



MORTALITY IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY 2008

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH AND PREMATURE DEATH

WITH TRENDS FOR 1999-2008

A publication of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health



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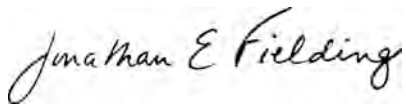
LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH AND PREMATURE DEATH

Message from the Director

In 2008, the age-adjusted death rate in Los Angeles County was 601 deaths per 100,000 population, which was dramatically lower than the United States rate of 759 deaths per 100,000 population. The overall death rate in the county was lower than every state except Hawaii (2007 data). Continuing a more than 20-year trend in declining death rates in the county, from 1999 to 2008, the overall death rate in the county decreased 25%. Impressive declines in the death rate from many of the leading causes of death contributed to overall decline. For example, from 1999 to 2008, there was a 42% decrease in the death rate from coronary heart disease, a 44% decrease in the death rate from stroke, and a 28% decrease in the death rate from lung cancer. These improvements reflect the important work of the Department and our partners in educating the community about how to reduce its risk of certain conditions and to adopt healthier lifestyles, and by ensuring access to quality medical screenings and treatment.

Although there have been improvements, we face challenges in making certain that all Angelenos benefit equally. The lowest overall mortality rate (361 deaths per 100,000 population) was among Asian/Pacific Islander women while the highest overall rate was among black men (1,087 deaths per 100,000 population). Some residents are at higher risk of death than others because of their health behaviors, the environment in which they live, their education and employment opportunities, and their access to medical care. We continue to work with our partners to close this gap. While some death rates are decreasing, the death rate from Alzheimer's disease is increasing, and there has been little improvement in recent years in the death rates from preventable injuries such as motor vehicle crashes, drug overdoses, homicide, and suicide.

Measures of mortality are important indicators for monitoring the health of a community. In Los Angeles County, we continuously review and analyze the information collected from death certificates for residents of the county. This report, *Mortality in Los Angeles County 2008 and Mortality Trends 1999-2008*, is a comprehensive analysis and summary of the most recent year's finalized data. This resource can be used to help identify priorities for action and guide our efforts to improve the public's health. We hope the information in this report will help us work collaboratively to formulate local and state policies, and implement programs to improve and enrich the lives of all Angelenos.



Jonathan E. Fielding, MD, MPH
Director and Health Officer

Data highlights for 2008 (unless otherwise noted, rates are age-adjusted)

- In 2008, there were 58,043 deaths—a 0.5% decrease from 2007. The death rate was 601 deaths per 100,000 population—a 4% decrease from 2007.
- The number of deaths among men and women was nearly equal—29,402 men and 28,641 women—but overall, men died at a younger age than women. The median age at death for men was 73 years compared with 81 years for women.
- Overall, whites and Asian/Pacific Islanders lived longer than blacks and Hispanics. The median age at death was 81 years for whites, 78 years for Asian/Pacific Islanders, 70 years for blacks, and 69 years for Hispanics.
- The highest overall death rate was among black males—1,087 deaths per 100,000 population—which was three times higher than the rate among Asian/Pacific Islander women who had the lowest death rate—361 deaths per 100,000 population.
- On an average day in Los Angeles County, 159 people died, including 37 from coronary heart disease, 37 from cancer, 10 from injuries (homicide, suicide, and unintentional), and 9 from stroke. Five deaths were among children or young adults less than 25 years of age.
- Twenty-three of every 100 deaths were caused by coronary heart disease (13,428 deaths), which was the leading cause of death and premature death.
- Twenty-three of every 100 deaths were caused by cancer (13,425 deaths). Among those who died of cancer, lung cancer was most common (2,910 deaths), followed by colorectal cancer (1,365 deaths) and breast cancer (1,079 deaths).
- For the first time, the declining death rate for female breast cancer (20 deaths per 100,000 population) fell below the Healthy People 2010 objective.
- Diabetes remained an important cause of death and premature death for both men and women, and for all race/ethnic groups. The death rates were highest for blacks and Hispanics, and higher for men than women.
- Accidents (also called unintentional injuries), primarily motor vehicle crashes and drug overdoses, were the leading cause of death for persons aged 1 to 44 years (922 deaths). All injuries (accidents, homicide, and suicide) caused 44% of the deaths in this age group.
- Homicide was the leading cause of premature death for Hispanics and black men.
- Firearms caused 951 deaths. Among persons aged 1 to 44 years, 85% of firearm deaths were homicides, whereas among persons aged 65 and older, 89% of firearm deaths were suicides.
- Alzheimer's disease was the fourth-leading cause of death for women (1,445 deaths), but it was the 11th-leading cause of death for men (676 deaths).
- HIV remained an important cause of premature death for blacks and Hispanics, and in the Hollywood/Wilshire, South, and Southwest Health Districts.

Mortality in Los Angeles County 2008 and Mortality Trends 1999-2008

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- Death rates were higher for men than women for every leading cause of death and premature death, except for Alzheimer's disease and breast cancer.
- Black men had the highest death rate for colorectal cancer, coronary heart disease, diabetes, emphysema, homicide, HIV, lung cancer, motor vehicle crash, pneumonia/influenza, and stroke.
- Forty-four percent of all deaths were among persons less than 75 years of age. Each death before the age of 75 years resulted in potential years of life lost before reaching that milestone, which, when added together across all deaths, totaled more than 460,000 years of potential life lost before age 75.
- The Healthy People 2010 goal was met for female breast cancer, coronary heart disease, lung cancer, motor vehicle crash, and stroke, but not for the other leading causes of death and premature death for which a comparable Healthy People 2010 goal has been established (colorectal cancer, emphysema/COPD, HIV, homicide, liver disease, and suicide).

Data highlights for 1999-2008 (unless otherwise noted, rates are age-adjusted)

- During the last 10 years, the overall death rate decreased 25%, from 798 to 601 deaths per 100,000 population.
- There was a notable decrease (42%) in the death rate from coronary heart disease—the leading cause of death and premature death—from 241 to 139 deaths per 100,000 population in 1999 and 2008, respectively. The coronary heart disease death rate among women decreased 46% while among men it dropped by 39%. The greatest declines (46%) were among white and black females. The smallest decline (33%) was among residents of the Antelope Valley Service Planning Area where the rates were consistently higher than the county overall.
- Death rates from stroke, the second leading cause of death, decreased 44% during the last 10 years. The rates and decreases were similar for men and women overall.
- During the last 10 years, the death rates from lung cancer and pneumonia/influenza both declined by 28%. In 1999, the highest lung cancer death rate—99 deaths per 100,000 population—was among black men. By 2008, the lung cancer death rate among black men declined 42% to 58 deaths per 100,000.
- Diabetes became the fifth-leading cause of death in 2008 after nine years as the sixth-leading cause.
- For the last 10 years, the four leading causes of death have remained unchanged: coronary heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, and emphysema.
- Coronary heart disease, homicide, and motor vehicle crashes have been the three leading causes of premature death since 1999.

- Since 1999, the number of deaths from Alzheimer’s disease has nearly tripled from 772 in 1999 to 2,121 in 2008.
- From 1999 to 2008, there has been relatively little change in the rate of deaths from drug overdoses and motor vehicle crashes—the leading causes of unintentional injury death. Homicide rates decreased from the peak of 11 deaths per 100,000 population in 2001 and 2002, to 8 deaths per 100,000 population in 2008.
- HIV, which was the seventh-leading cause of premature death in 1999, has not been among the 10 leading causes of premature death overall since 2004.

Background

When a death occurs in California, state law requires that a certificate of death be filed within eight days of death and before a decedent is buried or cremated. The certificate of death is a legal document that serves as a permanent record of the death of an individual. To complete a certificate of death, the funeral director or medical facility collects identifying and demographic information about the decedent from family members and medical records. The decedent’s physician or the coroner provides information about the medical conditions or events that precipitated the death.

When the death certificate is complete, it is filed with the local registrar using the Electronic Death Registration System.¹ Then, the local registrar submits the document to the State Registrar of Vital Records, and state records are aggregated by the National Center for Health Statistics to create an annual national mortality database. There is a delay of about two years before the annual national mortality database is available for use although the use of electronic death registration systems are helping to shorten this time frame. Errors, omissions, and inaccuracies can occur when the death certificate is completed, and later when it is processed. Some of these errors are detected and corrected; others are not.

This report summarizes information obtained from death certificates (Appendix 1) for all Los Angeles County residents who died in 2008, and mortality trends for 1999 through 2008. While it cannot provide information about every cause of death, it lays the groundwork for future efforts and provides valuable information for public health and medical research, evaluation of prevention and intervention programs, community needs assessments, policy development, and program planning. Death certificate data represent an important endpoint in the spectrum of disease and help us to better understand the burden of disease in our community. Because death certificates are required by state law, they provide a readily available, and a consistently and continuously collected source of information on a wide range of health conditions.

Premature death: What is it?

We expect most people to live a long life, but many do not. In 2008, almost half (44%) of the people who died were less than 75 years old. To quantify the impact of early, or premature, death we must consider how long a person was expected to live. For this report, we set our expected lifespan at 75 years of age, a standard cut-off used in public health. Ideally, most people will live longer than 75 years.

Measures

This report provides the number of deaths, death rates, and years of life lost before age 75 for the leading causes of death and premature death for 2008 and the 10-year period, 1999 through 2008, for Los Angeles County residents. The variables included in the analysis were age at death,

¹ The Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) is an internet system for death certificate origination and registration that enables coroners, funeral directors, doctors, and hospitals to submit death certificates for registration 24 hours per day. This results in improved efficiency, faster registration, and improved data quality. EDRS was first implemented in Los Angeles County in October 2007 and there has been a gradual transition from paper to paperless processing of death certificates.

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gender, race/ethnicity, service planning area and health district of residence, and underlying cause of death. To protect the identity of decedents, the exact number of deaths was not provided if there were fewer than five deaths in a particular group.

If we expect everyone to live to at least 75 years of age, then people who die younger are considered to have died prematurely. For example, a person who died at 63 years of age lost 12 years of expected life, while a person who died at 80 exceeded the expectation and did not lose any years of expected life. For everyone who died during the year, we calculated the years of expected life that were lost if they died before 75. Then, by adding up the total years of life lost for each cause of death, we identified those causes of death responsible for the greatest amount of premature death. Calculations of years of life lost were limited to persons who were at least 1 year of age at the time of death. Infants less than 1 year of age were excluded because prevention of infant mortality differs from prevention of other causes of early mortality.

A standardized coding system, the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), was used to classify causes of death and to group similar causes of death into categories for analysis.² The cause of death groups were based on categories developed by the National Center for Health Statistics.³ However, the cause of death groupings in this report may differ from other published reports. Before making comparisons with other published reports, verify that the cause of death groupings are equivalent. To identify the leading causes of death, the cause of death groups were ranked by the number of deaths in each group. If two groups had the same number of deaths, then the cause of death that resulted in the most years of life lost was ranked first. To identify the leading causes of premature death, the groups were ranked by the years of life lost in each group. If two causes of death resulted in the same number of years of life lost, then the group that resulted in the greatest number of deaths was ranked first. The ICD tenth revision was used for classifying deaths that occurred in 1999 or later. From 1979 through 1998, the ICD ninth revision was in use. To facilitate comparisons with earlier years, ninth and tenth revision codes are provided for each of the leading causes of death and premature death.

When a person dies, it is likely that several factors or conditions contributed to the death. For this report, we analyzed the underlying cause of death, which is the condition that most directly caused the death. By using a single cause of death rather than considering all the conditions present at the time of death, the number of deaths and rates in this report do not reflect the full impact of certain diseases and conditions.⁴

Some figures include national goals established by Healthy People 2010.⁵ Healthy People 2010 is a set of health-related objectives for the nation to achieve, with the goal of increasing life expectancy and quality of life, and eliminating health disparities in population groups.

Definitions and technical notes

Age-adjusted death rate: There are age-related differences in the rates at which most health conditions occur. Some conditions are more common among young people, while others are more common among older people. Age adjustment is a technique for removing the effects of age from crude rates so they can be compared. Age adjustment is used to compare two or more populations at one point in time or one population at two or more points in time. To control for differences in the age distribution of the populations being compared, the death rates for each population group

are applied to a standard population in order to create a comparable summary measure of mortality. In this report, age-adjusted death rates were calculated using the 2000 standard population published by the National Center for Health Statistics (Appendix 2).⁶ All rates were rounded to the nearest whole number; therefore, rates that appear to be the same may differ by a fractional amount.

Age-specific death rate: The number of deaths in a specific age group divided by the population at risk in that age group.

COPD: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Death rate: The number of deaths divided by the population at risk. Death rates make comparisons between different population groups more meaningful than frequencies alone. This type of rate is also called the crude death rate.

Health District: Using census tract boundaries, the County is divided into 26 health districts that are responsible for planning and providing public health services according to the health needs of the local communities (Appendix 3).

HIV: Human immunodeficiency virus.

Median: The mid-point of a set of values; the point at which, when the values are put in order, half of the values fall above and half fall below. The median of 25, 27, 28, 36, and 41 is 28.

Service Planning Area (SPA): Health districts are aggregated to form service planning areas. The County is divided into eight service planning areas (Appendices 3 and 4).

Note: The decennial census is the basis for annual estimates of the total population of Los Angeles County, the population groups used in this report, and the standard population used for age adjustment. The decennial census may not accurately count every resident of the County, and some groups may experience less accurate enumeration than others. Following the census, statistical methods are used to estimate the population for the years between the decennial census which may also result in inaccuracies that ultimately affect the crude and adjusted death rates. Therefore, some of the variation in the reported death rates may be the result of inaccuracies in the population estimates rather than true differences.

² International statistical classification of diseases and related health problems, tenth revision. Geneva: World Health Organization, 1992.

³ Instruction manual, Part 9. ICD-10 cause-of-death lists for tabulating mortality statistics (updated October 2007 to include WHO updates to ICD-10 for data year 2007). www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dvs/Part9InstructionManual2007.pdf

⁴ Redelings MD, Sorvillo F, Simon P. A comparison of underlying cause and multiple causes of death: US vital statistics, 2000-2001. *Epidemiology*. 2006 Jan;17(1):100-3.

⁵ Healthy People, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. www.healthypeople.gov.

⁶ Hoyert DL, Heron MP, Murphy SL, Kung H. Deaths: Final Data for 2003. National vital statistics reports; vol 54 no 13. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2006.

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User's Guide to Color

To make the figures easier to understand and interpret, color codes have been used throughout the report. To make it easier to see the overall impact of cancer, the same color is used for all cancers regardless of the type. All unintentional injuries (accidents), such as drug overdoses or motor vehicle crashes, also have the same color code.

How to get more information

L.A. HealthDataNow! is an online query system to facilitate access to County mortality data. Users can query the system to obtain mortality statistics by cause of death, demographic group, and geographic area within the County. L.A. HealthDataNow! is accessible at <http://dqs.hasten.ladhs.org/>.

Coronary heart disease
Stroke
Cancer
Emphysema/chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
Pneumonia/influenza
Diabetes
Alzheimer's disease
Homicide
Unintentional injury (accident) Self-inflicted injury (suicide)
Liver disease
HIV
Birth defect
Perinatal period condition
Other conditions

User's guide to cause of death and premature death figures

The following series of figures compares the ten leading causes of death with the ten leading causes of *premature* death (death before age 75) for the county overall and selected population groups. These figures are designed to facilitate comparisons within population groups. Other figures are designed to facilitate comparisons between population groups.

User's guide

A				B			
Leading causes of death				Leading causes of <i>premature</i> death			
Rank	Cause of death	No. of deaths	Premature death rank	Rank	Cause of death	Years of life lost	Death rank
1.	Coronary heart disease	13,428	1.	1.	Coronary heart disease	59,821	1.
2.	Stroke	3,280	9.	2.	Homicide	37,087	14.
3.	Lung cancer	2,910	7.	3.	Motor vehicle crash	28,195	15.
4.	Emphysema/COPD	2,889	13.	4.	Suicide	22,177	16.
5.	Diabetes	2,190	8.	5.	Liver disease	19,749	9.
6.	Pneumonia/influenza	2,171	22.	6.	Drug overdose	19,269	19.
7.	Alzheimer's disease	2,121	45.	7.	Lung cancer	16,862	3.
8.	Colorectal cancer	1,365	11.	8.	Diabetes	15,650	5.
9.	Liver disease	1,134	5.	9.	Stroke	15,197	2.
10.	Breast cancer	1,079	10.	10.	Breast cancer	12,346	10.

A: The ten leading causes of death are shown from highest (top) to lowest (bottom) based on the number of deaths from each cause.

B: The ten leading causes of *premature* death are shown from highest (top) to lowest (bottom) based on the number of years of life lost before age 75 from each cause.

① The cause of death group coded by color.

② The number of deaths due to the specific cause, e.g., there were 13,428 deaths from coronary heart disease and 2,889 deaths from emphysema/COPD.

③ The *premature* death rank for this cause of death, e.g., diabetes was the fifth ranked cause of death (2,190 deaths), but was the eighth ranked cause of premature death (15,650 years of life lost).

④ The cause of *premature* death group coded by color.

⑤ The total years of life lost before age 75 for the specific cause of death.

⑥ The death rank for this cause of *premature* death, e.g., stroke was the ninth ranked cause of *premature* death resulting in 15,197 years of life lost before age 75, but was the second ranked cause of death (3,280 deaths).

Figure 1. Ten leading causes of death and premature death

Los Angeles County				Los Angeles County			
58,043 total deaths				58,043 total deaths			
461,838 years of life lost*				461,838 years of life lost*			
Leading causes of death				Leading causes of premature** death			
Rank	Cause of death	No. of deaths	Premature death rank	Rank	Cause of death	Years of life lost*	Death rank
1.	Coronary heart disease	13,428	1.	1.	Coronary heart disease	59,821	1.
2.	Stroke	3,280	9.	2.	Homicide	37,087	14.
3.	Lung cancer	2,910	7.	3.	Motor vehicle crash	28,195	15.
4.	Emphysema/COPD	2,889	13.	4.	Suicide	22,177	16.
5.	Diabetes	2,190	8.	5.	Liver disease	19,749	9.
6.	Pneumonia/influenza	2,171	22.	6.	Drug overdose	19,269	19.
7.	Alzheimer's disease	2,121	45.	7.	Lung cancer	16,862	3.
8.	Colorectal cancer	1,365	11.	8.	Diabetes	15,650	5.
9.	Liver disease	1,134	5.	9.	Stroke	15,197	2.
10.	Breast cancer	1,079	10.	10.	Breast cancer	12,346	10.

Coronary heart disease (13,428 deaths) caused one of every four deaths in the county, and four times more deaths than stroke (3,280 deaths), the second-leading cause of death.

Coronary heart disease (13,428 deaths) and cancer (13,425 deaths) together caused almost half (46%) of all deaths.

For each death from homicide (838 deaths), the second-leading cause of premature death, an average of 44 years of life was lost compared with four years for each death from coronary heart disease (13,428 deaths).

Injuries (accidents [2,117 deaths], homicide [838 deaths], and suicide [802 deaths]) caused 25% of all years of life lost, but only 6% of all deaths, highlighting the dramatic impact of injuries, which are largely preventable, on premature death.

Emphysema (2,889 deaths), pneumonia/influenza (2,171 deaths), and Alzheimer's disease (2,121 deaths) were important causes of death but had less impact on premature death.

*Excludes infants less than 1 year of age and persons of unknown age.

**Death before age 75 years.

Figure 2. Ten leading causes of death and premature death, by gender

Males 29,402 total deaths 298,386 years of life lost*				Females 28,641 total deaths 163,452 years of life lost*			
Leading causes of death				Leading causes of premature** death			
Rank	Cause of death	No. of deaths	Premature death rank	Rank	Cause of death	Years of life lost*	Death rank
1.	Coronary heart disease	7,001	1.	1.	Coronary heart disease	44,408	1.
2.	Lung cancer	1,568	7.	2.	Homicide	31,990	9.
3.	Emphysema/COPD	1,398	12.	3.	Motor vehicle crash	22,235	12.
4.	Stroke	1,373	9.	4.	Suicide	16,881	13.
5.	Diabetes	1,084	8.	5.	Liver disease	14,386	7.
6.	Pneumonia/influenza	990	21.	6.	Drug overdose	13,790	17.
7.	Liver disease	773	5.	7.	Lung cancer	9,421	2.
8.	Prostate cancer	767	25.	8.	Diabetes	9,102	5.
9.	Homicide	710	2.	9.	Stroke	8,766	4.
10.	Colorectal cancer	703	11.	10.	HIV	8,565	20.

The number of deaths for men and women was similar, but men lost 83% more years of life than women indicating that, overall, men died at a younger age than women.

For men, HIV was the 20th-ranked cause of death (310 deaths), but it remained an important cause of premature death.

Homicide, motor vehicle crash, suicide, and drug overdose caused 28% of the years of life lost among men but only 8% of the deaths.

For women, the median age at death from coronary heart disease was 85 years compared with 77 years for men.

Motor vehicle crash, drug overdose, suicide, and homicide caused 13% of the years of life lost among women but only 2% of the deaths.

Emphysema/COPD, Alzheimer's disease, pneumonia/influenza, and hypertension and related renal disease were leading causes of death for women but had less impact on premature death.

*Excludes infants less than 1 year of age and persons of unknown age.
**Death before age 75 years.

Figure 3. Ten leading causes of death and premature death, by race/ethnicity

White 30,149 total deaths 156,657 years of life lost*				Hispanic 13,591 total deaths 174,892 years of life lost*			
Leading causes of death				Leading causes of premature** death			
Rank	Cause of death	No. of deaths	Premature death rank	Rank	Cause of death	Years of life lost*	Death rank
1.	Coronary heart disease	7,596	1.	1.	Coronary heart disease	25,621	1.
2.	Emphysema/COPD	1,955	7.	2.	Suicide	11,296	10.
3.	Lung cancer	1,687	4.	3.	Drug overdose	9,956	16.
4.	Stroke	1,552	11.	4.	Lung cancer	8,704	3.
5.	Alzheimer's disease	1,487	38.	5.	Motor vehicle crash	7,350	19.
6.	Pneumonia/influenza	1,203	17.	6.	Liver disease	6,050	13.
7.	Diabetes	801	9.	7.	Emphysema/COPD	5,381	2.
8.	Colorectal cancer	660	10.	8.	Breast cancer	4,989	9.
9.	Breast cancer	566	8.	9.	Diabetes	4,204	7.
10.	Suicide	478	2.	10.	Colorectal cancer	3,715	8.

Leading causes of death				Leading causes of premature** death			
Rank	Cause of death	No. of deaths	Premature death rank	Rank	Cause of death	Years of life lost*	Death rank
1.	Coronary heart disease	2,536	2.	1.	Homicide	21,624	5.
2.	Diabetes	764	5.	2.	Coronary heart disease	15,477	1.
3.	Stroke	749	8.	3.	Motor vehicle crash	14,554	8.
4.	Liver disease	594	4.	4.	Liver disease	11,262	4.
5.	Homicide	458	1.	5.	Diabetes	6,829	2.
6.	Lung cancer	433	14.	6.	Drug overdose	6,359	17.
7.	Pneumonia/influenza	430	23.	7.	Suicide	6,156	22.
8.	Motor vehicle crash	367	3.	8.	Stroke	6,024	3.
9.	Emphysema/COPD	343	25.	9.	HIV	4,093	24.
10.	Alzheimer's disease	310	53.	10.	Leukemia	4,036	23.

For whites, the median age at death from coronary heart disease was 83 years.

