

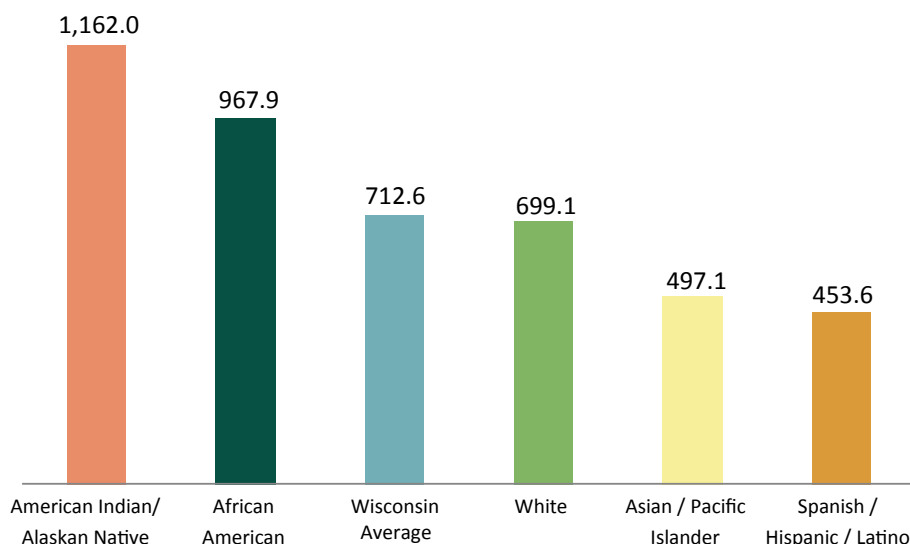
Leading Causes of Death by Race and Ethnicity in Wisconsin, 2011-2015

Determining how people die is one important method for assessing the effectiveness of our health care system, and for helping public health officials determine the focus of future health programs.

This fact sheet provides five-year data, 2011-2015, for racial and ethnic groups in Wisconsin, based on the **10 leading causes of death**. Mortality or death rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population.

During the five-year period, there were an average of 49,675 deaths each year in Wisconsin, which equates to an age-adjusted mortality rate of 712.6. Mortality rates vary considerably across the major race and ethnicity groups, ranging from 453.6 deaths among Hispanics and Latinos to 1,162.0 deaths among American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Death Rates by Race and Ethnicity in Wisconsin

