

# LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, MAINE: 1994 65 YEARS OLD AND OLDER

Number 15

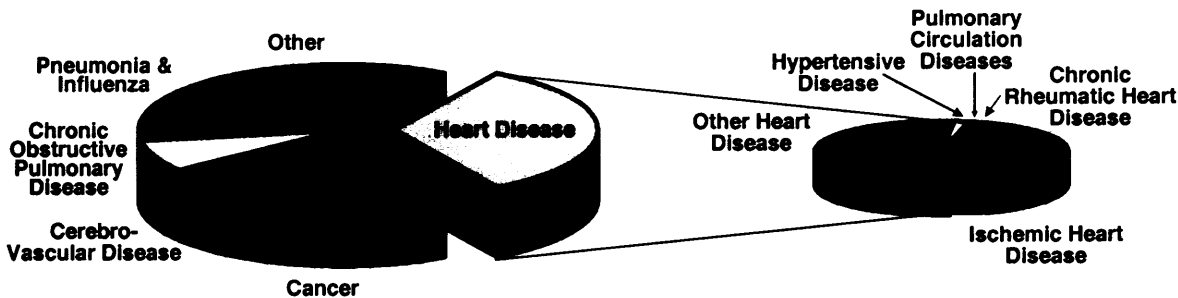
OFFICE OF DATA, RESEARCH, AND VITAL STATISTICS

Series 5

DEATHS: 1994  
>64 YEARS OLD  
FACT SHEET

## Five Leading Causes of Death: 1994 Maine Residents, 65 Years Old and Older

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Heart Disease	3,038
Cancer	2,089
Cerebrovascular Disease	693
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	570
Pneumonia and Influenza	330
All Other Causes	2,365
<b>Total Deaths</b>	



- ➔ In 1994, 9,085 Maine residents 65 years old or older, died. This resulted in a statewide death rate of 5,252 deaths per 100,000 population of the same age. This was *significantly higher statistically* than the national rate of 4,775.<sup>1,2</sup>
- ➔ A third of all deaths to Maine's elderly residents were the result of heart disease; the majority of these deaths (2/3 of them) resulted from ischemic heart disease. The death rate to this age group from heart disease was 1,185 deaths/100,000 population, a rate *significantly lower statistically* than the U.S. rate of 1,868/100,000.<sup>1,2</sup>
- ➔ Cancer, the 2nd leading cause of death to Maine's elderly, accounted for 2,089 deaths. More than 1/4 of cancer deaths resulted from cancers of the "respiratory and thoracic organs", primarily the trachea, bronchus, or lung. Another 1/4 resulted from cancers of the the colon, prostate, and female breast. The age-specific death rate from cancer, 1,208/100,000, is *significantly greater* than the U.S. rate of 1,141.<sup>1,2</sup>

All rates are for underlying cause of death and are age-adjusted to the US 1940 standard population; these rates have been standardized to eliminate differences due solely to variations in the age composition of the populations. US rates are for whites only. Age specific rates cannot be age adjusted. Unless noted, differences in rates are not statistically significant, i.e., they could be accounted for by chance alone.

Footnotes 1, 2: Full citations will be provided upon request.

For further data on this topic, please contact:  
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