

Leading Causes of Death in the United States

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Ranking the common causes of death among different age groups can be a useful tool in finding out the options to reduce cause-specific morbidity and mortality rates. It should be kept in mind that rankings, however, do not illustrate the mortality risk. The ranking of a specific cause as a reason for frequent deaths may change over time, even if the mortality rates have not changed. Similarly, the ranking of a specific cause may remain the same, even though the mortality rate declines; therefore, it is not intelligible to conclude the mortality risk from the rankings of mortality rates.



Overview

The demise of an individual is a disaster. Higher death rates from specific causes can also provide an insight into the larger issues in communities such as **violence, lack of health care facilities, environmental issues, and ignorance.**

Preventable causes, such as **car accidents**, can be taken out to improve the larger system issues, and mortality rates can then be channeled towards a declining phase. Many fatal incidents can be prevented through **social, behavioral and environmental changes** and **legislative amendments.**

Causes of death vary according to **different age groups and ethnicity**, with black African American children having higher mortality rates as compared to people of other ethnic groups. Differences are also found among the Hispanic, non-Hispanic white, and

non-Hispanic black groups. Given below are the leading causes of death in the U.S according to **different age groups**.

Leading Causes of Neonatal Death

1. [Congenital malformations](#), deformations, and chromosomal abnormalities
2. Short gestation and low birth weight issues
3. Newborns affected by [maternal complications of pregnancy](#)
4. [Sudden infant death](#) syndrome
5. Accidents (unintentional injuries)
6. Complications of placenta, cord, and membranes in newborns
7. Bacterial sepsis of newborns
8. [Respiratory distress of newborns](#)
9. [Cardiovascular diseases](#)
10. Neonatal hemorrhage

Postneonatal Death Causes

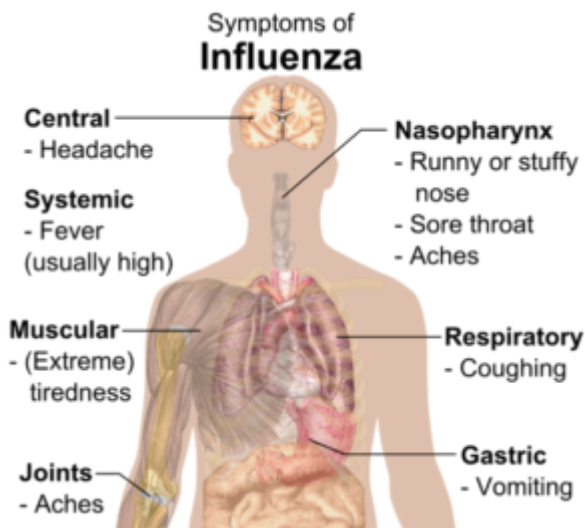


Image: "Main Symptoms of Influenza." by Mikael Häggström.
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1. Sudden infant death syndrome
2. Congenital malformations, deformations, and chromosomal abnormalities
3. Accidents (unintentional injuries)
4. Cardiovascular diseases
5. Assault (homicide)
6. [Diarrhea](#) and gastroenteritis of infectious origin
7. [Influenza](#) and [pneumonia](#)
8. Septicemia
9. Disorders related to short gestation and low birth weight
10. Chronic respiratory disease originating in the perinatal period

Leading Causes of Death: Ages 1 – 4 Years

1. Accidents (unintentional injuries)
2. Congenital malformations, deformations, and chromosomal abnormalities

3. Assault (homicide)
4. [Malignant neoplasms](#)
5. Diseases of heart
6. [Influenza](#) and [pneumonia](#)
7. Chronic lower respiratory diseases
8. Septicemia
9. In situ neoplasms, [benign neoplasms](#) and neoplasms of uncertain or unknown behavior
10. Certain conditions originating in the perinatal

Leading Causes of Death: Ages 5 – 9 Years

1. Accidents (unintentional injuries)
2. [Malignant neoplasms](#)
3. Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities
4. Assault (homicide)
5. Chronic lower respiratory diseases
6. Diseases of the heart
7. [Influenza](#) and [pneumonia](#)
8. Cerebrovascular diseases
9. Septicemia
10. In situ neoplasms, [benign neoplasms](#) and neoplasms of uncertain or unknown behavior

