

Leading Causes of Death ^{1,2} Among San Diego County Residents by Year, 2019-2023															
RANK	2019			2020			2021			2022			2023		
	Underlying Cause of Death	n	%	Underlying Cause of Death	n	%	Underlying Cause of Death	n	%	Underlying Cause of Death	n	%	Underlying Cause of Death	n	%
1	Malignant Neoplasms	5,018	22.9%	Malignant Neoplasms	4,939	20.1%	Malignant Neoplasms	5,050	19.3%	Malignant Neoplasms	5,179	20.8%	Malignant Neoplasms	5,098	21.8%
2	Diseases Of The Heart	4,689	21.4%	Diseases Of The Heart	4,853	19.8%	Diseases Of The Heart	4,961	19.0%	Diseases Of The Heart	4,928	19.8%	Diseases Of The Heart	4,785	20.4%
3	Cerebrovascular Diseases	1,620	7.4%	COVID-19	1,728	7.0%	COVID-19	2,825	10.8%	Accidents/Unintentional Injuries	1,796	7.2%	Accidents/Unintentional Injuries	1,756	7.5%
4	Alzheimer's Disease	1,546	7.0%	Cerebrovascular Diseases	1,722	7.0%	Accidents/Unintentional Injuries	1,795	6.9%	Cerebrovascular Diseases	1,561	6.3%	Cerebrovascular Diseases	1,552	6.6%
5	Accidents/Unintentional Injuries	1,273	5.8%	Alzheimer's Disease	1,521	6.2%	Cerebrovascular Diseases	1,710	6.5%	COVID-19	1,325	5.3%	Alzheimer's Disease	1,177	5.0%
6	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	1,007	4.6%	Accidents/Unintentional Injuries	1,513	6.2%	Alzheimer's Disease	1,391	5.3%	Alzheimer's Disease	1,320	5.3%	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	923	3.9%
7	Diabetes Mellitus	760	3.5%	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	930	3.8%	Diabetes Mellitus	895	3.4%	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	913	3.7%	Diabetes Mellitus	911	3.9%
8	Essential Hypertension And Hypertensive Renal Disease	437	2.0%	Diabetes Mellitus	852	3.5%	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	887	3.4%	Diabetes Mellitus	907	3.6%	Essential Hypertension And Hypertensive Renal Disease	538	2.3%
9	Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	417	1.9%	Essential Hypertension And Hypertensive Renal Disease	453	1.8%	Essential Hypertension And Hypertensive Renal Disease	501	1.9%	Essential Hypertension And Hypertensive Renal Disease	576	2.3%	Chronic Liver Disease And Cirrhosis	452	1.9%
10	Parkinson's Disease	381	1.7%	Parkinson's Disease	429	1.7%	Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	472	1.8%	Chronic Liver Disease And Cirrhosis	458	1.8%	Parkinson's Disease	401	1.7%
11	Chronic Liver Disease And Cirrhosis	357	1.6%	Chronic Liver Disease And Cirrhosis	411	1.7%	Parkinson's Disease	399	1.5%	Parkinson's Disease	413	1.7%	COVID-19	376	1.6%
12	Influenza And Pneumonia	286	1.3%	Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	391	1.6%	Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	344	1.3%	Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	359	1.4%	Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	363	1.6%
13	Pneumonitis Due To Solids And Liquids	185	0.8%	Influenza And Pneumonia	297	1.2%	Pneumonitis Due To Solids And Liquids	179	0.7%	Influenza And Pneumonia	237	1.0%	Influenza And Pneumonia	212	0.9%
14	Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome And Nephrosis	136	0.6%	Pneumonitis Due To Solids And Liquids	163	0.7%	Influenza and Pneumonia	164	0.6%	Pneumonitis Due To Solids And Liquids	197	0.8%	Pneumonitis Due To Solids And Liquids	212	0.9%
15	Nutritional Deficiencies	112	0.5%	Nutritional Deficiencies	138	0.6%	Nutritional Deficiencies	132	0.5%	Nutritional Deficiencies	131	0.5%	Nutritional Deficiencies	133	0.6%
16	All other causes (not rankable)	3,716	16.9%	All other causes (not rankable)	4,209	17.1%	All other causes (not rankable)	4,463	17.1%	All other causes (not rankable)	4,630	18.6%	All other causes (not rankable)	4,520	19.3%
Total Deaths ³		21,940	100.0%		24,549	100.0%		26,168	100.0%		24,930	100.0%		23,409	100.0%

¹ Rank is based on total number of deaths in each of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) "rankable" categories. The top 15 leading causes of death presented here are for San Diego County residents and their respective years.

