



Health, United States, 2014

About NCHS

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is the nation's principal health statistics agency, providing data to identify and address health issues. NCHS compiles statistical information to help guide public health and health policy decisions.

Collaborating with other public and private health partners, NCHS employs a variety of data collection mechanisms to obtain accurate information from multiple sources. This process provides a broad perspective to help us understand the population's health, influences on health, and health outcomes.

Health, United States

Health, United States, 2014 is the 38th annual report on the health status of the nation, produced by NCHS and submitted by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to the President and Congress. The report includes data from a variety of federal government and private-sector sources, organized around four major subject areas: health status and determinants, health care utilization, health care resources, and health care expenditures.

Each year, *Health, United States* includes a special feature; the 2014 report includes a "Special Feature on Adults Aged 55–64," the heart of the baby boom generation, which is increasingly influenced by chronic conditions. The feature compares their health with those aged 55–64 a decade earlier. Within 10 years, nearly all of this age group will be covered by Medicare—a payer under financial pressure to serve current and future enrollees.

Selected Findings From "Special Feature on Adults Aged 55–64"

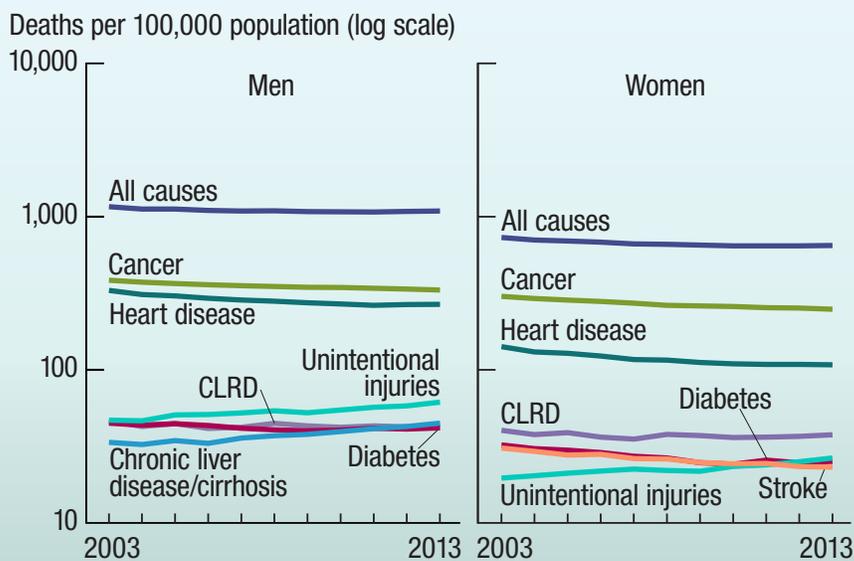
Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics

- Between 2002–2003 and 2012–2013, the percentage of non-Hispanic white persons decreased from nearly 79% of the 55–64 age group to just under 74%, while non-Hispanic black persons rose from 9.5% to 10.9%, and Hispanic persons grew from 7.5% to nearly 10%.
- The percentage of adults aged 55–64 who were retired in 2012–2013 (14.6%) was less than in 2002–2003 (17.0%).
- Adults aged 55–64 in 2012–2013 were less likely to be married and more likely to report cohabiting than 55- to 64-year-olds a decade earlier. The current 55–64 age group was almost twice as likely to report never marrying (7.3%) compared with their counterparts in 2002–2003 (4.4%).

Leading Causes of Death

- All-cause death rates in 2013 for those aged 55–64 were 6% lower for men and 11% lower for women than in 2003. During 2003–2013, all-cause death rates were higher for men aged 55–64 than for women in the same age group.
- Cancer death rates were higher than the death rate for heart disease for those aged 55–64 throughout the decade.

Death rates for leading causes of death among adults aged 55–64, by sex: United States, 2003–2013



NOTES: CLRD is chronic lower respiratory diseases. Diabetes coding rules changed starting in 2011, resulting in an increased number of deaths coded to this cause. See *Health, United States, 2014* data table for Figure 20. SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, *Health, United States, 2014* and National Vital Statistics System.

