

Mortality in the United States: Provisional Data, 2024

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Abstract

Objective—This report presents provisional 2024 data on U.S. mortality. Death rates are presented by age, sex, and race and Hispanic origin. Data on leading causes of death are also presented.

Methods—Data are based on 99.9% of all 2024 death records received and processed by the National Center for Health Statistics as of June 1, 2025. Comparisons are made with final 2023 data.

Results—In 2024, 3,072,039 deaths occurred in the United States. The age-adjusted death rate per 100,000 U.S. standard population was 844.8 for males and 613.5 for females. The overall rate, 722.0 per 100,000 population, was 3.8% lower than in 2023. The rate decreased for most age groups. Overall, age-adjusted death rates in 2024 were lowest for the multiracial non-Hispanic population (332.3 per 100,000 population) and highest for the Black non-Hispanic population (884.0). The leading causes of death were heart disease, cancer, and unintentional injury.

Keywords: death rates • cause of death • National Vital Statistics System (NVSS)

Introduction

The National Center for Health Statistics' (NCHS) National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) collects and reports annual mortality statistics using U.S. death certificate data. Because of

the time needed to investigate certain causes of death and to process and review death data, final annual mortality data for a given year are typically released 11 months after the end of the calendar year. Provisional data, which are based on preliminary death certificate data sent to NCHS, provide an early estimate of deaths before the release of final data. NVSS routinely releases provisional mortality data for all causes of death, including deaths from COVID-19, drug overdose, and maternal mortality (1–4). This report presents an overview of provisional U.S. mortality data for 2024, including a comparison with death rates for 2023 (5). Provisional death estimates provide an early indication of shifts in mortality trends and can inform public health policies and interventions aimed at reducing mortality.

Methods

This report analyzes provisional NVSS death certificate data for deaths occurring among U.S. residents in the United States during January–December 2024 as of June 1, 2025. Data in this analysis include more than 99% of deaths occurring in 2024. NCHS tabulated the number and rates of overall deaths (deaths from all causes) by age, sex, and race and ethnicity (categorized as Hispanic, White non-Hispanic [subsequently, White], Black non-Hispanic [subsequently, Black], Asian non-Hispanic [subsequently, Asian], American Indian or Alaska Native non-Hispanic

[subsequently, American Indian and Alaska Native], Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander non-Hispanic [subsequently, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander], more than one race non-Hispanic [subsequently, multiracial], and unknown). NCHS coded the causes of death according to the *International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision*, which details disease classification and the designation of underlying cause of death (6). Leading causes of death were ranked by counts based on underlying cause of death (7). Data in this report exclude deaths among residents of U.S. territories and foreign countries. Age was unknown for 48 decedents (less than 0.01%), and race and ethnicity were unknown for 10,773 decedents (0.4%).

Age-adjusted rates were calculated for deaths overall and by sex and race and ethnicity. Crude death rates were calculated by age. The population data used to calculate death rates are July 1, 2024, estimates based on the blended base produced by the U.S. Census Bureau (8,9). Unless otherwise specified, comparisons made in the text among rates are statistically significant (p values less than 0.05 using a z test). R software (version 4.4.0, R Foundation) was used to conduct all analyses.

Results

In 2024, 3,072,039 deaths occurred in the United States (Table). The age-adjusted rate was 722.0 deaths per 100,000 U.S. standard population, a decrease of 3.8% from 750.5 in 2023.

In 2024, death rates per 100,000 were lowest for children ages 5–14 (14.4) and highest for people age 85 and older (13,833.5), similar to patterns in 2023 (Table). Death rates decreased from 2023 to 2024 for all age groups except infants (younger than 1 year), although the decreases were not statistically significant for ages 5–14. In 2024, age-adjusted death rates were higher for males (844.8) than females (613.5).

Age-adjusted death rates decreased from 2023 to 2024 across all race and ethnicity groups (Table). Age-adjusted death rates were lowest for multiracial people (332.3) and highest for Black people (884.0).

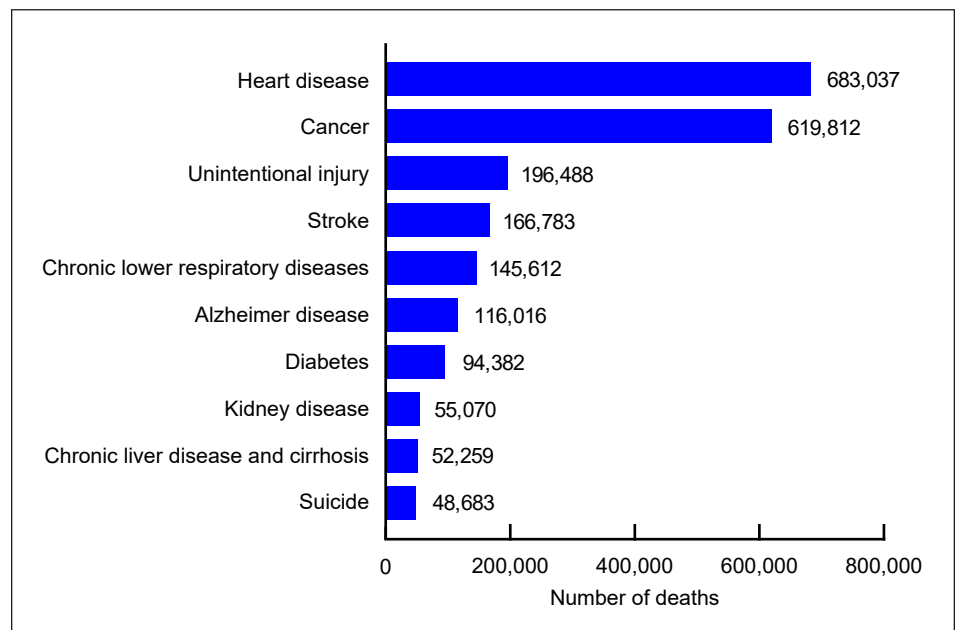
The three leading causes of death were heart disease (683,037 deaths), cancer (619,812), and unintentional injury (196,488) (Figure). Suicide replaced COVID-19 as the 10th leading underlying cause of death.