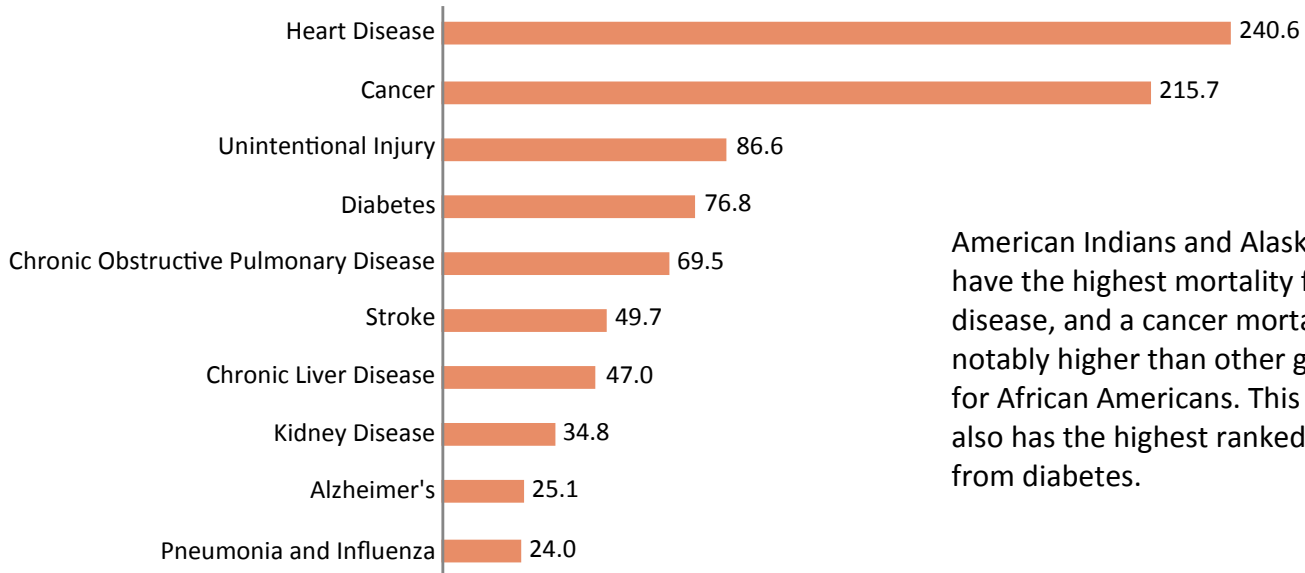


The many differences in mortality rates are due to a complex interaction of individual risk factors and behaviors, social and cultural beliefs, and environmental conditions.

The American Cancer Society estimates 45% of cancer deaths — and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 50% of heart disease deaths — can be prevented by changing behaviors. These behaviors include tobacco use, secondhand smoke exposure, excess body weight, insufficient physical activity, and alcohol use.

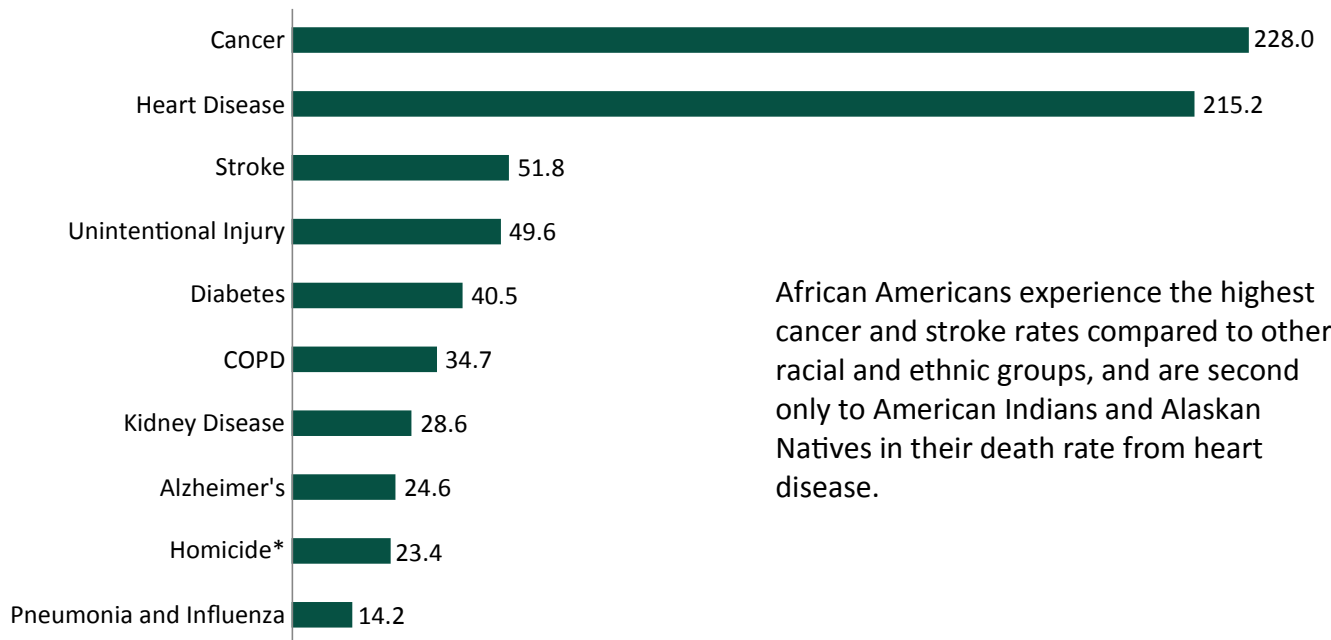
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Heart Disease is Leading Cause of Death Among American Indians and Alaskan Natives



American Indians and Alaskan Natives have the highest mortality from heart disease, and a cancer mortality rate notably higher than other groups except for African Americans. This population also has the highest ranked death rate from diabetes.

