

Table 19. Leading causes of death and numbers of deaths, by sex, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, 1980 and 2016

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2017.htm#019>.

[Data are based on death certificates]

Sex, race, Hispanic origin, and rank order	1980		2016	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
All persons				
Rank	All causes	1,989,841	All causes	2,744,248
1	Diseases of heart	761,085	Diseases of heart	635,260
2	Malignant neoplasms	416,509	Malignant neoplasms	598,038
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	170,225	Unintentional injuries	161,374
4	Unintentional injuries	105,718	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	154,596
5	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases ¹	56,050	Cerebrovascular diseases	142,142
6	Pneumonia and influenza ²	54,619	Alzheimer's disease	116,103
7	Diabetes mellitus	34,851	Diabetes mellitus ³	80,058
8	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	30,583	Influenza and pneumonia ²	51,537
9	Atherosclerosis	29,449	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	50,046
10	Suicide	26,869	Suicide	44,965
Male				
Rank	All causes	1,075,078	All causes	1,400,232
1	Diseases of heart	405,661	Diseases of heart	339,265
2	Malignant neoplasms	225,948	Malignant neoplasms	314,571
3	Unintentional injuries	74,180	Unintentional injuries	103,864
4	Cerebrovascular diseases	69,973	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	73,045
5	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases ¹	38,625	Cerebrovascular diseases	59,355
6	Pneumonia and influenza ²	27,574	Diabetes mellitus ³	43,763
7	Suicide	20,505	Alzheimer's disease	35,372
8	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	19,768	Suicide	34,727
9	Homicide	18,779	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	25,818
10	Diabetes mellitus	14,325	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	25,399
Female				
Rank	All causes	914,763	All causes	1,344,016
1	Diseases of heart	355,424	Diseases of heart	295,995
2	Malignant neoplasms	190,561	Malignant neoplasms	283,467
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	100,252	Cerebrovascular diseases	82,787
4	Unintentional injuries	31,538	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	81,551
5	Pneumonia and influenza ²	27,045	Alzheimer's disease	80,731
6	Diabetes mellitus	20,526	Unintentional injuries	57,510
7	Atherosclerosis	17,848	Diabetes mellitus ³	36,295
8	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases ¹	17,425	Influenza and pneumonia ²	26,526
9	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	10,815	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	24,647
10	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	9,815	Septicemia	20,935

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Sex, race, Hispanic origin, and rank order	1980		2016	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
White				
Rank	All causes	1,738,607	All causes	2,323,094
1	Diseases of heart	683,347	Diseases of heart	539,220
2	Malignant neoplasms	368,162	Malignant neoplasms	505,971
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	148,734	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	140,769
4	Unintentional injuries	90,122	Unintentional injuries	137,289
5	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases ¹	52,375	Cerebrovascular diseases	117,806
6	Pneumonia and influenza ²	48,369	Alzheimer's disease	104,638
7	Diabetes mellitus	28,868	Diabetes mellitus ³	61,934
8	Atherosclerosis	27,069	Influenza and pneumonia ²	43,429
9	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	25,240	Suicide	40,164
10	Suicide	24,829	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	39,005
Black or African American				
Rank	All causes	233,135	All causes	331,788
1	Diseases of heart	72,956	Diseases of heart	77,729
2	Malignant neoplasms	45,037	Malignant neoplasms	70,628
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	20,135	Unintentional injuries	18,588
4	Unintentional injuries	13,480	Cerebrovascular diseases	18,382
5	Homicide	10,172	Diabetes mellitus ³	14,254
6	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	6,961	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	10,989
7	Pneumonia and influenza ²	5,648	Homicide	9,995
8	Diabetes mellitus	5,544	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	9,305
9	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	4,790	Alzheimer's disease	8,669
10	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	3,416	Septicemia	6,744
American Indian or Alaska Native				
Rank	All causes	6,923	All causes	19,708
1	Diseases of heart	1,494	Diseases of heart	3,508
2	Unintentional injuries	1,290	Malignant neoplasms	3,409
3	Malignant neoplasms	770	Unintentional injuries	2,265
4	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	410	Diabetes mellitus ³	1,125
5	Cerebrovascular diseases	322	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	1,081
6	Pneumonia and influenza ²	257	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	888
7	Homicide	217	Cerebrovascular diseases	664
8	Diabetes mellitus	210	Suicide	629
9	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	199	Alzheimer's disease	397
10	Suicide	181	Influenza and pneumonia ²	377

