



Mortality in the United States, 2024

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Key findings

Data from the National Vital Statistics System

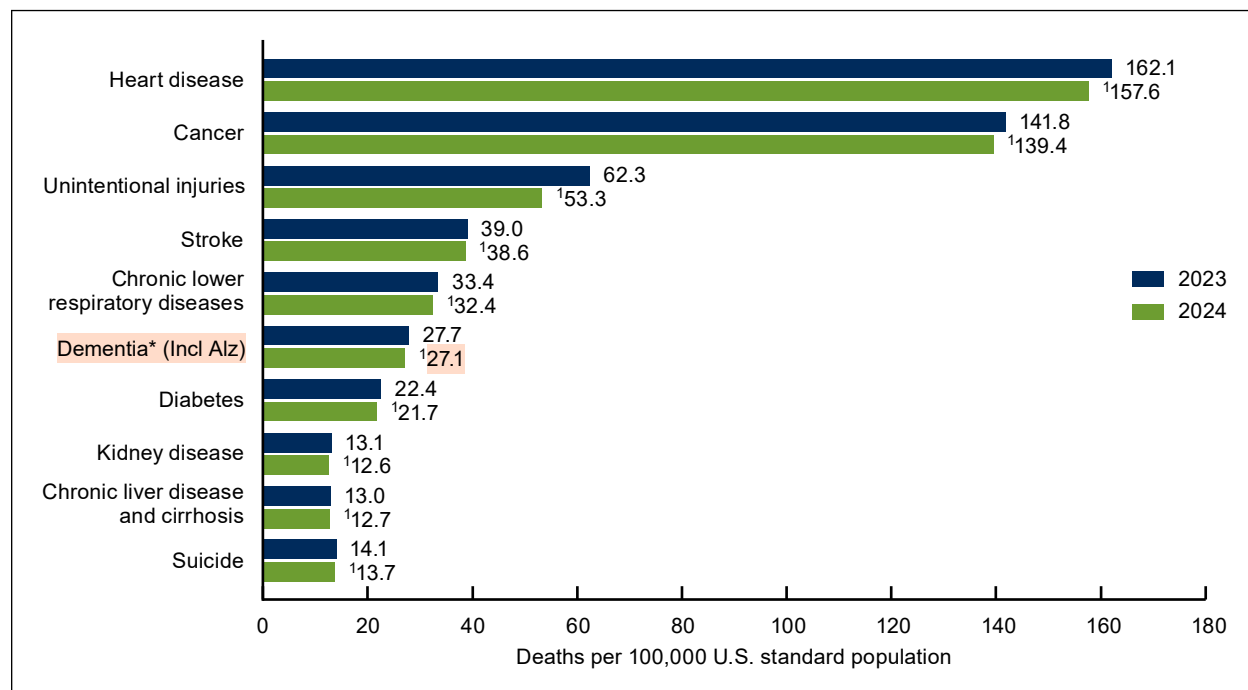
- Life expectancy for the U.S. population was 79.0 years in 2024, an increase of 0.6 year from 2023.
- The age-adjusted death rate decreased 3.8% from 750.5 deaths per 100,000 U.S. standard population in 2023 to 722.1 in 2024.
- Age-specific death rates decreased from 2023 to 2024 for all age groups 1 year and older except for the 5–14 age group.
- Suicide replaced COVID-19 as the 10th leading cause of death, and heart disease, cancer, and unintentional injuries remained the top 3 leading causes in 2024.
- The infant mortality rate did not change significantly from 2023 (560.2 infant deaths per 100,000 live births) to 2024 (552.5).

Introduction

This report presents final 2024 U.S. mortality data on deaths and death rates by demographic and medical characteristics. These data provide information on mortality patterns among U.S. residents by variables such as sex, age, race and Hispanic origin, and cause of death. Life expectancy estimates, age-adjusted death rates, age-specific death rates, the 10 leading causes of death, infant mortality rates, and the 10 leading causes of infant death were analyzed by comparing 2023 and 2024 final data (1).



Figure 4. Age-adjusted death rate for the 10 leading causes of death in 2024: United States, 2023 and 2024



¹Statistically significant decrease from 2023 to 2024 ($p < 0.05$).

NOTES: A total of 3,072,666 resident deaths were registered in the United States in 2024. The 10 leading causes of death accounted for 70.9% of all U.S. deaths in 2024. Causes of death are ranked according to number of deaths in 2024. Rankings for 2023 data are not shown.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, mortality data file.

*In original source document, the CDC uses "Alzheimer's" as a substitute for all dementias. In this document, the Dementia Society updated it to the umbrella term to be more inclusive, like "Cancer" and "Heart disease."

Infant death

The infant mortality rate (IMR) in 2024 (552.5 infant deaths per 100,000 live births) was not significantly different from the 2023 rate (560.2) (Figure 5, Table 5).

The 10 leading causes of infant death in 2024 (congenital malformations, low birth weight, sudden infant death syndrome, unintentional injuries, maternal complications, bacterial sepsis of newborn, cord and placental complications, respiratory distress of newborn, diseases of the circulatory system, and intrauterine hypoxia and birth asphyxia) accounted for 65.8% of all infant deaths in the United States.

In 2024, diseases of the circulatory system moved from the 10th leading cause of infant death to the 9th leading cause, while intrauterine hypoxia and birth asphyxia dropped from the 9th to the 10th leading cause. The IMR for sudden infant death syndrome decreased 7.5% from 40.2 in 2023 to 37.2 in 2024. Mortality rates for the other leading causes of infant death did not change significantly.

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