

# Wisconsin Death Report: Cancer Mortality

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# INTRODUCTION

This report presents information about deaths that occurred in 2017 among Wisconsin residents. Information from previous years (2008 onward) is also presented to show changes over time. This report includes information on the number and rate of deaths, demographic characteristics of the decedents, such as age and race/ethnicity, characteristics of deaths by geographic location, and disposition of bodies.

Mortality data presented in this report are primarily based on the underlying cause of death, which the World Health Organization defines as “the disease or injury that initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death, or the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury.”<sup>1</sup>

County and state rates in the report are age-adjusted rates per 100,000 or 10,000 population using the 2000 U.S. standard population.

Beginning September 1, 2013, Wisconsin began collecting data using a new web-based data entry system for funeral directors, medical examiners, coroners, and certifying physicians. The new system adopted the 2003 U.S. Standard Certificate of Death. Many changes have been made to the data collection process; some information is no longer collected, new information has been added, and some data definitions have been altered. Please refer to the technical notes for a more complete description of these changes.

All data refer to Wisconsin residents unless otherwise noted. Also, the information presented is based on the place of residence, which means that events have been assigned to the area where the person lived (usually legal residence) regardless of where the events occurred.

The cancer mortality data in this report are classified differently from what appears in publications from the Wisconsin Cancer Reporting System (WCRS) (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wcrs/data-pubs.htm>) and its public use interactive query systems: WISH Query on Cancer Mortality (<https://wish.wisconsin.gov/cancer/mortality.htm>) and Cancer-Rates.Info (<https://www.cancer-rates.info/wi/>). WCRS follows the National Cancer Institute’s definition of mortality cancer site groupings which are defined consistently over time to facilitate reporting of long-term cancer mortality trends ([https://seer.cancer.gov/codrecode/1969\\_d03012018/index.html](https://seer.cancer.gov/codrecode/1969_d03012018/index.html)). Due to this different site group classification used by WCRS, the numbers in this report may not match the numbers found in the WCRS cancer-specific query modules or publications.

Note: Due to differences in cutoff dates and out-of-state reporting, U.S. rates for 2017 were from provisional data available from the National Center for Health Statistics. Provisional rate estimates were not available separated by sex.

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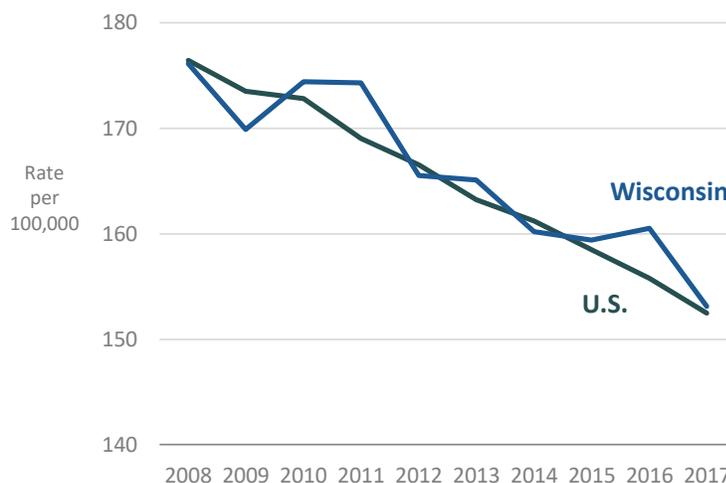
1 <http://www.who.int/topics/mortality/en/>

# CANCER MORTALITY

Cancer mortality in the U.S. and Wisconsin continued to decrease in 2017 (Figure 10). There were 11,287 cancer deaths in Wisconsin in 2017, which is slightly more than in 2008 (11,120). However, age-adjusted cancer mortality rates declined during this period, from 176.1 per 100,000 in 2008 to 153.1 in 2017.

Cancer mortality rates were highest among those 65 and older, constituting 74 percent of all cancer deaths in 2017 (Table 5). Males experienced a 16 percent higher cancer mortality rate of 210.2 per 100,000 compared to 180.6 in females (Table 5).

**Figure 10. Age-adjusted rate of cancer deaths for the United States and Wisconsin**



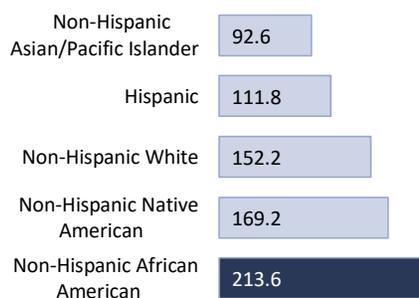
**Table 5. Number of cancer deaths, crude rates, and age-adjusted rates by demographics, 2017**