Suicide was an important cause of death for whites causing 7% of the years of life lost, and the only race/ethnic group for which suicide was among the ten leading causes of death.

Alzheimer's disease was the fifth-leading cause of death for whites compared with the seventh-leading cause for the county overall.

For Hispanics, the median age at death from coronary heart disease was 78 years.

Hispanics were the only race/ethnic group for which homicide was the leading cause of premature death.

Diabetes was the second-leading cause of death for Hispanics compared with the fifth-leading cause of death for the county overall.

Black
7,697 total deaths
84,223 years of life lost*

Leading causes of death				Leading causes of premature** death			
Rank	Cause of death	No. of deaths	Premature death rank	Rank	Cause of death	Years of life lost*	Death rank
1.	Coronary heart disease	1,804	1.	1.	Coronary heart disease	12,860	1.
2.	Stroke	469	5.	2.	Homicide	10,816	6.
3.	Lung cancer	377	7.	3.	Motor vehicle crash	3,513	16.
4.	Diabetes	359	4.	4.	Diabetes	3,369	4.
5.	Emphysema/COPD	318	11.	5.	Stroke	3,231	2.
6.	Homicide	250	2.	6.	HIV	3,121	15.
7.	Pneumonia/influenza	232	16.	7.	Lung cancer	2,994	3.
8.	Alzheimer's disease	204	46.	8.	Breast cancer	2,535	10.
9.	Colorectal cancer	196	12.	9.	Drug overdose	2,375	17.
10.	Breast cancer	182	8.	10.	Suicide	2,288	23.

For blacks, the median age at death from coronary heart disease was 75 years.

HIV was the sixth-leading cause of premature death for blacks compared with the 12th-leading cause for the county overall.

Death rates for many of the leading causes of death and premature death were higher for blacks than for other race/ethnic groups.

Asian/Pacific Islander
6,354 total deaths
43,568 years of life lost*

Leading causes of death				Leading causes of premature** death			
Rank	Cause of death	No. of deaths	Premature death rank	Rank	Cause of death	Years of life lost*	Death rank
1.	Coronary heart disease	1,437	1.	1.	Coronary heart disease	5,495	1.
2.	Stroke	496	3.	2.	Motor vehicle crash	2,712	16.
3.	Lung cancer	406	4.	3.	Stroke	2,622	2.
4.	Pneumonia/influenza	297	22.	4.	Lung cancer	2,396	3.
5.	Emphysema/COPD	258	28.	5.	Suicide	2,273	15.
6.	Diabetes	257	10.	6.	Homicide	1,744	25.
7.	Colorectal cancer	197	7.	7.	Colorectal cancer	1,643	7.
8.	Liver cancer	191	9.	8.	Breast cancer	1,522	14.
9.	Pancreatic cancer	131	12.	9.	Liver cancer	1,510	8.
10.	Hypertension & related renal disease	122	24.	10.	Diabetes	1,199	6.

For Asian/Pacific Islanders, the median age at death from coronary heart disease was 82 years.

The death rate from coronary heart disease was lower for Asian/Pacific Islanders than for other race/ethnic groups.

Cancers were important causes of death and premature death for Asian/Pacific Islanders.

*Excludes infants less than 1 year of age and persons of unknown age.
**Death before age 75 years.

Figure 4. Comparison of the leading causes of death and premature death, by race/ethnicity

Leading causes of death

Race/ethnicity Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#1 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#2 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#3 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#4 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#5 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate
White 30,149 643 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 7,596 154 per 100,000	Emphysema/COPD 1,955 41 per 100,000	Lung cancer 1,687 38 per 100,000	Stroke 1,552 31 per 100,000	Alzheimer's disease 1,487 27 per 100,000
Hispanic 13,591 500 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 2,536 108 per 100,000	Diabetes 764 30 per 100,000	Stroke 749 31 per 100,000	Liver disease 594 18 per 100,000	Homicide 458 8 per 100,000
Black 7,697 879 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 1,804 209 per 100,000	Stroke 469 55 per 100,000	Lung cancer 377 43 per 100,000	Diabetes 359 41 per 100,000	Emphysema/COPD 318 37 per 100,000
Asian/Pacific Islander 6,354 438 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 1,437 99 per 100,000	Stroke 496 34 per 100,000	Lung cancer 406 28 per 100,000	Pneumonia/influenza 297 21 per 100,000	Emphysema/COPD 258 18 per 100,000
Los Angeles County Total 58,043 601 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 13,428 139 per 100,000	Stroke 3,280 34 per 100,000	Lung cancer 2,910 31 per 100,000	Emphysema/COPD 2,889 31 per 100,000	Diabetes 2,190 23 per 100,000

Leading causes of premature death (before age 75 years)

Race/ethnicity	#1 cause	#2 cause	#3 cause	#4 cause	#5 cause
White	Coronary heart disease	Suicide	Drug overdose	Lung cancer	Motor vehicle crash
Hispanic	Homicide	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	Liver disease	Diabetes
Black	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Diabetes	Stroke
Asian/Pacific Islander	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	Stroke	Lung cancer	Suicide
Los Angeles County Total	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Liver disease

Notes: Los Angeles County Total includes persons of other or unknown race/ethnicity.

Figure 5. Comparison of the leading causes of death and premature death for males, by race/ethnicity

Males: Leading causes of death

Race/ethnicity Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#1 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#2 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#3 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#4 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#5 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate
White 14,768 764 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 3,905 197 per 100,000	Emphysema/COPD 894 46 per 100,000	Lung cancer 850 44 per 100,000	Stroke 603 31 per 100,000	Pneumonia/influenza 541 28 per 100,000
Hispanic 7,316 601 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 1,349 135 per 100,000	Liver disease 413 27 per 100,000	Homicide 407 14 per 100,000	Diabetes 371 34 per 100,000	Stroke 343 32 per 100,000
Black 3,871 1,087 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 940 274 per 100,000	Homicide 214 47 per 100,000	Lung cancer 200 58 per 100,000	Stroke 194 57 per 100,000	Diabetes 157 44 per 100,000
Asian/Pacific Islander 3,301 538 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 770 126 per 100,000	Lung cancer 261 42 per 100,000	Stroke 223 37 per 100,000	Emphysema/COPD 162 28 per 100,000	Pneumonia/influenza 135 24 per 100,000
All males 29,402 722 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 7,001 178 per 100,000	Lung cancer 1,568 40 per 100,000	Emphysema/COPD 1,398 37 per 100,000	Stroke 1,373 35 per 100,000	Diabetes 1,084 27 per 100,000

Males: Leading causes of premature death (before age 75 years)

Race/ethnicity	#1 cause	#2 cause	#3 cause	#4 cause	#5 cause
White	Coronary heart disease	Suicide	Drug overdose	Motor vehicle crash	Lung cancer
Hispanic	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Coronary heart disease	Liver disease	Drug overdose
Black	Homicide	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	HIV	Suicide
Asian/Pacific Islander	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Lung cancer	Stroke
All males	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Liver disease

Notes: All males includes persons of other or unknown race/ethnicity.

Figure 6. Comparison of the leading causes of death and premature death for females, by race/ethnicity

Females: Leading causes of death

Race/ethnicity Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#1 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#2 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#3 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#4 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#5 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate
White 15,381 542 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 3,691 118 per 100,000	Emphysema/COPD 1,061 38 per 100,000	Alzheimer's disease 1,009 29 per 100,000	Stroke 949 30 per 100,000	Lung cancer 837 33 per 100,000
Hispanic 6,275 419 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 1,187 87 per 100,000	Stroke 406 29 per 100,000	Diabetes 393 27 per 100,000	Pneumonia/influenza 238 18 per 100,000	Breast cancer 221 14 per 100,000
Black 3,826 730 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 864 163 per 100,000	Stroke 275 53 per 100,000	Diabetes 202 39 per 100,000	Breast cancer 180 34 per 100,000	Lung cancer 177 34 per 100,000
Asian/Pacific Islander 3,053 361 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 667 78 per 100,000	Stroke 273 32 per 100,000	Pneumonia/influenza 162 19 per 100,000	Lung cancer 145 17 per 100,000	Diabetes 131 15 per 100,000
All females 28,641 504 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 6,427 109 per 100,000	Stroke 1,907 33 per 100,000	Emphysema/COPD 1,491 27 per 100,000	Alzheimer's disease 1,445 23 per 100,000	Lung cancer 1,342 25 per 100,000

Females: Leading causes of premature death (before age 75 years)

Race/ethnicity	#1 cause	#2 cause	#3 cause	#4 cause	#5 cause
White	Coronary heart disease	Breast cancer	Lung cancer	Drug overdose	Suicide
Hispanic	Coronary heart disease	Breast cancer	Diabetes	Motor vehicle crash	Liver disease
Black	Coronary heart disease	Breast cancer	Homicide	Diabetes	Stroke
Asian/Pacific Islander	Breast cancer	Stroke	Coronary heart disease	Lung cancer	Motor vehicle crash
All females	Coronary heart disease	Breast cancer	Lung cancer	Diabetes	Stroke

Notes: All females includes persons of other or unknown race/ethnicity.

Figure 7. Comparison of the leading causes of death, by age group

Leading causes of death

Age group Number of deaths Age-specific death rate	#1 cause Number of deaths Age-specific death rate	#2 cause Number of deaths Age-specific death rate	#3 cause Number of deaths Age-specific death rate	#4 cause Number of deaths Age-specific death rate	#5 cause Number of deaths Age-specific death rate
<1 year old 741 488 per 100,000	Low birthweight/prematurity 116 76 per 100,000	SIDS* 63 41 per 100,000	Heart defect 42 28 per 100,000	Pregnancy complication 29 19 per 100,000	Other birth defects 27 18 per 100,000
1-4 years old 111 18 per 100,000	Motor vehicle crash 16 --	Homicide 15 --	Birth defect 13 --	Brain/CNS cancer 7 --	Septicemia <5 --
5-14 years old 208 14 per 100,000	Homicide 28 2 per 100,000	Motor vehicle crash 26 2 per 100,000	Birth defect 20 1 per 100,000	Brain/CNS cancer 18 --	Leukemia 13 --
15-24 years old 932 60 per 100,000	Homicide 322 21 per 100,000	Motor vehicle crash 196 13 per 100,000	Suicide 90 6 per 100,000	Drug overdose 41 3 per 100,000	Leukemia 24 2 per 100,000
25-44 years old 3,143 103 per 100,000	Homicide 329 11 per 100,000	Drug overdose 251 8 per 100,000	Motor vehicle crash 242 8 per 100,000	Suicide 241 8 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 198 6 per 100,000
45-64 years old 11,641 482 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 2,323 96 per 100,000	Lung cancer 677 28 per 100,000	Liver disease 620 26 per 100,000	Diabetes 555 23 per 100,000	Stroke 455 19 per 100,000
65-74 years old 8,677 1,525 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 1,885 331 per 100,000	Lung cancer 785 138 per 100,000	Emphysema/COPD 538 95 per 100,000	Diabetes 465 82 per 100,000	Stroke 441 77 per 100,000
75+ years old 32,571 6,059 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 9,012 1,677 per 100,000	Stroke 2,266 422 per 100,000	Alzheimer's disease 2,010 374 per 100,000	Emphysema/COPD 2,008 374 per 100,000	Pneumonia/influenza 1,762 328 per 100,000
Los Angeles County Total 58,043 601 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 13,428 139 per 100,000	Stroke 3,280 34 per 100,000	Lung cancer 2,910 31 per 100,000	Emphysema/COPD 2,889 31 per 100,000	Diabetes 2,190 23 per 100,000

Notes: Los Angeles County Total includes persons of unknown age.

During the first year of life, black infants had the highest death rate from low birthweight/prematurity (28 deaths; 236 deaths per 100,000 population), followed by Hispanics (67 deaths; 70 deaths per 100,000 population).

Injuries were the four leading cause of death for persons aged 1 to 44 years: homicide (694 deaths), motor vehicle crash (480 deaths), suicide (337 deaths), and drug overdose (292 deaths).

Among persons over the age of 74, the death rate from Alzheimer's disease increased 14% from 327 deaths per 100,000 population in 2007, to 374 deaths per 100,000 population in 2008. In 2008, the death rate among whites in this age group (496 deaths per 100,000 population) was more than double the rate among Hispanics and Asian/Pacific Islanders.

*Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.
--Number of deaths is too small to calculate a reliable rate.

Figure 8. Leading causes of death for males, by age group and race/ethnicity

		Race/ethnicity Deaths from all causes	#1 Cause Number of deaths	#2 Cause Number of deaths	#3 Cause Number of deaths
Males	0-14 years 604 deaths	White 89	Perinatal period condition 32	Birth defect 21	Brain/CNS cancer <5
		Hispanic 334	Perinatal period condition 118	Birth defect 77	Motor vehicle crash 17
		Black 111	Perinatal period condition 52	Birth defect 11	Motor vehicle crash 10
		Asian/Pacific Islander 67	Perinatal period condition 21	Birth defect 13	Leukemia <5
	15-24 years 737 deaths	White 113	Motor vehicle crash 41	Suicide 18	Drug overdose 14
		Hispanic 441	Homicide 197	Motor vehicle crash 95	Suicide 37
		Black 132	Homicide 79	Motor vehicle crash 11	Suicide 9
		Asian/Pacific Islander 48	Motor vehicle crash 11	Homicide 10	Suicide 5
	25-44 years 2,138 deaths	White 579	Suicide 88	Drug overdose 86	Motor vehicle crash 52
		Hispanic 1,017	Homicide 164	Motor vehicle crash 97	Liver disease 88
		Black 366	Homicide 87	Coronary heart disease 36	HIV 31
		Asian/Pacific Islander 164	Motor vehicle crash 22	Coronary heart disease 22	Suicide 15
	45-64 years 7,172 deaths	White 3,131	Coronary heart disease 835	Lung cancer 203	Suicide 164
		Hispanic 2,124	Coronary heart disease 412	Liver disease 236	Diabetes 145
		Black 1,224	Coronary heart disease 319	Lung cancer 59	Stroke 57
		Asian/Pacific Islander 649	Coronary heart disease 165	Lung cancer 56	Liver cancer 45

65-74 years 4,795 deaths	White 2,370	Coronary heart disease 617	Lung cancer 226	Emphysema/COPD 203
	Hispanic 1,054	Coronary heart disease 257	Diabetes 75	Lung cancer 69
	Black 745	Coronary heart disease 214	Lung cancer 62	Stroke 42
	Asian/Pacific Islander 594	Coronary heart disease 111	Lung cancer 78	Stroke 36
75+ years 13,945 deaths	White 8,483	Coronary heart disease 2,407	Emphysema/COPD 569	Pneumonia/influenza 448
	Hispanic 2,346	Coronary heart disease 625	Stroke 146	Diabetes 131
	Black 1,292	Coronary heart disease 369	Prostate cancer 91	Stroke 81
	Asian/Pacific Islander 1,779	Coronary heart disease 472	Stroke 143	Emphysema/COPD 132

Notes: In each age group, the number of deaths from all causes includes persons of other or unknown race/ethnicity.

All 223 perinatal period condition deaths were among infants less than 1 year of age. Prematurity/low birthweight was the most common cause (70 deaths) followed by bacterial sepsis (15 deaths) and maternal complications of pregnancy (15 deaths). For black infants, the death rate from perinatal period conditions (868 deaths per 100,000 population) was more than three times the rate for other race/ethnic groups.

Most deaths from birth defects were among infants. Among male children aged 0 to 14 years, heart defects were most common (26 deaths) followed by Edwards Syndrome (Trisomy 18 [14 deaths]).

Of the 294 homicides among males aged 15 to 24 years, 265 (90%) were committed with a firearm. Among blacks in this age group, 77 of the 79 (97%) homicides were committed with a firearm. Among males aged 25 to 44 years, 242 (84%) of the 288 homicides were committed with a firearm.

Among men aged 15 to 24 and 25 to 44 years, most suicides were committed by hanging. Among men aged 45 to 64 years, most suicides were committed with a firearm.

The median age at death from coronary heart disease was 80 years for whites, 79 years for Asian/Pacific Islanders, 73 years for Hispanics, and 70 years for blacks. For those older than 44 years, the coronary heart disease death rate was the highest for blacks in each of the age groups: 307 deaths per 100,000 population among 45- to 64-year-olds, 841 deaths per 100,000 population among 65- to 74-year-olds, and 2,295 deaths per 100,000 population among those 75 years and older. Among those 75 years and older, the rate for whites (2,144 deaths per 100,000 population) approached the rate for blacks.

Figure 9. Leading causes of death for females, by age group and race/ethnicity

		Race/ethnicity Deaths from all causes	#1 Cause Number of deaths	#2 Cause Number of deaths	#3 Cause Number of deaths
Females	0-14 years 456 deaths	White 59	Perinatal period condition 19	Birth defect 13	Motor vehicle crash <5
		Hispanic 279	Perinatal period condition 98	Birth defect 69	Brain/CNS cancer 9
		Black 79	Perinatal period condition 32	Homicide 10	Birth defect 6
		Asian/Pacific Islander 37	Perinatal period condition 10	Birth defect 8	Motor vehicle crash <5
	15-24 years 195 deaths	White 40	Suicide 8	Drug overdose 6	Motor vehicle crash 5
		Hispanic 106	Motor vehicle crash 25	Homicide 15	Leukemia 9
		Black 33	Homicide 9	Motor vehicle crash <5	Suicide <5
		Asian/Pacific Islander 15	Motor vehicle crash <5	Suicide <5	HIV <5
	25-44 years 1,005 deaths	White 290	Drug overdose 37	Suicide 35	Breast cancer 28
		Hispanic 395	Liver disease 30	Breast cancer 29	Homicide 21
		Black 210	Coronary heart disease 14	Breast cancer 13	HIV 12
		Asian/Pacific Islander 103	Stroke 9	Breast cancer 8	Suicide 6
	45-64 years 4,469 deaths	White 1,751	Coronary heart disease 224	Breast cancer 175	Lung cancer 152
		Hispanic 1,243	Coronary heart disease 138	Diabetes 109	Breast cancer 101
		Black 943	Coronary heart disease 169	Breast cancer 86	Lung cancer 59
		Asian/Pacific Islander 503	Breast cancer 57	Coronary heart disease 47	Stroke 43

65-74 years 3,882 deaths	White 1,780	Coronary heart disease 296	Lung cancer 216	Emphysema/COPD 178
	Hispanic 1,011	Coronary heart disease 184	Diabetes 83	Stroke 74
	Black 650	Coronary heart disease 128	Lung cancer 55	Diabetes 51
	Asian/Pacific Islander 425	Coronary heart disease 63	Stroke 35	Lung cancer 30
75+ years 18,626 deaths	White 11,460	Coronary heart disease 3,159	Alzheimer's disease 982	Stroke 823
	Hispanic 3,241	Coronary heart disease 849	Stroke 258	Alzheimer's disease 205
	Black 1,911	Coronary heart disease 552	Stroke 181	Alzheimer's disease 138
	Asian/Pacific Islander 1,970	Coronary heart disease 556	Stroke 186	Pneumonia/influenza 142

Notes: In each age group, the number of deaths from all causes includes persons of other or unknown race/ethnicity.

One hundred fifty-nine of the 160 perinatal period condition deaths were among infants less than 1 year of age. Prematurity/low birthweight was the most common cause (46 deaths) followed by hemorrhage (15 deaths), and maternal complications of pregnancy (14 deaths). The perinatal period condition death rate among infants was highest for blacks (545 deaths per 100,000 population) followed by Hispanics (206 deaths per 100,000 population).

Accidents (unintentional injuries), most commonly motor vehicle crashes (38 deaths), were the leading cause of death among females aged 15 to 24 years.

The median age at death from coronary heart disease was 86 years for whites, 85 years for Asian/Pacific Islanders, 82 years for Hispanics, and 80 years for blacks. The death rates from coronary heart disease increased with age. For women older than 74 years of age, the death rates for black and white women were similar: 1,888 and 1,803 deaths per 100,000, respectively. For Asian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic women, the rates were also similar: 1,136 and 1,124 deaths per 100,000, respectively.

Alzheimer's disease became an increasingly important cause of death among older women. From 2007 to 2008, Alzheimer's disease replaced diabetes as the third-leading cause of death for Hispanic and black women older than 74 years.

Figure 10. Leading causes of death and premature death, by service planning area (SPA) of residence

Antelope Valley (SPA 1)

2,165 deaths

21,783 years of life lost

Leading causes of death				Leading causes of premature** death			
Rank	Cause of death	No. of deaths	Premature death rank	Rank	Cause of death	Years of life lost*	Death rank
1.	Coronary heart disease	459	1.	1.	Coronary heart disease	2,794	1.
2.	Emphysema/COPD	184	8.	2.	Motor vehicle crash	1,574	10.
3.	Lung cancer	128	6.	3.	Suicide	1,559	8.
4.	Stroke	120	10.	4.	Homicide	1,340	14.
5.	Diabetes	106	5.	5.	Diabetes	975	5.

San Fernando (SPA 2)

12,259 deaths

84,091 years of life lost

Leading causes of death				Leading causes of premature** death			
Rank	Cause of death	No. of deaths	Premature death rank	Rank	Cause of death	Years of life lost*	Death rank
1.	Coronary heart disease	3,081	1.	1.	Coronary heart disease	11,725	1.
2.	Stroke	628	9.	2.	Motor vehicle crash	5,804	16.
3.	Lung cancer	620	7.	3.	Suicide	4,981	11.
4.	Alzheimer's disease	595	47.	4.	Drug overdose	4,314	18.
5.	Emphysema/COPD	527	13.	5.	Homicide	3,874	24.

San Gabriel (SPA 3)

10,616 deaths

70,964 years of life lost

Leading causes of death				Leading causes of premature** death			
Rank	Cause of death	No. of deaths	Premature death rank	Rank	Cause of death	Years of life lost*	Death rank
1.	Coronary heart disease	2,486	1.	1.	Coronary heart disease	9,273	1.
2.	Stroke	629	8.	2.	Homicide	4,611	19.
3.	Emphysema/COPD	614	12.	3.	Motor vehicle crash	4,147	16.
4.	Lung cancer	564	4.	4.	Lung cancer	3,031	4.
5.	Pneumonia/influenza	449	18.	5.	Liver disease	2,986	9.

Metro (SPA 4)

6,210 deaths

51,514 years of life lost

Leading causes of death				Leading causes of premature** death			
Rank	Cause of death	No. of deaths	Premature death rank	Rank	Cause of death	Years of life lost*	Death rank
1.	Coronary heart disease	1,469	1.	1.	Coronary heart disease	6,292	1.
2.	Stroke	367	9.	2.	Homicide	4,578	12.
3.	Lung cancer	294	8.	3.	Drug overdose	2,743	16.
4.	Emphysema/COPD	260	15.	4.	Liver disease	2,715	9.
5.	Pneumonia/influenza	255	23.	5.	Suicide	2,715	13.

West (SPA 5)

4,112 deaths
22,773 years of life lost

Leading causes of death				Leading causes of premature** death			
Rank	Cause of death	No. of deaths	Premature death rank	Rank	Cause of death	Years of life lost*	Death rank
1.	Coronary heart disease	882	1.	1.	Coronary heart disease	3,098	1.
2.	Stroke	262	11.	2.	Suicide	1,868	10.
3.	Pneumonia/influenza	218	19.	3.	Drug overdose	1,380	17.
4.	Lung cancer	212	6.	4.	Breast cancer	1,044	8.
5.	Alzheimer's disease	198	42.	5.	Motor vehicle crash	1,006	21.

