

Compressed Mortality File Description

The Compressed Mortality File (CMF) is comprised of a county-level mortality file and a corresponding county-level population file. Additional information about this file, especially the public-use version, is available from:

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data_access/cmf.htm.

Geography - Data is available for all counties and county equivalents.

Data years available - Data for 1989-98 are available on one file. Data for 1999-2016 are available on a second file. **NOTE: This file series has been discontinued, so data for 2017 and later years will not become available.**

Mortality data file - Mortality data on the CMF are derived from the NCHS annual detailed all-counties mortality files that include a record for every death of a U.S. resident recorded in the United States. The mortality file of the CMF contains only seven variables, each a key analysis variable selected from the extensive set available on the detailed mortality files (see list below). The number of records on the CMF was reduced by aggregating records with identical values for the seven variables and adding a count variable to the aggregate record indicating the number of identical records. The CMF is a relatively compact file.

Population data file - The population file of the CMF was designed for use with the mortality file of the CMF and contains population estimates for the same age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin subgroups available on the mortality file. All estimates are derived from Census Bureau estimates of total U.S., State, and county resident populations. The national population estimates on the file match those used by NCHS to calculate vital rates. To permit the calculation of infant mortality rates, NCHS live-birth data are included on the file.

Variables available on the 1989-1998 CMF mortality files

State of residence (FIPS)
County of residence (FIPS)
Year of death
Race (white, black, other)
Sex
Age group*
ICD-9 underlying cause of death code
72 cause of death recode

Variables available on the 1999-2016 CMF mortality files

State of residence (FIPS)
County of residence (FIPS)

Year of death

Race (white, black, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian or Pacific Islander)

Sex

Hispanic origin (Hispanic or Latino, not Hispanic or Latino, unknown)

Age group*

ICD-10 underlying cause of death code

113 cause of death recode

*The age groups available on all files are: under 1 day, 1-6 days, 7-27 days, 28-364 days, 1-4 years, 5-9 years, 10-14 years, 15-19 years, 20-24 years, 25-34 years, 35-44 years, 55-64 years, 65-74 years, 75-84 years, 85 years and over.