Demographics	Total Deaths	Percent of Deaths	Crude mortality rate per 100,000 population	Age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population
<b>Age</b>				
Less than 5	8	0.1%	2.4	N/A
5 to 17	19	0.2%	2.0	N/A
18 to 25	16	0.1%	2.9	N/A
26 to 64	2,876	25.5%	96.1	N/A
65 and older	8,368	74.1%	879.2	N/A
<b>Sex</b>				
Female	5,244	46.5%	180.6	131.0
Male	6,043	53.5%	210.2	183.6
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
Non-Hispanic White	10,368	91.9%	218.3	152.2
Non-Hispanic African American	565	5.0%	141.4	213.6
Non-Hispanic Native American	83	0.7%	145.2	169.2
Non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander	80	0.7%	45.8	92.6
Hispanic	183	1.6%	46.0	111.8
<b>DHS Region</b>				
Northeastern	2,467	21.9%	198.0	146.8
Northern	1,105	9.8%	226.3	149.1
Southeastern	3,985	35.3%	187.9	157.3
Southern	2,063	18.3%	181.8	148.4
Western	1,666	14.8%	211.2	163.2

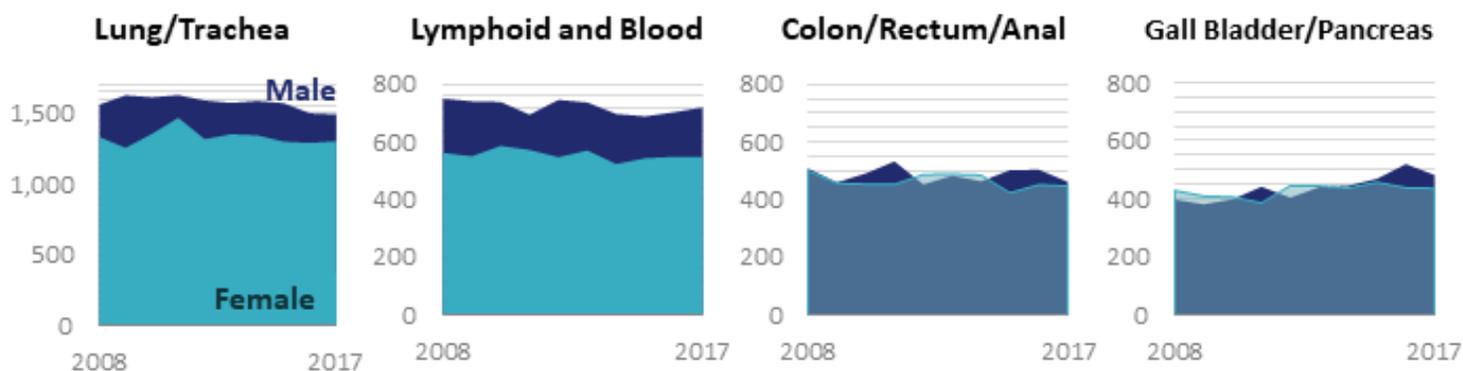
# CANCER MORTALITY

Cancer rates vary by race. African Americans and Native Americans had the highest age-adjusted cancer mortality rates, followed by Whites. The cancer age-adjusted mortality rates increased 11 percent for NH African Americans in the last year. Native Americans and Hispanics also saw slight (5 percent) increases in age-adjusted cancer mortality rates. Whites and Asians had decreases in age-adjusted rates from 2016 to 2017.

**Figure 11a. Age-adjusted cancer death rate by race and ethnicity, 2017**



**Figure 11b. Number of cancer deaths, by type**

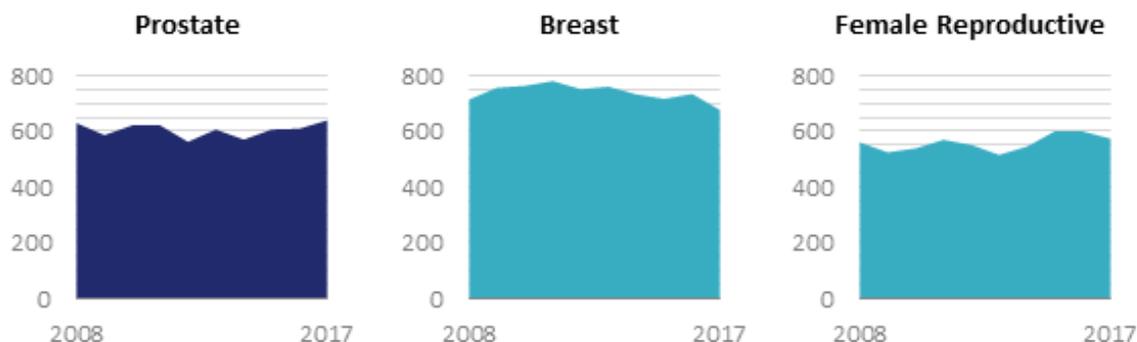


Lung and tracheal cancers continued to be the leading cause of cancer deaths for males and females, constituting 25 percent of all cancer deaths. Both males and females experienced a slight decrease in lung/trachea cancer from 2008 to 2017 (from 1,560 deaths to 1,491 deaths for men and from 1,332 deaths to 1,302 deaths for women).