South (SPA 6)

5,614 deaths
66,620 years of life lost

Leading causes of death				Leading causes of premature** death			
Rank	Cause of death	No. of deaths	Premature death rank	Rank	Cause of death	Years of life lost*	Death rank
1.	Coronary heart disease	1,222	2.	1.	Homicide	10,745	5.
2.	Stroke	355	6.	2.	Coronary heart disease	7,642	1.
3.	Diabetes	262	5.	3.	Motor vehicle crash	4,033	12.
4.	Lung cancer	242	10.	4.	HIV	2,576	16.
5.	Homicide	233	1.	5.	Diabetes	2,556	3.

East (SPA 7)

7,130 deaths
57,130 years of life lost

Leading causes of death				Leading causes of premature** death			
Rank	Cause of death	No. of deaths	Premature death rank	Rank	Cause of death	Years of life lost*	Death rank
1.	Coronary heart disease	1,588	1.	1.	Coronary heart disease	7,123	1.
2.	Emphysema/COPD	381	13.	2.	Homicide	4,648	15.
3.	Stroke	378	6.	3.	Motor vehicle crash	3,698	12.
4.	Diabetes	352	5.	4.	Liver disease	3,445	8.
5.	Lung cancer	346	9.	5.	Diabetes	2,484	4.

South Bay (SPA 8)

9,415 deaths
78,284 years of life lost

Leading causes of death				Leading causes of premature** death			
Rank	Cause of death	No. of deaths	Premature death rank	Rank	Cause of death	Years of life lost*	Death rank
1.	Coronary heart disease	2,143	1.	1.	Coronary heart disease	10,746	1.
2.	Stroke	519	6.	2.	Homicide	5,775	14.
3.	Emphysema/COPD	501	13.	3.	Motor vehicle crash	4,017	17.
4.	Lung cancer	494	7.	4.	Suicide	3,852	13.
5.	Pneumonia/influenza	343	22.	5.	Drug overdose	3,298	18.

*Excludes infants less than 1 year of age and persons of unknown age.

**Death before age 75 years.

Figure 11. Comparison of the leading causes of death and premature death, by service planning area (SPA) of residence

Leading causes of death

Service Planning Area Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#1 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#2 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#3 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#4 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#5 cause Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate
SPA 1: Antelope Valley 2,165 803 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 459 177 per 100,000	Emphysema/COPD 184 75 per 100,000	Lung cancer 128 48 per 100,000	Stroke 120 48 per 100,000	Diabetes 106 39 per 100,000
SPA 2: San Fernando 12,259 585 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 3,081 147 per 100,000	Stroke 628 30 per 100,000	Lung cancer 620 30 per 100,000	Alzheimer's disease 595 28 per 100,000	Emphysema/COPD 527 26 per 100,000
SPA 3: San Gabriel 10,616 563 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 2,486 130 per 100,000	Stroke 629 33 per 100,000	Emphysema/COPD 614 33 per 100,000	Lung cancer 564 31 per 100,000	Pneumonia/influenza 449 24 per 100,000
SPA 4: Metro 6,210 527 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 1,469 124 per 100,000	Stroke 367 32 per 100,000	Lung cancer 294 27 per 100,000	Emphysema/COPD 260 22 per 100,000	Pneumonia/influenza 255 21 per 100,000
SPA 5: West 4,112 521 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 882 108 per 100,000	Stroke 262 33 per 100,000	Pneumonia/influenza 218 26 per 100,000	Lung cancer 212 28 per 100,000	Alzheimer's disease 198 23 per 100,000
SPA 6: South 5,614 760 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 1,222 176 per 100,000	Stroke 355 51 per 100,000	Diabetes 262 37 per 100,000	Lung cancer 242 36 per 100,000	Homicide 233 21 per 100,000
SPA 7: East 7,130 593 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 1,588 133 per 100,000	Emphysema/COPD 381 33 per 100,000	Stroke 378 32 per 100,000	Diabetes 352 30 per 100,000	Lung cancer 346 30 per 100,000
SPA 8: South Bay 9,415 624 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 2,143 143 per 100,000	Stroke 519 35 per 100,000	Emphysema/COPD 501 35 per 100,000	Lung cancer 494 34 per 100,000	Pneumonia/influenza 343 23 per 100,000
Los Angeles County Total 58,043 601 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 13,428 139 per 100,000	Stroke 3,280 34 per 100,000	Lung cancer 2,910 31 per 100,000	Emphysema/COPD 2,889 31 per 100,000	Diabetes 2,190 23 per 100,000

Notes: Los Angeles County Total includes persons of unknown residence.

Leading causes of premature death (before age 75 years)

Service Planning Area	#1 cause	#2 cause	#3 cause	#4 cause	#5 cause
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Homicide	Diabetes
SPA 2: San Fernando	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Drug overdose	Homicide
SPA 3: San Gabriel	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Lung cancer	Liver disease
SPA 4: Metro	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Drug overdose	Liver disease	Suicide
SPA 5: West	Coronary heart disease	Suicide	Drug overdose	Breast cancer	Motor vehicle crash
SPA 6: South	Homicide	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	HIV	Diabetes
SPA 7: East	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Liver disease	Diabetes
SPA 8: South Bay	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Drug overdose
Los Angeles County Total	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Liver disease

Notes: Los Angeles County Total includes persons of unknown residence.

Figure 12. Comparison of the leading causes of premature death, by service planning area (SPA) of residence and gender

Males: Leading causes of premature death (before age 75 years)

Service Planning Area	#1 cause	#2 cause	#3 cause	#4 cause	#5 cause
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Homicide	Drug overdose
SPA 2: San Fernando	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Homicide	Drug overdose
SPA 3: San Gabriel	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Liver disease
SPA 4: Metro	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	HIV	Drug overdose	Liver disease
SPA 5: West	Coronary heart disease	Suicide	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Drug overdose
SPA 6: South	Homicide	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	HIV	Liver disease
SPA 7: East	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Liver disease	Suicide
SPA 8: South Bay	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Drug overdose
All males	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Liver disease

Notes: All males includes persons of unknown residence.

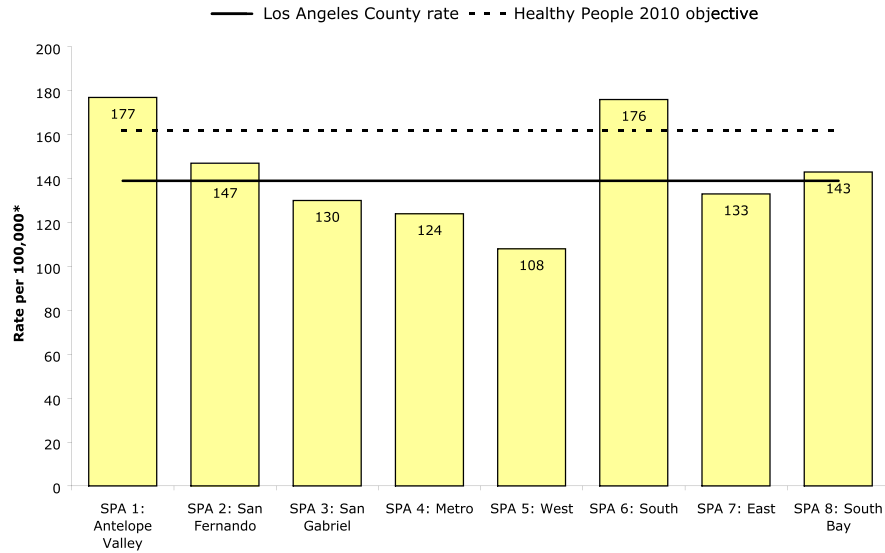
Females: Leading causes of premature death (before age 75 years)

Service Planning Area	#1 cause	#2 cause	#3 cause	#4 cause	#5 cause
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Emphysema/COPD	Lung cancer	Diabetes
SPA 2: San Fernando	Breast cancer	Coronary heart disease	Drug overdose	Motor vehicle crash	Lung cancer
SPA 3: San Gabriel	Coronary heart disease	Breast cancer	Lung cancer	Stroke	Diabetes
SPA 4: Metro	Coronary heart disease	Breast cancer	Lung cancer	Diabetes	Suicide
SPA 5: West	Breast cancer	Coronary heart disease	Drug overdose	Suicide	Lung cancer
SPA 6: South	Coronary heart disease	Breast cancer	Homicide	Diabetes	Motor vehicle crash
SPA 7: East	Coronary heart disease	Breast cancer	Diabetes	Stroke	Liver disease
SPA 8: South Bay	Coronary heart disease	Breast cancer	Lung cancer	Stroke	Diabetes
All females	Coronary heart disease	Breast cancer	Lung cancer	Diabetes	Stroke

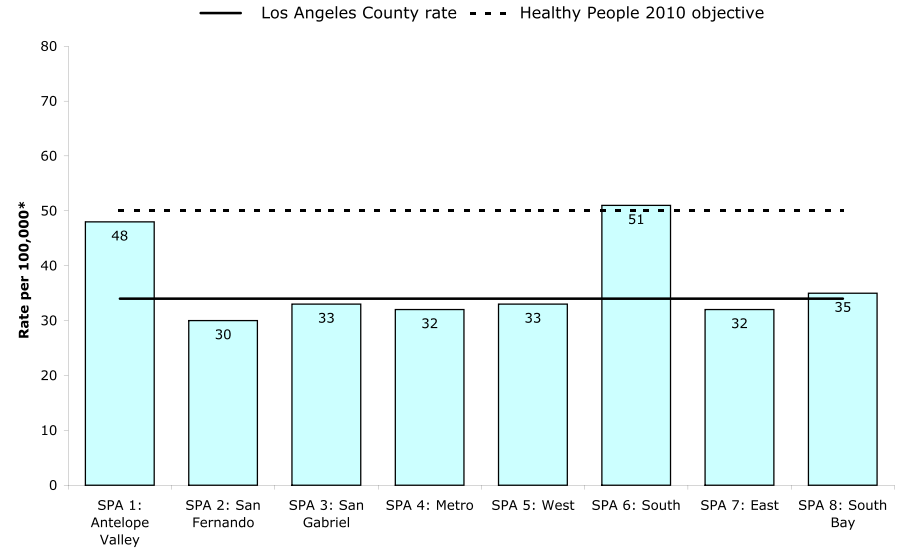
Notes: All females includes persons of unknown residence.

Figure 13. Death rates for selected causes of death, by service planning area (SPA) of residence

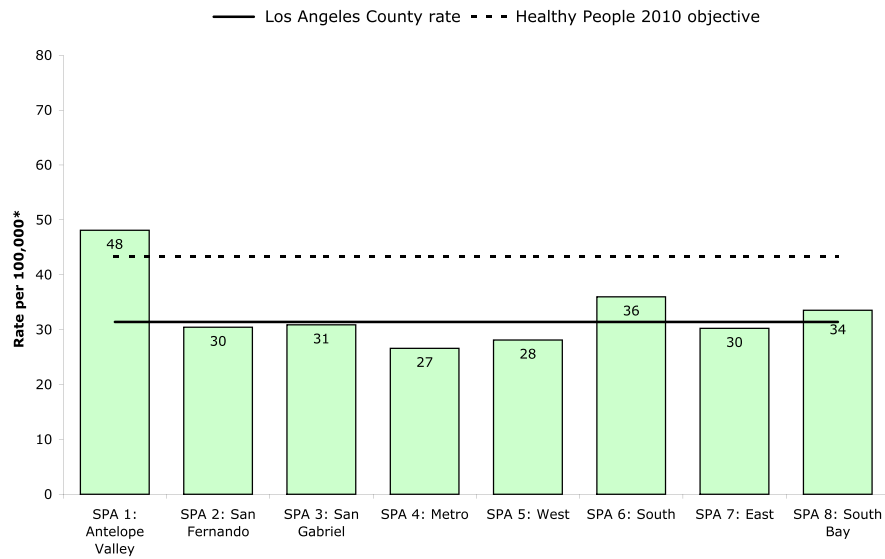
Coronary heart disease



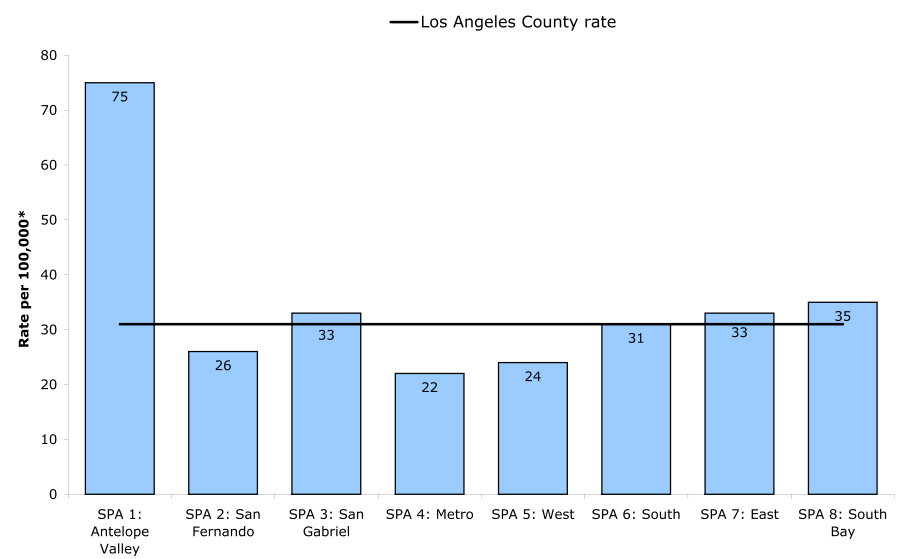
Stroke



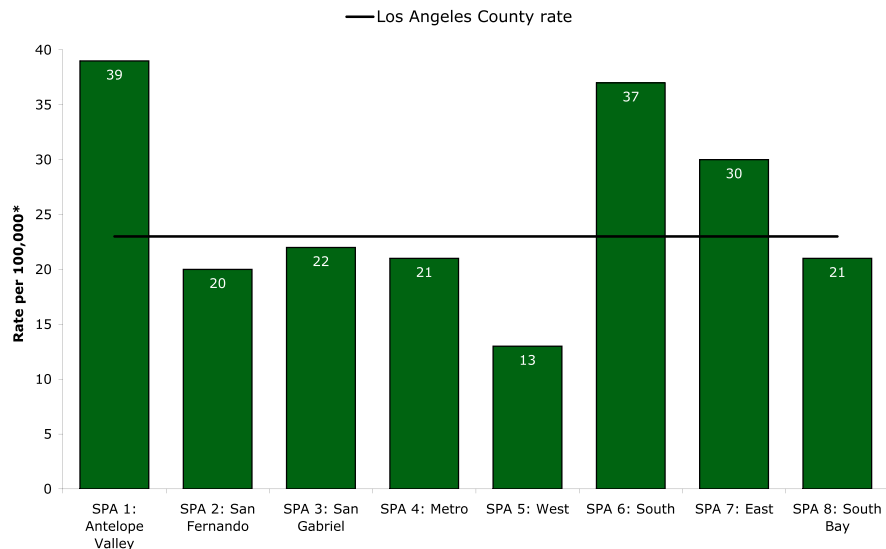
Lung cancer



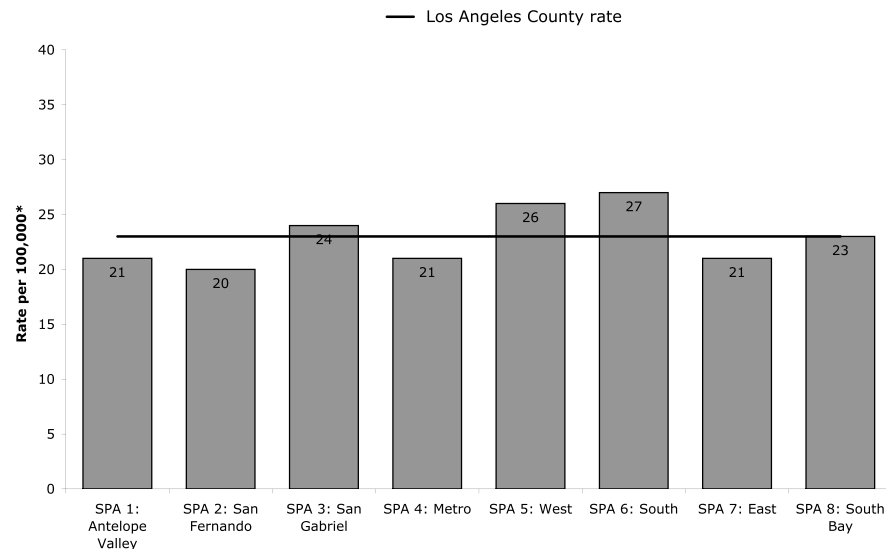
Emphysema/COPD



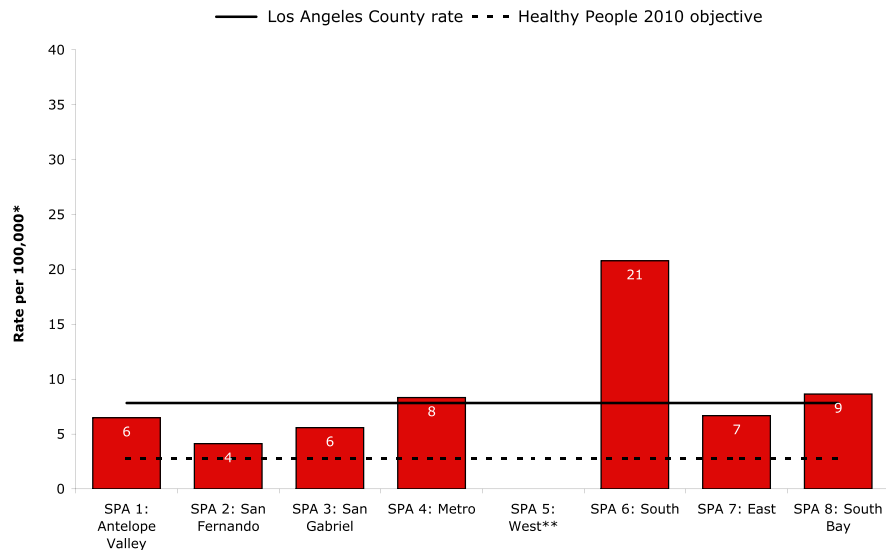
Diabetes



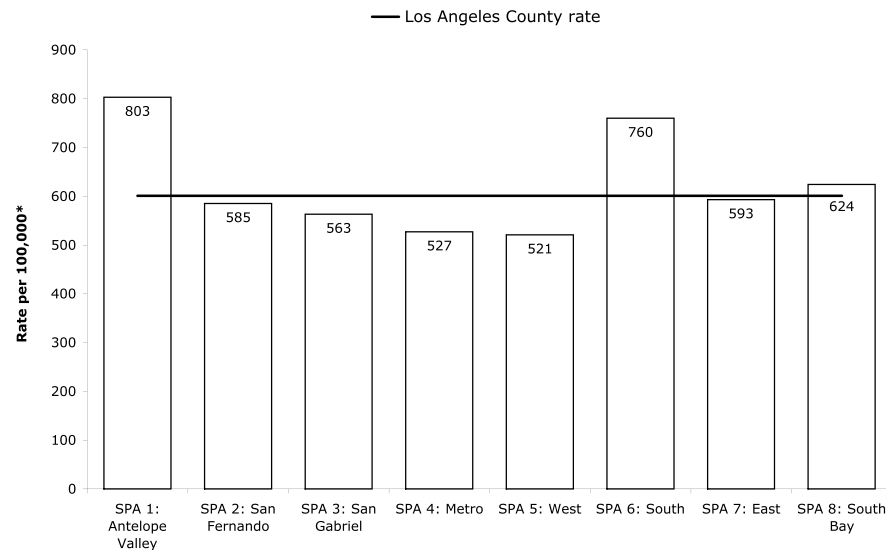
Pneumonia/influenza



Homicide



All causes of death



*Age-adjusted.
**Number of deaths is too small to calculate a reliable rate.

Figure 14. Comparison of the leading causes of death, by health district of residence

Leading causes of death

Health District Number of deaths Age-adjusted death rate	#1 cause Number of deaths	#2 cause Number of deaths	#3 cause Number of deaths	#4 cause Number of deaths	#5 cause Number of deaths
Alhambra 2,429 517 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 579	Stroke 158	Emphysema/COPD 136	Pneumonia/influenza 132	Lung cancer 124
Antelope Valley 2,165 803 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 459	Emphysema/COPD 184	Lung cancer 128	Stroke 120	Diabetes 106
Bellflower 2,177 631 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 471	Emphysema/COPD 136	Stroke 110	Lung cancer 104	Diabetes 94
Central 1,751 526 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 434	Stroke 107	Lung cancer 86	Emphysema/COPD 75	Diabetes 73
Compton 1,414 752 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 257	Stroke 92	Lung cancer 67	Diabetes 66	Emphysema/COPD 59
East LA 1,114 560 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 262	Diabetes 70	Stroke 54	Lung cancer 47	Pneumonia/influenza 44
East Valley 2,361 583 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 587	Lung cancer 124	Stroke 116	Emphysema/COPD 105	Diabetes 93
El Monte 2,067 527 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 453	Emphysema/COPD 123	Lung cancer 121	Stroke 103	Pneumonia/influenza 93
Foothill 2,054 607 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 484	Lung cancer 127	Emphysema/COPD 118	Stroke 117	Alzheimer's disease 81
Glendale 2,449 566 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 631	Stroke 141	Alzheimer's disease 133	Lung cancer 117	Emphysema/COPD 101
Harbor 1,363 603 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 299	Stroke 73	Emphysema/COPD 69	Lung cancer 68	Alzheimer's disease 59
Hollywood-Wilshire 2,853 525 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 705	Stroke 168	Lung cancer 140	Pneumonia/influenza 137	Emphysema/COPD 122
Inglewood 2,146 618 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 476	Stroke 141	Emphysema/COPD 108	Lung cancer 94	Diabetes 92

Long Beach 2,986 691 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 729	Emphysema/COPD 167	Stroke 157	Lung cancer 152	Diabetes 106
Northeast 1,606 532 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 330	Stroke 92	Diabetes 72	Lung cancer 68	Liver disease 67
Pasadena 958 575 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 264	Emphysema/COPD 57	Stroke 49	Pneumonia/influenza 44	Lung cancer 40
Pomona 3,108 591 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 706	Stroke 202	Emphysema/COPD 180	Lung cancer 152	Diabetes 144
San Antonio 1,725 558 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 373	Diabetes 92	Emphysema/COPD 89	Stroke 86	Lung cancer 82
San Fernando 2,380 633 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 567	Emphysema/COPD 126	Stroke 123	Lung cancer 120	Alzheimer's disease 95
South 959 822 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 183	Homicide 61	Stroke 56	Emphysema/COPD 45	Pneumonia/influenza 41
Southeast 611 623 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 112	Stroke 38	Homicide 37	Diabetes 31	Lung cancer 27
Southwest 2,630 779 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 670	Stroke 169	Diabetes 126	Lung cancer 113	Emphysema/COPD 93
Torrance 2,920 579 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 639	Lung cancer 180	Emphysema/COPD 157	Stroke 148	Pneumonia/influenza 129
West 4,112 521 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 882	Stroke 262	Pneumonia/influenza 218	Lung cancer 212	Alzheimer's disease 198
West Valley 5,069 574 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 1,296	Alzheimer's disease 288	Lung cancer 259	Stroke 248	Emphysema/COPD 195
Whittier 2,114 601 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 482	Stroke 128	Emphysema/COPD 118	Lung cancer 113	Diabetes 96
Los Angeles County Total 58,043 601 per 100,000	Coronary heart disease 13,428	Stroke 3,280	Lung cancer 2,910	Emphysema/COPD 2,889	Diabetes 2,190

Notes: Los Angeles County Total includes persons of unknown residence.