Discussion

The estimated 2024 age-adjusted death rate, 722.0 per 100,000 U.S. standard population, was 3.8% lower than in 2023 (750.5) and was the lowest death rate since 2020 (5,10). Death rates were highest for males, older adults, and Black people. The leading causes of death in 2024 were heart disease, cancer, and unintentional injury. The number of deaths from heart disease increased in 2024 (683,037) compared with 2023 (680,981), and deaths from cancer in 2024 (619,812) increased from 2023 (613,352). COVID-19, the 10th leading cause of death in 2023, dropped off the list of the top 10 leading causes of death in 2024.

The death rate decreased from 2023 to 2024 for all demographic groups except infants and was not significant for ages 5–14. Although the death rate decreased for people age 85 and older during this period, rates for this group remained higher than those for all other age groups. Death rates also decreased for all race and ethnicity groups; however, rates for Black people remain higher than those for all other groups.

Figure. Leading underlying causes of death: United States, 2024



NOTES: Deaths that occurred in the United States among residents of U.S. territories and foreign countries were excluded. Estimates for 2024 are based on provisional data as of June 1, 2025 (provisional mortality data are available from <https://wonder.cdc.gov>). Provisional data are incomplete, and data from December are less complete because of reporting lags. SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, mortality.

The findings in this report are subject to at least three limitations. First, the data are provisional, and numbers and rates may change as additional information is received, including updates or changes to population denominators. For instance, previously published provisional death counts for 2023 were slightly lower than the final counts (5,11). Certain causes of death (such as unintentional injury deaths) are known to be reported with a more substantial lag, so the final death count will likely be higher than currently reported (12). The described differences in rates and mortality trends may consequently be underestimates. Second, timeliness of death certificate submission can vary by jurisdiction. As a result, the national distribution of deaths may be influenced by the distribution of deaths reported from jurisdictions that report later, which may differ from the overall distribution in the United States. For example, late reporting from a jurisdiction with a large number of deaths in a particular demographic group could potentially increase the total number and rate of deaths for the United States. Lastly, potential exists for the misclassification of certain race categories (that is, American Indian

and Alaska Native and Asian) and Hispanic ethnicity as reported on death certificates (13). As a result, death rates for some groups may be underestimated or overestimated.

Despite these limitations, this report provides an overview of provisional mortality in the United States during 2024. Provisional death estimates can give researchers and policymakers an early signal about shifts in mortality trends and provide actionable information sooner than final mortality data. These data can inform public health policies and interventions aimed at reducing mortality.

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Detailed Table

Provisional number and age-adjusted rate of total deaths, by selected characteristics: United States, 2023–2024 4

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Table. Provisional number and age-adjusted rate of total deaths, by selected characteristics: United States, 2023–2024

Characteristic	Number of deaths (rate ¹)	
	2023	2024
Total	3,090,964 (750.5)	3,072,039 (722.0)
Age group (years)		
Younger than 1	20,145 (552.1)	19,969 (552.3)
1–4	4,059 (27.3)	3,840 (25.6)
5–14	6,005 (14.7)	5,936 (14.4)
15–24	33,711 (76.8)	29,932 (66.8)
25–34	67,449 (148.1)	57,798 (124.4)
35–44	105,336 (237.3)	97,381 (213.8)
45–54	166,773 (411.8)	157,705 (386.7)
55–64	376,534 (899.6)	358,088 (859.5)
65–74	627,680 (1,809.6)	628,278 (1,772.5)
75–84	798,188 (4,345.5)	822,860 (4,263.6)
85 and older	885,004 (14,285.8)	890,204 (13,833.5)
Unknown	80 (---)	48 (---)
Sex		
Female	1,473,879 (632.9)	1,472,995 (613.5)
Male	1,617,085 (884.3)	1,599,044 (844.8)
Race and ethnicity		
Hispanic	258,896 (559.2)	260,689 (531.6)
Non-Hispanic:		
American Indian and Alaska Native	21,274 (830.6)	20,782 (780.9)
Asian	85,769 (387.9)	87,800 (369.3)
Black	385,399 (924.4)	380,769 (884.0)
More than one race	16,828 (352.2)	16,709 (332.3)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	4,461 (730.1)	4,429 (682.4)
White	2,308,328 (778.2)	2,290,088 (753.2)
Unknown	10,009 (---)	10,773 (---)

--- Data not available.

¹Deaths per 100,000 standard population. Age-adjusted death rates are provided overall and by sex and race and ethnicity.

NOTES: No significant changes in rates from 2023 to 2024 were seen for infants younger than 1 and children 5–14. These data exclude deaths that occurred in the United States among residents of U.S. territories and foreign countries. Estimates for 2023 are based on final data (available from: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/mortality_public_use_data.htm). Estimates for 2024 are based on provisional data as of June 1, 2025 (provisional mortality data are available from: <https://wonder.cdc.gov>). Provisional data are incomplete, and data from December are less complete because of reporting lags.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, mortality.

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