² Cause of death is based on the underlying cause of death reported on death certificates as classified by ICD-10 codes.

³ Deaths for specific demographics or geographic area may not equal the total deaths for San Diego County due to missing data.

In data years 2020-2022, the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with increases in all-cause mortality. COVID-19 deaths have affected the patterns of mortality including those of Leading Causes of Death. Starting in data year 2023, San Diego County resident deaths that occurred out of state are now included.

Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System.

Prepared by County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2025.

Leading Causes of Death ^{1,2} Among San Diego County Residents by Year, 2014-2018															
RANK	2014			2015			2016			2017			2018		
	Underlying Cause of Death	n	%	Underlying Cause of Death	n	%	Underlying Cause of Death	n	%	Underlying Cause of Death	n	%	Underlying Cause of Death	n	%
1	Malignant Neoplasms	4,862	24.6%	Malignant Neoplasms	5,028	24.3%	Malignant Neoplasms	5,103	24.0%	Malignant Neoplasms	5,033	23.3%	Malignant Neoplasms	4,988	23.1%
2	Diseases Of The Heart	4,534	22.9%	Diseases Of The Heart	4,713	22.8%	Diseases Of The Heart	4,820	22.7%	Diseases Of The Heart	4,764	22.1%	Diseases Of The Heart	4,655	21.6%
3	Alzheimer's Disease	1,311	6.6%	Alzheimer's Disease	1,400	6.8%	Alzheimer's Disease	1,406	6.6%	Alzheimer's Disease	1,450	6.7%	Alzheimer's Disease	1,461	6.8%
4	Cerebrovascular Diseases	1,138	5.7%	Cerebrovascular Diseases	1,163	5.6%	Cerebrovascular Diseases	1,366	6.4%	Cerebrovascular Diseases	1,376	6.4%	Cerebrovascular Diseases	1,446	6.7%
5	Accidents/Unintentional Injuries	1,074	5.4%	Accidents/Unintentional Injuries	1,035	5.0%	Accidents/Unintentional Injuries	1,073	5.1%	Accidents/Unintentional Injuries	1,188	5.5%	Accidents/Unintentional Injuries	1,250	5.8%
6	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	984	5.0%	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	995	4.8%	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	1,030	4.9%	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	1,025	4.8%	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	1,007	4.7%
7	Diabetes Mellitus	582	2.9%	Diabetes Mellitus	709	3.4%	Diabetes Mellitus	736	3.5%	Diabetes Mellitus	799	3.7%	Diabetes Mellitus	775	3.6%
8	Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	405	2.0%	Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	409	2.0%	Chronic Liver Disease And Cirrhosis	413	1.9%	Essential Hypertension And Hypertensive Renal Disease	469	2.2%	Essential Hypertension And Hypertensive Renal Disease	453	2.1%
9	Chronic Liver Disease And Cirrhosis	316	1.6%	Chronic Liver Disease And Cirrhosis	387	1.9%	Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	407	1.9%	Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	428	2.0%	Influenza And Pneumonia	451	2.1%
10	Essential Hypertension And Hypertensive Renal Disease	312	1.6%	Essential Hypertension And Hypertensive Renal Disease	383	1.8%	Essential Hypertension And Hypertensive Renal Disease	402	1.9%	Influenza And Pneumonia	393	1.8%	Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	435	2.0%
11	Influenza And Pneumonia	298	1.5%	Influenza And Pneumonia	343	1.7%	Influenza And Pneumonia	359	1.7%	Chronic Liver Disease And Cirrhosis	364	1.7%	Parkinson's Disease	367	1.7%
12	Parkinson's Disease	268	1.4%	Parkinson's Disease	269	1.3%	Parkinson's Disease	321	1.5%	Parkinson's Disease	362	1.7%	Chronic Liver Disease And Cirrhosis	321	1.5%
13	Pneumonitis Due To Solids And Liquids	134	0.7%	Pneumonitis Due To Solids And Liquids	185	0.9%	Pneumonitis Due To Solids And Liquids	182	0.9%	Pneumonitis Due To Solids And Liquids	216	1.0%	Pneumonitis Due To Solids And Liquids	163	0.8%
14	Viral Hepatitis	117	0.6%	Septicemia	113	0.5%	In Situ Neoplasms, Benign Neoplasms And Neoplasms Of Uncertain Or Unknown Behavior	124	0.6%	In Situ Neoplasms, Benign Neoplasms And Neoplasms Of Uncertain Or Unknown Behavior	117	0.5%	In Situ Neoplasms, Benign Neoplasms And Neoplasms Of Uncertain Or Unknown Behavior	103	0.5%
15	Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome And Nephrosis	110	0.6%	In Situ Neoplasms, Benign Neoplasms And Neoplasms Of Uncertain Or Unknown Behavior	102	0.5%	Assault (Homicide)	102	0.5%	Septicemia	95	0.4%	Certain Conditions Originating In The Perinatal Period	100	0.5%
							Congenital Malformations, Deformations And Chromosomal Abnormalities	102	0.5%						
16	All other causes (not rankable)	3,347	16.9%	All other causes (not rankable)	3,469	16.8%	All other causes (not rankable)	3,288	15.5%	All other causes (not rankable)	3,479	16.1%	All other causes (not rankable)	3,625	16.8%
Total Deaths ³		19,792	100.0%		20,703	100.0%		21,234	100.0%		21,558	100.0%		21,600	100.0%