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Sex, race, Hispanic origin, and rank order		1980		2016	
		Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
Asian or Pacific Islander					
Rank	All causes		11,071	All causes	69,658
1	Diseases of heart		3,265	Malignant neoplasms	18,030
2	Malignant neoplasms		2,522	Diseases of heart	14,803
3	Cerebrovascular diseases		1,028	Cerebrovascular diseases	5,290
4	Unintentional injuries		810	Unintentional injuries	3,232
5	Pneumonia and influenza ²		342	Diabetes mellitus ³	2,745
6	Suicide		249	Alzheimer's disease	2,399
7	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period		246	Influenza and pneumonia ²	2161
8	Diabetes mellitus		227	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	1,950
9	Homicide		211	Suicide	1,402
10	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases ¹		207	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	1,378
Hispanic or Latino					
Rank	---	---	---	All causes	188,254
1	---	---	---	Malignant neoplasms	39,263
2	---	---	---	Diseases of heart	37,799
3	---	---	---	Unintentional injuries	15,711
4	---	---	---	Cerebrovascular diseases	10,283
5	---	---	---	Diabetes mellitus ³	8,546
6	---	---	---	Alzheimer's disease	6,833
7	---	---	---	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	6,141
8	---	---	---	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	5,287
9	---	---	---	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	3,775
10	---	---	---	Suicide	3,668
White, not Hispanic or Latino					
Rank	---	---	---	All causes	2,133,463
1	---	---	---	Diseases of heart	500,631
2	---	---	---	Malignant neoplasms	466,467
3	---	---	---	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	135,268
4	---	---	---	Unintentional injuries	121,641
5	---	---	---	Cerebrovascular diseases	107,491
6	---	---	---	Alzheimer's disease	97,779
7	---	---	---	Diabetes mellitus ³	53,399
8	---	---	---	Influenza and pneumonia ²	39,748
9	---	---	---	Suicide	36,531
10	---	---	---	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	35,248

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Sex, race, Hispanic origin, and rank order	1980		2016	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
Black, not Hispanic or Latino				
Rank	---	---	All causes	326,810
1	---	---	Diseases of heart	76,608
2	---	---	Malignant neoplasms	69,725
3	---	---	Cerebrovascular diseases	18,189
4	---	---	Unintentional injuries	18,089
5	---	---	Diabetes mellitus ³	14,053
6	---	---	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	10,838
7	---	---	Homicide	9,860
8	---	---	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	9,200
9	---	---	Alzheimer's disease	8,577
10	---	---	Septicemia	6,684
White male				
Rank	All causes	933,878	All causes	1,181,931
1	Diseases of heart	364,679	Diseases of heart	288,505
2	Malignant neoplasms	198,188	Malignant neoplasms	267,895
3	Unintentional injuries	62,963	Unintentional injuries	87,515
4	Cerebrovascular diseases	60,095	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	65,840
5	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases ¹	35,977	Cerebrovascular diseases	48,523
6	Pneumonia and influenza ²	23,810	Diabetes mellitus ³	34,628
7	Suicide	18,901	Alzheimer's disease	32,046
8	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	16,407	Suicide	31,032
9	Diabetes mellitus	12,125	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	22,770
10	Atherosclerosis	10,543	Influenza and pneumonia ²	20,930
Black or African American male				
Rank	All causes	130,138	All causes	171,674
1	Diseases of heart	37,877	Diseases of heart	40,708
2	Malignant neoplasms	25,861	Malignant neoplasms	35,709
3	Unintentional injuries	9,701	Unintentional injuries	12,817
4	Cerebrovascular diseases	9,194	Homicide	8,650
5	Homicide	8,274	Cerebrovascular diseases	8,225
6	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	3,869	Diabetes mellitus ³	7,087
7	Pneumonia and influenza ²	3,386	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	5,599
8	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	3,020	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	4,405
9	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases ¹	2,429	Septicemia	3,110
10	Diabetes mellitus	2,010	Essential hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	2,851