Figure 15. Comparison of the leading causes of premature death, by health district of residence

Leading causes of premature death (before age 75 years)

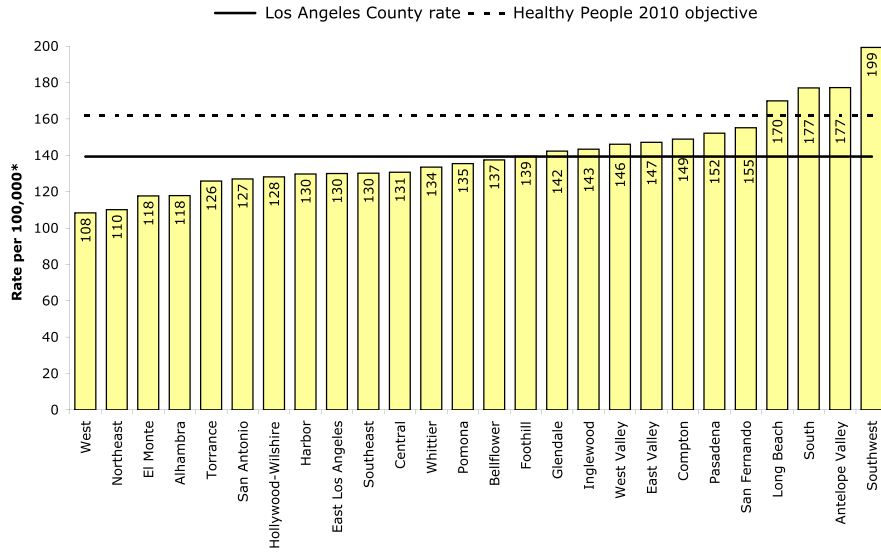
Health District	#1 cause	#2 cause	#3 cause	#4 cause	#5 cause
Alhambra	Coronary heart disease	Lung cancer	Breast cancer	Homicide	Liver disease
Antelope Valley	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Homicide	Diabetes
Bellflower	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	Homicide	Liver disease	Lung cancer
Central	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Drug overdose	Motor vehicle crash	Liver disease
Compton	Homicide	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	Stroke	Liver disease
East Los Angeles	Homicide	Coronary heart disease	Liver disease	Drug overdose	Diabetes
East Valley	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Liver disease
El Monte	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Liver disease	Lung cancer
Foothill	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	Lung cancer	Drug overdose	Liver disease
Glendale	Coronary heart disease	Suicide	Motor vehicle crash	Breast cancer	Colorectal cancer
Harbor	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Suicide	Drug overdose	Motor vehicle crash
Hollywood/Wilshire	Coronary heart disease	Suicide	Homicide	HIV	Drug overdose
Inglewood	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Stroke	Motor vehicle crash	Liver disease

Long Beach	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Suicide	Motor vehicle crash	Drug overdose
Northeast	Homicide	Coronary heart disease	Liver disease	Motor vehicle crash	Diabetes
Pasadena	Coronary heart disease	Suicide	Motor vehicle crash	Breast cancer	Colorectal cancer
Pomona	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	Homicide	Liver disease	Diabetes
San Antonio	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Liver disease	Stroke
San Fernando	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	Drug overdose	Suicide	Liver disease
South	Homicide	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	HIV	Stroke
Southeast	Homicide	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	Liver disease	Diabetes
Southwest	Homicide	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	Diabetes	HIV
Torrance	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Homicide	Lung cancer
West	Coronary heart disease	Suicide	Drug overdose	Breast cancer	Motor vehicle crash
West Valley	Coronary heart disease	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Drug overdose	Homicide
Whittier	Coronary heart disease	Liver disease	Homicide	Suicide	Diabetes
Los Angeles County Total	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Liver disease

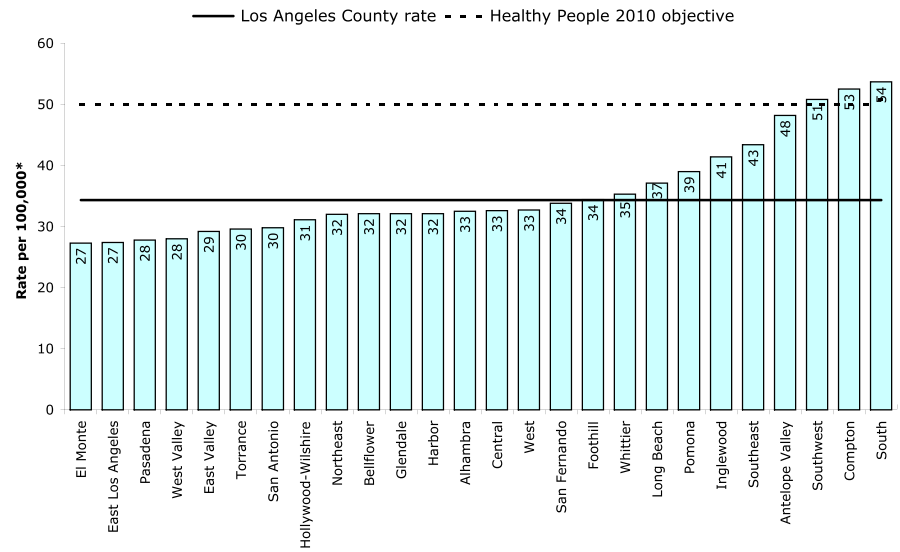
Notes: Los Angeles County Total includes persons of unknown residence.

Figure 16. Death rates for selected causes of death, by health district of residence

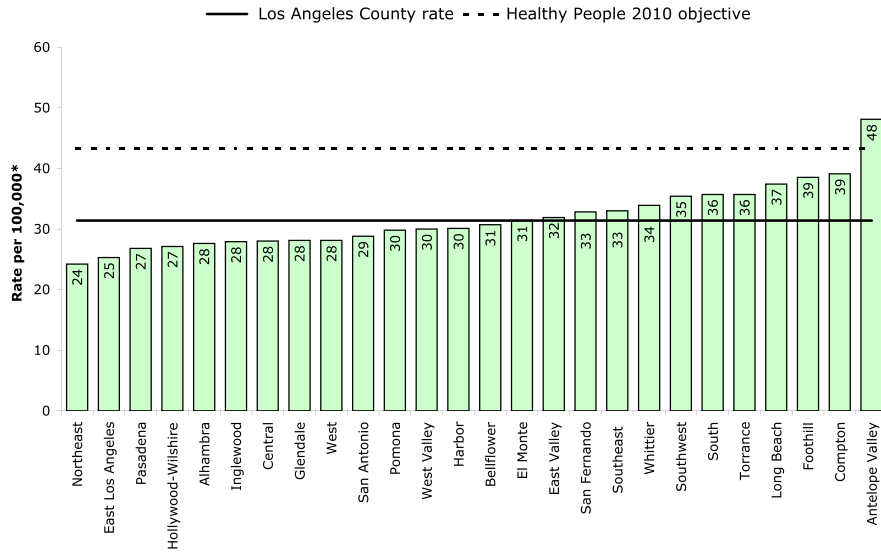
Coronary heart disease



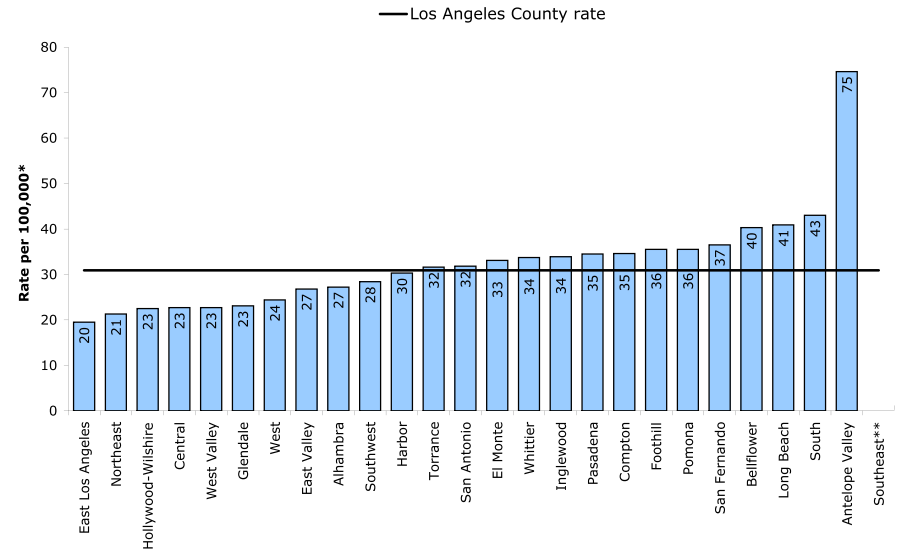
Stroke



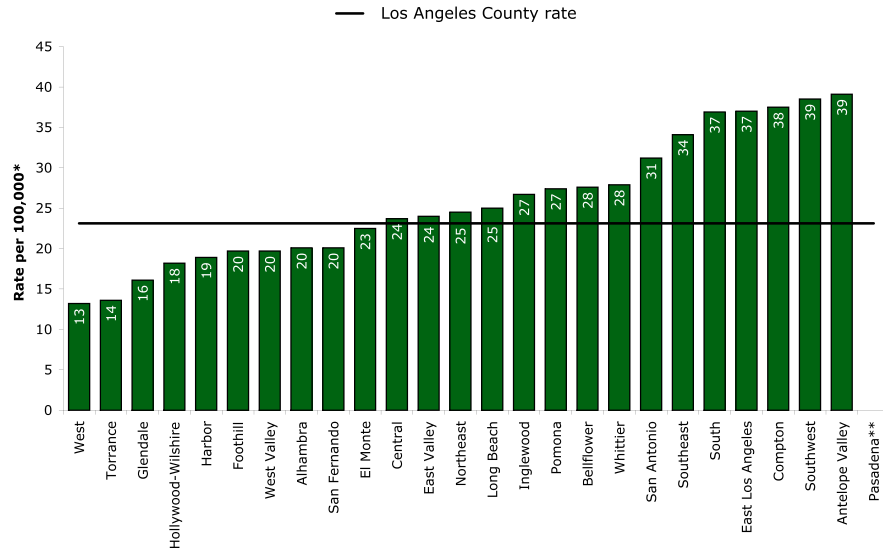
Lung cancer



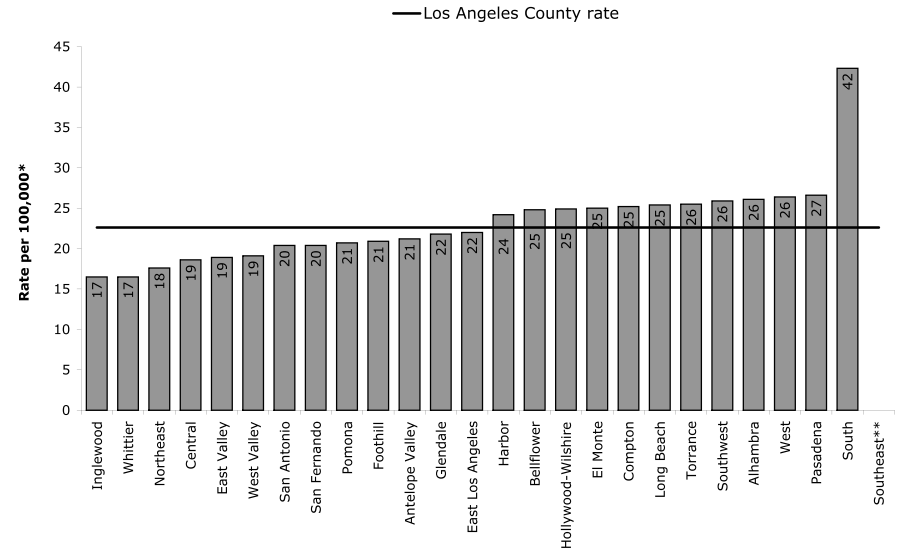
Emphysema/COPD



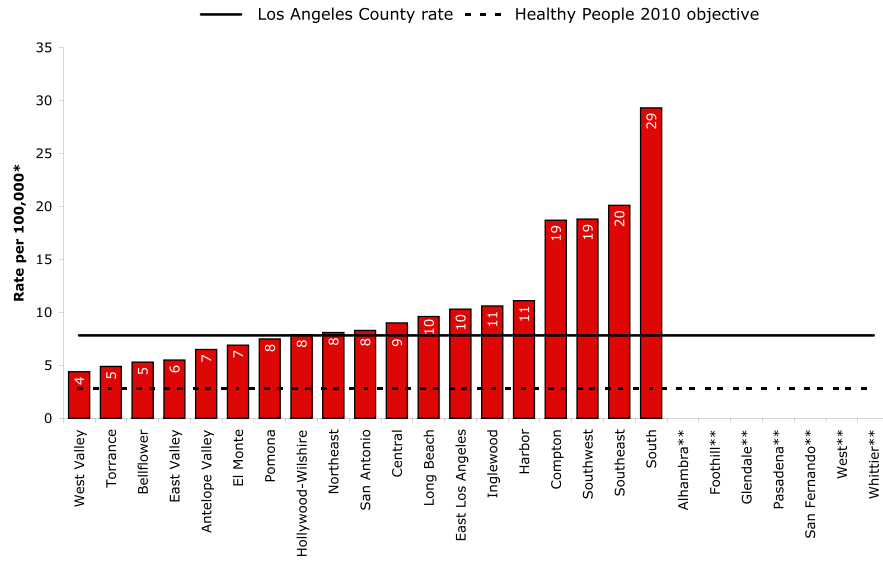
Diabetes



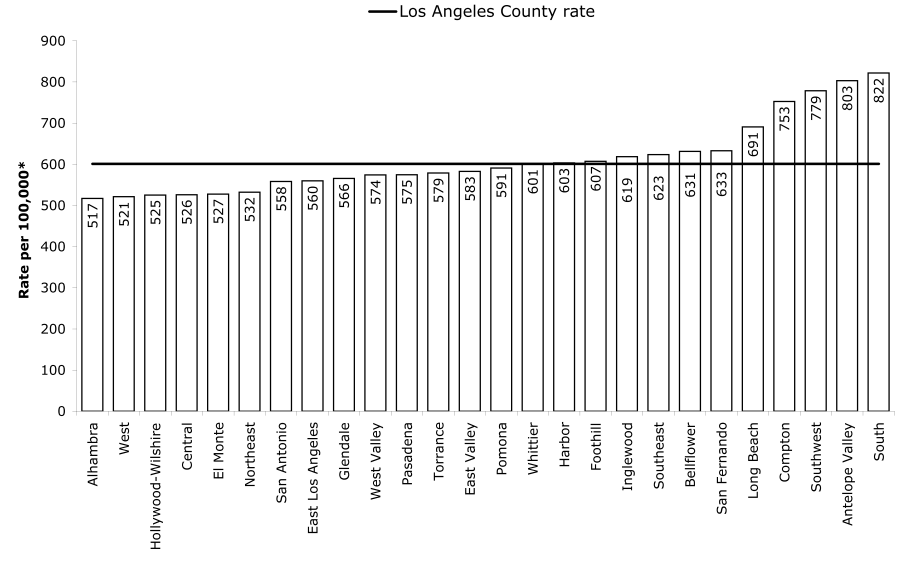
Pneumonia/influenza



Homicide



All causes of death



*Age-adjusted.
**Number of deaths is too small to calculate a reliable rate.

Mortality Trends in Los Angeles County 1999-2008

Figure T1. Comparison of the leading causes of death, by year

Leading causes of death

Year	#1 cause No. of deaths	#2 cause No. of deaths	#3 cause No. of deaths	#4 cause No. of deaths	#5 cause No. of deaths	#6 cause No. of deaths	#7 cause No. of deaths	#8 cause No. of deaths	#9 cause No. of deaths	#10 cause No. of deaths
2008	Coronary heart disease 13,428	Stroke 3,280	Lung cancer 2,910	Emphysema/COPD 2,889	Diabetes 2,190	Pneumonia/ influenza 2,171	Alzheimer's disease 2,121	Colorectal cancer 1,365	Liver disease 1,134	Breast cancer 1,079
2007	Coronary heart disease 13,890	Stroke 3,323	Lung cancer 2,950	Emphysema/COPD 2,625	Pneumonia/ influenza 2,184	Diabetes 2,127	Alzheimer's disease 1,780	Colorectal cancer 1,323	Breast cancer 1,139	Liver disease 1,133
2006	Coronary heart disease 14,842	Stroke 3,662	Lung cancer 3,021	Emphysema/COPD 2,665	Pneumonia/ influenza 2,283	Diabetes 2,188	Alzheimer's disease 1,551	Colorectal cancer 1,362	Liver disease 1,102	Breast cancer 1,071
2005	Coronary heart disease 15,154	Stroke 3,775	Lung cancer 3,036	Emphysema/COPD 2,770	Pneumonia/ influenza 2,333	Diabetes 2,305	Alzheimer's disease 1,546	Colorectal cancer 1,409	Breast cancer 1,174	Homicide 1,066
2004	Coronary heart disease 15,296	Stroke 4,121	Lung cancer 3,034	Emphysema/COPD 2,641	Pneumonia/ influenza 2,272	Diabetes 2,201	Colorectal cancer 1,414	Alzheimer's disease 1,340	Breast cancer 1,166	Homicide 1,069
2003	Coronary heart disease 16,320	Stroke 4,249	Lung cancer 3,150	Emphysema/COPD 2,796	Pneumonia/ influenza 2,419	Diabetes 2,178	Colorectal cancer 1,450	Alzheimer's disease 1,285	Breast cancer 1,084	Homicide 1,066
2002	Coronary heart disease 16,293	Stroke 4,169	Lung cancer 3,081	Emphysema/COPD 2,604	Pneumonia/ influenza 2,494	Diabetes 2,122	Colorectal cancer 1,315	Homicide 1,148	Liver disease 1,085	Breast cancer 1,064
2001	Coronary heart disease 16,828	Stroke 4,259	Lung cancer 3,232	Emphysema/COPD 2,723	Pneumonia/ influenza 2,421	Diabetes 1,890	Colorectal cancer 1,423	Homicide 1,099	Breast cancer 1,096	Liver disease 1,010
2000	Coronary heart disease 16,903	Stroke 4,410	Lung cancer 3,150	Emphysema/COPD 2,660	Pneumonia/ influenza 2,477	Diabetes 1,879	Colorectal cancer 1,360	Liver disease 1,121	Breast cancer 1,058	Homicide 992
1999	Coronary heart disease 17,394	Stroke 4,435	Lung cancer 3,243	Emphysema/COPD 2,836	Pneumonia/ influenza 2,242	Diabetes 1,820	Colorectal cancer 1,378	Breast cancer 1,101	Liver disease 1,047	Homicide 896

Figure T2. Comparison of the leading causes of premature death, by year

Leading causes of premature death (before age 75 years)

Year	#1 cause	#2 cause	#3 cause	#4 cause	#5 cause	#6 cause	#7 cause	#8 cause	#9 cause	#10 cause
2008	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Liver disease	Drug overdose	Lung cancer	Diabetes	Stroke	Breast cancer
2007	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Drug overdose	Liver disease	Suicide	Lung cancer	Stroke	Diabetes	Breast cancer
2006	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Liver disease	Suicide	Lung cancer	Stroke	Drug overdose	Diabetes	Breast cancer
2005	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Lung cancer	Liver disease	Diabetes	Stroke	Drug overdose	Breast cancer
2004	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Lung cancer	Liver disease	Drug overdose	Stroke	Diabetes	HIV
2003	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Lung cancer	Drug overdose	Liver disease	Stroke	Diabetes	HIV
2002	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Lung cancer	Suicide	Liver disease	Drug overdose	Stroke	HIV	Diabetes
2001	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Suicide	Lung cancer	Liver disease	HIV	Stroke	Drug overdose	Diabetes
2000	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Lung cancer	Liver disease	Suicide	Stroke	Drug overdose	HIV	Breast cancer
1999	Coronary heart disease	Homicide	Motor vehicle crash	Lung cancer	Suicide	Drug overdose	HIV	Liver disease	Stroke	Diabetes

Alzheimer's disease *at a glance*

45th cause of premature death

7th cause of death

Alzheimer's disease has been among the 10 leading causes of death since 2003. In 2008, it was the seventh-leading cause of death overall but the third-leading cause of death for white women and persons older than 74 years of age, and the fourth-leading cause of death in the San Fernando Service Planning Area. In the last 10 years, the death rate from Alzheimer's disease has doubled from 11 to 22 deaths per 100,000 population.

In simple terms . . .

Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible, progressive brain disease that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills and, eventually, the ability to carry out the simplest tasks of daily living. In most people with Alzheimer's disease, symptoms first appear after age 60. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia in older people. There are medications that may lessen some of the symptoms, but there is no cure. Scientists are exploring possible connections between Alzheimer's disease and high cholesterol, high blood pressure, physical inactivity, and serious trauma injury.

Risk factors

Age, family history

Community opportunities for intervention

- Develop community support networks for caregivers
- Assist persons with early Alzheimer's disease to plan for their future financial and medical needs

Individual opportunities for prevention

- Maintain good overall health by staying physically active, and controlling high blood pressure and cholesterol
- Keep the brain active by playing puzzle games, reading, and other mentally stimulating activities
- Slow the progression of symptoms through early diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease symptoms

Los Angeles County deaths

2,121

Los Angeles County death rate Healthy People 2010 Objective

22 deaths per 100,000 population

None

ICD-9 codes (1979-1998)

331.0

ICD-10 codes (1999-2008)

G30

References

Alzheimer's Association at WWW.ALZ.ORG

Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral Center at WWW.NIA.NIH.GOV/ALZHEIMERS

Referral

Alzheimer's Association helpline: [1-800-272-3900](tel:1-800-272-3900)

Mortality Trends in Los Angeles County 1999-2008
Figure T3. Trends in Alzheimer's disease mortality

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*
Los Angeles County	772	11	820	11	905	12	973	12	1,285	16	1,340	16	1,546	18	1,551	18	1,780	19	2,121	22
Males	256	10	270	10	309	11	318	11	405	14	399	13	450	14	477	15	586	17	676	19
Females	516	11	550	11	596	12	655	13	880	17	941	17	1,096	20	1,074	19	1,194	20	1,445	23
White	584	13	618	13	719	15	755	15	957	19	975	19	1,132	22	1,105	22	1,297	25	1,487	27
Hispanic	84	7	84	7	73	6	93	7	161	11	143	9	168	10	217	12	239	12	310	15
Black	83	13	89	13	90	14	97	14	119	17	155	21	176	24	151	21	159	21	204	25
Asian/Pacific Islander	19	--	28	3	22	3	25	3	42	4	65	6	69	6	76	6	80	6	116	8
Males																				
White	189	12	203	12	238	14	246	14	295	16	289	16	319	17	336	19	417	22	478	24
Hispanic	27	7	24	5	30	7	37	7	46	9	46	8	53	8	71	11	71	10	91	12
Black	34	16	29	12	34	14	28	12	37	15	40	17	55	22	45	19	63	24	58	21
Asian/Pacific Islander	5	--	14	--	7	--	6	--	23	6	24	5	23	5	25	5	33	6	47	8
Females																				
White	395	13	415	13	481	16	509	16	662	21	686	21	813	25	769	24	880	27	1,009	29
Hispanic	57	8	60	8	43	5	56	6	115	12	97	10	115	10	146	12	168	13	219	16
Black	49	12	60	13	56	13	69	15	82	17	115	24	121	24	106	21	96	19	146	27
Asian/Pacific Islander	14	--	14	--	15	--	19	--	19	--	41	6	46	7	51	7	47	6	69	8
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	23	14	30	17	26	15	39	21	43	24	43	24	60	31	50	25	70	32	74	32
SPA 2: San Fernando	181	12	181	11	206	12	255	15	325	18	343	19	409	22	407	22	490	25	595	28
SPA 3: San Gabriel	148	11	175	12	177	12	210	14	273	17	268	16	307	18	313	18	384	21	381	20
SPA 4: Metro	90	10	86	9	101	10	102	10	119	11	120	11	137	12	142	13	131	11	189	15
SPA 5: West	62	9	83	11	75	10	77	10	115	15	133	16	161	20	116	15	167	21	198	23
SPA 6: South	54	11	53	10	63	12	60	11	75	13	108	18	101	16	99	16	89	14	128	19
SPA 7: East	86	11	79	9	93	10	93	10	135	13	144	13	148	13	194	17	170	14	240	20
SPA 8: South Bay	126	12	130	11	158	14	132	11	196	16	175	14	222	17	221	17	272	19	309	21

*Age-adjusted rate per 100,000. Population estimates were revised; therefore, death rates for 2001-2004 may differ from those previously published.
 --Number of deaths is too small to calculate a reliable rate.

