

For Immediate Release



From Sen. Joyce Waddell <joyce.waddell-ncleg.net@shared1.ccsend.com>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <joyce.waddell@ncleg.net>
Date 2024-09-09 10:04



From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
Mecklenburg County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, September 9, 2024
Chapter V
Volume 35

CONTACT: Sen. Joyce Waddell
(919) 733-5650
Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net
<https://joycewaddell4nc.com/>



Greetings:

*This week has been filled with district meetings and events.
The General Assembly will have session today through
Wednesday to complete short session business.*

Joyce Waddell

North Carolina Life Expectancy

North Carolina's average life expectancy dropped by more than a year, from 76.1 to 74.9, between 2020 and 2021, according to new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). North Carolina's life expectancy stood at 76.3, 1.4 years higher than in 2021 and more comparable to the pre-pandemic year of 2020.

With this updated data, the CDC now ranks North Carolina 36th in the nation for life expectancy, down one spot from 35th in 2020. A 2023 CDC report, which did not include state-specific data, pegged the national life expectancy at 77.5, an increase of 1.1 years from 2021.

Women continue to outlive men, both nationally and in North Carolina. The gap in life expectancy is about six years, and it has widened slightly from 2019 to 2021. In North Carolina, male life expectancy is 72 years, while female life expectancy is 77.9.

DHHS officials caution that life expectancy is a statistical measure based on current death rates and the ages at which people are dying. Understanding the specific factors driving changes in North Carolina's life expectancy, especially compared to national trends, requires further research and analysis.

There are so many issues that factor into life expectancy in North Carolina. I believe that we have the tools to live a healthy life. We must pay attention to our environment, our diet, and our health.



Mecklenburg Apartment Association

Senator Waddell participates in an event held by the Mecklenburg Apartment Association and provides legislative updates.

Mail-Order Medications and Extreme Heat: A Growing Concern

As extreme heat events become more frequent in North Carolina and across the U.S., policymakers are increasingly focused on the health impacts of climate change.

Under state law, pharmacies outside of North Carolina that ship, mail, or deliver FDA-approved medications must register with the state pharmacy board and have a licensed pharmacist on staff. These pharmacies are responsible for the safe transport of medications.

Extreme heat can degrade medications, reducing their effectiveness. This can occur through evaporation, pressure changes in aerosols, or alterations in other drug components. Advocates for reform suggest that packages containing temperature-sensitive medications should include monitoring devices that alert recipients to any issues during transit.

Despite these concerns, federal law does not mandate such temperature monitoring, and North Carolina law follows federal guidelines.

Since 2022, North Carolina has seen the closure of 100 pharmacies, a trend some attributes in part to PBM practices. The House passed HB246 in April 2023 to address some of these issues, the bill is currently in the Senate Rules Committee.

While the bill does not directly address the issue of extreme heat affecting mailed medications, it could help mitigate some of the problem. PBMs, which administer the pharmacy benefits in health insurance plans, often limit patients to using mail-order pharmacies, a practice known as "steering."

I am sure these issues are being factored in when considering mail-order pharmaceuticals. When this issue is presented in the Senate Rules Committee, I will raise concerns regarding heat and its efficacy after exposure.

COVID & Influenza Vaccinations

Flu season usually increases in the fall, and with COVID numbers going up in North Carolina, please be sure to get vaccinated and continue safety precautions.

NC General Assembly

Visit www.ncleg.gov, the official website of the North Carolina General Assembly. Use this website as a tool to track bills, find and communicate with your state representatives, as well as follow chamber activity, meetings and issues before the General Assembly.

You can view bills in full by visiting www.ncleg.gov.



Sen. Joyce Waddell, District 40 | 1106 Legislative Building | Raleigh, NC 27601 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!