Cancer is Leading Cause of Death Among African Americans



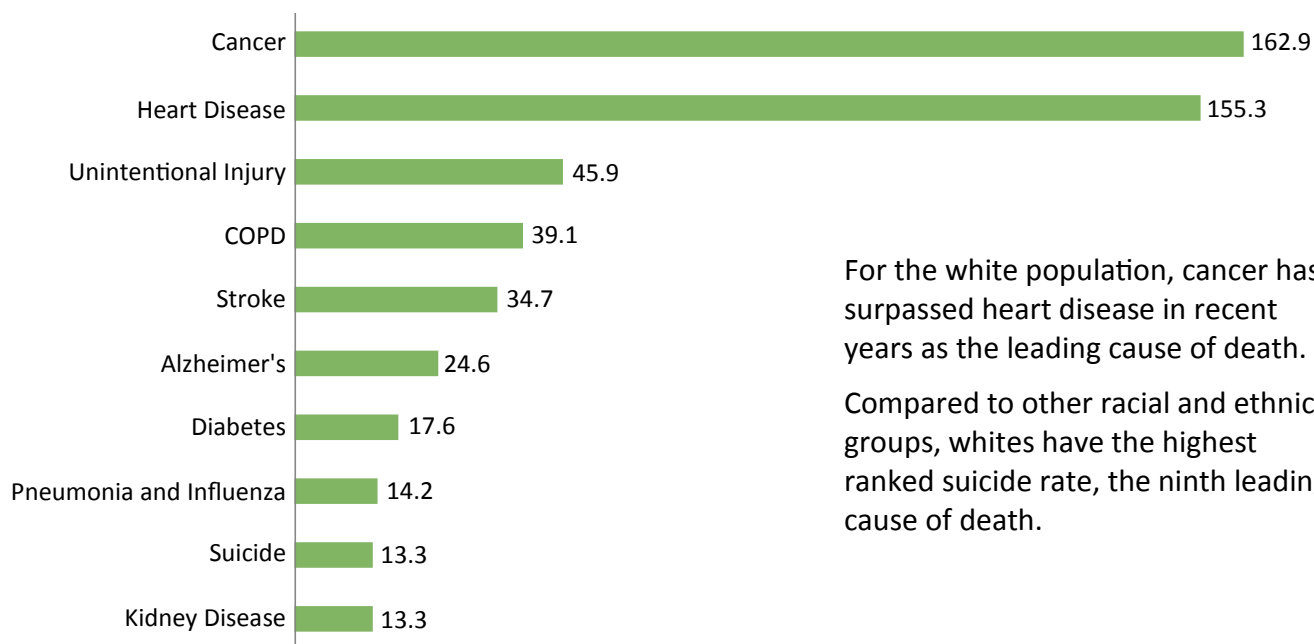
African Americans experience the highest cancer and stroke rates compared to other racial and ethnic groups, and are second only to American Indians and Alaskan Natives in their death rate from heart disease.

*Homicide includes deaths from legal intervention.



