

**Table 6. Leading causes of death and numbers of deaths, by sex, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, 1980 and 2017**

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2018.htm#Table\\_006](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2018.htm#Table_006).

[Data are based on death certificates]

Sex, race, Hispanic origin, and rank order	1980		2017	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
All persons				
Rank	All causes	1,989,841	All causes	2,813,503
1	Diseases of heart	761,085	Diseases of heart	647,457
2	Malignant neoplasms	416,509	Malignant neoplasms	599,108
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	170,225	Unintentional injuries	169,936
4	Unintentional injuries	105,718	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	160,201
5	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases <sup>1</sup>	56,050	Cerebrovascular diseases	146,383
6	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>2</sup>	54,619	Alzheimer's disease	121,404
7	Diabetes mellitus	34,851	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	83,564
8	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	30,583	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>2</sup>	55,672
9	Atherosclerosis	29,449	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis <sup>3</sup>	50,633
10	Suicide	26,869	Suicide	47,173
Male				
Rank	All causes	1,075,078	All causes	1,439,111
1	Diseases of heart	405,661	Diseases of heart	347,879
2	Malignant neoplasms	225,948	Malignant neoplasms	315,147
3	Unintentional injuries	74,180	Unintentional injuries	109,722
4	Cerebrovascular diseases	69,973	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	75,005
5	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases <sup>1</sup>	38,625	Cerebrovascular diseases	61,645
6	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>2</sup>	27,574	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	46,302
7	Suicide	20,505	Alzheimer's disease	37,325
8	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	19,768	Suicide	36,782
9	Homicide	18,779	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>2</sup>	26,558
10	Diabetes mellitus	14,325	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	26,451
Female				
Rank	All causes	914,763	All causes	1,374,392
1	Diseases of heart	355,424	Diseases of heart	299,578
2	Malignant neoplasms	190,561	Malignant neoplasms	283,961
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	100,252	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	85,196
4	Unintentional injuries	31,538	Cerebrovascular diseases	84,738
5	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>2</sup>	27,045	Alzheimer's disease	84,079
6	Diabetes mellitus	20,526	Unintentional injuries	60,214
7	Atherosclerosis	17,848	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	37,262
8	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases <sup>1</sup>	17,425	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>2</sup>	29,114
9	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	10,815	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis <sup>3</sup>	24,889
10	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	9,815	Septicemia	21,319

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Sex, race, Hispanic origin, and rank order	1980		2017	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
<b>White</b>				
Rank	All causes	1,738,607	All causes	2,378,385
1	Diseases of heart	683,347	Diseases of heart	548,644
2	Malignant neoplasms	368,162	Malignant neoplasms	506,354
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	148,734	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	145,751
4	Unintentional injuries	90,122	Unintentional injuries	143,831
5	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases <sup>1</sup>	52,375	Cerebrovascular diseases	120,790
6	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>2</sup>	48,369	Alzheimer's disease	109,311
7	Diabetes mellitus	28,868	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	64,298
8	Atherosclerosis	27,069	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>2</sup>	47,277
9	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	25,240	Suicide	42,019
10	Suicide	24,829	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis <sup>3</sup>	39,105
<b>Black or African American</b>				
Rank	All causes	233,135	All causes	340,644
1	Diseases of heart	72,956	Diseases of heart	79,318
2	Malignant neoplasms	45,037	Malignant neoplasms	70,747
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	20,135	Unintentional injuries	20,335
4	Unintentional injuries	13,480	Cerebrovascular diseases	19,305
5	Homicide	10,172	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	14,989
6	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	6,961	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	11,365
7	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>2</sup>	5,648	Homicide	10,073
8	Diabetes mellitus	5,544	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis <sup>3</sup>	9,609
9	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	4,790	Alzheimer's disease	9,084
10	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	3,416	Septicemia	6,641
<b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>				
Rank	All causes	6,923	All causes	20,380
1	Diseases of heart	1,494	Diseases of heart	3,678
2	Unintentional injuries	1,290	Malignant neoplasms	3,458
3	Malignant neoplasms	770	Unintentional injuries	2,381
4	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	410	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	1,172
5	Cerebrovascular diseases	322	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	1,105
6	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>2</sup>	257	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	971
7	Homicide	217	Cerebrovascular diseases	775
8	Diabetes mellitus	210	Suicide	640
9	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	199	Alzheimer's disease	410
10	Suicide	181	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>2</sup>	394