Breast cancer (female) at a glance

2nd cause of premature death

8th cause of death

Although Asian/Pacific Islanders had the lowest breast cancer death rate in 2008 compared with other race/ethnic groups, breast cancer was their leading cause of premature death. It was the second-leading cause of premature death for women of other race/ethnic groups. The overall death rate from breast cancer decreased 22% from 1999 to 2008. Each year, black women had the highest death rate.

In simple terms . . .

Cancer is a term for diseases in which abnormal cells divide without control, and can invade nearby tissues and spread to other parts of the body through the blood and lymph systems. The main types of cancer are: carcinoma which begins in the skin or in tissues that line or cover internal organs; sarcoma which begins in bone, cartilage, fat, muscle, blood vessels, or other connective or supportive tissue; leukemia which starts in blood-forming tissue such as the bone marrow; and lymphoma and multiple myeloma which begin in the cells of the immune system. Central nervous system cancers are cancers that begin in the tissues of the brain and spinal cord. Men can get breast cancer but it is uncommon.

Risk factors (for women)

Age, family history of breast cancer, previous breast cancer, race, dense breast tissue, early radiation treatment to the chest area, menstruation before age 12 or menopause after age 55, genetic mutation linked to breast cancer, exposure to DES (diethylstilbestrol), not having children, excessive alcohol consumption, being overweight, physical inactivity, prolonged postmenopausal hormone therapy

Community opportunities for prevention

- Promote the availability of low-cost breast cancer screening and follow-up
- Provide education on the importance of receiving on-schedule breast cancer screening

Individual opportunities for prevention

- Follow recommended breast cancer screening and follow-up guidelines
- Limit alcohol consumption
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Consult with your physician about increasing physical activity

Los Angeles County deaths

1,071

Los Angeles County death rate

19.8 deaths per 100,000 females

Healthy People 2010 Objective 3-3

21.3 deaths per 100,000 females

ICD-9 codes (1979-1998)

174-175

ICD-10 codes (1999-2008)

C50

References

American Cancer Society at WWW.CANCER.ORG
National Cancer Institute at WWW.CANCER.GOV

Referral

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Women's Health hotline: [1-800-793-8090](tel:1-800-793-8090)
CA Department of Public Health, Cancer Detection Programs - Every Woman Counts: [1-800-511-2300](tel:1-800-511-2300)

Mortality Trends in Los Angeles County 1999-2008
Figure T4. Trends in breast cancer (female) mortality

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*
Los Angeles County	1,089	25	1,045	24	1,088	24	1,052	23	1,074	22	1,157	24	1,168	23	1,063	21	1,127	22	1,071	20
Females																				
White	635	29	606	28	621	28	612	27	570	25	613	27	631	27	557	25	571	24	560	23
Hispanic	196	18	169	14	213	17	176	14	242	17	222	15	223	15	237	15	249	15	221	14
Black	163	37	170	36	159	34	150	31	158	32	199	40	181	36	164	32	194	37	180	34
Asian/Pacific Islander	92	15	97	15	91	14	112	16	102	14	120	16	132	17	101	12	112	13	108	12
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	37	30	25	20	30	25	36	29	41	30	30	23	51	36	40	27	39	26	38	25
SPA 2: San Fernando	259	28	244	25	253	26	242	24	238	23	241	22	261	24	264	23	249	22	240	20
SPA 3: San Gabriel	192	23	183	21	213	24	203	22	185	20	209	22	204	21	192	19	202	20	187	18
SPA 4: Metro	101	20	110	22	97	19	117	22	104	19	130	22	117	20	104	17	120	19	108	17
SPA 5: West	84	24	94	25	79	22	101	27	88	23	97	26	99	25	85	22	84	20	98	23
SPA 6: South	100	29	97	27	83	23	89	24	97	26	113	28	113	29	110	27	100	24	104	25
SPA 7: East	135	25	115	21	132	24	105	18	144	24	130	21	130	21	122	19	142	22	117	17
SPA 8: South Bay	180	27	176	25	193	27	159	22	171	23	201	26	192	24	143	18	185	22	176	21

*Age-adjusted rate per 100,000. Population estimates were revised; therefore, death rates for 2001-2004 may differ from those previously published.

Colorectal cancer at a glance

11th cause of premature death

8th cause of death

Colorectal cancer has been the eighth-leading cause of death overall since 2005. In 2008, it was the 11th-leading cause of premature death overall, but was the seventh-leading cause of premature death for Asian/Pacific Islanders. The overall colorectal cancer death rate was 14 deaths per 100,000 population, while the highest death rate, 27 deaths per 100,000 population, was among black males.

In simple terms . . .

Cancer is a term for diseases in which abnormal cells divide without control, and can invade nearby tissues and spread to other parts of the body through the blood and lymph systems. The main types of cancer are: carcinoma which begins in the skin or in tissues that line or cover internal organs; sarcoma which begins in bone, cartilage, fat, muscle, blood vessels, or other connective or supportive tissue; leukemia which starts in blood-forming tissue such as the bone marrow; and lymphoma and multiple myeloma which begin in the cells of the immune system. Central nervous system cancers are cancers that begin in the tissues of the brain and spinal cord.

Risk factors

Age, previous colorectal cancer or polyps, family history of colorectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, race or ethnic background, physical inactivity, being overweight, alcohol abuse, a diet high in red and processed meats, cooking meats at very high temperature, tobacco smoking, type 2 diabetes

Community opportunities for prevention

- Promote the availability of low-cost colorectal cancer screening and follow-up
- Increase the availability of affordable, nutritious foods

Individual opportunities for prevention

- Obtain routine medical care to detect and remove precancerous colorectal polyps
- Follow recommended screening guidelines for stool tests and special medical exams to detect colon cancer
- Eat plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grain foods
- Consult with your physician about increasing physical activity

Los Angeles County deaths

1,365

Los Angeles County death rate

14.3 deaths per 100,000 population

Healthy People 2010 Objective 3-5

13.7 deaths per 100,000 population

ICD-9 codes (1979-1998)

153-154

ICD-10 codes (1999-2008)

C18-C21

References

American Cancer Society at WWW.CANCER.ORG

National Cancer Institute at WWW.CANCER.GOV

Referral

American Cancer Society helpline: 1-800-227-2345

Mortality Trends in Los Angeles County 1999-2008
Figure T5. Trends in colorectal cancer mortality

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*
Los Angeles County	1,378	19	1,360	18	1,423	18	1,315	16	1,450	17	1,414	17	1,409	16	1,362	15	1,323	14	1,365	14
Males	696	23	676	21	722	22	655	19	710	20	674	19	708	19	686	18	686	18	703	17
Females	682	16	684	15	701	15	660	14	740	15	740	15	701	14	676	13	637	12	662	12
White	832	20	787	19	812	19	763	18	824	19	767	18	737	17	689	16	689	15	660	14
Hispanic	205	13	221	13	217	12	206	11	241	12	230	11	270	12	275	12	264	11	306	12
Black	196	27	204	27	227	30	192	25	211	26	237	29	213	26	223	27	181	22	196	22
Asian/Pacific Islander	144	15	142	14	164	16	148	13	170	14	177	15	184	14	171	13	184	13	197	13
Males																				
White	427	25	391	22	409	23	368	20	401	22	358	20	365	20	350	19	352	19	325	17
Hispanic	100	16	103	15	116	16	111	14	127	14	116	15	154	17	134	14	146	14	167	15
Black	93	35	99	34	107	37	94	30	90	28	111	34	102	29	110	33	88	27	96	27
Asian/Pacific Islander	75	18	80	18	88	19	79	17	90	17	87	16	82	14	89	15	98	16	111	17
Females																				
White	405	17	396	16	403	16	395	15	423	16	409	16	372	14	339	13	337	13	335	13
Hispanic	105	11	118	12	101	10	95	9	114	10	114	9	116	9	141	10	118	8	139	9
Black	103	23	105	23	120	27	98	21	121	25	126	26	111	23	113	23	93	18	100	19
Asian/Pacific Islander	69	12	62	11	76	13	69	11	80	12	90	13	102	14	82	11	86	11	86	10
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	45	23	36	18	45	22	43	21	60	27	59	26	56	24	30	13	35	14	36	14
SPA 2: San Fernando	275	17	309	18	304	18	286	16	292	16	322	17	327	17	306	16	306	16	301	14
SPA 3: San Gabriel	254	18	250	17	266	18	255	16	278	17	248	15	286	17	267	15	239	13	251	13
SPA 4: Metro	150	17	157	17	176	19	149	15	163	16	146	14	148	14	151	14	149	13	154	13
SPA 5: West	104	16	103	15	115	17	95	14	110	16	89	13	103	14	89	12	108	15	98	13
SPA 6: South	127	23	135	23	133	23	133	22	137	22	149	23	134	20	143	21	112	16	128	18
SPA 7: East	168	18	163	17	157	16	149	15	159	15	159	15	148	13	161	14	160	14	163	14
SPA 8: South Bay	252	22	207	17	219	18	202	16	241	19	230	17	204	15	213	15	208	14	229	15

*Age-adjusted rate per 100,000. Population estimates were revised; therefore, death rates for 2001-2004 may differ from those previously published.

Coronary heart disease *at a glance*

1st cause of premature death

1st cause of death

During the last 10 years, the death rate from coronary heart disease decreased 42%, although it remained the overall leading cause of death and premature death. In 2008, the highest death rate (274 deaths per 100,000 population) was among black men while the lowest death rate (78 deaths per 100,000 population) was among Asian/Pacific Islander women. The overall death rate from coronary heart disease has been below the Healthy People 2010 goal since 2007.

In simple terms . . .

Coronary heart disease is a condition in which the flow of blood to the heart muscle is reduced. Blood carried by the coronary arteries provides the heart with a constant supply of necessary oxygen and nutrients. When coronary arteries become blocked or clogged by cholesterol and fat deposits, they cannot supply enough oxygen-carrying blood to the heart. The result is coronary heart disease. When the flow of blood to the heart is cut off, a heart attack results and the heart muscle is permanently damaged from the lack of oxygen.

Risk factors

Age, male gender, race, tobacco smoking, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, being overweight, excessive alcohol consumption, previous heart attack or angina, family history of early heart disease

Community opportunities for prevention

- Promote physical activity by providing access to safe places like parks to walk, play, and exercise
- Restrict smoking in public places and worksites
- Provide access to smoking cessation programs
- Encourage people to quit smoking through media campaigns
- Increase the availability of nutrient-rich foods which have vitamins, minerals, fiber and other nutrients but are lower in calories

Individual opportunities for prevention

- Eat a heart-healthy diet
- Consult with your physician about increasing physical activity
- Stop smoking
- Manage diabetes and cholesterol levels, and control blood pressure
- Reduce stress
- Get regular medical check-ups

Los Angeles County deaths

13,428

Los Angeles County death rate

139 deaths per 100,000 population

Healthy People 2010 Objective 12-1

162 deaths per 100,000 population

ICD-9 codes (1979-1998)

402, 410-414, 429.2

ICD-10 codes (1999-2008)

I11, I20-I25

References

American Heart Association at WWW.AMERICANHEART.ORG
National Heart Lung and Blood Institute at WWW.NHLBI.NIH.GOV

Referral

Los Angeles County Division of the American Heart Association: [213-291-7000](tel:213-291-7000)

Mortality Trends in Los Angeles County 1999-2008
Figure T6. Trends in coronary heart disease mortality

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*
Los Angeles County	17,394	241	16,903	220	16,828	220	16,293	204	16,320	197	15,296	180	15,154	174	14,842	168	13,890	150	13,428	139
Males	8,328	290	8,200	268	8,343	272	8,029	250	8,131	243	7,662	222	7,613	215	7,541	210	7,082	188	7,001	178
Females	9,066	203	8,703	183	8,485	179	8,264	168	8,189	161	7,634	146	7,541	141	7,301	135	6,808	120	6,427	109
White	11,220	262	10,967	243	10,592	238	10,016	219	10,003	216	9,236	197	8,953	190	8,653	185	7,994	167	7,596	154
Hispanic	2,512	184	2,376	161	2,571	170	2,600	160	2,632	151	2,626	141	2,766	139	2,675	129	2,475	109	2,536	108
Black	2,429	351	2,261	309	2,308	316	2,262	301	2,269	292	2,085	264	2,045	254	2,053	255	1,936	231	1,804	209
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,198	143	1,255	136	1,319	141	1,365	136	1,352	125	1,292	113	1,344	111	1,409	112	1,452	106	1,437	99
Males																				
White	5,222	315	5,135	293	5,162	298	4,878	273	4,880	267	4,505	243	4,362	234	4,299	232	4,030	212	3,905	197
Hispanic	1,296	230	1,238	202	1,338	214	1,323	195	1,382	188	1,415	180	1,465	176	1,414	162	1,319	136	1,349	135
Black	1,134	420	1,095	390	1,124	395	1,084	368	1,093	355	1,012	325	1,044	324	1,053	333	950	284	940	274
Asian/Pacific Islander	660	180	712	175	701	172	714	162	739	156	696	141	717	138	748	138	761	131	770	126
Females																				
White	5,998	218	5,832	200	5,430	189	5,138	175	5,123	173	4,731	158	4,591	153	4,354	146	3,964	131	3,691	118
Hispanic	1,216	152	1,138	132	1,233	139	1,277	134	1,250	123	1,211	112	1,301	113	1,261	104	1,156	88	1,187	87
Black	1,295	302	1,166	256	1,184	262	1,178	254	1,176	244	1,073	220	1,001	202	1,000	200	986	192	864	163
Asian/Pacific Islander	538	116	543	106	618	118	651	114	613	101	596	92	627	91	661	91	691	86	667	78
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	488	266	461	239	471	245	500	246	496	237	488	232	467	215	463	205	468	193	459	177
SPA 2: San Fernando	3,615	230	3,603	213	3,577	213	3,550	204	3,520	196	3,419	187	3,377	180	3,262	172	3,071	155	3,081	147
SPA 3: San Gabriel	3,334	240	3,188	214	3,175	213	2,972	191	2,949	181	2,704	161	2,781	162	2,666	153	2,541	138	2,486	130
SPA 4: Metro	2,060	232	1,935	207	1,890	202	1,855	189	1,826	180	1,662	160	1,724	161	1,673	153	1,478	130	1,469	124
SPA 5: West	1,194	179	1,273	179	1,135	131	1,056	145	1,089	147	1,036	137	980	128	1,004	133	912	118	882	108
SPA 6: South	1,711	319	1,558	275	1,644	289	1,606	271	1,562	257	1,443	230	1,404	218	1,422	218	1,295	191	1,222	176
SPA 7: East	2,103	242	2,073	225	2,053	222	1,976	203	1,949	189	1,847	172	1,854	169	1,836	164	1,660	142	1,588	133
SPA 8: South Bay	2,795	252	2,721	230	2,754	233	2,704	221	2,758	217	2,529	193	2,493	185	2,360	173	2,332	162	2,143	143

*Age-adjusted rate per 100,000. Population estimates were revised; therefore, death rates for 2001-2004 may differ from those previously published.

Diabetes at a glance

8th cause of premature death
5th cause of death

In 2008, diabetes became the fifth-leading cause of death after nine years as the sixth-leading cause. It was the second-leading cause of death for Hispanics. Diabetes death rates were higher among black and Hispanics, and black males had the highest death rate (44 deaths per 100,000 population). White females had the lowest death rate (14 deaths per 100,000 population). Overall, diabetes death rates were highest among residents of the Antelope Valley and South Service Planning Areas.

In simple terms . . .

Diabetes is a disease in which the body does not produce, properly use, or is partially resistant to the effects of insulin. Insulin is a hormone necessary to convert sugar, starches, and other food into energy needed for daily life. Insulin takes sugar from the blood into the cells. Uncontrolled diabetes can damage the eyes, kidneys, nerves, heart, and blood vessels, and reduce the body's ability to fight infections.

Risk factors

Being overweight, physical inactivity, family history of diabetes, age, pre-diabetes, gestational diabetes or giving birth to a baby weighing 9 pounds or more, high blood pressure

Community opportunities for prevention

- Promote physical activity by providing access to safe places like parks to walk, play, and exercise
- Promote medical screening for diabetes for individuals with high blood pressure
- Increase the availability of affordable, nutritious foods
- Enforce state physical education requirements and nutrition education as part of a comprehensive school health curriculum

Individual opportunities for prevention

- Maintain a healthy weight
- Consult with your physician about increasing physical activity
- Eat plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grain foods, while limiting consumption of high-fat foods
- Follow recommended screening and treatment guidelines
- Control blood pressure and high cholesterol
- Limit the intake of salt and sugar

Los Angeles County deaths 2,190

Los Angeles County death rate 23.1 deaths per 100,000 population

Healthy People 2010 Objective 5-5 Not comparable

ICD-9 codes(1979-1998) 250

ICD-10 codes(1999-2008) E10-E14

References

American Diabetes Association at WWW.DIABETES.ORG
National Diabetes Education Program at WWW.NDEP.NIH.GOV

Referral

American Diabetes Association information line: 1-888-DIABETES(1-800-342-2383)

Figure T7. Trends in diabetes mortality

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*
Los Angeles County	1,820	25	1,879	24	1,890	24	2,122	26	2,178	26	2,201	26	2,305	26	2,188	25	2,127	23	2,190	23
Males	829	27	876	27	886	27	996	29	1,053	30	1,063	30	1,140	31	1,099	29	1,040	27	1,084	27
Females	991	23	1,003	22	1,004	22	1,126	24	1,125	23	1,138	23	1,165	23	1,089	21	1,087	20	1,106	20
White	739	18	797	19	775	19	840	20	835	19	863	20	897	20	806	19	751	17	801	17
Hispanic	567	37	579	35	639	38	678	38	719	37	741	36	773	36	774	34	754	31	764	30
Black	321	44	325	43	308	41	374	48	378	48	339	42	389	47	367	44	357	42	359	41
Asian/Pacific Islander	187	21	171	17	164	16	212	20	233	21	251	22	236	19	230	18	257	19	257	18
Males																				
White	358	21	384	22	380	21	400	22	424	23	446	24	455	25	412	22	385	21	429	22
Hispanic	258	40	265	38	279	39	319	42	339	42	347	40	390	42	371	39	378	35	371	34
Black	131	46	141	46	144	45	164	52	158	49	158	48	181	55	178	54	147	43	157	44
Asian/Pacific Islander	81	20	83	19	83	18	107	23	124	25	109	22	109	20	132	23	127	22	126	20
Females																				
White	381	16	413	17	395	16	440	17	411	16	417	16	442	18	394	16	366	14	372	14
Hispanic	309	35	314	33	360	36	359	34	380	33	394	34	383	31	403	31	376	27	393	27
Black	190	43	184	41	164	37	210	45	220	46	181	37	208	42	189	38	210	41	202	39
Asian/Pacific Islander	106	21	88	16	81	14	105	17	109	18	142	21	127	18	98	13	130	16	131	15
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	39	20	43	20	54	26	71	33	69	29	73	35	78	32	106	44	81	31	106	39
SPA 2: San Fernando	309	19	330	20	330	19	335	19	395	22	396	22	411	22	377	20	349	18	408	20
SPA 3: San Gabriel	305	21	354	24	306	20	395	25	361	22	423	25	438	26	389	22	387	22	405	22
SPA 4: Metro	245	28	220	24	269	29	276	29	271	27	257	25	277	26	245	23	281	26	241	21
SPA 5: West	80	12	80	12	76	11	101	15	113	16	115	16	103	14	91	13	95	13	100	13
SPA 6: South	248	44	247	42	237	40	286	47	289	46	258	40	294	45	256	38	275	40	262	37
SPA 7: East	315	35	315	33	337	35	350	35	336	32	356	33	381	35	366	33	310	27	352	30
SPA 8: South Bay	277	24	285	23	274	22	303	24	337	26	310	23	320	23	343	25	339	23	309	21

*Age-adjusted rate per 100,000. Population estimates were revised; therefore, death rates for 2001-2004 may differ from those previously published.

Drug overdose (unintentional) *at a glance*

6th cause of premature death

19th cause of death

Drug overdose has been among the 10 leading causes of premature death for each of the past 10 years. It was the third-leading cause of premature death among women in San Fernando and West Service Planning Areas. The highest death rates (12 deaths per 100,000 population) were among white and black males.

In simple terms . . .

In this report, drug overdose refers to any death from an unintentional overdose of illegal drugs, prescription or over-the-counter (OTC) medication, or alcohol. Drug overdose does not include any drug, medicine, or alcohol taken with homicidal or suicidal intent.

Risk factors

Availability and easy access to alcohol and other drugs (AOD); exposure to media messages that appear to support AOD use; family history of problem behavior; favorable parental attitudes and involvement in AOD use; lack of commitment to school and academic failure; gang involvement; self-medication for psychological or physical ailments; drug dependence from prolonged use for chronic pain. Among drug users, the risk of overdose is increased when drugs are injected, mixed with alcohol, used in combination with other drugs, or where there is a history of overdose.

