

# Leading Causes of Death 2017

Orange County, California

Public Health Services and Health Policy, Research & Communications

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# Leading Causes of Death, 2017

## Technical Notes

### Methodology

Data in this document are based on information from death certificates from the California Department of Public Health Death Statistical Masters files for Orange County (OC). Deaths are ranked according to the number of deaths assigned to rankable causes. Cause-of-death statistics are based on the underlying cause of death.

### Rates

Crude rates were calculated by dividing the total number of deaths each year by the total number of individuals in the population. Crude rates are useful for determining the magnitude of a problem in a population. However, many diseases or health outcomes vary by age. For example, the crude rate for most causes of death will be higher in populations with a large proportion of older individuals, and lower in populations with a large proportion of younger individuals. As crude rates do not adjust for the age distribution of the population, they **should not** be used to compare rates of different populations.

Age-adjusted rates or additional data on a cause of death are available on OC Dashboard at [www.OCHealthierTogether.org/OCDashboard](http://www.OCHealthierTogether.org/OCDashboard).

### Population Source

Crude rates were calculated based on California Department of Finance data sets downloaded August 2016.

### Data Instability

Data suppression is used when the number of cases and population at risk suggests the statistical stability of rates is unacceptable. Throughout this document, asterisks are used to indicate rates that may be statistically unstable and should be interpreted with caution. Rates were suppressed if the number of cases was less than 10. Rates not suppressed, but otherwise marked with an asterisk are considered unstable because the relative standard error (RSE) of the rate or proportion is 25% or higher.

### Suggested Citation

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## Leading Causes of Death, 2017

Rank	Leading Causes of Death	Number of Deaths	Crude Rate per 100,000 population
1.	Heart disease	4,913	153.9
2.	Cancer (malignant neoplasms)	4,711	147.6
3.	Alzheimer's disease	1,426	44.7
4.	Cerebrovascular diseases (stroke)	1,384	43.4
5.	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	993	31.1
6.	Accidents (unintentional injuries)	930	29.1
7.	Influenza and pneumonia	543	17.0
8.	Diabetes mellitus	505	15.8
9.	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	403	12.6
10.	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	348	10.9
	All other causes	3,913	122.6
	<b>Total deaths</b>	<b>20,069</b>	

# Leading Causes of Death By Gender, 2017

Leading Causes of Death among Men	Number of Deaths	Crude Rate per 100,000 Male Population
1. Heart disease	2,591	164.1
2. Cancer (malignant neoplasms)	2,408	152.5
3. Accidents (unintentional injuries)	613	38.8
4. Cerebrovascular diseases (stroke)	568	36.0
5. Alzheimer's disease	475	30.1
6. Chronic lower respiratory diseases	455	28.8
7. Diabetes mellitus	316	20.0
8. Influenza and pneumonia	258	16.3
8. Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	258	16.3
10. Intentional self-harm (suicide)	246	15.6
All other causes	1,940	122.9
<b>Total deaths</b>	<b>10,128</b>	

Leading Causes of Death among Women	Number of Deaths	Crude Rate per 100,000 Female Population
1. Heart disease	2,322	143.9
2. Cancer (malignant neoplasms)	2,303	142.8
3. Alzheimer's disease	951	59.0
4. Cerebrovascular diseases (stroke)	816	50.6
5. Chronic lower respiratory diseases	538	33.4
6. Accidents (unintentional injuries)	317	19.7
7. Influenza and pneumonia	285	17.7
8. Diabetes mellitus	189	11.7
9. Essential hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	178	11.0
10. Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	165	10.2
All other causes	1,877	116.4
<b>Total deaths</b>	<b>9,941</b>	

# Leading Causes of Death By Race/Ethnicity, 2017

Leading Causes of Death among Whites	Number of Deaths	Crude Rate per 100,000 White Population
1. Heart disease	3,520	269.4
2. Cancer (malignant neoplasms)	3,053	233.7
3. Alzheimer's disease	1,070	81.9
4. Cerebrovascular diseases (stroke)	895	68.5
5. Chronic lower respiratory diseases	798	61.1
6. Accidents (unintentional injuries)	558	42.7
7. Influenza and pneumonia	353	27.0
8. Parkinson's disease	248	19.0
9. Diabetes mellitus	242	18.5
10. Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	227	17.4
All other causes	2,517	192.6
<b>Total deaths</b>	<b>13,481</b>	

Leading Causes of Death among Latinos/Hispanics	Number of Deaths	Crude Rate per 100,000 Hispanic Population
1. Cancer (malignant neoplasms)	759	67.4
2. Heart disease	673	59.8
3. Accidents (unintentional injuries)	232	20.6
4. Cerebrovascular diseases (stroke)	215	19.1
5. Alzheimer's disease	153	13.6
6. Diabetes mellitus	135	12.0
7. Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	130	11.6
8. Influenza and pneumonia	82	7.3
9. Chronic lower respiratory diseases	73	6.5
10. Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	71	6.3
All other causes	678	60.2
<b>Total deaths</b>	<b>3,201</b>	