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Sex, race, Hispanic origin, and rank order	1980		2016	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
American Indian or Alaska Native male				
Rank	All causes	4,193	All causes	10,945
1	Unintentional injuries	946	Diseases of heart	2,054
2	Diseases of heart	917	Malignant neoplasms	1,825
3	Malignant neoplasms	408	Unintentional injuries	1,516
4	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	239	Diabetes mellitus ³	605
5	Cerebrovascular diseases	163	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	594
6	Homicide	162	Suicide	482
7	Pneumonia and influenza ²	148	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	451
8	Suicide	147	Cerebrovascular diseases	302
9	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	107	Homicide	233
10	Diabetes mellitus	86	Influenza and pneumonia ²	186
Asian or Pacific Islander male				
Rank	All causes	6,809	All causes	35,682
1	Diseases of heart	2,174	Malignant neoplasms	9,142
2	Malignant neoplasms	1,485	Diseases of heart	7,998
3	Unintentional injuries	556	Cerebrovascular diseases	2,305
4	Cerebrovascular diseases	521	Unintentional injuries	2,016
5	Pneumonia and influenza ²	227	Diabetes mellitus ³	1,443
6	Suicide	159	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	1,155
7	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases ¹	158	Influenza and pneumonia ²	1,134
8	Homicide	151	Suicide	1,007
9	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	128	Alzheimer's disease	718
10	Diabetes mellitus	103	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	681
Hispanic or Latino male				
Rank	---	---	All causes	103,532
1	---	---	Diseases of heart	20,945
2	---	---	Malignant neoplasms	20,504
3	---	---	Unintentional injuries	11,510
4	---	---	Cerebrovascular diseases	4,798
5	---	---	Diabetes mellitus ³	4,603
6	---	---	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	4,225
7	---	---	Suicide	2,944
8	---	---	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	2,759
9	---	---	Homicide	2,657
10	---	---	Alzheimer's disease	2,151

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Sex, race, Hispanic origin, and rank order	1980		2016	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
White, not Hispanic or Latino male				
Rank	---	---	All causes	1,077,362
1	---	---	Diseases of heart	266,995
2	---	---	Malignant neoplasms	247,202
3	---	---	Unintentional injuries	76,033
4	---	---	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	62,945
5	---	---	Cerebrovascular diseases	43,713
6	---	---	Diabetes mellitus ³	30,010
7	---	---	Alzheimer's disease	29,886
8	---	---	Suicide	28,110
9	---	---	Influenza and pneumonia ²	19,033
10	---	---	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	18,522
Black, not Hispanic or Latino male				
Rank	---	---	All causes	168,750
1	---	---	Diseases of heart	40,044
2	---	---	Malignant neoplasms	35,215
3	---	---	Unintentional injuries	12,453
4	---	---	Homicide	8,532
5	---	---	Cerebrovascular diseases	8,115
6	---	---	Diabetes mellitus ³	6,976
7	---	---	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	5,519
8	---	---	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	4,348
9	---	---	Septicemia	3,074
10	---	---	Essential hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	2,805
White female				
Rank	All causes	804,729	All causes	1,141,163
1	Diseases of heart	318,668	Diseases of heart	250,715
2	Malignant neoplasms	169,974	Malignant neoplasms	238,076
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	88,639	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	74,929
4	Unintentional injuries	27,159	Alzheimer's disease	72,592
5	Pneumonia and influenza ²	24,559	Cerebrovascular diseases	69,283
6	Diabetes mellitus	16,743	Unintentional injuries	49,774
7	Atherosclerosis	16,526	Diabetes mellitus ³	27,306
8	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases ¹	16,398	Influenza and pneumonia ²	22,499
9	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	8,833	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	18,868
10	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	6,512	Septicemia	16,726

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Sex, race, Hispanic origin, and rank order	1980		2016	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
Black or African American female				
Rank	All causes	102,997	All causes	160,114
1	Diseases of heart	35,079	Diseases of heart	37,021
2	Malignant neoplasms	19,176	Malignant neoplasms	34,919
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	10,941	Cerebrovascular diseases	10,157
4	Unintentional injuries	3,779	Diabetes mellitus ³	7,167
5	Diabetes mellitus	3,534	Alzheimer's disease	6,186
6	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	3092	Unintentional injuries	5771
7	Pneumonia and influenza ²	2,262	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	5,390
8	Homicide	1,898	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	4,900
9	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	1,770	Septicemia	3,634
10	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	1,722	Essential hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	3,154
American Indian or Alaska Native female				
Rank	All causes	2,730	All causes	8,763
1	Diseases of heart	577	Malignant neoplasms	1,584
2	Malignant neoplasms	362	Diseases of heart	1,454
3	Unintentional injuries	344	Unintentional injuries	749
4	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	171	Diabetes mellitus ³	520
5	Cerebrovascular diseases	159	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	487
6	Diabetes mellitus	124	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	437
7	Pneumonia and influenza ²	109	Cerebrovascular diseases	362
8	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	92	Alzheimer's disease	272
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	56	Influenza and pneumonia ²	191
10	Homicide	55	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	182
Asian or Pacific Islander female				
Rank	All causes	4,262	All causes	33,976
1	Diseases of heart	1,091	Malignant neoplasms	8,888
2	Malignant neoplasms	1,037	Diseases of heart	6,805
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	507	Cerebrovascular diseases	2,985
4	Unintentional injuries	254	Alzheimer's disease	1,681
5	Diabetes mellitus	124	Diabetes mellitus ³	1,302
6	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	118	Unintentional injuries	1216
7	Pneumonia and influenza ²	115	Influenza and pneumonia ²	1,027
8	Congenital anomalies	104	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	795
9	Suicide	90	Essential hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	744
10	Homicide	60	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	697