Current cigarette smoking among adults aged 55–64, by selected characteristics: United States, average annual 2002–2003 and 2012–2013



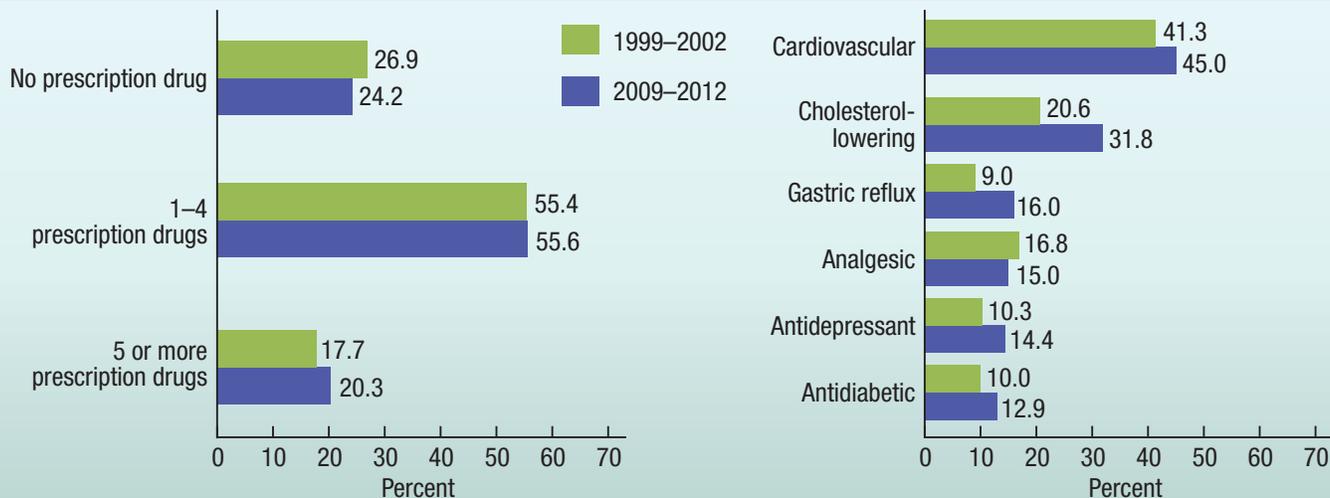
NOTE: See *Health, United States, 2014* data table for Figure 23.
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, *Health, United States, 2014* and National Health Interview Survey.

Current Cigarette Smoking

Tobacco use is associated with death from many types of cancers, heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease—all of which are major causes of death for those aged 55–64.

- During 2012–2013, 18.1% of adults aged 55–64 were current cigarette smokers, down 8% from 2002–2003 (19.7%).
- Adults aged 55–64 living below 100% of the poverty threshold were nearly three times as likely to be current smokers (32.4%) as those with incomes at 400% or more of the poverty threshold (11.2%) in 2012–2013.

Prescription drug use in the past 30 days among adults aged 55–64, by number of drugs and selected drug class: United States, 1999–2002 and 2009–2012



NOTE: See *Health, United States, 2014* data table for Figure 28 for indications and conditions for which drug classes are commonly prescribed.
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, *Health, United States, 2014* and National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Prescription Drug Use

- In 2009–2012 compared with 1999–2002, the percentage of adults aged 55–64 who took selected prescription drugs in the past 30 days was 78% higher for gastric reflux drugs, 54% higher for cholesterol-lowering drugs, 40% higher for antidepressant drugs, and 29% higher for antidiabetic drugs.
- In 2009–2012, nearly one-half of adults aged 55–64 took a prescription cardiovascular drug in the past 30 days (45.0%), nearly one-third took a prescription cholesterol-lowering drug (31.8%), and 16.0% used prescription gastric reflux medications (for anti-acid reflux and stomach ulcers).

