ANCHOR
DEATH RATES ARE INCREASING FOR MIDLIFE WHITES IN NORTH CAROLINA... BUT DEATH RATES ARE DECREASING FOR NONWHITES... THIS ACCORDING TO A NEW STUDY OUT OF EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

VO
THE STUDY LOOKED AT NORTH CAROLINA DATA FROM THE YEARS 2000 THROUGH 2013. RESEARCHERS SAY THE RACIAL DISPARITY BETWEEN NONWHITES AND WHITES IS LESSENING – WHICH IS A GOOD THING.
IT SHOWS THAT THE DEATH RATE OF NONWHITES AGED 45 TO 54... DECREASED 30-PERCENT.
HOWEVER... FOR WHITES... THE DEATH RATE INCREASED BY 6-PERCENT ACROSS THE STATE...
AND BY 17-PERCENT IN THE POOREST COUNTIES, INDICATING ECONOMICS AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR.
The main causes of the increase in death for midlife whites... suicide and liver diseases.

SOT
Dr. Chris Mansfield – ECU Dept. of Public Health
23:50 – Dr. Mansfield -- some people have described these diseases of despair. Perhaps the burden of the Great Recession that started in 2008. (5 sec)

OR
28:32 – Dr. Mansfield -- one has to wonder if there’s a factor involved here in terms of hope – that people have a more positive attitude about their life. (9 sec)

VO CONT
DR. CHRIS MANSFIELD SUGGESTS THINGS LIKE STRENGTHENING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT... EXPANDING MEDICAID IN NORTH CAROLINA... AND IMPROVING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES... COULD HELP DECREASE THESE DEATH RATES FOR EVERYONE.