

## Leading Causes of Death by Age Group, All Races, Females- United States, 2002\*

Rank	Age Group in Years													
	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +	65-74	75-84	85 +	All Ages
1	Unintentional injuries 30.1%	Unintentional injuries 34.7%	Unintentional injuries 33.6%	Unintentional injuries 54.3%	Unintentional injuries 39.0%	Unintentional injuries 23.3%	Cancer 26.9%	Cancer 37.8%	Cancer 41.5%	Heart disease 31.8%	Cancer 34.8%	Heart disease 29.2%	Heart disease 37.2%	Heart disease 28.6%
2	Birth defects 12.1%	Cancer 18.2%	Cancer 14.2%	Cancer 7.5%	Homicide 9.8%	Cancer 15.9%	Unintentional injuries 14.0%	Heart disease 16.0%	Heart disease 19.9%	Cancer 18.8%	Heart disease 23.6%	Cancer 22.0%	Stroke 10.6%	Cancer 21.6%
3	Homicide 9.2%	Birth defects 7.6%	Birth defects 6.2%	Homicide 7.3%	Cancer 8.9%	Heart disease 8.2%	Heart disease 12.1%	Unintentional injuries 6.5%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 5.4%	Stroke 9.1%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 7.8%	Stroke 8.9%	Cancer 9.8%	Stroke 8.0%
4	Cancer 9.1%	Homicide 5.8%	Homicide 5.1%	Suicide 5.9%	Suicide 7.4%	Suicide 7.2%	Suicide 4.6%	Stroke 4.3%	Stroke 4.4%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 5.6%	Stroke 5.8%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 6.8%	Alzheimer's disease 5.8%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 5.2%
5	Heart disease 3.8%	Heart disease 4.0%	Suicide 3.9%	Heart disease 3.3%	Heart disease 4.4%	Homicide 6.5%	HIV disease 4.5%	Diabetes 3.5%	Diabetes 4.3%	Alzheimer's disease 4.1%	Diabetes 4.5%	Diabetes 3.6%	Influenza & pneumonia 4.6%	Alzheimer's disease 3.4%
6	Influenza & pneumonia 2.3%	Influenza & pneumonia 1.7%	Heart disease 3.8%	Birth defects 2.6%	Birth defects 2.3%	HIV disease 5.2%	Stroke 3.7%	Chronic liver disease 3.0%	Unintentional injuries 2.5%	Influenza & pneumonia 3.4%	Kidney disease 1.8%	Alzheimer's disease 3.5%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 3.7%	Diabetes 3.1%
7	Septicemia 1.9%	Benign neoplasms 1.7%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 2.8%	Influenza & pneumonia 0.9%	HIV disease 1.4%	Stroke 2.2%	Chronic liver disease 3.2%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 2.6%	Chronic liver disease 1.8%	Diabetes 3.1%	Septicemia 1.7%	Influenza & pneumonia 2.8%	Diabetes 2.2%	Unintentional injuries 3.0%
8	Benign neoplasms 1.5%	(8)Stroke 1.3%	Influenza & pneumonia 1.8%	Pregnancy complications 0.7%	Pregnancy complications 1.3%	Diabetes 2.0%	Homicide 2.5%	Suicide 2.3%	Kidney disease 1.6%	Kidney disease 1.8%	Unintentional injuries 1.6%	Kidney disease 1.9%	Kidney disease 1.7%	Influenza & pneumonia 3.0%
9	Perinatal conditions 1.2%	(8)Chronic lower respiratory diseases 1.3%	9)Septicemia 1.7%	Septicemia 0.7%	Stroke 1.1%	Birth defects 1.5%	Diabetes 2.5%	HIV disease 1.5%	Septicemia 1.6%	Unintentional injuries 1.7%	Influenza & pneumonia 1.6%	Unintentional injuries 1.7%	Unintentional injuries 1.7%	Kidney disease 1.7%
10	Stroke 1.1%	10)Septicemia 1.2%	(9)Stroke 1.7%	(10)Diabetes 0.6%	Diabetes 1.0%	Pregnancy complications 1.4%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 1.5%	Septicemia 1.5%	Influenza & pneumonia 1.2%	Septicemia 1.5%	Chronic liver disease 1.2%	Septicemia 1.6%	Septicemia 1.4%	Septicemia 1.5%
		(10)Anemias 1.2%		(10)Chronic lower respiratory diseases 0.6%										

\*Percentages represent total deaths in the age group due to the cause indicated. Numbers in parentheses indicate tied rankings. The white, black, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Asian or Pacific Islander race groups include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Some terms have been shortened from those used in the National Vital Statistics Report. See the next page for a listing of the shortened terms in the table and their unabridged equivalents. To learn more, including the leading causes of death by age and race/ethnicity, visit *Deaths: Leading Causes for 2002* at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr53/nvsr53\\_17.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr53/nvsr53_17.pdf) (HHS, CDC, NCHS).

## **Shortened Terms and Unabridged Equivalents for Leading Causes of Death**

**Due to limited space, some terms in the leading causes of death table have been shortened from those used in the National Vital Statistics Report. Below is a listing of the shortened terms used in the table and their unabridged equivalents used in the report.**

### **SHORTENED TERMS**

**Benign neoplasms**  
**Bronchitis**  
**Cancer**  
**Chronic liver disease**  
**Birth defects**  
**Diabetes**  
**Heart disease**  
**HIV disease**  
**Homicide**  
**Hypertension**  
**Kidney disease**  
**Medical & surgical care complications**  
**Perinatal conditions**  
**Pregnancy complications**  
**Stroke**  
**Suicide**  
**Unintentional injuries**

### **UNABRIDGED TERMS**

In situ neoplasms, benign neoplasms and neoplasms of uncertain or unknown behavior  
Acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis  
Malignant neoplasms  
Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis  
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities  
Diabetes mellitus  
Diseases of heart  
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease  
Assault (homicide)  
Essential (primary) hypertension and hypertensive renal disease  
Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis  
Complications of medical and surgical care  
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period  
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium  
Cerebrovascular diseases  
Intentional self-harm  
Accidents (unintentional injuries)