

Table 27. Leading causes of death and numbers of deaths, by age: United States, 1980 and 2010

(Data are based on death certificates)

		1980		2010	
Age and rank order	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths	Deaths
<b>Under 1 year</b>					
Rank	All causes	45,526	All causes		24,586
1.....	Congenital anomalies	9,220	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities		5,107
2.....	Sudden infant death syndrome	5,510	Disorders related to short gestation and low birth weight, not elsewhere classified		4,148
3.....	Respiratory distress syndrome	4,989	Sudden infant death syndrome		2,063
4.....	Disorders relating to short gestation and unspecified low birthweight	3,648	Newborn affected by maternal complications of pregnancy		1,561
5.....	Newborn affected by maternal complications of pregnancy	1,572	Unintentional injuries		1,110
6.....	Intrauterine hypoxia and birth asphyxia	1,497	Newborn affected by complications of placenta, cord and membranes		1,030
7.....	Unintentional injuries	1,166	Bacterial sepsis of newborn		583
8.....	Birth trauma	1,058	Respiratory distress of newborn		514
9.....	Pneumonia and influenza	1,012	Diseases of circulatory system		507
10.....	Newborn affected by complications of placenta, cord, and membranes	985	Necrotizing enterocolitis of newborn		472
<b>1-4 years</b>					
Rank	All causes	8,187	All causes		4,316
1.....	Unintentional injuries	3,313	Unintentional injuries		1,394
2.....	Congenital anomalies	1,026	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities		507
3.....	Malignant neoplasms	573	Homicide		385
4.....	Diseases of heart	338	Malignant neoplasms		346
5.....	Homicide	319	Diseases of heart		159
6.....	Pneumonia and influenza	267	Influenza and pneumonia		91
7.....	Meningitis	223	Septicemia		62
8.....	Meningococcal infection	110	In situ neoplasms, benign neoplasms and neoplasms of uncertain or unknown behavior		59
9.....	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	84	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period		52
10.....	Septicemia	71	Chronic lower respiratory diseases		51
<b>5-14 years</b>					
Rank	All causes	10,689	All causes		5,279
1.....	Unintentional injuries	5,224	Unintentional injuries		1,643
2.....	Malignant neoplasms	1,497	Malignant neoplasms		916
3.....	Congenital anomalies	561	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities		298
4.....	Homicide	415	Suicide		274
5.....	Diseases of heart	330	Homicide		261
6.....	Pneumonia and influenza	194	Diseases of heart		185
7.....	Suicide	142	Chronic lower respiratory diseases		133
8.....	Benign neoplasms	104	Cerebrovascular diseases		90
9.....	Cerebrovascular diseases	95	In situ neoplasms, benign neoplasms and neoplasms of uncertain or unknown behavior		82
10.....	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases	85	Influenza and pneumonia		71
<b>15-24 years</b>					
Rank	All causes	49,027	All causes		29,551
1.....	Unintentional injuries	26,206	Unintentional injuries		12,341
2.....	Homicide	6,537	Homicide		4,678
3.....	Suicide	5,239	Suicide		4,600
4.....	Malignant neoplasms	2,683	Malignant neoplasms		1,604
5.....	Diseases of heart	1,223	Diseases of heart		1,028
6.....	Congenital anomalies	600	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities		412
7.....	Cerebrovascular diseases	418	Cerebrovascular diseases		190
8.....	Pneumonia and influenza	348	Influenza and pneumonia		181
9.....	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases	141	Diabetes mellitus		165
10.....	Anemias	133	Pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium		163
<b>25-44 years</b>					
Rank	All causes	108,658	All causes		112,292
1.....	Unintentional injuries	26,722	Unintentional injuries		29,365
2.....	Malignant neoplasms	17,551	Malignant neoplasms		15,428
3.....	Diseases of heart	14,513	Diseases of heart		13,816
4.....	Homicide	10,983	Suicide		12,306
5.....	Suicide	9,855	Homicide		6,731
6.....	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	4,782	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis		2,910
7.....	Cerebrovascular diseases	3,154	Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease		2,639
8.....	Diabetes mellitus	1,472	Cerebrovascular diseases		2,421

9.....	Pneumonia and influenza	1,467	Diabetes mellitus	2,395
10.....	Congenital anomalies	817	Influenza and pneumonia	1,158

45-64 years

Rank	All causes	425,338	All causes	494,009
1.....	Diseases of heart	148,322	Malignant neoplasms	159,712
2.....	Malignant neoplasms	135,675	Diseases of heart	104,806
3.....	Cerebrovascular diseases	19,909	Unintentional injuries	33,690
4.....	Unintentional injuries	18,140	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	18,694
5.....	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	16,089	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	18,415
6.....	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases	11,514	Diabetes mellitus	17,287
7.....	Diabetes mellitus	7,977	Cerebrovascular diseases	16,603
8.....	Suicide	7,079	Suicide	15,183
9.....	Pneumonia and influenza	5,804	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	7,304
10.....	Homicide	4,019	Septicemia	6,937

65 years  
and over

Rank	All causes	1,341,848	All causes	1,798,276
1.....	Diseases of heart	595,406	Diseases of heart	477,338
2.....	Malignant neoplasms	258,389	Malignant neoplasms	396,670
3.....	Cerebrovascular diseases	146,417	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	118,031
4.....	Pneumonia and influenza	45,512	Cerebrovascular diseases	109,990
5.....	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases	43,587	Alzheimer's disease	82,616
6.....	Atherosclerosis	28,081	Diabetes mellitus	49,191
7.....	Diabetes mellitus	25,216	Influenza and pneumonia	42,846
8.....	Unintentional injuries	24,844	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	41,994
9.....	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis	12,968	Unintentional injuries	41,300
10.....	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	9,519	Septicemia	26,310

...Category not applicable.

NOTES: For cause of death codes based on the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision (ICD-9)* in 1980 and ICD-10 in 2010, see Appendix II, Cause of death; Table III; Table IV.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System; Vital statistics of the United States, Vol II, mortality, part A, 1980. Washington, DC: Public Health Service. 1985; 2010 public-use Mortality File. Murphy SL, Xu JQ, Kochanek KD. Deaths: Final data for 2010. National vital statistics reports; vol 61 no 4. Hyattsville, MD: NCHS; 2012. Available from: [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61\\_04.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61_04.pdf). See Appendix I, National Vital Statistics System (NVSS).

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