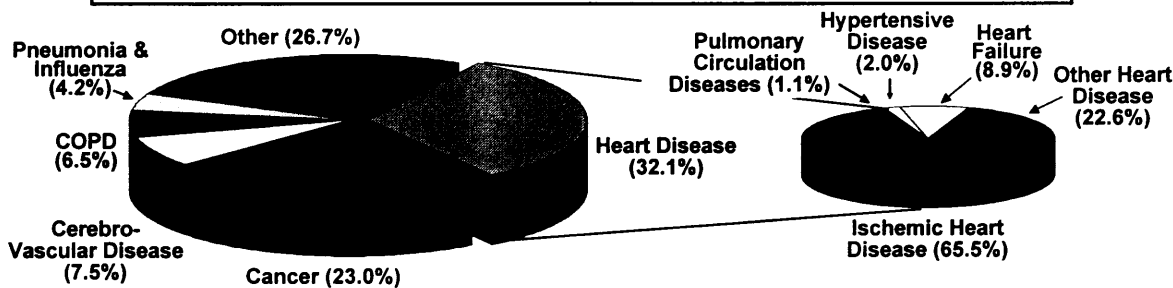# LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, MAINE: 1997
65 YEARS OLD AND OLDER

Five Leading Causes of Death: 1997
Maine Residents, 65 Years Old and Older

Cause of Death	Deaths
Heart Disease	3,096
Cancer	2,217
Cerebrovascular Disease	721
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	627
Pneumonia and Influenza	407
All Other Causes	2,571
Total Deaths	9,639

Pneumonia & Influenza (4.2%); Other (26.7%); Heart Disease (32.1%); COPD (6.5%); Cerebro-Vascular Disease (7.5%); Cancer (23.0%)

Pulmonary Circulation Diseases (1.1%); Hypertensive Disease (2.0%); Heart Failure (8.9%); Other Heart Disease (22.6%); Ischemic Heart Disease (65.5%)

➡ In 1997, 9,639 Maine residents 65 years old or older, died. This resulted in a statewide death rate of 5,563 deaths per 100,000 population of the same age. This was significantly higher than the national rate of 5,093.

➡ A third of all deaths to Maine's elderly residents were the result of heart disease. The death rate to this age group from heart disease was 1,787 deaths/100,000 population, a rate comparable to the U.S. rate of 1,795/100,000. The majority of these deaths (nearly ⅔ of them) resulted from ischemic heart disease.

➡ Cancer, the 2nd leading cause of death to Maine's elderly, accounted for 2,217 deaths. Thirty percent of cancer deaths resulted from cancers of the "respiratory and thoracic organs", primarily the trachea, bronchus, or lung. Another 20% resulted from cancers of the the colon, prostate, and female breast. The age-specific death rate from cancer, 1,280/100,000, was significantly greater than the U.S. rate of 1,119.

Notes: All rates are for underlying cause of death. 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.

National data were obtained from the National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 47, No. 19, June 30, 1999. A full citation is available.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DEATHS: 1997 >64 YEARS OLD

FACT SHEET

Series 8