

Leading Causes of Death ^{1,2} Among San Diego County Residents by Year, 2020-2024																			
2020				2021				2022				2023				2024			
Rank	Underlying Cause of Death	Count	%	Rank	Underlying Cause of Death	Count	%	Rank	Underlying Cause of Death	Count	%	Rank	Underlying Cause of Death	Count	%	Rank	Underlying Cause of Death	Count	%
1	Malignant Neoplasms	4,939	20.1%	1	Malignant Neoplasms	5,050	19.3%	1	Malignant Neoplasms	5,179	20.8%	1	Malignant Neoplasms	5,098	21.8%	1	Malignant Neoplasms	5,046	22.0%
2	Diseases Of The Heart	4,853	19.8%	2	Diseases Of The Heart	4,961	19.0%	2	Diseases Of The Heart	4,928	19.8%	2	Diseases Of The Heart	4,785	20.4%	2	Diseases Of The Heart	4,706	20.5%
3	COVID-19	1,728	7.0%	3	COVID-19	2,825	10.8%	3	Accidents/Unintentional Injuries	1,796	7.2%	3	Accidents/Unintentional Injuries	1,756	7.5%	3	Cerebrovascular Diseases	1,589	6.9%
4	Cerebrovascular Diseases	1,722	7.0%	4	Accidents/Unintentional Injuries	1,795	6.9%	4	Cerebrovascular Diseases	1,561	6.3%	4	Cerebrovascular Diseases	1,552	6.6%	4	Accidents/Unintentional Injuries	1,521	6.6%
5	Alzheimer's Disease	1,521	6.2%	5	Cerebrovascular Diseases	1,710	6.5%	5	COVID-19	1,325	5.3%	5	Alzheimer's Disease	1,177	5.0%	5	Alzheimer's Disease	1,150	5.0%
6	Accidents/Unintentional Injuries	1,513	6.2%	6	Alzheimer's Disease	1,391	5.3%	6	Alzheimer's Disease	1,320	5.3%	6	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	923	3.9%	6	Diabetes Mellitus	948	4.1%
7	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	930	3.8%	7	Diabetes Mellitus	895	3.4%	7	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	913	3.7%	7	Diabetes Mellitus	911	3.9%	7	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	845	3.7%
8	Diabetes Mellitus	852	3.5%	8	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	887	3.4%	8	Diabetes Mellitus	907	3.6%	8	Essential Hypertension And Hypertensive Renal Disease	538	2.3%	8	Essential Hypertension And Hypertensive Renal Disease	506	2.2%
9	Essential Hypertension And Hypertensive Renal Disease	453	1.8%	9	Essential Hypertension And Hypertensive Renal Disease	501	1.9%	9	Essential Hypertension And Hypertensive Renal Disease	576	2.3%	9	Chronic Liver Disease And Cirrhosis	452	1.9%	9	Chronic Liver Disease And Cirrhosis	424	1.8%
10	Parkinson's Disease	429	1.7%	10	Chronic Liver Disease And Cirrhosis	472	1.8%	10	Chronic Liver Disease And Cirrhosis	458	1.8%	10	Parkinson's Disease	401	1.7%	10	Parkinson's Disease	413	1.8%
11	Chronic Liver Disease And Cirrhosis	411	1.7%	11	Parkinson's Disease	399	1.5%	11	Parkinson's Disease	413	1.7%	11	COVID-19	376	1.6%	11	Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	377	1.6%
12	Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	391	1.6%	12	Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	344	1.3%	12	Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	359	1.4%	12	Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)	363	1.6%	12	Influenza And Pneumonia	257	1.1%
13	Influenza And Pneumonia	297	1.2%	13	Pneumonitis Due To Solids And Liquids	179	0.7%	13	Influenza And Pneumonia	237	1.0%	13	Influenza And Pneumonia	212	0.9%	13	COVID-19	255	1.1%
14	Pneumonitis Due To Solids And Liquids	163	0.7%	14	Influenza and Pneumonia	164	0.6%	14	Pneumonitis Due To Solids And Liquids	197	0.8%	14	Pneumonitis Due To Solids And Liquids	212	0.9%	14	Nutritional Deficiencies	190	0.8%
15	Nutritional Deficiencies	138	0.6%	15	Nutritional Deficiencies	132	0.5%	15	Nutritional Deficiencies	131	0.5%	15	Nutritional Deficiencies	133	0.6%	15	Pneumonitis Due To Solids And Liquids	172	0.7%
16	All other causes (not rankable)	4,209	17.1%	16	All other causes (not rankable)	4,463	17.1%	16	All other causes (not rankable)	4,630	18.6%	16	All other causes (not rankable)	4,520	19.3%	16	All other causes (not rankable)	4,561	19.9%
Total Deaths³		24,549	100.0%	Total Deaths³		26,168	100.0%	Total Deaths³		24,930	100.0%	Total Deaths³		23,409	100.0%	Total Deaths³		22,960	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 for 2020-2024.

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: State of California, California Department of Public Health, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), California Comprehensive Death File, 2020-2024

(2020 created on October 14, 2021; 2021 created on September 15, 2022; 2022 created on September 15, 2023; 2023 created on September 16, 2024; 2024 created on September 15, 2025).

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