



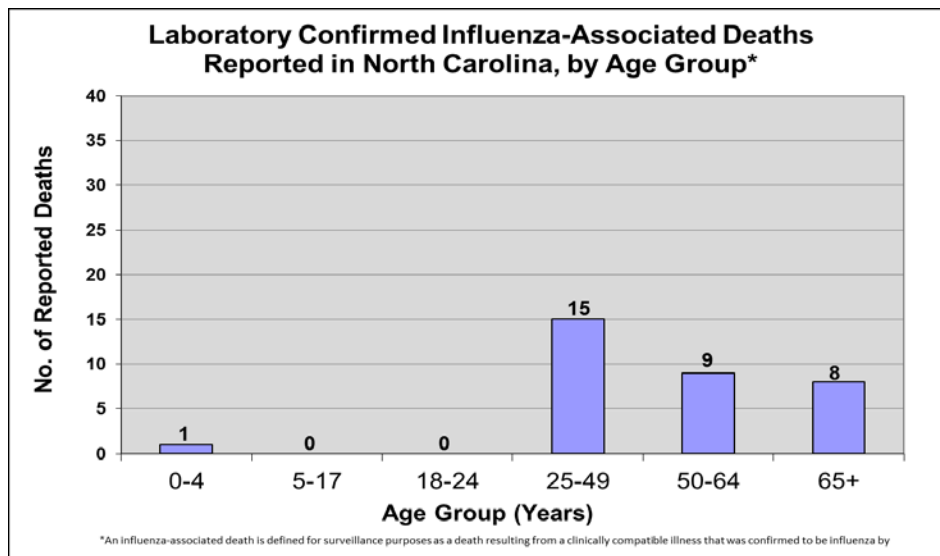
Buncombe County Health and Human Services

Aging and Veteran's Services ~ Social Work Services
 Public Assistance & Work Support Strategies ~ Public Health
 Amanda Stone, MSW
 Health and Human Services Director

Influenza Update as of 1/18/14

Influenza continues to circulate at high levels in NC and locally.

- As of January 18, 2014, the **total # of flu-associated deaths** reported so far this season in NC is **33**.
 - As you can see from the graph below (from NC DPH), **most of these were people 25-49 years of age**.
 - **Most were unvaccinated and many had underlying high-risk medical conditions.**
 - We have now had **2 flu-associated deaths in Buncombe County residents**.
 - One was a 59 yo female who lived in a long-term care facility and the other was a person 65+ yo. Both had underlying medical conditions.
 - **Please remember that you must report ALL influenza-associated deaths to your local health department.**



- Most of the circulating flu virus typed out in NC (and nationwide) continues to be **influenza A (pH1N1)**.

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- **The pH1N1 virus tends to affect mostly young and middle-aged adults and has been linked to more severe illness in pregnant/post-partum women and persons with morbid obesity.**
- **The vaccine continues to be a good match for this circulating strain. Vaccination is encouraged for all people 6 months of age or older.**
 - **The Buncombe County Dept. of Health continues to have influenza vaccine available, including some no-cost vaccine for uninsured Buncombe County residents who meet certain financial criteria.**
- Guidance documents and weekly flu surveillance updates are available at flu.nc.gov. Surveillance updates are posted every Thursday under the “Facts and Figures” tab.

Please contact me or the Disease Control staff of the Buncombe County Dept. of Health if you have any questions regarding flu or other communicable disease matters.

Thanks,

Jenni

Jennifer Mullendore, MD, MSPH

Medical Director

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