Community opportunities for prevention

- Increase enforcement of laws/policies to reduce AOD availability and consumption (e.g., retailer education)
- Promote the availability of prevention and treatment programs
- Promote community activities that encourage positive lifestyle choices to reduce acceptance/norms around AOD use
- Engage media and other local experts to raise awareness and perception of harm of AOD use including medication misuse

Individual opportunities for prevention

- Keep track of prescription and OTC medications at home, and dispose of all medications properly
- Know the risks of excessive alcohol consumption, illicit drug use, prescription and OTC drug abuse
- Seek professional assistance to address AOD abuse and prescription/OTC medication misuse issues

Los Angeles County deaths

625

Los Angeles County death rate

6.0 deaths per 100,000 population

Healthy People 2010 Objective 26-03

Not comparable

ICD-9 codes (1979-1998)

E850-E858, E860

ICD-10 codes (1999-2008)

X40-X45

References

Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America at WWW.CADCA.ORG
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention at WWW.SAMHSA.GOV/PREVENTION

Referral

L.A. County Dept. of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control helpline: [1-800-564-6600](tel:1-800-564-6600)

Mortality Trends in Los Angeles County 1999-2008
Figure T8. Trends in drug overdose mortality

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*
Los Angeles County	598	7	489	5	484	5	611	6	620	6	556	6	528	5	557	5	691	7	625	6
Males	461	10	375	8	353	8	444	9	437	9	388	8	377	7	372	7	501	10	431	8
Females	137	3	114	2	131	3	167	3	183	4	168	3	151	3	185	4	190	4	194	4
White	304	9	253	8	243	7	301	9	326	10	308	9	266	8	288	9	351	10	326	10
Hispanic	197	5	148	4	141	4	170	5	178	5	155	4	137	3	172	4	232	5	195	4
Black	92	10	80	9	96	11	131	14	102	11	80	8	113	12	81	8	92	9	87	9
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	--	4	--	4	--	8	--	11	--	6	--	5	--	10	--	13	--	13	--
Males																				
White	226	13	184	11	168	10	199	12	206	12	204	12	180	11	181	11	229	13	204	12
Hispanic	174	10	127	7	118	7	146	8	151	8	128	6	114	5	134	6	200	9	164	8
Black	58	15	56	14	63	16	93	22	70	17	47	11	73	17	46	10	61	14	53	12
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	--	4	--	4	--	5	--	7	--	4	--	5	--	6	--	9	--	7	--
Females																				
White	78	5	69	4	75	4	102	6	120	7	104	6	86	5	107	6	122	7	122	7
Hispanic	23	1	21	1	23	1	24	1	27	1	27	1	23	1	38	2	32	2	31	1
Black	34	7	24	5	33	7	38	7	32	6	33	6	40	8	35	7	31	6	34	6
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	--	0	--	0	--	3	--	4	--	2	--	0	0	4	--	4	--	6	--
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	20	6	19	--	17	--	27	8	30	9	31	10	19	--	31	9	33	9	24	7
SPA 2: San Fernando	99	5	82	4	80	4	126	6	97	4	101	5	114	5	104	5	113	5	133	6
SPA 3: San Gabriel	82	5	72	4	64	4	75	4	63	4	65	4	64	4	75	4	89	5	70	4
SPA 4: Metro	94	8	88	8	66	6	75	6	107	9	84	7	67	5	73	6	97	7	91	7
SPA 5: West	43	7	25	4	32	5	49	7	54	8	41	6	29	4	33	5	47	7	46	6
SPA 6: South	59	8	45	6	43	6	68	9	56	7	45	5	68	8	49	6	70	8	63	7
SPA 7: East	80	7	59	5	70	6	55	5	68	6	60	5	51	4	75	6	77	6	62	5
SPA 8: South Bay	93	6	71	5	76	5	100	7	101	6	90	6	79	5	81	5	105	6	110	7

*Age-adjusted rate per 100,000. Population estimates were revised; therefore, death rates for 2001-2004 may differ from those previously published.
 --Number of deaths is too small to calculate a reliable rate.

Emphysema/COPD *at a glance*

13th cause of premature death

4th cause of death

Emphysema/COPD has been the fourth-leading cause of death for each of the last 10 years, but it has not been among the overall leading causes of premature death. In 2008, emphysema/COPD was the second-leading cause of death in the Antelope Valley and East Service Planning Areas. Death rates were highest for white and black males, and among residents of the Antelope Valley Service Planning Area.

In simple terms . . .

Emphysema/COPD are conditions that interfere with the normal flow of air in and out of the lungs, making it difficult to breathe. Emphysema is the most common form of COPD. Emphysema is a lung disease that involves damage to the air sacs (alveoli) in the lungs. The air sacs are unable to completely deflate, making them unable to fill with fresh air and ensure adequate oxygen supply to the body.

Risk factors

Tobacco smoking and breathing the smoke of others, occupational exposure to certain industrial pollutants

Community opportunities for prevention

- Increase the availability of effective smoking cessation services
- Limit smoking, and decrease exposure to indoor and outdoor secondhand smoke through effective anti-smoking policies and enforcement
- Support an increase in the tobacco tax

Individual opportunities for prevention

- Stop smoking
- Avoid being near people who are smoking
- If you don't smoke, don't start

Los Angeles County deaths

2,889

Los Angeles County death rate

30.9 deaths per 100,000 population
81.5 deaths per 100,000 adults aged 45 years and over

Healthy People 2010 Objective 24-10

62.3 deaths per 100,000 adults aged 45 years and over. The Healthy People 2010 objective includes some causes of chronic bronchitis not included in this report. These additional causes would increase the number of deaths in Los Angeles by 1%.

ICD-9 codes (1979-1998)

492, 496

ICD-10 codes (1999-2008)

J43-J44

References

American Lung Association at WWW.LUNGUSA.ORG
National Heart Lung and Blood Institute at WWW.NHLBI.NIH.GOV

Referral

American Lung Association helpline: 1-800-LUNG-USA
It's Quitting Time LA: 1-800 NO-BUTTS

Mortality Trends in Los Angeles County 1999-2008
Figure T9. Trends in emphysema/COPD mortality

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*
Los Angeles County	2,836	39	2,660	35	2,723	36	2,604	33	2,796	34	2,641	32	2,770	33	2,665	31	2,625	29	2,889	31
Males	1,384	49	1,299	43	1,301	43	1,246	40	1,377	43	1,278	39	1,348	39	1,275	37	1,286	36	1,398	37
Females	1,452	33	1,361	30	1,422	31	1,358	29	1,419	29	1,363	27	1,422	28	1,390	27	1,339	25	1,491	27
White	2,099	50	1,979	45	1,992	46	1,887	43	1,989	45	1,835	41	1,840	41	1,771	39	1,801	39	1,955	41
Hispanic	254	19	231	17	261	18	249	16	311	19	305	18	344	18	346	18	299	14	343	15
Black	307	44	263	36	281	38	293	40	287	38	297	39	331	52	329	41	265	32	318	37
Asian/Pacific Islander	170	20	178	20	184	20	164	17	198	19	192	18	238	20	213	17	247	19	258	18
Males																				
White	966	58	892	50	887	51	855	48	896	49	830	45	823	45	793	44	823	44	894	46
Hispanic	139	29	125	23	125	24	126	22	175	28	162	25	177	25	167	23	155	19	175	20
Black	171	65	151	53	153	54	149	55	169	58	154	52	184	60	170	56	144	46	157	48
Asian/Pacific Islander	106	30	127	34	133	35	111	27	131	30	125	28	154	32	141	28	155	29	162	28
Females																				
White	1,133	45	1,087	41	1,105	43	1,032	39	1,093	41	1,005	38	1,017	37	978	37	978	36	1,061	38
Hispanic	115	14	106	13	136	15	123	13	136	14	143	13	167	15	179	15	144	11	168	12
Black	136	32	112	25	128	28	144	31	118	25	143	31	147	30	159	33	121	24	161	31
Asian/Pacific Islander	64	13	51	10	51	10	53	9	67	11	67	10	84	12	72	10	92	11	96	11
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	133	74	119	63	138	70	125	63	140	69	120	58	159	74	150	67	148	63	184	75
SPA 2: San Fernando	577	37	538	32	529	32	519	30	575	33	513	29	563	31	578	32	562	30	527	26
SPA 3: San Gabriel	540	39	487	33	484	33	494	32	529	33	515	31	537	32	536	31	504	28	614	33
SPA 4: Metro	254	29	234	25	259	28	236	24	246	24	234	23	270	26	247	23	236	21	260	22
SPA 5: West	176	27	187	27	179	26	191	27	178	25	166	22	158	22	139	19	140	18	195	24
SPA 6: South	245	45	199	35	201	35	212	36	195	32	205	34	219	34	197	30	185	28	214	31
SPA 7: East	385	44	359	39	356	38	335	35	402	39	372	35	316	29	330	30	366	32	381	33
SPA 8: South Bay	521	47	527	45	558	48	489	40	521	42	497	38	542	41	479	36	475	34	501	35

*Age-adjusted rate per 100,000. Population estimates were revised; therefore, death rates for 2001-2004 may differ from those previously published.

Homicide *at a glance*

2nd cause of premature death

14th cause of death

Overall, homicide has been the second-leading cause of premature death every year for the past 10 years. In 2008, it was the leading cause of premature death in the South Service Planning Area, and among Hispanics and black men. It was the leading cause of death for people aged 5 to 44 years. The highest death rate from homicide was among black men—47 deaths per 100,000 population—which was six times higher than the homicide rate for the county overall.

In simple terms . . .

Homicide is the killing of one person by another, including acts of terrorism. Some homicides are committed in self-defense, but the majority of homicides do not involve self-defense. Homicide may be committed with a weapon such as a gun or knife, or may result from means including strangulation, drowning, poisoning, burning, pushing the victim from a high place, neglect, abandonment, or abuse. Deaths from injuries caused by law enforcement officers or military in the line of duty are not included in this category.

Risk factors

Intimate partner violence, poor access to quality education, lack of employment opportunities, youths with excessive unstructured free time, gang affiliation, alcohol and substance abuse, witnessing and experiencing violence, access to firearms

Community opportunities for prevention

- Create social norms that promote healthy relationships
- Develop after-school programs for children and adolescents
- Support nurse home-visitation programs for teenage parents
- Support community policing
- Make substance abuse treatment services widely available
- Build communities that discourage street violence with well-lit streets and plenty of pedestrian traffic

Individual opportunities for prevention

- Maintain respectful relationships with family and friends
- Pursue a good education
- Seek help for substance abuse
- Recognize that easy access to firearms is a risk for homicide
- If firearms are kept in the home, store them unloaded and locked with the ammunition locked separately

Los Angeles County deaths

838

Los Angeles County death rate

7.8 deaths per 100,000 population

Healthy People 2010 Objective 15-32

2.8 deaths per 100,000 population

ICD-9 codes (1979-1998)

E960-E969

ICD-10 codes (1999-2008)

*U01-*U02, X85-Y09, Y87.1

References

National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center at WWW.SAFETYOUTH.ORG

CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at WWW.CDC.GOV/NCIPC/DVP/DVP.HTM

Mortality Trends in Los Angeles County 1999-2008

Figure T10. Trends in homicide mortality

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*
Los Angeles County	896	9	992	10	1,099	11	1,148	11	1,066	10	1,069	10	1,066	10	1,043	10	869	8	838	8
Males	751	15	847	17	937	18	990	19	931	18	940	18	940	18	916	17	751	14	710	13
Females	145	3	145	3	162	3	158	3	135	3	129	3	126	2	127	2	118	2	128	2
White	101	3	127	4	142	5	133	4	119	4	105	4	101	3	97	3	92	3	83	3
Hispanic	465	10	486	10	527	11	567	11	520	10	531	10	570	11	545	10	474	9	458	8
Black	276	29	343	36	361	38	393	41	369	38	388	41	362	38	344	36	272	28	250	26
Asian/Pacific Islander	53	4	35	3	47	4	51	4	57	4	42	3	33	2	50	4	30	2	43	3
Males																				
White	72	5	86	6	97	6	98	6	93	6	77	5	69	4	76	5	71	5	62	4
Hispanic	411	17	437	18	473	19	501	19	471	18	481	17	528	19	491	18	420	15	407	14
Black	230	52	302	68	315	70	352	78	324	72	348	78	320	72	298	67	240	53	214	47
Asian/Pacific Islander	37	6	22	4	37	6	36	6	42	6	33	5	23	3	46	7	20	3	24	4
Females																				
White	29	2	41	3	45	3	35	2	26	1	28	2	32	2	21	1	21	1	21	1
Hispanic	54	3	49	2	54	2	66	3	49	2	50	2	42	2	54	2	54	2	51	2
Black	46	9	41	8	46	9	41	8	45	9	40	8	42	8	46	9	32	6	36	7
Asian/Pacific Islander	16	--	13	--	10	--	15	--	15	--	9	--	10	--	4	--	10	--	19	--
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	16	--	18	--	21	7	27	8	36	11	33	10	37	11	46	13	37	10	26	6
SPA 2: San Fernando	101	5	99	5	142	7	139	7	120	6	101	5	104	5	98	5	81	4	91	4
SPA 3: San Gabriel	112	6	97	5	114	6	111	6	106	6	131	7	103	5	116	6	106	5	108	6
SPA 4: Metro	110	9	132	11	140	11	145	12	126	10	115	9	118	9	112	9	110	9	102	8
SPA 5: West	20	3	22	3	43	6	38	6	24	4	24	4	26	4	25	5	14	--	18	--
SPA 6: South	268	26	311	31	337	32	355	34	315	29	356	32	372	34	310	28	245	22	233	21
SPA 7: East	112	8	106	8	107	8	129	9	117	8	108	7	130	9	126	9	108	7	99	7
SPA 8: South Bay	144	10	193	13	175	11	190	12	192	12	177	11	161	10	179	11	145	9	140	9

*Age-adjusted rate per 100,000. Population estimates were revised; therefore, death rates for 2001-2004 may differ from those previously published.

--Number of deaths is too small to calculate a reliable rate.

HIV at a glance

12th cause of premature death

27th cause of death

HIV has not been one of the overall leading causes of death or premature death since 2004, but it remained an important cause of death for some groups. In 2008, HIV was the third-leading cause of death for black males aged 25 to 44 years. It was the third-leading cause of premature death for men in the Metro Service Planning Area. The death rate for black males—21 deaths per 100,000 population—was five times higher than the rate for the county overall.

In simple terms . . .

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) affects the body's ability to fight infections and certain cancers by damaging the immune system. HIV is spread by sexual contact through blood or mucous membrane exposure to infected blood, semen, vaginal secretions, or rectal mucus; by sharing needles and/or syringes with someone who is infected, or, less commonly—and extremely rarely in the U.S.—through transfusions of infected blood, blood clotting factors, or organ/tissue donation. Babies born to HIV-infected women may become infected before or during birth or through breast-feeding after birth. There is no scientific evidence that HIV can be transmitted in other ways.

Risk factors

Having unprotected sex with an HIV-infected person or a person whose HIV status is unknown, sharing drug needles and syringes

Community opportunities for prevention

- Educate the community about how HIV is transmitted and how to avoid getting infected
- Provide HIV counseling and testing
- Provide access to drug treatment programs and sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment
- Screen pregnant women for HIV infection and use drug therapies to reduce the transmission of HIV from mother to baby

Individual opportunities for prevention

- Use latex condoms consistently and correctly with HIV-infected sexual partners or those whose HIV status is unknown
- Do not share drug needles and syringes
- Learn your HIV status by getting tested for antibodies to HIV. Approximately 60,000 persons were living with HIV/AIDS in Los Angeles County, many of whom were unaware of their infection.

Los Angeles County deaths 371

Los Angeles County death rate 3.6 deaths per 100,000 population

Healthy People 2010 Objective 13-14 0.7 deaths per 100,000 population

ICD-9 codes (1979-1998) 042-044

ICD-10 codes (1999-2008) B20-B24

References

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at WWW.NIAID.NIH.GOV/PUBLICATIONS/AIDS.HTM
CDC HIV/AIDS Prevention at WWW.CDC.GOV/HIV

Referral

California HIV/AIDS hotline: 1-800-367-AIDS or WWW.ERASEDOUBT.ORG

Figure T11. Trends in HIV mortality

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*
Los Angeles County	581	6	506	6	558	6	502	5	497	5	498	5	438	4	414	4	391	4	371	4
Males	506	11	442	10	485	11	428	9	438	9	436	9	378	8	355	7	338	7	310	6
Females	75	2	64	1	73	1	74	2	59	1	62	1	60	1	59	1	53	1	61	1
White	236	7	187	6	195	6	151	4	167	5	174	5	139	4	155	4	119	3	96	3
Hispanic	178	5	155	4	182	5	187	5	170	5	177	5	158	4	139	3	132	3	137	3
Black	155	17	150	16	170	18	148	16	145	15	136	14	131	14	108	12	125	13	113	12
Asian/Pacific Islander	12	--	8	--	9	--	14	--	10	--	7	--	6	--	8	--	11	--	21	1
Males																				
White	212	12	172	10	180	10	140	8	161	9	159	9	126	7	139	8	112	6	86	5
Hispanic	164	9	140	8	156	9	165	9	143	8	159	8	140	7	121	6	119	6	114	6
Black	120	29	118	29	138	33	109	26	121	28	109	25	102	24	87	21	94	22	90	21
Asian/Pacific Islander	10	--	7	--	9	--	12	--	9	--	6	--	6	--	6	--	10	--	16	--
Females																				
White	24	1	15	--	15	--	11	--	6	--	15	--	13	--	16	--	7	--	10	--
Hispanic	14	--	15	--	26	1	22	1	27	1	18	--	18	--	18	--	13	--	23	1
Black	35	7	32	6	32	6	39	8	24	5	27	5	29	6	21	4	31	6	23	4
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	--	1	--	0	0	2	--	1	--	1	--	0	--	2	--	1	--	5	--
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	8	--	9	--	19	--	11	--	10	--	4	--	9	--	6	--	11	--	5	--
SPA 2: San Fernando	80	4	63	3	74	4	68	3	53	3	67	3	68	3	53	2	51	2	45	2
SPA 3: San Gabriel	62	4	45	3	47	3	51	3	39	2	49	3	30	2	47	3	30	2	30	2
SPA 4: Metro	183	17	171	16	155	14	133	12	167	14	133	11	129	10	132	10	112	9	93	7
SPA 5: West	22	3	16	--	19	--	16	--	20	3	23	3	14	--	17	--	10	--	11	--
SPA 6: South	85	12	83	11	90	11	87	10	96	12	106	13	76	9	57	7	76	9	85	10
SPA 7: East	43	4	32	3	42	4	42	3	38	3	35	3	35	3	31	2	28	2	27	2
SPA 8: South Bay	91	6	83	6	97	6	85	5	67	4	71	5	69	4	65	4	70	4	72	4

*Age-adjusted rate per 100,000. Population estimates were revised; therefore, death rates for 2001-2004 may differ from those previously published.

--Number of deaths is too small to calculate a reliable rate.

Liver disease *at a glance*

5th cause of premature death

9th cause of death

Liver disease has been a leading cause of premature death every year for the past 10 years. Death rates from liver disease have consistently been higher for men than for women, with Hispanic men having the highest rates. In 2008, liver disease was the ninth-leading cause of death overall but second-leading cause of death for Hispanic men, and the first-leading cause of death for Hispanic women 25 to 44 years of age. The liver disease death rate has changed little during the past 10 years.

In simple terms . . .

The liver stores vitamins and nutrients from food. It also breaks down toxic substances from the blood, and removes waste products from the body. When normal liver cells are damaged, they are replaced by scar tissue. The scar tissue interferes with the flow of blood through the liver and prevents the liver from carrying out its normal functions. Damage from scarring of the liver (cirrhosis) cannot be reversed. Sustained heavy alcohol consumption is the leading cause of cirrhosis. Chronic hepatitis, a prolonged swelling and irritation of the liver, also causes liver damage. Viral infections as well as non-viral causes such as autoimmune diseases, alcoholism, and exposure to certain drugs or environmental toxins can lead to these two types of liver disease.

Risk factors

Excessive alcohol consumption, prolonged exposure to certain chemicals and medications, viral hepatitis infection

Community opportunities for prevention

- Provide access to alcohol treatment programs
- Promote hepatitis B vaccination for groups at high risk

Individual opportunities for prevention

- Limit alcohol intake
- Follow manufacturer's instructions when using household and industrial chemicals
- Follow doctor's instructions when taking prescription and over-the-counter drugs
- Avoid behaviors that promote transmission of hepatitis B and hepatitis C, such as injection drug use and unprotected sex

Los Angeles County deaths 1,134

Los Angeles County death rate 11.3 deaths per 100,000 population

Healthy People 2010 Objective 26-2 3.2 deaths per 100,000 population

ICD-9 codes (1979-1998) 571

ICD-10 codes (1999-2008) K70, K73-K74

References

American Liver Foundation at WWW.LIVERFOUNDATION.ORG

National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse at WWW.DIGESTIVE.NIDDK.NIH.GOV

Referral

Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the American Liver Foundation: [310-670-4624](tel:310-670-4624)

Mortality Trends in Los Angeles County 1999-2008
Figure T12. Trends in liver disease mortality

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*
Los Angeles County	1,047	13	1,121	14	1,010	12	1,085	12	1,053	12	1,035	11	1,061	11	1,102	11	1,133	12	1,134	11
Males	712	19	760	20	695	18	741	18	727	17	698	16	759	17	758	17	792	17	773	16
Females	335	8	361	8	315	7	344	7	326	7	337	7	302	6	344	7	341	7	361	7
White	471	13	461	12	416	11	432	11	403	10	428	11	397	10	386	10	396	10	398	10
Hispanic	423	19	499	22	458	19	504	19	498	19	458	17	501	17	554	18	586	19	594	18
Black	104	13	102	12	97	11	100	11	92	10	98	11	102	11	98	11	86	9	69	7
Asian/Pacific Islander	41	4	46	4	32	3	39	3	42	3	46	4	48	4	49	4	55	4	59	4
Males																				
White	296	17	298	17	265	15	277	15	253	14	295	16	267	14	263	14	260	13	268	13
Hispanic	319	30	361	33	343	31	381	31	377	30	308	23	383	29	397	27	439	30	413	27
Black	68	20	64	17	63	17	51	13	62	16	62	16	68	18	59	14	51	12	45	10
Asian/Pacific Islander	23	5	30	6	19	--	25	5	26	4	29	5	31	5	29	5	35	5	39	6
Females																				
White	175	9	163	8	151	8	155	8	150	7	133	6	130	6	123	6	136	7	130	6
Hispanic	104	10	138	12	115	10	123	9	121	10	150	11	118	8	157	11	147	9	181	11
Black	36	8	38	8	34	7	49	10	30	6	36	7	34	6	39	8	35	7	24	4
Asian/Pacific Islander	18	--	16	--	13	--	14	--	16	--	17	--	17	--	20	3	20	3	20	2
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	30	12	40	16	40	16	35	13	48	17	40	13	39	13	43	14	50	16	45	14
SPA 2: San Fernando	174	10	187	10	144	8	168	9	180	9	190	9	199	10	200	9	189	9	207	9
SPA 3: San Gabriel	190	13	191	12	187	12	178	11	177	10	173	10	197	11	207	11	179	10	194	10
SPA 4: Metro	138	15	151	16	136	14	159	16	134	13	131	12	127	11	136	12	144	12	147	12
SPA 5: West	54	9	56	9	45	7	55	8	55	8	40	6	41	6	41	6	44	6	40	5
SPA 6: South	106	17	117	18	110	17	119	17	106	15	118	17	102	14	120	16	122	16	112	14
SPA 7: East	174	18	197	19	161	15	185	17	177	16	173	15	176	15	163	14	199	17	198	16
SPA 8: South Bay	174	13	165	12	154	11	162	12	155	11	139	10	159	11	156	10	184	12	174	11

*Age-adjusted rate per 100,000. Population estimates were revised; therefore, death rates for 2001-2004 may differ from those previously published.
 --Number of deaths is too small to calculate a reliable rate.

Lung cancer *at a glance*

7th cause of premature death
3rd cause of death

Lung cancer has been the third-leading cause of death each year for the past 10 years. The lung cancer death rate has declined 28% since 1999, and since 2000, the rate has been below the Healthy People 2010 objective. The highest death rate, 58 deaths per 100,000 population, was among black men while the lowest rate, 13 deaths per 100,000 population, was among Hispanic women.

In simple terms . . .

Cancer is a term for diseases in which abnormal cells divide without control, and can invade nearby tissues and spread to other parts of the body through the blood and lymph systems. The main types of cancer are: carcinoma which begins in the skin or in tissues that line or cover internal organs; sarcoma which begins in bone, cartilage, fat, muscle, blood vessels, or other connective or supportive tissue; leukemia which starts in blood-forming tissue such as the bone marrow; and lymphoma and multiple myeloma which begin in the cells of the immune system. Central nervous system cancers are cancers that begin in the tissues of the brain and spinal cord.

