

**Table 7. Leading causes of death and numbers of deaths, by age: United States, 1980 and 2018**

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2019.htm#Table-007>

[Data are based on death certificates]

Age and rank order	1980		2018	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
<b>Under 1 year</b>				
Rank	All causes.....	45,526	All causes.....	21,467
1 .....	Congenital anomalies.....	9,220	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities.....	4,473
2 .....	Sudden infant death syndrome.....	5,510	Disorders related to short gestation and low birth weight.....	3,679
3 .....	Respiratory distress syndrome.....	4,989	Newborn affected by maternal complications of pregnancy.....	1,358
4 .....	Disorders relating to short gestation and unspecified low birth weight.....	3,648	Sudden infant death syndrome.....	1,334
5 .....	Newborn affected by maternal complications of pregnancy.....	1,572	Unintentional injuries.....	1,168
6 .....	Intrauterine hypoxia and birth asphyxia.....	1,497	Newborn affected by complications of placenta, cord and membranes.....	724
7 .....	Unintentional injuries.....	1,166	Bacterial sepsis of newborn.....	579
8 .....	Birth trauma.....	1,058	Diseases of circulatory system.....	428
9 .....	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>1</sup> .....	1,012	Respiratory distress of newborn.....	390
10 .....	Newborn affected by complications of placenta, cord and membranes.....	985	Neonatal hemorrhage.....	375
<b>1–4 years</b>				
Rank	All causes.....	8,187	All causes.....	3,830
1 .....	Unintentional injuries.....	3,313	Unintentional injuries.....	1,226
2 .....	Congenital anomalies.....	1,026	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities.....	384
3 .....	Malignant neoplasms.....	573	Homicide.....	353
4 .....	Diseases of heart.....	338	Malignant neoplasms.....	326
5 .....	Homicide.....	319	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>1</sup> .....	122
6 .....	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>1</sup> .....	267	Diseases of heart.....	115
7 .....	Meningitis.....	223	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period.....	62
8 .....	Meningococcal infection.....	110	Septicemia.....	54
9 .....	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period.....	84	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup> .....	50
10 .....	Septicemia.....	71	Cerebrovascular diseases.....	43
<b>5–14 years</b>				
Rank	All causes.....	10,689	All causes.....	5,450
1 .....	Unintentional injuries.....	5,224	Unintentional injuries.....	1,426
2 .....	Malignant neoplasms.....	1,497	Malignant neoplasms.....	843
3 .....	Congenital anomalies.....	561	Suicide.....	605
4 .....	Homicide.....	415	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities.....	373
5 .....	Diseases of heart.....	330	Homicide.....	289
6 .....	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>1</sup> .....	194	Diseases of heart.....	169
7 .....	Suicide.....	142	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup> .....	132
8 .....	Benign neoplasms.....	104	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>1</sup> .....	122
9 .....	Cerebrovascular diseases.....	95	Cerebrovascular diseases.....	88
10 .....	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases <sup>2</sup> .....	85	Septicemia.....	60

See footnotes at end of table.

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[Data are based on death certificates]

Age and rank order	1980		2018	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
<b>15–24 years</b>				
Rank	All causes.....	49,027	All causes.....	30,154
1 .....	Unintentional injuries.....	26,206	Unintentional injuries.....	12,044
2 .....	Homicide.....	6,537	Suicide .....	6,211
3 .....	Suicide .....	5,239	Homicide.....	4,607
4 .....	Malignant neoplasms.....	2,683	Malignant neoplasms.....	1,371
5 .....	Diseases of heart .....	1,223	Diseases of heart .....	905
6 .....	Congenital anomalies.....	600	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities.....	354
7 .....	Cerebrovascular diseases .....	418	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup> .....	246
8 .....	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>1</sup> .....	348	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>1</sup> .....	200
9 .....	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases <sup>2</sup> .....	141	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup> .....	165
10 .....	Anemias.....	133	Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium .....	151
<b>25–44 years</b>				
Rank	All causes.....	108,658	All causes.....	139,224
1 .....	Unintentional injuries.....	26,722	Unintentional injuries.....	47,281
2 .....	Malignant neoplasms.....	17,551	Suicide .....	15,541
3 .....	Diseases of heart .....	14,513	Malignant neoplasms.....	14,324
4 .....	Homicide.....	10,983	Diseases of heart .....	14,093
5 .....	Suicide .....	9,855	Homicide.....	8,538
6 .....	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis.....	4,782	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis.....	4,116
7 .....	Cerebrovascular diseases .....	3,154	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup> .....	3,119
8 .....	Diabetes mellitus .....	1,472	Cerebrovascular diseases .....	2,271
9 .....	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>1</sup> .....	1,467	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>1</sup> .....	1,413
10 .....	Congenital anomalies.....	817	Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease.....	1,235
<b>45–64 years</b>				
Rank	All causes.....	425,338	All causes.....	539,673
1 .....	Diseases of heart .....	148,322	Malignant neoplasms.....	151,248
2 .....	Malignant neoplasms.....	135,675	Diseases of heart .....	113,262
3 .....	Cerebrovascular diseases .....	19,909	Unintentional injuries.....	46,749
4 .....	Unintentional injuries.....	18,140	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup> .....	22,611
5 .....	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis.....	16,089	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis.....	22,102
6 .....	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases <sup>2</sup> .....	11,514	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup> .....	21,355
7 .....	Diabetes mellitus .....	7,977	Cerebrovascular diseases .....	17,917
8 .....	Suicide .....	7,079	Suicide .....	16,885
9 .....	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>1</sup> .....	5,804	Septicemia .....	8,336
10 .....	Homicide.....	4,019	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>1</sup> .....	8,197
<b>65 years and over</b>				
Rank	All causes.....	1,341,848	All causes.....	2,099,263
1 .....	Diseases of heart .....	595,406	Diseases of heart .....	526,509
2 .....	Malignant neoplasms.....	258,389	Malignant neoplasms.....	431,102
3 .....	Cerebrovascular diseases .....	146,417	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup> .....	135,560
4 .....	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>1</sup> .....	45,512	Cerebrovascular diseases .....	127,244
5 .....	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases <sup>2</sup> .....	43,587	Alzheimer's disease.....	120,658
6 .....	Atherosclerosis .....	28,081	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup> .....	60,182
7 .....	Diabetes mellitus .....	25,216	Unintentional injuries.....	57,213
8 .....	Unintentional injuries.....	24,844	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>1</sup> .....	48,888
9 .....	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis.....	12,968	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis <sup>3</sup> .....	42,232
10 .....	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis.....	9,519	Parkinson's disease .....	32,988

See footnotes at end of table.

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<sup>1</sup>Starting with 1999 data, the rules were changed for selecting Chronic lower respiratory diseases (CLRD) and Pneumonia as the underlying cause of death, 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.

<sup>2</sup>From 1998 to 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.

<sup>3</sup>Starting with 2011 data, the rules have changed for selecting Renal failure as the underlying cause of death, 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](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 2018, see Appendix II, Cause of death; Cause-of-death ranking; *International Classification of Diseases* (ICD); 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 2018 Mortality File; and Murphy SL, Xu JQ, Kochanek KD, Arias E, Tejada-Vera B. Deaths: Final data for 2018. National Vital Statistics Reports; vol 69 no 13. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2021. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/nvsr.htm>. See Appendix I, National Vital Statistics System (NVSS).