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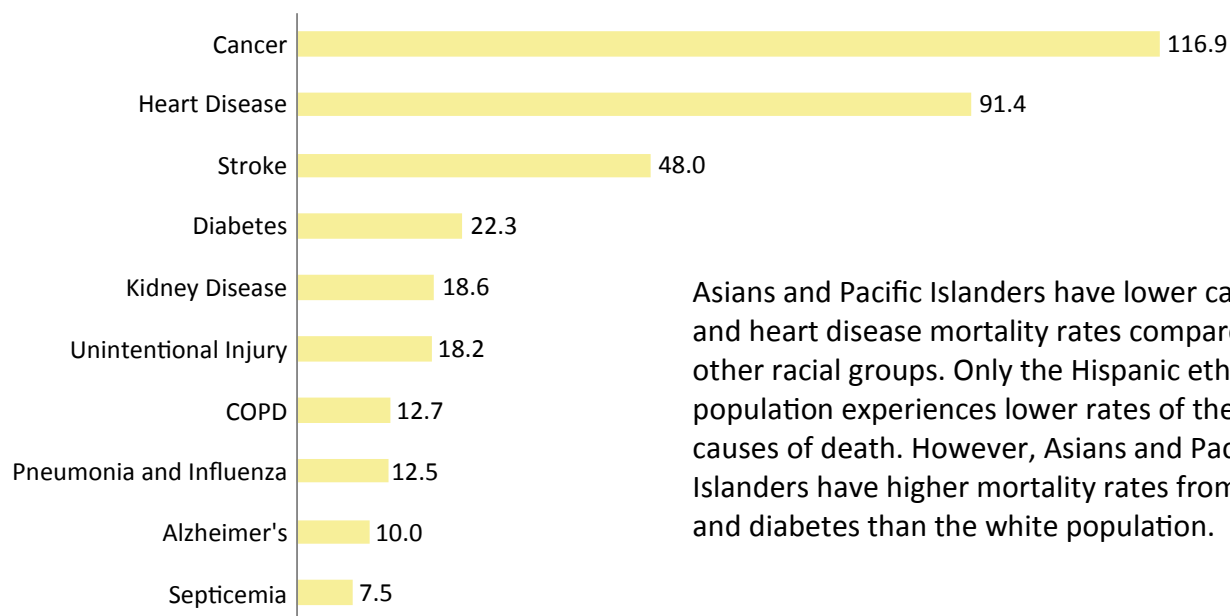
Cancer is Leading Cause of Death Among Whites



For the white population, cancer has surpassed heart disease in recent years as the leading cause of death.

Compared to other racial and ethnic groups, whites have the highest ranked suicide rate, the ninth leading cause of death.

