

# DEATHS DUE TO HEART DISEASE AND CANCER

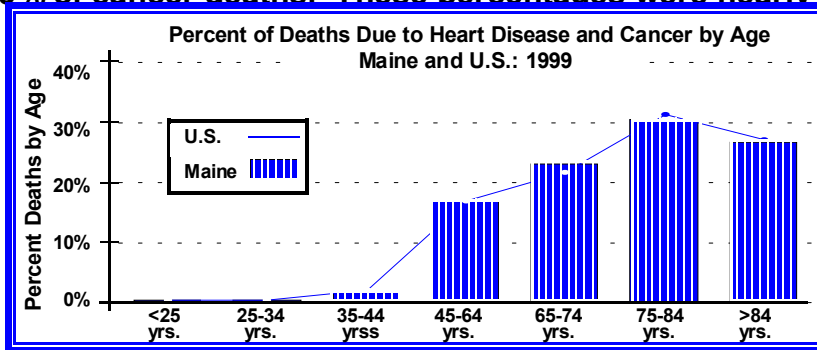
Maine: 1999

- ➔ In 1999, 12,233 Maine residents died. More than half of these deaths (6,494) were due to heart disease (3,471) and cancer (3,023) - the 2 leading causes of death in Maine, and in the nation.
- ➔ Maine's death rate due to heart disease, 253 deaths/100,000 population, was lower than the U.S. rate (269 deaths/100,000).
- ➔ The death rate from cancer in Maine (223 deaths/100,000 population) was higher than the U.S. rate (200 death/100,000). Although Maine had the 3rd oldest population in the nation in 1999 with a median age of 38.6 years<sup>1</sup>, age alone did not account for Maine's high death rate from cancer.
- ➔ Death rates in Maine due to heart disease and cancer were the highest in New England. Nationally, only 2 states - Kentucky and West Virginia - had a higher cancer death rate than Maine\*. Maine's heart disease death rate ranked 25th in the nation.
- ➔ Nationally, as well as in Maine, most deaths from heart disease and cancer occurred to older residents. Residents 65 years old and older represented 14% of Maine's population, but accounted for 87% of heart disease deaths and 73% of cancer deaths. These percentages were nearly identical to what the nation, as a whole, experienced in 1999.

State	Death Rate/100,000 and Ranking	
	Heart Disease	Cancer
United States	269	200
MAINE	253	223
New Hampshire	249	213
Rhode Island	246	214
Connecticut	245	194
Massachusetts	235	208
Vermont	232	214

Shading indicates rate is significantly different from Maine's rate.

- ➔ Residents younger than 35 years old represented 45% of Maine's population while accounting for less than 1% of deaths due to heart disease and cancer. The death rates for both diseases in this age group were consistent with national trends.



Notes: Heart disease deaths are deaths attributed to ICD-10 cause of death codes I00.0-I52.9 and cancer deaths to codes C00.0-C97.9. All rates are for underlying cause of death and are age-adjusted to the US 2000 standard population; these rates have been standardized to eliminate differences due solely to variations in the age composition of the populations. National data are for whites only and were obtained from CDC Wonder. Because of the change in 1999 from ICD-9 to ICD-10 cause of death codes, comparisons by cause of death with earlier years cannot be made. Unless noted, differences in rates are statistically significant, i.e., they could not be accounted for by chance alone.

Footnote 1: US Census Bureau. A full citation is available upon request.

\* The difference in rates between Maine and Kentucky and Maine and West Virginia were not statistically significant.

For further data on this topic, please contact:  
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Visit our website at: <http://www.maine.gov/dhs/bohodr/index.htm>

For program information, please contact: **Barbara Leonard at 287-4064**

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