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Sex, race, Hispanic origin, and rank order		1980		2017	
		Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
<b>Asian or Pacific Islander</b>					
Rank	All causes		11,071	All causes	74,094
1	Diseases of heart		3,265	Malignant neoplasms	18,549
2	Malignant neoplasms		2,522	Diseases of heart	15,817
3	Cerebrovascular diseases		1,028	Cerebrovascular diseases	5,513
4	Unintentional injuries		810	Unintentional injuries	3,389
5	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>2</sup>		342	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	3,105
6	Suicide		249	Alzheimer's disease	2,615
7	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period		246	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>2</sup>	2,326
8	Diabetes mellitus		227	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	2,114
9	Homicide		211	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis <sup>3</sup>	1,563
10	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases <sup>1</sup>		207	Essential hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	1,487
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>					
Rank	---	---	---	All causes	197,249
1	---	---	---	Malignant neoplasms	40,550
2	---	---	---	Diseases of heart	39,402
3	---	---	---	Unintentional injuries	16,757
4	---	---	---	Cerebrovascular diseases	10,775
5	---	---	---	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	9,216
6	---	---	---	Alzheimer's disease	7,383
7	---	---	---	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	6,286
8	---	---	---	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	5,599
9	---	---	---	Suicide	3,933
10	---	---	---	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis <sup>3</sup>	3,928
<b>White, not Hispanic or Latino</b>					
Rank	---	---	---	All causes	2,179,857
1	---	---	---	Diseases of heart	508,485
2	---	---	---	Malignant neoplasms	465,679
3	---	---	---	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	139,833
4	---	---	---	Unintentional injuries	127,029
5	---	---	---	Cerebrovascular diseases	110,038
6	---	---	---	Alzheimer's disease	101,876
7	---	---	---	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	55,116
8	---	---	---	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>2</sup>	43,397
9	---	---	---	Suicide	38,106
10	---	---	---	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis <sup>3</sup>	35,191

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Sex, race, Hispanic origin, and rank order	1980		2017	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
<b>Black, not Hispanic or Latino</b>				
Rank	---	---	All causes	335,667
1	---	---	Diseases of heart	78,161
2	---	---	Malignant neoplasms	69,872
3	---	---	Unintentional injuries	19,869
4	---	---	Cerebrovascular diseases	19,088
5	---	---	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	14,798
6	---	---	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	11,217
7	---	---	Homicide	9,908
8	---	---	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis <sup>3</sup>	9,542
9	---	---	Alzheimer's disease	8,991
10	---	---	Septicemia	6,568
<b>White male</b>				
Rank	All causes	933,878	All causes	1,212,488
1	Diseases of heart	364,679	Diseases of heart	295,025
2	Malignant neoplasms	198,188	Malignant neoplasms	268,176
3	Unintentional injuries	62,963	Unintentional injuries	91,806
4	Cerebrovascular diseases	60,095	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	67,628
5	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases <sup>1</sup>	35,977	Cerebrovascular diseases	50,146
6	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>2</sup>	23,810	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	36,394
7	Suicide	18,901	Alzheimer's disease	33,899
8	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	16,407	Suicide	32,866
9	Diabetes mellitus	12,125	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	23,252
10	Atherosclerosis	10,543	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>2</sup>	22,454
<b>Black or African American male</b>				
Rank	All causes	130,138	All causes	177,332
1	Diseases of heart	37,877	Diseases of heart	42,086
2	Malignant neoplasms	25,861	Malignant neoplasms	35,749
3	Unintentional injuries	9,701	Unintentional injuries	14,199
4	Cerebrovascular diseases	9,194	Homicide	8,776
5	Homicide	8,274	Cerebrovascular diseases	8,671
6	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	3,869	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	7,611
7	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>2</sup>	3,386	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	5,693
8	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	3,020	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis <sup>3</sup>	4,591
9	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases <sup>1</sup>	2,429	Septicemia	3,090
10	Diabetes mellitus	2,010	Essential hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	2,926

