate ventilation**.

NARRATIVES

DEATHS RELATED TO VEHICLES LEFT RUNNING IN ENCLOSED GARAGES:

- A 20-year-old man died from CO poisoning while using drugs inside a running vehicle in an enclosed garage.
- A 47-year-old man died from CO poisoning in his home. The man's wife died by suicide while sitting in a running car in the attached garage, and CO filled the house, unintentionally killing her husband, dog, and cat.
- A 42-year-old man died from CO poisoning in his car. He had arrived home from work, closed the garage, and left the car running while he sat in his car finishing up some work.
- A 69-year-old man died from CO poisoning while working on an antique sports car in his garage while the car was running.

DEATHS RELATED TO OTHER FUEL-BURNING APPLIANCES BEING USED INDOORS:

- A 12-year-old boy died from CO poisoning in his home. A gas-powered generator was being used to heat the home.
- A 63-year-old man died from CO poisoning while renovating a home. The home had no power, and he was working in the basement of the home with a gas-powered generator.
- A 75-year-old woman died from CO poisoning in her mobile home after using an outdoor propane cooker indoors and leaving it on all night.
- A 51-year-old man died from CO poisoning while operating a propane-powered refrigerator inside his camping trailer with the windows closed.
- A 66-year-old man died from CO poisoning in his home. He had been using a kerosene stove to heat his home since the home had no electricity.
- A 49-year-old man died from CO poisoning in his home. He had been using a gas-powered generator to run an electric heater since the home had no heat.
- A 13-year-old boy died from CO poisoning in his home. A propane heater was being used to heat the home.

Notes: Unintentional, non-fire related CO poisoning deaths were identified using death certificate data provided by the N.C. State Center for Health Statistics (ICD-10 code X47 listed as underlying cause of death and T58 listed as a contributing cause of death) and confirmed using autopsy, investigative, and toxicology reports provided by the N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.



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