Risk factors

Tobacco smoking and breathing the smoke of others; exposure to cancer-causing substances, including radon, asbestos, uranium, and arsenic; prior lung cancer

Community opportunities for prevention

- Increase the availability of effective smoking cessation services
- Limit smoking, and decrease exposure to indoor and outdoor secondhand smoke through effective anti-smoking policies and enforcement
- Support an increase in the tobacco tax

Individual opportunities for prevention

- Stop smoking
- Avoid being near people who are smoking
- Reduce exposure to cancer-causing substances
- If you don't smoke, don't start

Los Angeles County deaths 2,910

Los Angeles County death rate 31.4 deaths per 100,000 population
Healthy People 2010 Objective 3-2 43.3 deaths per 100,000 population

ICD-9 codes (1979-1998) 162
ICD-10 codes (1999-2008) C33-C34

References

American Cancer Society at WWW.CANCER.ORG
The Guide to Community Preventive Services at WWW.THECOMMUNITYGUIDE.ORG
National Cancer Institute at WWW.CANCER.GOV

Referral

American Cancer Society helpline: 1-800-227-2345
It's Quitting Time LA: 1-800 NO-BUTTS

Mortality Trends in Los Angeles County 1999-2008
Figure T13. Trends in lung cancer mortality

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*
Los Angeles County	3,243	44	3,150	41	3,232	42	3,081	39	3,150	38	3,034	36	3,036	35	3,021	35	2,950	33	2,910	31
Males	1,814	58	1,765	54	1,797	55	1,702	50	1,713	49	1,710	48	1,608	44	1,719	47	1,568	41	1,568	40
Females	1,429	34	1,385	31	1,435	32	1,379	30	1,437	31	1,324	27	1,428	29	1,302	26	1,382	27	1,342	25
White	2,082	52	2,018	49	2,039	50	1,950	47	1,942	46	1,825	43	1,830	43	1,788	42	1,700	39	1,687	38
Hispanic	347	22	341	20	348	20	363	21	381	20	366	19	370	17	384	18	398	17	433	18
Black	494	67	476	62	482	63	455	58	451	56	452	55	457	56	480	58	464	54	377	43
Asian/Pacific Islander	314	32	308	30	356	34	306	28	367	31	379	31	368	29	359	27	378	27	406	28
Males																				
White	1,082	62	1,079	60	1,056	60	1,034	57	989	54	974	53	921	50	941	51	860	45	850	44
Hispanic	220	35	211	31	219	32	217	31	237	29	231	29	210	23	236	27	233	25	253	26
Black	293	99	271	86	289	94	258	81	267	82	263	78	243	73	286	85	245	70	200	58
Asian/Pacific Islander	217	51	201	45	229	51	188	39	215	42	235	44	228	42	250	43	224	38	261	42
Females																				
White	1,000	44	939	40	983	43	916	39	953	40	851	36	909	38	847	35	840	35	837	33
Hispanic	127	13	130	13	129	12	146	14	144	13	135	12	160	13	148	12	165	12	180	13
Black	201	46	205	46	193	43	197	42	184	39	189	39	214	43	194	39	219	43	177	34
Asian/Pacific Islander	97	18	107	18	127	21	118	19	152	23	144	21	140	19	109	14	154	19	145	17
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	117	56	119	57	117	55	109	49	120	53	114	50	122	53	123	51	134	52	128	48
SPA 2: San Fernando	718	44	657	39	710	42	665	38	695	39	643	35	683	37	675	36	637	33	620	30
SPA 3: San Gabriel	535	37	554	37	597	40	544	35	563	35	531	32	596	35	562	32	550	31	564	31
SPA 4: Metro	313	36	316	35	318	35	294	31	313	32	290	29	285	28	267	26	274	25	294	27
SPA 5: West	250	39	230	35	236	36	255	38	216	32	222	32	220	31	217	31	204	29	212	28
SPA 6: South	358	63	300	51	310	53	300	50	286	46	297	47	293	45	271	42	280	42	242	36
SPA 7: East	404	44	397	41	360	37	339	34	356	35	366	35	332	31	325	30	341	30	346	30
SPA 8: South Bay	539	46	569	46	569	46	567	45	580	44	544	41	496	36	564	41	520	36	494	34

*Age-adjusted rate per 100,000. Population estimates were revised; therefore, death rates for 2001-2004 may differ from those previously published.

Motor vehicle crash *at a glance*

3rd cause of premature death

15th cause of death

For the past 10 years, motor vehicle crashes have been the third-leading cause of premature death overall. In 2008, they were the leading cause of death for children aged 1 to 4 years, and the second-leading cause of death for persons aged 5 to 24 years. They were the second-leading cause of premature death in the Antelope Valley and San Fernando Service Planning Areas.

In simple terms . . .

Motor vehicle crashes can occur on any public roadway including streets, alleys, or highways. They can also occur in non-public areas such as parking lots or driveways. Motor vehicle crashes that occur on public roadways are referred to as traffic collisions. Any type of vehicle can be involved in a motor vehicle crash, including a car, truck, bus, or motorcycle. The person injured in a motor vehicle crash may be the driver or passenger of the vehicle that caused the crash, or of the vehicle that was hit. The injured person may also be a pedestrian or bicyclist.

Risk factors

Risk factors for crashing: driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs (illicit, prescription, or over-the-counter), driving recklessly, driving while distracted, disobeying traffic laws, lack of driving experience, younger or older age, hazardous road conditions, neglecting routine car maintenance. Risk factors for injury after a crash: not using seat belts or other passenger safety restraints such as child safety seats, unsafe car design

Community opportunities for prevention

- Actively enforce all traffic laws, including laws addressing seat belt use and child passenger safety
- Use media campaigns to reduce alcohol-impaired driving
- Comply with the graduated licensing system for teen drivers
- Support national efforts for safe car design with safety features such as antilock brakes or electronic stability control systems

Individual opportunities for prevention

- Do not drive while impaired by alcohol or drugs
- Always wear seat belts, even for short trips
- Place young children in an age-appropriate, properly installed child safety seat or booster seat
- Have children younger than 12 years of age ride in the back seat
- Keep your vehicle in good working order

Los Angeles County deaths

822

Los Angeles County death rate

8.0 deaths per 100,000 population

Healthy People 2010 Objective 15-15

8.0 deaths per 100,000 population (rate for traffic-related deaths only)

ICD-9 codes (1979-1998)

E810-E825

ICD-10 codes (1999-2008)

V02-V04, V09.0, V09.2, V12-V14, V19.0-V19.2, V19.4-V19.6, V20-V79, V80.3-V80.5, V81.0-V81.1, V82.0-V82.1, V83-V86, V87.0-V87.8, V88.0-V88.8, V89.0, V89.2

References

The Guide to Community Preventive Services at WWW.THECOMMUNITYGUIDE.ORG
The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at WWW.NHTSA.DOT.GOV

Referral

California Highway Patrol (non-emergency): [1-800-TELL-CHP](tel:1-800-TELL-CHP)

Mortality Trends in Los Angeles County 1999-2008
Figure T14. Trends in motor vehicle crash mortality

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*
Los Angeles County	751	8	811	9	890	9	851	9	967	10	947	10	925	9	965	10	908	9	822	8
Males	517	12	564	13	598	13	578	12	697	15	647	14	650	13	681	14	669	13	623	12
Females	234	5	247	5	292	6	273	6	270	5	300	6	275	5	284	6	239	5	199	4
White	247	7	297	9	304	9	292	9	343	10	340	10	287	9	312	10	272	8	253	8
Hispanic	330	9	324	9	359	10	373	9	418	10	374	9	428	10	425	10	436	10	367	8
Black	96	11	99	11	129	14	108	12	107	12	120	13	106	11	115	12	110	12	107	11
Asian/Pacific Islander	75	7	88	8	95	8	75	6	95	7	107	8	95	7	110	8	86	6	92	7
Males																				
White	172	11	205	13	216	13	190	12	246	15	218	14	201	13	220	14	191	12	198	12
Hispanic	237	13	241	13	242	14	270	13	317	15	270	13	304	14	321	15	334	15	290	13
Black	63	15	63	15	82	19	77	20	71	17	85	20	83	20	82	20	84	20	77	18
Asian/Pacific Islander	43	8	54	10	56	10	40	7	60	10	71	12	58	10	55	8	57	9	56	9
Females																				
White	75	4	92	5	88	5	102	6	97	6	122	7	86	5	92	5	81	4	55	3
Hispanic	93	6	83	5	117	7	103	5	101	5	104	5	124	6	104	5	102	5	77	4
Black	33	7	36	7	47	9	31	6	36	7	35	7	23	5	33	7	26	5	30	6
Asian/Pacific Islander	32	5	34	6	39	6	35	5	35	5	36	5	37	5	55	7	29	4	36	5
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	49	17	45	15	64	22	69	22	71	22	83	28	80	25	73	22	51	15	44	12
SPA 2: San Fernando	151	8	167	9	196	10	172	8	203	10	180	9	197	9	197	9	156	7	167	8
SPA 3: San Gabriel	121	7	137	8	140	8	140	8	138	8	153	8	179	10	147	8	153	8	124	6
SPA 4: Metro	85	8	81	7	98	9	78	7	99	8	84	7	91	8	82	7	87	7	76	6
SPA 5: West	32	5	47	7	32	5	35	5	40	6	37	6	35	6	41	6	39	6	32	5
SPA 6: South	85	11	93	11	121	13	110	12	106	12	106	11	99	10	118	13	119	13	112	12
SPA 7: East	103	9	96	8	91	8	114	9	110	9	105	8	106	8	110	8	124	9	111	8
SPA 8: South Bay	106	8	123	9	123	8	114	8	114	8	112	7	117	7	137	9	113	7	113	7

*Age-adjusted rate per 100,000. Population estimates were revised; therefore, death rates for 2001-2004 may differ from those previously published.

Pneumonia/influenza *at a glance*

22nd cause of premature death

6th cause of death

In 2008, pneumonia/influenza was the sixth-leading cause of death after being the fifth-leading cause for the previous nine years. Death rates from pneumonia/influenza decreased 28% from 1999 to 2008. The greatest decrease was in the Metro Service Planning Area where the death rate decreased 42% from 37 deaths per 100,000 population in 1999 to 21 deaths per 100,000 population in 2008. The death rate among people over the age of 74 years was 328 deaths per 100,000 population.

In simple terms . . .

Pneumonia is an inflammation of the lungs caused by an infection, or, less commonly, by a chemical or physical irritant, that can result in difficulty breathing. The infection can be caused by bacteria, viruses, or fungi. Pneumonia is a common illness that is often mild but can be quite severe, even fatal. The severity of the infection depends on the cause, and the person's age and health. Influenza, often called "the flu," is a respiratory disease caused by influenza viruses. Influenza can cause mild to severe illness that can result in death. Bacterial pneumonia can be a complication of influenza, and most influenza deaths result from pneumonia. Pneumonia and influenza are spread from person to person.

Risk factors

Age (young and old), underlying chronic medical conditions such as diabetes and asthma, smoking

Community opportunities for prevention

- Educate the community about the recommendations for influenza and pneumococcal pneumonia vaccination
- Provide information about the availability of low-cost or no-cost vaccinations for certain individuals
- Encourage everyone with respiratory illness (fever, cough, runny nose) to stay home to avoid spreading the illness to others

Individual opportunities for prevention

- Follow recommended guidelines for influenza and pneumococcal pneumonia vaccination
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water
- Stop smoking
- Stay away from people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth

Los Angeles County deaths

2,171

Los Angeles County death rate Healthy People 2010 Objective

23 deaths per 100,000 population

None

ICD-9 codes (1979-1998)

480-487

ICD-10 codes (1999-2008)

J09-J18

References

American Lung Association at WWW.LUNGUSA.ORG

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at WWW.CDC.GOV/FLU

Referral

Los Angeles County Info Line for free or low-cost immunization clinics: [1-800-427-8700](tel:1-800-427-8700)

Mortality Trends in Los Angeles County 1999-2008
Figure T15. Trends in pneumonia/influenza mortality

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*
Los Angeles County	2,242	32	2,477	32	2,421	32	2,494	31	2,419	29	2,272	27	2,333	27	2,283	26	2,184	24	2,171	23
Males	964	37	1,063	37	1,065	38	1,155	39	1,121	36	1,013	32	1,055	32	1,083	32	1,018	29	990	27
Females	1,278	28	1,414	29	1,356	28	1,339	27	1,298	25	1,259	24	1,278	24	1,200	22	1,166	20	1,181	20
White	1,475	33	1,608	34	1,488	32	1,595	64	1,475	31	1,330	27	1,338	27	1,314	27	1,198	24	1,203	23
Hispanic	339	27	366	26	398	28	383	26	411	25	408	24	448	24	429	22	418	20	430	19
Black	238	36	255	36	270	39	269	37	271	37	257	34	238	31	246	32	259	32	232	28
Asian/Pacific Islander	189	25	239	28	259	30	236	25	250	25	265	24	300	26	284	23	305	23	297	21
Males																				
White	613	39	663	39	622	37	723	41	659	36	613	33	580	32	612	34	532	28	541	28
Hispanic	159	34	161	30	180	34	182	33	189	29	174	26	208	29	198	26	197	24	192	22
Black	97	41	114	42	120	51	124	46	139	51	100	37	103	36	117	42	134	45	119	38
Asian/Pacific Islander	94	30	119	33	140	40	120	31	130	31	118	26	161	34	152	30	154	29	135	24
Females																				
White	862	30	945	31	866	29	872	29	816	27	717	24	758	25	702	23	666	22	662	20
Hispanic	180	23	205	24	218	25	201	22	222	22	234	22	240	21	231	19	221	17	238	18
Black	141	33	141	31	150	33	145	31	132	28	157	32	135	27	129	26	125	25	113	22
Asian/Pacific Islander	95	22	120	25	119	23	116	21	120	20	147	23	139	20	132	18	151	19	162	19
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	45	27	53	30	61	33	69	35	72	37	50	25	68	35	70	32	51	22	51	21
SPA 2: San Fernando	510	33	495	29	496	30	529	31	521	29	500	28	472	25	454	24	407	21	415	20
SPA 3: San Gabriel	407	30	515	35	529	36	483	31	467	29	488	29	477	28	409	24	454	25	449	24
SPA 4: Metro	330	37	344	36	335	35	344	34	350	34	293	28	319	29	302	28	294	25	255	21
SPA 5: West	218	32	239	33	206	29	230	31	212	28	184	24	188	24	188	24	184	23	218	26
SPA 6: South	158	30	212	38	204	37	192	33	183	30	183	29	181	28	202	31	195	29	188	27
SPA 7: East	232	28	292	32	259	29	262	27	253	25	262	25	2,586	23	284	26	239	20	248	21
SPA 8: South Bay	339	31	318	27	316	28	375	31	350	28	298	23	360	27	366	28	354	25	343	23

*Age-adjusted rate per 100,000. Population estimates were revised; therefore, death rates for 2001-2004 may differ from those previously published.

Stroke at a glance

9th cause of premature death
2nd cause of death

For the past 10 years, stroke has been the second-leading cause of death and the seventh- to ninth-leading cause of premature death, although the number of stroke deaths and the death rate from stroke continue to decline. While the overall stroke death rate has been below the Healthy People 2010 goal since 2004, the rate for blacks continues to exceed the goal.

In simple terms . . .

A stroke occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is suddenly interrupted or when a blood vessel in the brain bursts, spilling blood into the soft tissue and the spaces containing or surrounding brain cells. When that happens, part of the brain cannot get the blood and oxygen it needs. Without oxygen, nerve cells in the affected part of the brain usually die within minutes and the soft tissue can develop scarring, resulting in the loss of cognitive abilities controlled by that part of the brain.

Risk factors

High blood pressure, tobacco smoking, diabetes, high cholesterol, being overweight, physical inactivity, excessive alcohol use, age, family history of stroke, prior stroke or heart attack

Community opportunities for prevention

- Promote access to blood pressure screening and treatment for high blood pressure
- Promote physical activity by providing access to safe places like parks to walk, play, and exercise
- Restrict smoking in public places and worksites
- Provide access to smoking cessation programs
- Encourage people to quit smoking through media campaigns

Individual opportunities for prevention

- Control high blood pressure
- Stop smoking
- Manage diabetes
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Consult with your physician about increasing physical activity
- Eat a diet low in fat and salt
- Learn the stroke warning signs

Los Angeles County deaths 3,280

Los Angeles County death rate 34 deaths per 100,000 population

Healthy People 2010 Objective 12-7 50 deaths per 100,000 population

ICD-9 codes(1979-1998) 430-434, 436-438

ICD-10 codes(1999-2008) I60-I69

References

American Stroke Association at WWW.STROKEASSOCIATION.ORG

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at WY.W.NINDS.NIH.GOV/DISORDERS/STROKE

Referral

Los Angeles County Division of the American Heart Association: 213-291-7000

Mortality Trends in Los Angeles County 1999-2008

Figure T16. Trends in stroke mortality

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*
Los Angeles County	4,435	62	4,410	57	4,259	56	4,169	52	4,249	51	4,121	49	3,775	43	3,622	41	3,323	36	3,280	34
Males	1,803	64	1,816	60	1,691	56	1,701	54	1,754	53	1,718	51	1,554	45	1,501	42	1,409	37	1,373	35
Females	2,632	59	2,594	55	2,568	55	2,468	51	2,495	49	2,403	47	2,221	42	2,121	40	1,914	34	1,907	33
White	2,611	60	2,599	57	2,483	55	2,382	51	2,441	52	2,234	47	1,962	41	1,817	39	1,587	33	1,552	31
Hispanic	704	49	717	46	708	44	711	42	755	41	785	42	782	38	779	36	742	32	749	31
Black	658	95	618	84	591	82	589	79	584	76	572	74	530	66	495	61	516	62	469	55
Asian/Pacific Islander	452	53	465	49	472	49	473	46	462	43	513	44	489	40	522	41	469	34	496	34
Males																				
White	1,004	61	1,005	58	923	54	932	53	918	51	881	48	770	42	704	39	645	34	603	31
Hispanic	315	54	343	54	322	48	326	48	342	44	364	47	360	43	356	38	338	33	343	32
Black	262	94	247	85	232	82	227	77	248	84	208	71	206	67	202	61	209	62	194	57
Asian/Pacific Islander	217	60	216	52	212	51	209	48	242	82	260	53	216	42	235	43	211	35	223	37
Females																				
White	1,607	58	1,594	55	1,560	55	1,450	50	1,523	51	1,353	46	1,192	40	1,113	38	942	32	949	30
Hispanic	389	46	374	41	386	41	385	38	413	39	421	38	422	35	423	33	404	30	406	29
Black	396	92	371	81	359	80	362	78	336	69	364	75	324	65	293	59	307	60	275	53
Asian/Pacific Islander	235	48	249	47	260	47	264	44	220	35	253	38	273	39	287	39	258	32	273	32
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	109	61	124	66	110	58	106	52	131	65	125	61	124	60	125	56	110	45	120	48
SPA 2: San Fernando	864	55	887	53	866	52	840	48	898	50	905	50	734	40	758	40	623	32	628	30
SPA 3: San Gabriel	806	58	784	52	749	50	806	52	822	51	756	45	729	43	679	39	608	33	629	33
SPA 4: Metro	525	59	485	51	475	50	462	47	453	44	426	41	374	35	400	37	358	32	367	32
SPA 5: West	384	57	383	53	368	51	379	52	342	45	321	42	332	43	258	34	251	32	262	33
SPA 6: South	465	86	455	80	434	76	403	67	401	65	407	65	376	58	349	52	377	55	355	51
SPA 7: East	522	60	527	57	493	53	513	52	479	46	499	47	460	42	421	38	435	37	378	32
SPA 8: South Bay	744	67	745	63	733	62	651	64	676	64	635	49	638	48	600	44	535	37	519	35

*Age-adjusted rate per 100,000. Population estimates were revised; therefore, death rates for 2001-2004 may differ from those previously published.

Suicide *at a glance*

4th cause of premature death

16th cause of death

After declining for several years, the number of suicides in 2008 increased over the previous year. In 2008, suicide was the second-leading cause of premature death for whites. White men and people over the age of 74 years had the highest suicide death rates. Among men, firearms were the most commonly used method of suicide followed by hanging/suffocation. For women, drug overdose was the most common method followed by hanging/suffocation.

In simple terms . . .

Suicide refers to a person intentionally taking his or her own life.

Risk factors

Suicidal behavior is complex. Risk factors for suicidal behavior include mental illness such as depression or bipolar disorder, alcohol or drug abuse, previous suicide attempts, family history of suicide, history of being sexually abused, impulsive or aggressive tendencies, and having a firearm in the home.

Community opportunities for prevention

- Increase public awareness that suicide is preventable
- Educate health care providers and the public to identify and respond to persons at risk for suicide
- Provide access to mental health and substance abuse services

Individual opportunities for prevention

- Limit access to lethal means of self-harm, including the stockpiling of prescription medications
- Remove firearms from the home
- If firearms are in the home, store them unloaded and locked with the ammunition locked separately
- Seek mental health counseling
- Get treatment for substance abuse
- Respond to threats of self-harm and do not leave a suicidal person alone

Los Angeles County deaths

802

Los Angeles County death rate

7.8 suicides per 100,000 population

Healthy People 2010 Objective 18-1

4.8 suicides per 100,000 population

ICD-9 codes (1979-1998)

E950-E959

ICD-10 codes (1999-2008)

*U03, X60-X84, Y87.0

References

National Institute of Mental Health at WWW.NIMH.NIH.GOV

National Mental Health Information Center at WWW.MENTALHEALTH.SAMHSA.GOV

Referral

Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center Suicide Prevention Center: [1-877-7-CRISIS](tel:1-877-7-CRISIS)

Mortality Trends in Los Angeles County 1999-2008

Figure T17. Trends in suicide mortality

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*
Los Angeles County	732	8	711	8	762	8	727	8	727	8	696	7	695	7	662	7	667	7	802	8
Males	579	14	562	14	608	14	564	13	582	13	537	12	524	11	506	11	529	11	620	13
Females	153	3	149	3	154	3	163	3	145	3	159	3	171	3	156	3	138	3	182	3
White	449	13	434	12	443	13	401	11	442	12	379	11	388	11	367	10	374	10	478	13
Hispanic	154	5	155	4	188	5	171	4	163	4	182	4	172	4	165	4	161	4	160	4
Black	52	6	57	6	51	5	72	8	55	6	42	4	50	5	47	5	48	5	65	7
Asian/Pacific Islander	75	6	61	5	78	6	81	6	65	5	92	7	81	6	82	6	80	6	93	6
Males																				
White	343	21	337	20	350	20	297	17	342	20	284	16	286	16	279	16	297	17	363	20
Hispanic	132	8	130	8	161	9	151	8	148	8	154	8	146	6	133	6	137	7	132	6
Black	44	11	44	11	40	9	55	14	45	11	32	8	37	9	40	10	38	9	52	12
Asian/Pacific Islander	60	11	47	9	56	10	59	10	45	7	67	10	54	8	54	8	54	8	70	10
Females																				
White	106	6	97	5	93	5	104	6	100	6	95	5	102	6	88	5	77	4	115	6
Hispanic	22	--	25	1	27	1	20	1	15	--	28	1	29	1	32	1	24	1	28	1
Black	8	--	13	--	11	--	17	--	10	--	10	--	13	--	7	--	10	--	13	--
Asian/Pacific Islander	15	--	14	--	22	3	22	3	20	3	25	3	27	4	28	4	26	3	23	3
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	30	11	35	13	32	12	37	14	37	13	35	11	34	12	37	11	27	8	48	14
SPA 2: San Fernando	167	9	165	9	177	9	148	7	162	8	159	8	154	7	145	7	168	8	193	9
SPA 3: San Gabriel	126	8	124	8	131	8	125	7	110	6	118	7	122	7	118	6	106	6	101	5
SPA 4: Metro	111	10	89	8	98	8	97	9	97	8	78	7	89	7	81	6	88	7	99	8
SPA 5: West	63	9	66	10	54	8	61	9	65	10	59	8	70	10	56	8	53	7	82	11
SPA 6: South	42	5	46	5	44	5	44	5	41	4	46	5	33	3	46	5	38	4	48	5
SPA 7: East	63	6	76	7	82	7	70	6	80	6	67	5	67	5	57	4	65	5	72	6
SPA 8: South Bay	121	9	101	7	134	9	131	9	114	8	112	7	113	7	105	7	105	7	143	9

*Age-adjusted rate per 100,000. Population estimates were revised; therefore, death rates for 2001-2004 may differ from those previously published.

