

Table 20. Leading causes of death and numbers of deaths, by age: United States, 1980 and 2016Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2017.htm#020>.

[Data are based on death certificates]

Age and rank order	1980		2016	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
Under 1 year				
Rank	All causes	45,526	All causes	23,161
1	Congenital anomalies	9,220	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	4,816
2	Sudden infant death syndrome	5,510	Disorders related to short gestation and low birthweight	3,927
3	Respiratory distress syndrome	4,989	Sudden infant death syndrome	1,500
4	Disorders relating to short gestation and unspecified low birthweight	3,648	Newborn affected by maternal complications of pregnancy	1,402
5	Newborn affected by maternal complications of pregnancy	1,572	Unintentional injuries	1,219
6	Intrauterine hypoxia and birth asphyxia	1,497	Newborn affected by complications of placenta, cord, and membranes	841
7	Unintentional injuries	1,166	Bacterial sepsis of newborn	583
8	Birth trauma	1,058	Respiratory distress of newborn	488
9	Pneumonia and influenza ¹	1,012	Diseases of circulatory system	460
10	Newborn affected by complications of placenta, cord, and membranes	985	Neonatal hemorrhage	398
1–4 years				
Rank	All causes	8,187	All causes	4,045
1	Unintentional injuries	3,313	Unintentional injuries	1,261
2	Congenital anomalies	1,026	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	433
3	Malignant neoplasms	573	Malignant neoplasms	377
4	Diseases of heart	338	Homicide	339
5	Homicide	319	Diseases of heart	118
6	Pneumonia and influenza ¹	267	Influenza and pneumonia ¹	103
7	Meningitis	223	Septicemia	70
8	Meningococcal infection	110	Conditions originating in perinatal period	60
9	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	84	Cerebrovascular diseases	55
10	Septicemia	71	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	51
5–14 years				
Rank	All causes	10,689	All causes	5,503
1	Unintentional injuries	5,224	Unintentional injuries	1,634
2	Malignant neoplasms	1,497	Malignant neoplasms	880
3	Congenital anomalies	561	Suicide	443
4	Homicide	415	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	349
5	Diseases of heart	330	Homicide	286
6	Pneumonia and influenza ¹	194	Diseases of heart	188
7	Suicide	142	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	143
8	Benign neoplasms	104	Cerebrovascular diseases	88
9	Cerebrovascular diseases	95	Influenza and pneumonia ¹	87
10	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases ²	85	Septicemia	71

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	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
15–24 years				
Rank	All causes	49,027	All causes	32,575
1	Unintentional injuries	26,206	Unintentional injuries	13,895
2	Homicide	6,537	Suicide	5,723
3	Suicide	5,239	Homicide	5,172
4	Malignant neoplasms	2,683	Malignant neoplasms	1,431
5	Diseases of heart	1,223	Diseases of heart	949
6	Congenital anomalies	600	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	388
7	Cerebrovascular diseases	418	Diabetes mellitus ³	211
8	Pneumonia and influenza ¹	348	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	206
9	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases ²	141	Influenza and pneumonia ¹	189
10	Anemias	133	Pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium	184
25–44 years				
Rank	All causes	108,658	All causes	135,408
1	Unintentional injuries	26,722	Unintentional injuries	44,959
2	Malignant neoplasms	17,551	Malignant neoplasms	14,694
3	Diseases of heart	14,513	Suicide	14,396
4	Homicide	10,983	Diseases of heart	13,922
5	Suicide	9,855	Homicide	8,745
6	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	4,782	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	3,776
7	Cerebrovascular diseases	3,154	Diabetes mellitus ³	2,841
8	Diabetes mellitus	1,472	Cerebrovascular diseases	2,426
9	Pneumonia and influenza ¹	1,467	Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease	1,517
10	Congenital anomalies	817	Influenza and pneumonia ¹	1,346
45–64 years				
Rank	All causes	425,338	All causes	539,961
1	Diseases of heart	148,322	Malignant neoplasms	157,655
2	Malignant neoplasms	135,675	Diseases of heart	112,637
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	19,909	Unintentional injuries	45,237
4	Unintentional injuries	18,140	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	22,117
5	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	16,089	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	21,812
6	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases ²	11,514	Diabetes mellitus ³	20,518
7	Diabetes mellitus	7,977	Cerebrovascular diseases	17,663
8	Suicide	7,079	Suicide	16,196
9	Pneumonia and influenza ¹	5,804	Septicemia	8,413
10	Homicide	4,019	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	7,790

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Age and rank order	1980		2016	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
65 years and over				
Rank	All causes	1,341,848	All causes	2,003,458
1	Diseases of heart	595,406	Diseases of heart	507,118
2	Malignant neoplasms	258,389	Malignant neoplasms	422,927
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	146,417	Chronic lower respiratory diseases ^{1,2}	131,002
4	Pneumonia and influenza ¹	45,512	Cerebrovascular diseases	121,630
5	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases ²	43,587	Alzheimer's disease	114,883
6	Atherosclerosis	28,081	Diabetes mellitus ³	56,452
7	Diabetes mellitus	25,216	Unintentional injuries	53,141
8	Unintentional injuries	24,844	Influenza and pneumonia ¹	42,479
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	12,968	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis ³	41,095
10	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	9,519	Septicemia	30,405

¹Starting with 1999 data, the rules for selecting Chronic lower respiratory diseases (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 Appendix II, Table V.

²Between 1998 and 1999, the cause of death title for Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD) in ICD-9 was renamed to Chronic lower respiratory diseases (CLRD) in ICD-10.

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.

NOTE: For cause-of-death codes based on ICD-9 in 1980 and ICD-10 in 2016, see Appendix II, Cause of death; Cause-of-death ranking; Table III; Table IV.

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. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics; vol 67. 2018. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/nvsr.htm>. See Appendix I, National Vital Statistics System (NVSS).