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Sex, race, Hispanic origin, and rank order	1980		2017	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
<b>American Indian or Alaska Native male</b>				
Rank	All causes	4,193	All causes	11,232
1	Unintentional injuries	946	Diseases of heart	2,157
2	Diseases of heart	917	Malignant neoplasms	1,831
3	Malignant neoplasms	408	Unintentional injuries	1,555
4	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	239	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	658
5	Cerebrovascular diseases	163	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	602
6	Homicide	162	Suicide	480
7	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>2</sup>	148	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	460
8	Suicide	147	Cerebrovascular diseases	344
9	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	107	Homicide	231
10	Diabetes mellitus	86	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>2</sup>	197
<b>Asian or Pacific Islander male</b>				
Rank	All causes	6,809	All causes	38,059
1	Diseases of heart	2,174	Malignant neoplasms	9,391
2	Malignant neoplasms	1,485	Diseases of heart	8,611
3	Unintentional injuries	556	Cerebrovascular diseases	2,484
4	Cerebrovascular diseases	521	Unintentional injuries	2,162
5	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>2</sup>	227	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	1,639
6	Suicide	159	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	1,224
7	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases <sup>1</sup>	158	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>2</sup>	1,174
8	Homicide	151	Suicide	1,015
9	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	128	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis <sup>3</sup>	804
10	Diabetes mellitus	103	Alzheimer's disease	799
<b>Hispanic or Latino male</b>				
Rank	---	---	All causes	108,579
1	---	---	Diseases of heart	22,009
2	---	---	Malignant neoplasms	21,034
3	---	---	Unintentional injuries	12,455
4	---	---	Cerebrovascular diseases	5,073
5	---	---	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	5,054
6	---	---	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	4,369
7	---	---	Suicide	3,175
8	---	---	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	2,759
9	---	---	Homicide	2,588
10	---	---	Alzheimer's disease	2,297

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Sex, race, Hispanic origin, and rank order	1980		2017	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
<b>White, not Hispanic or Latino male</b>				
Rank	---	---	All causes	1,102,838
1	---	---	Diseases of heart	272,428
2	---	---	Malignant neoplasms	247,022
3	---	---	Unintentional injuries	79,280
4	---	---	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	64,673
5	---	---	Cerebrovascular diseases	45,078
6	---	---	Alzheimer's disease	31,577
7	---	---	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	31,343
8	---	---	Suicide	29,708
9	---	---	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>2</sup>	20,515
10	---	---	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	18,866
<b>Black, not Hispanic or Latino male</b>				
Rank	---	---	All causes	174,403
1	---	---	Diseases of heart	41,411
2	---	---	Malignant neoplasms	35,261
3	---	---	Unintentional injuries	13,844
4	---	---	Homicide	8,643
5	---	---	Cerebrovascular diseases	8,566
6	---	---	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	7,494
7	---	---	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	5,605
8	---	---	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis <sup>3</sup>	4,555
9	---	---	Septicemia	3,052
10	---	---	Essential hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	2,874
<b>White female</b>				
Rank	All causes	804,729	All causes	1,165,897
1	Diseases of heart	318,668	Diseases of heart	253,619
2	Malignant neoplasms	169,974	Malignant neoplasms	238,178
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	88,639	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	78,123
4	Unintentional injuries	27,159	Alzheimer's disease	75,412
5	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>2</sup>	24,559	Cerebrovascular diseases	70,644
6	Diabetes mellitus	16,743	Unintentional injuries	52,025
7	Atherosclerosis	16,526	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	27,904
8	Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases <sup>1</sup>	16,398	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>2</sup>	24,823
9	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	8,833	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis <sup>3</sup>	18,921
10	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	6,512	Septicemia	17,169

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Sex, race, Hispanic origin, and rank order	1980		2017	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
<b>Black or African American female</b>				
Rank	All causes	102,997	All causes	163,312
1	Diseases of heart	35,079	Diseases of heart	37,232
2	Malignant neoplasms	19,176	Malignant neoplasms	34,998
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	10,941	Cerebrovascular diseases	10,634
4	Unintentional injuries	3,779	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	7,378
5	Diabetes mellitus	3,534	Alzheimer's disease	6,582
6	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	3,092	Unintentional injuries	6,136
7	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>2</sup>	2,262	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	5,672
8	Homicide	1,898	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis <sup>3</sup>	5,018
9	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	1,770	Septicemia	3,551
10	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	1,722	Essential hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	3,436
<b>American Indian or Alaska Native female</b>				
Rank	All causes	2,730	All causes	9,148
1	Diseases of heart	577	Malignant neoplasms	1,627
2	Malignant neoplasms	362	Diseases of heart	1,521
3	Unintentional injuries	344	Unintentional injuries	826
4	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	171	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	514
5	Cerebrovascular diseases	159	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	511
6	Diabetes mellitus	124	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	503
7	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>2</sup>	109	Cerebrovascular diseases	431
8	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	92	Alzheimer's disease	269
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	56	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>2</sup>	213
10	Homicide	55	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis <sup>3</sup>	191
<b>Asian or Pacific Islander female</b>				
Rank	All causes	4,262	All causes	36,035
1	Diseases of heart	1,091	Malignant neoplasms	9,158
2	Malignant neoplasms	1,037	Diseases of heart	7,206
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	507	Cerebrovascular diseases	3,029
4	Unintentional injuries	254	Alzheimer's disease	1,816
5	Diabetes mellitus	124	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	1,466
6	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	118	Unintentional injuries	1,227
7	Pneumonia and influenza <sup>2</sup>	115	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>2</sup>	1,152
8	Congenital anomalies	104	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	890
9	Suicide	90	Essential hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	827
10	Homicide	60	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis <sup>3</sup>	759