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Sex, race, Hispanic origin, and rank order	1980		2016	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
Hispanic or Latina female				
Rank	---	---	All causes	84,722
1	---	---	Malignant neoplasms	18,759
2	---	---	Diseases of heart	16,854
3	---	---	Cerebrovascular diseases	5,485
4	---	---	Alzheimer's disease	4,682
5	---	---	Unintentional injuries	4,201
6	---	---	Diabetes mellitus ³	3,943
7	---	---	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	2,528
8	---	---	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	1,916
9	---	---	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	1,844
10	---	---	Influenza and pneumonia ²	1,764
White, not Hispanic or Latina female				
Rank	---	---	All causes	1,056,101
1	---	---	Diseases of heart	233,636
2	---	---	Malignant neoplasms	219,265
3	---	---	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	72,323
4	---	---	Alzheimer's disease	67,893
5	---	---	Cerebrovascular diseases	63,778
6	---	---	Unintentional injuries	45,608
7	---	---	Diabetes mellitus ³	23,389
8	---	---	Influenza and pneumonia ²	20,715
9	---	---	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	17,032
10	---	---	Septicemia	15,389
Black, not Hispanic or Latina female				
Rank	---	---	All causes	158,060
1	---	---	Diseases of heart	36,564
2	---	---	Malignant neoplasms	34,510
3	---	---	Cerebrovascular diseases	10,074
4	---	---	Diabetes mellitus ³	7,077
5	---	---	Alzheimer's disease	6,126
6	---	---	Unintentional injuries	5,636
7	---	---	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	5,319
8	---	---	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	4,852
9	---	---	Septicemia	3,610
10	---	---	Essential hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	3,119

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--- Data not available. Complete coverage of all states for the Hispanic origin variable began in 1997.

¹Between 1998 and 1999, the cause of death title for Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD) in the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision (ICD-9)* was renamed Chronic lower respiratory diseases (CLRD) in ICD-10.

²Starting with 1999 data, the rules for selecting CLRD and Pneumonia as the underlying cause of death changed, resulting in an increase in the number of deaths for CLRD and a decrease in the number of deaths for Pneumonia. Therefore, trend data for these two causes of death should be interpreted with caution. For more information, see in Appendix II, Table V.

³Starting with 2011 data, the rules for selecting Renal failure as the underlying cause of death were changed, affecting the number of deaths in the Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis and Diabetes categories. These changes directly affect deaths with mention of Renal failure and other associated conditions, such as Diabetes mellitus with renal complications. The result is a decrease in the number of deaths for Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis and an increase in the number of deaths for Diabetes mellitus. Therefore, trend data for these two causes of death should be interpreted with caution. For more information, see Technical Notes in "Deaths: Final Data for 2011," available from: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr63/nvsr63_03.pdf.

NOTES: For cause-of-death codes based on the ICD-9 in 1980 and ICD-10 in 2015, see Appendix II, Cause of death; Cause-of-death ranking; Table III; Table IV. Starting with 2003 data (shown in spreadsheet version), some states began to collect information on more than one race on the death certificate, according to 1997 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards, for comparability with other states. The race groups white, black, Asian or Pacific Islander, and American Indian or Alaska Native include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. See Appendix II, Race; Hispanic origin.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Vital Statistics System. Vital statistics of the United States, 1980. Volume II—Mortality, part A. 1985; public-use 2016 Mortality File; Xu JQ, Murphy SL, Kochanek KD, Bastian B, Arias E. Deaths: Final data for 2016. National Vital Statistics Reports; vol 67. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2018. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/nvsr.htm>. See Appendix I, National Vital Statistics System (NVSS).