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Prepared by County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, 2025.

Leading Causes of Death ^{1,2} Among San Diego County Residents by Year, 2011-2013									
RANK	2011			2012			2013		
	Underlying Cause of Death	n	%	Underlying Cause of Death	n	%	Underlying Cause of Death	n	%
1	Malignant Neoplasms	4,796	24.3%	Malignant Neoplasms	4,929	24.9%	Malignant Neoplasms	5,010	24.6%
2	Diseases Of The Heart	4,734	24.0%	Diseases Of The Heart	4,587	23.2%	Diseases Of The Heart	4,778	23.4%
3	Alzheimer's Disease	1,217	6.2%	Alzheimer's Disease	1,160	5.9%	Alzheimer's Disease	1,279	6.3%
4	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	1,040	5.3%	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	1,021	5.2%	Cerebrovascular Diseases	1,109	5.4%
5	Cerebrovascular Diseases	1,025	5.2%	Cerebrovascular Diseases	998	5.0%	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	1,090	5.3%
6	Accidents/Unintentional Injuries	1,005	5.1%	Accidents/Unintentional Injuries	962	4.9%	Accidents/Unintentional Injuries	1,004	4.9%
7	Diabetes Mellitus	580	2.9%	Diabetes Mellitus	648	3.3%	Diabetes Mellitus	614	3.0%
8	Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	381	1.9%	Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	405	2.0%	Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	427	2.1%
9	Chronic Liver Disease And Cirrhosis	326	1.7%	Chronic Liver Disease And Cirrhosis	352	1.8%	Influenza And Pneumonia	333	1.6%
10	Influenza And Pneumonia	310	1.6%	Essential Hypertension And Hypertensive Renal Disease	329	1.7%	Essential Hypertension And Hypertensive Renal Disease	324	1.6%
11	Essential Hypertension And Hypertensive Renal Disease	267	1.4%	Influenza And Pneumonia	302	1.5%	Chronic Liver Disease And Cirrhosis	319	1.6%
12	Parkinson's Disease	209	1.1%	Parkinson's Disease	262	1.3%	Parkinson's Disease	246	1.2%
13	Pneumonitis Due To Solids And Liquids	147	0.7%	Pneumonitis Due To Solids And Liquids	148	0.7%	Pneumonitis Due To Solids And Liquids	129	0.6%
14	Septicemia	128	0.6%	Septicemia	129	0.7%	Septicemia	113	0.6%
15	Viral Hepatitis	112	0.6%	In Situ Neoplasms, Benign Neoplasms And Neoplasms Of Uncertain Or Unknown Behavior	124	0.6%	Viral Hepatitis	113	0.6%
16	All other causes (not rankable)	3,471	17.6%	All other causes (not rankable)	3,444	17.4%	All other causes (not rankable)	3,503	17.2%
Total Deaths ³		19,748	100.0%		19,800	100.0%		20,391	100.0%

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