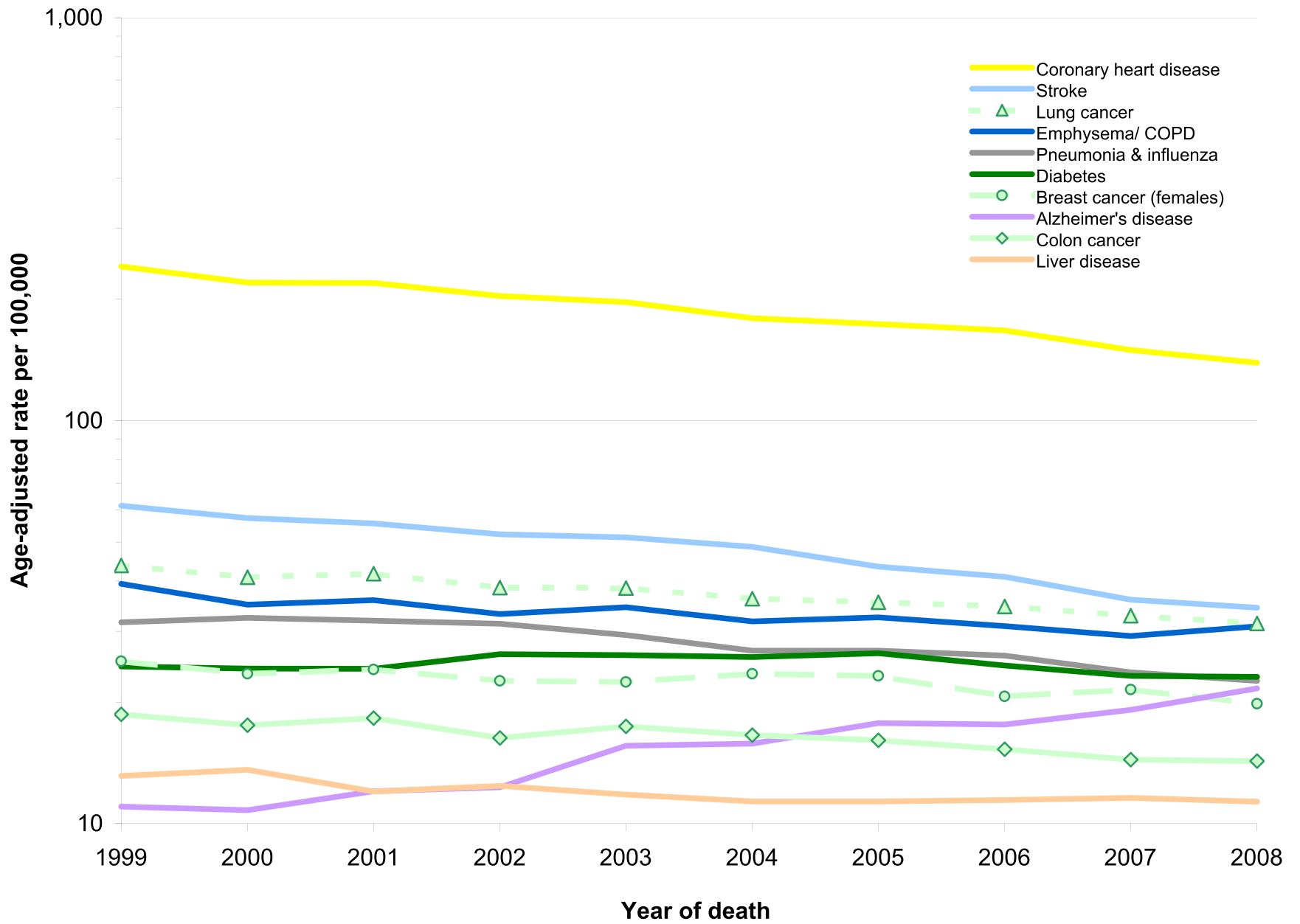
--Number of deaths is too small to calculate a reliable rate.

Mortality Trends in Los Angeles County 1999-2008
Figure T18. Trends in mortality from all causes of death

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*	No. of deaths	Death rate*
Los Angeles County	59,614	798	59,032	749	59,774	756	59,586	726	61,026	721	59,153	682	60,145	679	59,461	661	58,316	624	58,043	601
Males	29,674	955	29,660	902	29,968	908	29,968	871	30,907	867	29,839	818	30,308	812	30,035	793	29,630	753	29,402	722
Females	29,940	677	29,372	630	29,806	637	29,618	610	30,119	599	29,314	575	29,837	572	29,426	556	28,686	522	28,641	504
White	35,120	849	34,697	804	34,189	801	33,672	773	34,105	772	32,324	727	32,101	716	31,376	705	30,593	673	30,149	643
Hispanic	11,189	640	11,107	594	11,879	622	11,969	588	12,803	594	12,632	561	13,574	573	13,783	556	13,429	506	13,591	500
Black	8,484	1,159	8,258	1,073	8,447	1,101	8,482	1,076	8,517	1,059	8,372	1,024	8,413	1,016	8,185	985	8,023	940	7,697	879
Asian/Pacific Islander	4,690	522	4,787	494	5,085	211	5,255	496	5,352	476	5,591	473	5,820	468	5,884	454	6,088	440	6,354	438
Males																				
White	16,664	1,000	16,577	950	16,360	946	16,171	912	16,454	911	15,615	856	15,336	836	15,182	831	14,872	797	14,768	764
Hispanic	6,199	796	6,179	742	6,446	758	6,596	723	7,100	731	6,950	691	7,517	712	7,440	673	7,370	617	7,316	601
Black	4,193	1,418	4,217	1,348	4,356	1,402	4,338	1,345	4,365	1,322	4,224	1,267	4,321	1,274	4,181	1,238	4,078	1,172	3,871	1,087
Asian/Pacific Islander	2,558	650	2,593	610	2,714	625	2,744	594	2,846	580	2,919	570	3,012	563	3,106	558	3,205	542	3,301	538
Females																				
White	18,456	728	18,120	686	17,829	684	17,501	661	17,651	656	16,709	621	16,765	617	16,194	601	15,721	572	15,381	542
Hispanic	4,990	526	4,928	484	5,433	521	5,373	486	5,703	487	5,682	462	6,057	482	6,343	466	6,059	416	6,275	419
Black	4,291	979	4,041	880	4,091	893	4,144	882	4,152	863	4,148	848	4,092	466	4,004	802	3,945	771	3,826	730
Asian/Pacific Islander	2,132	425	2,194	404	2,371	424	2,511	420	2,506	395	2,672	398	2,808	826	2,778	376	2,883	361	3,053	361
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	1,788	911	1,778	863	1,862	884	1,961	894	2,075	921	1,972	870	2,137	917	2,125	868	2,109	808	2,165	803
SPA 2: San Fernando	12,014	743	12,011	699	12,182	710	12,229	688	12,670	698	12,435	670	12,591	664	12,345	643	12,018	603	12,259	585
SPA 3: San Gabriel	10,784	752	10,747	709	10,828	713	10,827	685	10,895	664	10,582	627	11,074	641	10,736	612	10,569	577	10,616	563
SPA 4: Metro	7,029	769	6,817	713	6,864	713	6,726	671	6,866	665	6,516	618	6,687	618	6,540	593	6,340	554	6,210	527
SPA 5: West	4,371	667	4,382	629	4,192	607	4,287	605	4,290	596	4,098	560	4,132	558	4,039	547	4,026	533	4,112	521
SPA 6: South	6,150	1,049	5,962	966	6,130	987	6,174	956	6,063	915	6,058	890	6,019	865	5,853	831	5,731	794	5,614	760
SPA 7: East	7,430	813	7,395	769	7,386	763	7,273	719	7,428	701	7,240	662	7,359	658	7,370	647	7,153	605	7,130	593
SPA 8: South Bay	9,714	836	9,590	783	9,786	797	9,759	769	9,992	763	9,453	702	9,796	711	9,739	696	9,629	661	9,415	624

*Age-adjusted rate per 100,000. Population estimates were revised; therefore, death rates for 2001-2004 may differ from those previously published.

Figure T19. Trends in death rates of leading causes of death



Mortality in Los Angeles County 2008
 Appendix 1. Sample California Certification of Death

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
 STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 USE BLACK INK ONLY / NO ERASERS, WHITEOUTS OR ALTERATIONS
 VS-11 (REV 10/1)

LOCAL REGISTRATION NUMBER

STATE FILE NUMBER		1 NAME OF DECEDENT — FIRST (Given)		2 MIDDLE		3 LAST (Family)		4 DATE OF BIRTH		5 AGE Yrs		6 UNDER ONE YEAR Months Days		7 UNDER 24 HOURS Hour Minute		8 SEX			
AKA— ALSO KNOWN AS — (Include full AKA (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST))		9 BIRTH STATE/FORIGN COUNTRY		10 SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER		11 EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNK <input type="checkbox"/>		12 MARITAL STATUS (at time of death)		7 DATE OF DEATH		8 HOUR (24 hours)							
13 EDUCATION — Highest Level/degrees (See worksheet on back)		14 U.S. WAS DECEDENT HISPANIC/LATINO/SPANISH? (If yes, see worksheet on back.) YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		16 DECEDENT'S RACE — Up to 3 races may be listed (see worksheet on back.)		17 USUAL OCCUPATION — Type of work for most of life. DO NOT USE RETIRED		18 KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY (e.g., grocery store, road construction, employment agency, etc.)		19 YEARS IN OCCUPATION									
20 DECEDENT'S RESIDENCE (Street and number or location)		21 CITY		22 COUNTY/PROVINCE		23 ZIP CODE		24 YEARS IN COUNTY		25 STATE/FORIGN COUNTRY									
26 INFORMANT'S NAME, RELATIONSHIP		27 INFORMANT'S MAILING ADDRESS (Street and number or rural route number, city or town, state, ZIP)		28 NAME OF SURVIVING SPOUSE — FIRST		29 MIDDLE		30 LAST (Maiden Name)											
31 NAME OF FATHER — FIRST		32 MIDDLE		33 LAST		34 BIRTH STATE													
35 NAME OF MOTHER — FIRST		36 MIDDLE		37 LAST (Maiden)		38 BIRTH STATE													
39 DISPOSITION DATE mm/dd/yyyy		40 PLACE OF FINAL DISPOSITION		42 SIGNATURE OF EMERALKER		43 LICENSE NUMBER													
41 TYPE OF DISPOSITION(S)		44 NAME OF FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT		45 LICENSE NUMBER		46 SIGNATURE OF LOCAL REGISTRAR		47 DATE mm/dd/yyyy											
101 PLACE OF DEATH		102 IF HOSPITAL, SPECIFY ONE <input type="checkbox"/> IP <input type="checkbox"/> ER/OP <input type="checkbox"/> OOA <input type="checkbox"/> Hospice <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Home, LTC <input type="checkbox"/> Decedent's Home <input type="checkbox"/> Other		103 IF OTHER THAN HOSPITAL, SPECIFY ONE <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Other		104 COUNTY		105 FACILITY ADDRESS OR LOCATION WHERE FOUND (Street and number or location)		106 CITY									
107 CAUSE OF DEATH		108 DEATH REPORTED TO CORONER? Oral and Death <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		109 BIOPSY PERFORMED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		110 AUTOPSY PERFORMED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		111 USED IN DETERMINING CAUSE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>											
IMMEDIATE CAUSE (A) (Final disease or condition resulting in death)		(B)		(C)		(D)													
Sequentially list conditions, if any, leading to cause UNDERLYING CAUSE (disease or injury that initiated the events resulting in death) LAST																			
112 OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RESULTING IN THE UNDERLYING CAUSE GIVEN IN 107																			
113 WAS OPERATION PERFORMED FOR ANY CONDITION IN ITEM 107 OR 112? (If yes, list type of operation and date.)		114 I CERTIFY THAT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE DEATH OCCURRED AT THE HOUR, DATE, AND PLACE STATED FROM THE CAUSE(S) STATED. Decedent Attended Since		115 SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF CERTIFIER		116 LICENSE NUMBER		117 DATE mm/dd/yyyy		118 IF FEMALE, PREGNANT IN LAST YEAR? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNK <input type="checkbox"/>									
119 I CERTIFY THAT IN MY OPINION DEATH OCCURRED AT THE HOUR, DATE, AND PLACE STATED FROM THE CAUSE(S) STATED. MANNER OF DEATH <input type="checkbox"/> Natural <input type="checkbox"/> Accident <input type="checkbox"/> Homicide <input type="checkbox"/> Suicide <input type="checkbox"/> Pending Investigation <input type="checkbox"/> Could not be determined		120 INJURED AT WORK? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNK <input type="checkbox"/>		121 INJURY DATE mm/dd/yyyy		122 HOUR (24 hours)													
123 PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., home, construction site, wooded area, etc.)		124 DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED (Events which resulted in injury)																	
125 LOCATION OF INJURY (Street and number, or location, and city, and ZIP)		126 SIGNATURE OF CORONER / DEPUTY CORONER		127 DATE mm/dd/yyyy		128 TYPE NAME, TITLE OF CORONER / DEPUTY CORONER													
CORONER'S USE ONLY		STATE REGISTRAR		A B C D E		FAX AUTH. #		CENSUS TRACT											

Appendix 2. Los Angeles County population estimates and United States standard population

Los Angeles County population estimates, 2008

	Age Group (years)											All ages	
	Less than 1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+		
Males													
White	13,890	58,407	154,630	187,958	176,258	245,560	273,796	208,127	123,044	79,617	32,676	1,553,963	
Hispanic	49,159	196,991	462,984	428,383	424,149	392,077	266,165	141,521	66,747	34,529	11,079	2,473,784	
Black	5,992	24,809	69,110	76,372	53,382	64,573	63,540	40,420	25,433	12,134	3,942	439,707	
Asian/Pacific Islander	8,505	30,361	75,202	95,541	92,966	104,191	102,214	73,972	42,013	24,437	8,750	658,152	
American Indian/Alaska Native	126	507	1,620	2,269	1,762	2,269	2,439	1,519	886	390	161	13,948	
All races	77,672	311,075	763,546	790,523	748,517	808,670	708,154	465,559	258,123	151,107	56,608	5,139,554	
Females													
White	13,117	55,050	145,100	180,144	168,452	228,853	254,190	210,545	137,082	111,828	63,375	1,567,736	
Hispanic	47,111	189,139	444,244	408,563	374,879	359,514	272,785	162,900	87,492	53,842	21,728	2,422,197	
Black	5,873	23,744	67,379	77,910	62,084	76,820	74,765	52,655	33,723	19,862	9,372	504,187	
Asian/Pacific Islander	8,018	28,257	70,660	90,369	100,606	120,006	120,055	87,178	51,667	34,745	14,211	725,772	
American Indian/Alaska Native	125	472	1,661	2,175	1,675	2,386	2,458	2,008	1,010	540	320	14,830	
All races	74,244	296,662	729,044	759,161	707,696	787,579	724,253	515,286	310,974	220,817	109,006	5,234,722	
Los Angeles County													
White	27,007	113,457	299,730	368,102	344,710	474,413	527,986	418,672	260,126	191,445	96,051	3,121,699	
Hispanic	96,270	386,130	907,228	836,946	799,028	751,591	538,950	304,421	154,239	88,371	32,807	4,895,981	
Black	11,865	48,553	136,489	154,282	115,466	141,393	138,305	93,075	59,156	31,996	13,314	943,894	
Asian/Pacific Islander	16,523	58,618	145,862	185,910	193,572	224,197	222,269	161,150	93,680	59,182	22,961	1,383,924	
American Indian/Alaska Native	251	979	3,281	4,444	3,437	4,655	4,897	3,527	1,896	930	481	28,778	
All races	151,916	607,737	1,492,590	1,549,684	1,456,213	1,596,249	1,432,407	980,845	569,097	371,924	165,614	10,374,276	

Notes: July 1, 2008 population estimates by Walter R. McDonald & Associates, Inc., released May 10, 2010.

United States standard population, 2000⁶

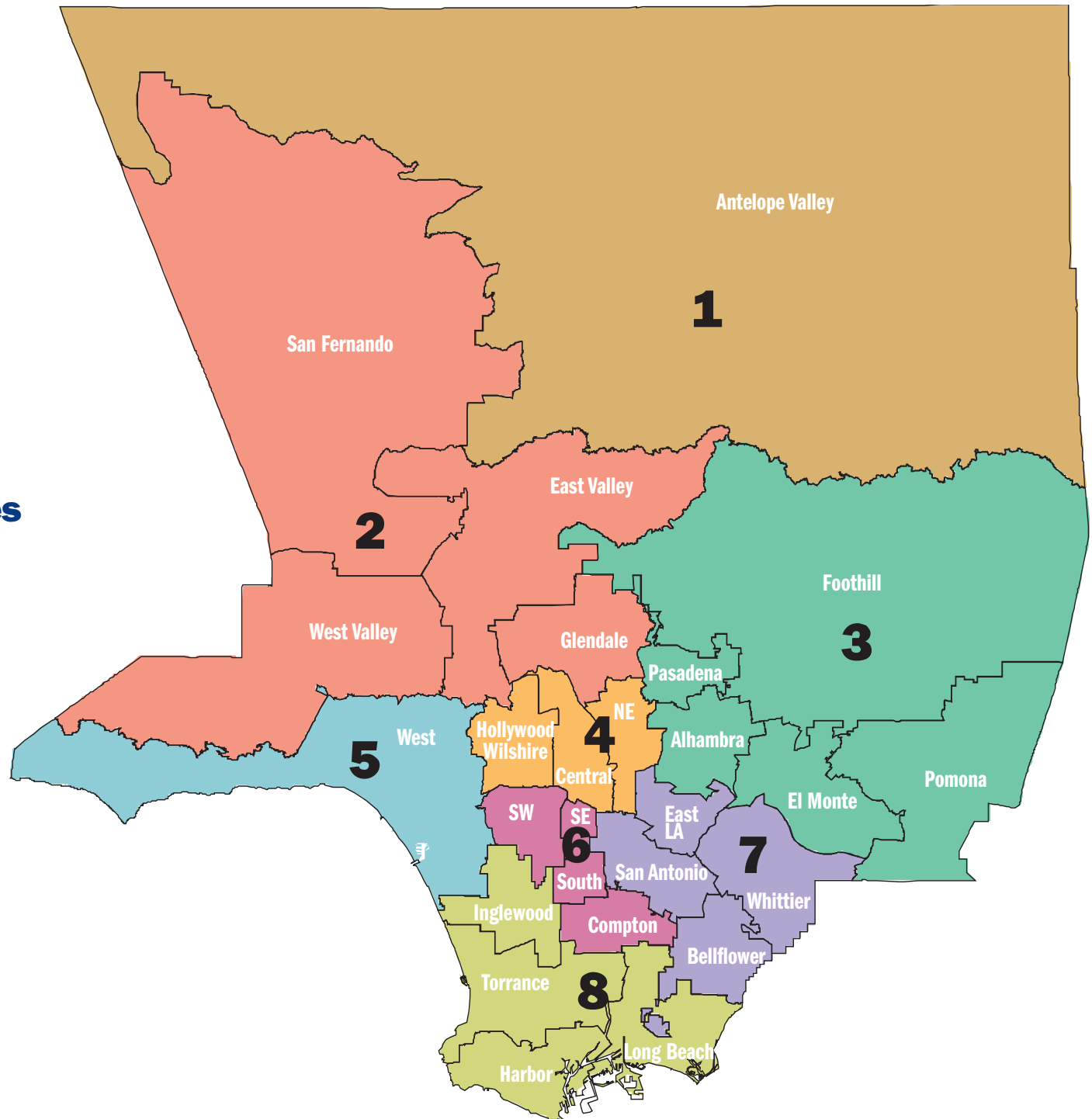
United States	Age Group (years)											All ages
	Less than 1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	
All races	3,794,901	15,191,619	39,976,619	38,076,743	37,233,437	44,659,185	37,030,152	23,961,506	18,135,514	12,314,793	4,259,173	274,633,642

⁶ Hoyert DL, Heron MP, Murphy SL, Kung H. Deaths: Final Data for 2003. National vital statistics reports; vol 54 no 13. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2006.

Appendix 3. Health district and service planning are (SPA) boundaries

Health District and Service Planning Area (SPA) Boundaries

- SPA 1 Antelope Valley
- SPA 2 San Fernando
- SPA 3 San Gabriel
- SPA 4 Metro
- SPA 5 West
- SPA 6 South
- SPA 7 East
- SPA 8 South Bay includes Catalina Island



Health Districts are outlined and labeled.

Appendix 4. Incorporated cities in Los Angeles County, by service planning area (SPA)

SPA1 Antelope Valley Pop. 363,274	SPA2 San Fernando Pop. 2,187,753	SPA3 San Gabriel Pop. 1,879,503	SPA4 Metro Pop. 1,252,815	SPA5 West Pop. 646,108	SPA6 South Pop. 1,047,760	SPA7 East Pop. 1,381,152	SPA8 South Bay Pop. 1,615,911
Lancaster Palmdale	Agoura Hills Burbank Calabasas Glendale Hidden Hills La Canada Flintridge Los Angeles San Fernando Santa Clarita Westlake Village	Alhambra Arcadia Azusa Baldwin Park Bradbury Claremont Covina Diamond Bar Duarte El Monte Glendora Industry Irwindale La Puente La Verne Monrovia Monterey Park Pasadena Pomona Rosemead San Dimas San Gabriel San Marino Sierra Madre South El Monte South Pasadena Temple City Walnut West Covina	Los Angeles West Hollywood	Beverly Hills Culver City Los Angeles Malibu Santa Monica	Compton Los Angeles Lynwood Paramount	Artesia Bell Bell Gardens Bellflower Cerritos Commerce Cudahy Downey Hawaiian Gardens Huntington Park La Habra Heights La Mirada Lakewood Maywood Montebello Norwalk Pico Rivera Santa Fe Springs Signal Hill South Gate Vernon Whittier	Avalon Carson El Segundo Gardena Hawthorne Hermosa Beach Inglewood Lawndale Lomita Long Beach Los Angeles Manhattan Beach Palos Verdes Estates Rancho Palos Verdes Redondo Beach Rolling Hills Rolling Hills Estates Torrance

Notes: July 1, 2008 population estimates by Walter R. McDonald Associates, Inc., released May 10, 2010.



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Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
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Mark Ridley-Thomas, *Second District*
Zev Yaroslavsky, *Third District*
Don Knabe, *Fourth District*
Michael D. Antonovich, *Fifth District*

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