## Leading Causes of Death By Race/Ethnicity, 2017 (cont.)

Leading Causes of Death among Asians	Number of Deaths	Crude Rate per 100,000 Asian Population
1. Cancer (malignant neoplasms)	744	120.8
2. Heart disease	599	97.3
3. Cerebrovascular diseases (stroke)	251	40.8
4. Alzheimer's disease	163	26.5
5. Diabetes mellitus	104	16.9
5. Accidents (unintentional injuries)	104	16.9
7. Chronic lower respiratory diseases	97	15.8
8. Influenza and pneumonia	96	15.6
9. Essential hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	67	10.9
10. Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	59	9.6
All other causes	512	83.1
<b>Total deaths</b>	<b>2,796</b>	

Leading Causes of Death among Pacific Islanders	Number of Deaths	Crude Rate per 100,000 Pacific Islander Population
1. Cancer (malignant neoplasms)	14	162.6*
2. Heart disease	13	151.0*
All other causes	27	313.7
<b>Total deaths</b>	<b>62</b>	

\*Rates shown may be unstable due to small numbers. Estimates for the next leading causes are unreliable and not shown.

## Leading Causes of Death By Race/Ethnicity, 2017 (cont.)

Leading Causes of Death among African Americans	Number of Deaths	Crude Rate per 100,000 African American Population
1. Cancer (malignant neoplasms)	79	167.4
2. Heart disease	53	112.3
3. Alzheimer's disease	26	55.1
4. Accidents (unintentional injuries)	14	29.7*
5. Diabetes mellitus	12	25.4*
5. Cerebrovascular diseases (stroke)	12	25.4*
7. Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	11	23.3*
8. Chronic lower respiratory diseases	10	21.2*
All other causes	65	137.7
<b>Total deaths</b>	<b>282</b>	

\*Rates shown may be unstable due to small numbers. Estimates for the next leading causes are unreliable and not shown.



# Leading Causes of Death By Age Group, 2017

Leading Causes of Death among Infants Under 1 Year	Number of Deaths	Crude Rate per 100,000 Population in the Age Group
1. Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	64	168.8
2. Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	34	89.7
All other causes	18	47.5*
<b>Total deaths</b>	<b>116</b>	

Leading Causes of Death among Ages 1-17 Years	Number of Deaths	Crude Rate per 100,000 Population in the Age Group
1. Accidents (unintentional injuries)	25	3.8
2. Cancer (malignant neoplasms)	18	2.7*
All other causes	46	6.9
<b>Total deaths</b>	<b>89</b>	

\*Rates shown may be unstable due to small numbers. Estimates for the next leading causes are unreliable and not shown.

## Leading Causes of Death By Age Group, 2017 (cont.)

Leading Causes of Death among Ages 18-44 Years	Number of Deaths	Crude Rate per 100,000 Population in the Age Group
1. Accidents (unintentional injuries)	327	28.0
2. Intentional self-harm	141	12.1
3. Cancer (malignant neoplasms)	140	12.0
4. Heart disease	98	8.4
5. Assault (homicide)	48	4.1
6. Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	37	3.2
7. Diabetes mellitus	21	1.8
8. Cerebrovascular diseases	17	1.5
9. Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	13	1.1*
All other causes	160	13.7
<b>Total deaths</b>	<b>1,002</b>	

\*Rates shown may be unstable due to small numbers. Estimates for the next leading causes are unreliable and not shown.

Leading Causes of Death among Ages 45-64 Years	Number of Deaths	Crude Rate per 100,000 Population in the Age Group
1. Cancer (malignant neoplasms)	1,065	123.2
2. Heart disease	605	70.0
3. Accidents (unintentional injuries)	275	31.8
4. Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	197	22.8
5. Cerebrovascular diseases (stroke)	130	15.0
6. Intentional self-harm (suicide)	122	14.1
7. Diabetes mellitus	111	12.8
8. Chronic lower respiratory diseases	74	8.6
9. Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	49	5.7
10. Essential hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	38	4.4
10. Influenza and pneumonia	38	4.4
All other causes	542	63.3
<b>Total deaths</b>	<b>3,260</b>	

## Leading Causes of Death By Age Group, 2017 (cont.)

Leading Causes of Death among Ages 65 Years and Older	Number of Deaths	Crude Rate per 100,000 Population in the Age Group
1. Heart disease	4,210	919.2
2. Cancer (malignant neoplasms)	3,486	761.1
3. Alzheimer's disease	1,410	307.9
4. Cerebrovascular diseases (stroke)	1,236	269.9
5. Chronic lower respiratory diseases	914	199.6
6. Influenza and pneumonia	493	107.7
7. Diabetes mellitus	372	81.2
8. Parkinson's disease	316	69.0
9. Accidents (unintentional injuries)	302	66.0
10. Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and	296	64.6
All other causes	2,646	577.7
<b>Total deaths</b>	<b>15,681</b>	