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Sex, race, Hispanic origin, and rank order	1980		2017	
	Cause of death	Deaths	Cause of death	Deaths
Hispanic or Latina female				
Rank	---	---	All causes	88,670
1	---	---	Malignant neoplasms	19,516
2	---	---	Diseases of heart	17,393
3	---	---	Cerebrovascular diseases	5,702
4	---	---	Alzheimer's disease	5,086
5	---	---	Unintentional injuries	4,302
6	---	---	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	4,162
7	---	---	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	2,840
8	---	---	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>2</sup>	1,940
9	---	---	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis <sup>3</sup>	1,940
10	---	---	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	1,917
White, not Hispanic or Latina female				
Rank	---	---	All causes	1,077,019
1	---	---	Diseases of heart	236,057
2	---	---	Malignant neoplasms	218,657
3	---	---	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	75,160
4	---	---	Alzheimer's disease	70,299
5	---	---	Cerebrovascular diseases	64,960
6	---	---	Unintentional injuries	47,749
7	---	---	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	23,773
8	---	---	Influenza and pneumonia <sup>2</sup>	22,882
9	---	---	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis <sup>3</sup>	17,004
10	---	---	Septicemia	15,779
Black, not Hispanic or Latina female				
Rank	---	---	All causes	161,264
1	---	---	Diseases of heart	36,750
2	---	---	Malignant neoplasms	34,611
3	---	---	Cerebrovascular diseases	10,522
4	---	---	Diabetes mellitus <sup>3</sup>	7,304
5	---	---	Alzheimer's disease	6,515
6	---	---	Unintentional injuries	6,025
7	---	---	Chronic lower respiratory diseases <sup>1,2</sup>	5,612
8	---	---	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis <sup>3</sup>	4,987
9	---	---	Septicemia	3,516
10	---	---	Essential hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	3,399



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- - - Data not available. Complete coverage of all states for the Hispanic origin variable began in 1997.

<sup>1</sup>Between 1998 and 1999, the cause of death title for Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD) in the *International Classification of Diseases, 9th revision* (ICD-9) was renamed Chronic lower respiratory diseases (CLRD) in ICD-10.

<sup>2</sup>Starting with 1999 data, the rules for selecting CLRD and Pneumonia as the underlying cause of death changed, resulting in an increase in the number of deaths for CLRD and a decrease in the number of deaths for Pneumonia. Therefore, trend data for these two causes of death should be interpreted with caution. For more information, see Appendix II, Table V.

<sup>3</sup>Starting with 2011 data, the rules for selecting Renal failure as the underlying cause of death were changed, affecting the number of deaths in the Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis and Diabetes categories. These changes directly affect deaths with mention of Renal failure and other associated conditions, such as Diabetes mellitus with renal complications. The result is a decrease in the number of deaths for Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis and an increase in the number of deaths for Diabetes mellitus. Therefore, trend data for these two causes of death should be interpreted with caution. For more information, see Technical Notes in "Deaths: Final Data for 2011," available from: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr63/nvsr63\\_03.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr63/nvsr63_03.pdf).

NOTES: For cause-of-death codes based on the ICD-9 in 1980 and ICD-10 in 2017, see Appendix II, Cause of death; Cause-of-death ranking; Table III; Table IV. Starting with 2003 data, states began to collect information on more than one race on the death certificate, according to 1997 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 OMB standards, for comparability across the trend. The race groups white, black, Asian or Pacific Islander, and American Indian or Alaska Native include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. See Appendix II, Race; Hispanic origin.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Vital Statistics System. Vital statistics of the United States, 1980. Volume II—Mortality, part A. 1985; public-use 2017 Mortality File; Kochanek KD, Murphy SL, Xu JQ, Arias E. Deaths: Final data for 2017. National Vital Statistics Reports. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2019. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/nvsr.htm>. See Appendix I, National Vital Statistics System (NVSS).