Lymphoid and blood cancers (such as leukemia) were the second leading cause of cancer deaths among males (12 percent), followed by prostate (11 percent), and gallbladder/pancreas cancers (8 percent). Gall bladder and pancreatic cancer deaths have remained stable in females, though have increased over the past decade in males. Males had a 21 percent increase in gall bladder and pancreas cancer from 2008 to 2017 (397 to 482 deaths). Colon, rectum, and anal cancer deaths decreased by around 10 percent for both males and females in the last 10 years.

For females, breast cancer was the second leading cause of cancer death (13 percent) followed by cancers of the reproductive organs (11 percent) and lymphoid and blood cancers (11 percent). The number of deaths from breast cancer have decreased (6 percent) for women in the last 10 years (from 715 to 677).

**Figure 11b. (cont.) Number of cancer deaths, by type and sex**



# CANCER MORTALITY

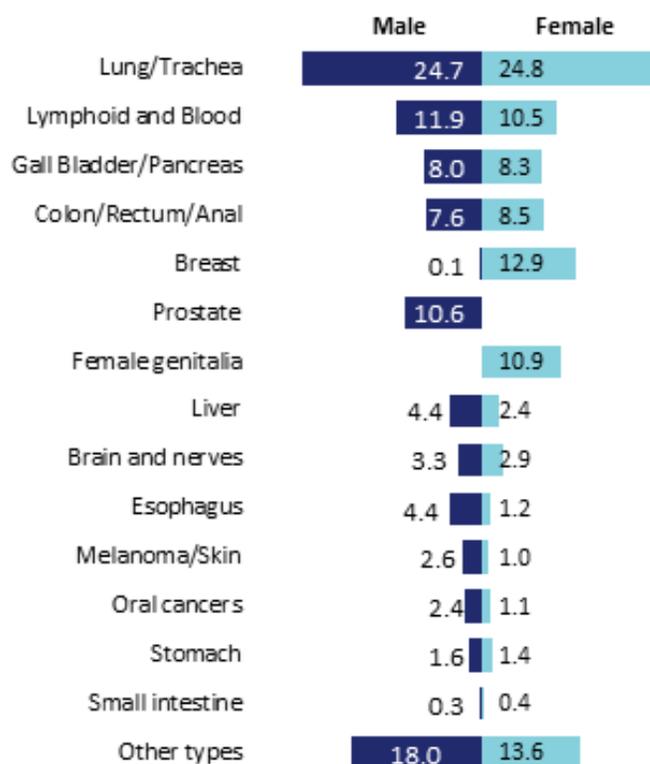
**Table 6. Number of cancer deaths by cancer type and sex, 2017**

Cancer types	Male		Female		All cancer deaths
	N	%	N	%	
Lung/Trachea	1,491	24.7%	1,302	24.8%	2,793
Lymphoid and Blood	721	11.9%	549	10.5%	1,270
Gall Bladder/Pancreas	482	8.0%	436	8.3%	918
Colon/Rectum/Anal	462	7.6%	447	8.5%	909
Breast	8	0.1%	677	12.9%	685
Prostate	640	10.6%	-	-	640
Female genitalia	-	-	574	10.9%	574
Liver	267	4.4%	126	2.4%	393
Brain and nerves	198	3.3%	151	2.9%	349
Esophagus	268	4.4%	64	1.2%	332
Melanoma/Skin	157	2.6%	53	1.0%	210
Oral cancers	144	2.4%	59	1.1%	203
Stomach	98	1.6%	72	1.4%	170
Small intestine	21	0.3%	19	0.4%	40
<i>Other types</i>	1,086	18.0%	715	13.6%	1,801
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,043</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5,244</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>11,287</b>

Almost one quarter of all deaths due to cancer were from lung or tracheal cancers. Following that, cancers of the lymphoid and blood accounted for 11 percent of all cancer deaths in 2017. The number of cancer deaths remained fairly steady for most types of cancer, though from 2016 to 2017 there was an 8 percent decrease in breast cancer (from 748 to 685 deaths). There was an 11 percent decrease in the number of liver cancer deaths (440 to 393) in the last year, and a 15 percent decrease in the number of melanoma and skin cancers (246 to 210).

The number of cancer deaths also is fairly stable across sex, with a similar number of deaths from the top five cancer deaths. However, there were twice as many male liver cancer deaths in 2017 compared to female liver cancer deaths (267 compared to 126). Men also died more frequently from cancer of the esophagus than did women (268 compared to 64).

**Figure 11c. Percent of cancer deaths by cancer type and sex, 2017**



# CANCER MORTALITY

The age-adjusted cancer mortality rates were highest in Florence, Burnett, and Clark counties in 2017. The age-adjusted cancer mortality rates were lowest in Iowa, Pepin, and Calumet counties (Map 3).

**Map 3. Age-adjusted mortality rate (per 10,000) for cancer by county, 2017**