Cancer is Leading Cause of Death Among Asians and Pacific Islanders

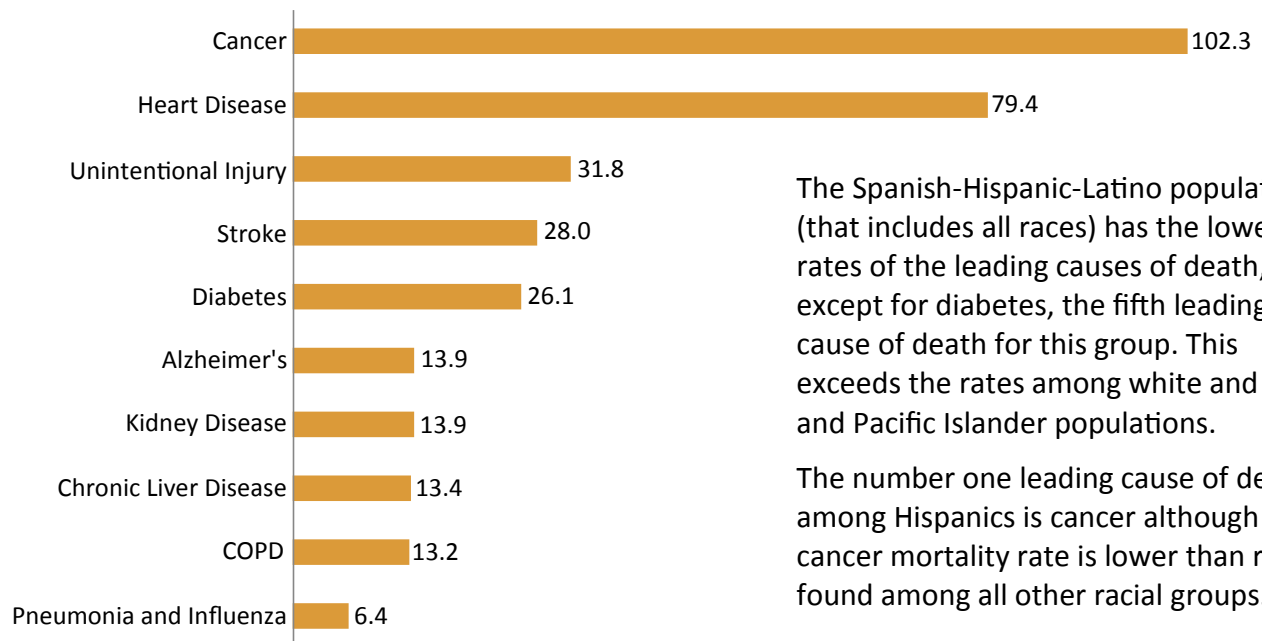


Asians and Pacific Islanders have lower cancer and heart disease mortality rates compared to other racial groups. Only the Hispanic ethnic population experiences lower rates of the leading causes of death. However, Asians and Pacific Islanders have higher mortality rates from stroke and diabetes than the white population.



Leading Causes of Death by Race and Ethnicity in Wisconsin, 2011-2015

Cancer is Leading Cause of Death Among Hispanics



The Spanish-Hispanic-Latino population (that includes all races) has the lowest rates of the leading causes of death, except for diabetes, the fifth leading cause of death for this group. This exceeds the rates among white and Asian and Pacific Islander populations.

The number one leading cause of death among Hispanics is cancer although the cancer mortality rate is lower than rates found among all other racial groups.



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Technical Notes and Citation:

1. Mortality rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population.
2. The Spanish-Hispanic-Latino group includes all races.
3. American Indian data are restricted to Contract Health Service Delivery Area (CHSDA) counties, which are recommended as most accurate. These rates are typically higher than statewide rates for American Indians.

Data for this report were obtained from the National Center for Health Statistics.

Citation for Mortality Data: Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program

(www.seer.cancer.gov) SEER*Stat Database: Mortality - All COD, Aggregated With State, Total U.S. (1990-2015) , National Cancer Institute, DCCPS, Surveillance Research Program, released December 2017.

Underlying mortality data provided by NCHS (www.cdc.gov/nchs).

References:

1. American Cancer Society. "More than 4 in 10 Cancers and Cancer Deaths Linked to Modifiable Risk Factors," Accessed July 10, 2018. <https://www.cancer.org/latest-news/more-than-4-in-10-cancers-and-cancer-deaths-linked-to-modifiable-risk-factors.html>
2. CDC Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention. "Heart Disease Fact Sheet," Accessed July 10, 2018. https://www.cdc.gov/dhdsdp/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fs_heart_disease.htm
3. Espey, David K., Charles L. Wiggins., Melissa A. Jim, Barry A. Miller, and Tom M. Becker. "Methods for Improving Cancer Surveillance Data in American Indian and Alaska Native Populations." *Cancer* 113, no. Suppl. 5 (September 2008): 1120 – 1130.
4. White, Mary C., David K. Espey, Judith Swan, Charles L. Wiggins, Christie Ehemann, and Judith S. Kaur. "Disparities in Cancer Mortality and Incidence Among American Indians and Alaska Natives in the United States." *American Journal of Public Health* 104, no. Suppl. 3 (June 2014): S377–S387.

Web Resources:

CDC Stats of the State of Wisconsin: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/wisconsin/wisconsin.htm>

Annual Wisconsin Death Report: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01170-16.pdf>

Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health Mortality Module: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/mortality/index.htm>

Cancer Mortality Module: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/mortality/index.htm>

National Center for Health Statistics. Changes in the Leading Cause of Death: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db254.htm>

This fact sheet was prepared by Mary Foote, epidemiologist, Health Analytics Section.