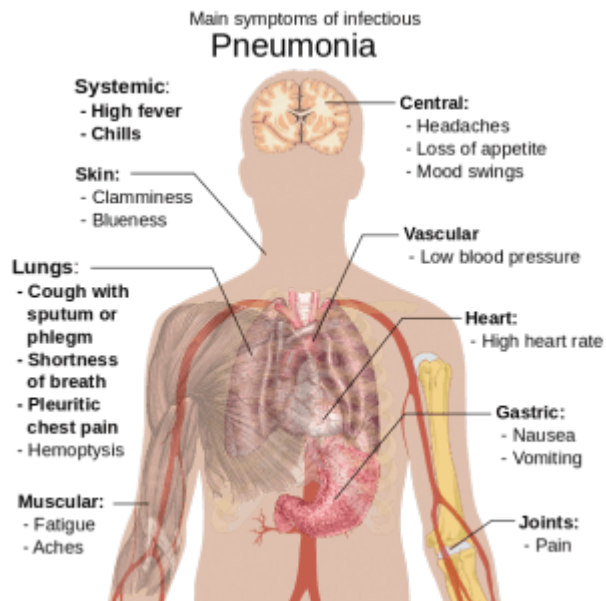
Leading Causes of Death: Ages 10 – 14 Years

1. Accidents (unintentional injuries)
2. [Malignant neoplasms](#)
3. Suicide
4. Congenital malformations, deformations, and chromosomal abnormalities
5. Assault (homicide)
6. Diseases of heart
7. Chronic lower respiratory diseases
8. [Influenza](#) and [pneumonia](#)
9. Cerebrovascular diseases
10. In situ neoplasms, [benign neoplasms](#) and neoplasms of uncertain or unknown behavior

Leading Causes of Death: Ages 15 – 19 Years

1. Accidents (unintentional injuries)
2. Suicide
3. Assault
4. [Malignant neoplasms](#)
5. Diseases of the heart
6. Congenital malformations, deformations, and chromosomal abnormalities
7. [Influenza](#) and [pneumonia](#)
8. Chronic lower respiratory diseases
9. Cerebrovascular diseases
10. [Diabetes mellitus](#)

Leading Causes of Death: Ages 20 – 24 Years



[Image:](#) "Main Symptoms of Infectious Pneumonia." by Mikael Häggström. License: [Public Domain](#)

1. Accidents (unintentional injuries)
2. Suicide
3. Assault
4. [Malignant neoplasms](#)
5. Diseases of the heart
6. Congenital malformations, deformations, and chromosomal abnormalities
7. [Diabetes mellitus](#)
8. Pregnancy and childbirth
9. [Influenza](#) and [pneumonia](#)
10. [HIV](#)

Leading Causes of Death: Ages 25 – 34 Years

1. Accidents (unintentional injuries)
2. Suicide
3. Assault
4. [Malignant neoplasms](#)
5. Diseases of the heart
6. [Diabetes mellitus](#)
7. Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis
8. [HIV](#)
9. Cerebrovascular disease
10. [Influenza](#) and [pneumonia](#)

Leading Causes of Death: Ages 35 – 44 Years

1. Accidents (unintentional injuries)
2. [Malignant neoplasms](#)
3. Heart diseases

4. Suicide
5. Assault
6. Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis
7. [Diabetes mellitus](#)
8. [HIV](#)
9. Cerebrovascular disease
10. [Influenza](#) and [pneumonia](#)

Leading Causes of Death: Ages 45 – 54 Years

1. [Malignant neoplasms](#)
2. Heart diseases
3. Accidents
4. Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis
5. Suicide
6. [Diabetes mellitus](#)
7. Cerebrovascular disease
8. Chronic lower respiratory disease
9. Septicemia
10. [HIV](#)

Leading Causes of Death: Ages 55 – 64 Years



[Image:](#) "Overview of the most significant possible symptoms of diabetes." by Mikael Häggström. License: [Public domain](#)

1. [Malignant neoplasms](#)
2. Heart diseases
3. Accidents
4. [Diabetes mellitus](#)
5. Chronic lower respiratory disease
6. [Chronic liver disease](#) and cirrhosis
7. Cerebrovascular disease
8. Suicide

9. Septicemia
10. [Nephritis](#)

Leading Causes of Death: Ages 65 – 74 Years

1. [Malignant neoplasms](#)
2. Heart diseases
3. Chronic lower respiratory disease
4. Cerebrovascular disease
5. [Diabetes mellitus](#)
6. Accidents
7. Nephritis and nephrotic syndrome
8. Septicemia
9. [Influenza](#) and [pneumonia](#)
10. Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis

It can be seen that for the age range of 5 – 14, children are more likely to lose their life as a result of malignant neoplasms and, from 45 to 74 years, malignant neoplasms are the leading cause of death, whereas in the younger age groups, unintentional injuries and intentional self-harm are the primary cause.

In all age groups, the leading causes of death include:

1. Heart diseases.
2. Malignant neoplasms.
3. Chronic respiratory tract diseases.
4. Unintentional injury.
5. Cerebrovascular accidents.
6. Alzheimer's disease.
7. Diabetes mellitus.
8. Influenza and pneumonia.
9. Suicide.

References

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