



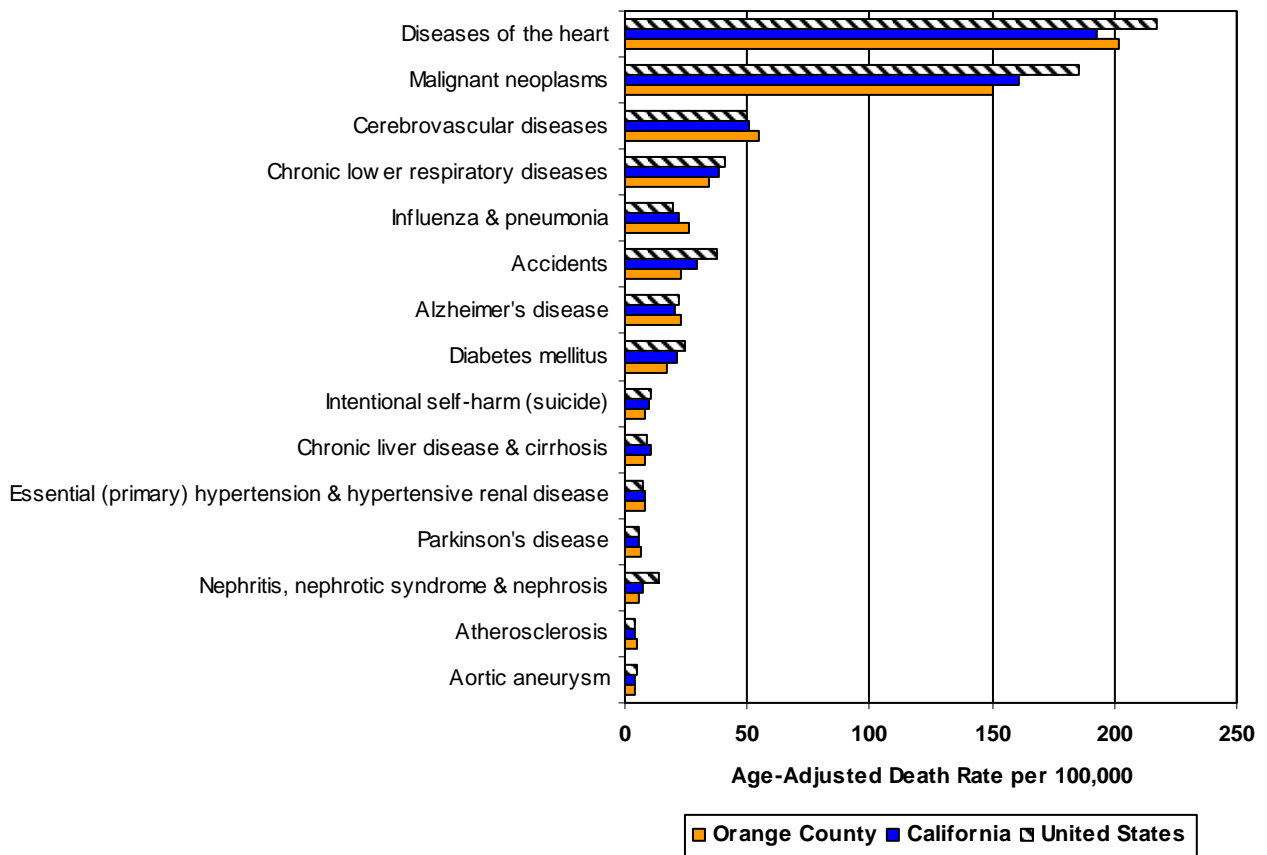
**County of Orange Health Care Agency**  
 Disease Control and Epidemiology  
 Epidemiology & Assessment

**2004 MORTALITY DATA FACT SHEET**  
**COMPARING ORANGE COUNTY WITH CALIFORNIA AND THE UNITED STATES**

**DEATH FREQUENCIES AND RATES**

- There were 16,750 deaths among Orange County residents in 2004, a decrease (3.3%) from the 17,325 deaths that were registered in 2003.
- The crude death rate was 551.6 per 100,000 in 2004, a 4.5% decrease from 2003 when the rate was 577.3 per 100,000.
- The overall age-adjusted death rate for Orange County in 2004 was 654.7 per 100,000.
- The corresponding age-adjusted California rate of 686.6 was lower than the United States rate of 800.8 per 100,000 and higher than the Orange County's rate of 654.7 per 100,000.
- There were 8,689 female and 8,061 male deaths among Orange County residents in 2004.
- Of the fifteen leading causes of death in Orange County, 9 of the Orange County age-adjusted rates were lower than the United States and 8 were lower than California, as shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1. Age-Adjusted Death Rates per 100,000 Population  
 Orange County Residents, 2004**



Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment

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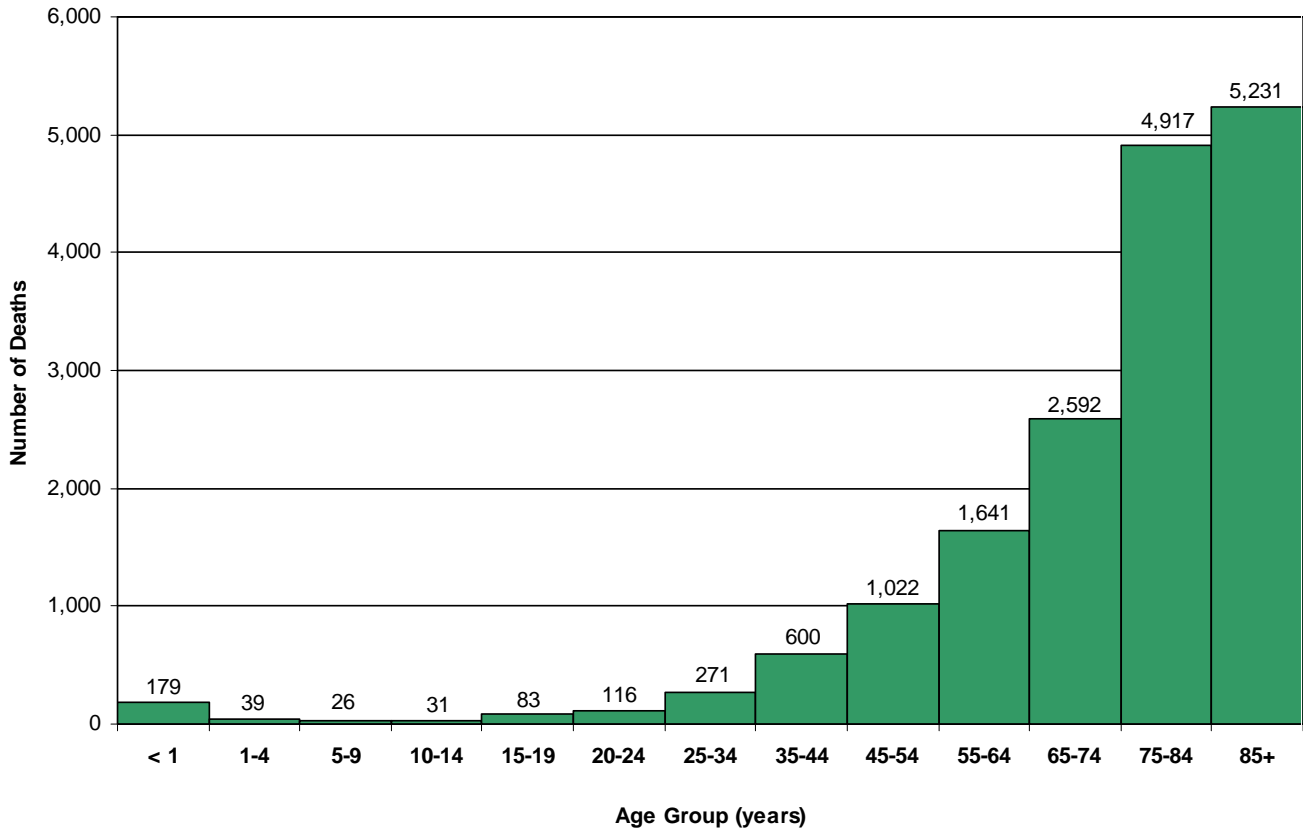
### LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

- The fifteen leading causes of death accounted for 87.5% of all deaths in 2004.
- *Diseases of the heart* remained the leading cause of death among Orange County residents, accounting for 5,051 deaths (30.2%). *Malignant neoplasms* ranked second with 3,903 deaths (23.3%).
- Cancers of the trachea, bronchus, and lung accounted for the largest share of *Malignant neoplasms* with 919 deaths (23.5%), followed by lymphomas, leukemias and related cancers with 414 deaths (10.6%).
- The three leading causes of death in 2004 were the same for both males and females: (1) *Diseases of the heart*, (2) *Malignant neoplasms*, and (3) *Cerebrovascular diseases*.

### DEATHS BY AGE GROUP

- 60.6% of all deaths among Orange County residents in 2004 were among those aged 75 years and older, as shown in Figure 2.

**Figure 2. Deaths by Age Group  
Orange County Residents, 2004**



Note: Two deaths with unknown ages have been excluded from this chart.  
Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment

- Among infants less than 1 year of age, the leading cause of death was *Congenital malformations, deformations, and chromosomal abnormalities* (54 deaths), followed by *Disorders relating to short gestation and low birth weight* (26 deaths), and *Atelectasis* and *Sudden infant death syndrome* (8 deaths each).
- The leading cause of death for age groups 1-4, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, and 25-34 years was *Accidents*. For the age groups 5-9 and 35-44 through 65-74 years, *Malignant neoplasms* was the leading cause of death. *Diseases of the heart* was the leading cause of death for those aged 75-84 and 85 years and over.
- *Intentional self-harm (Suicide)* was among the 15 leading causes of death for all age groups from 10-14 through the 65-74 year age group. The number of *Suicides* surpassed *Assault (Homicide)* in each of these age groups except for the 15-19 and 20-24 year age groups.

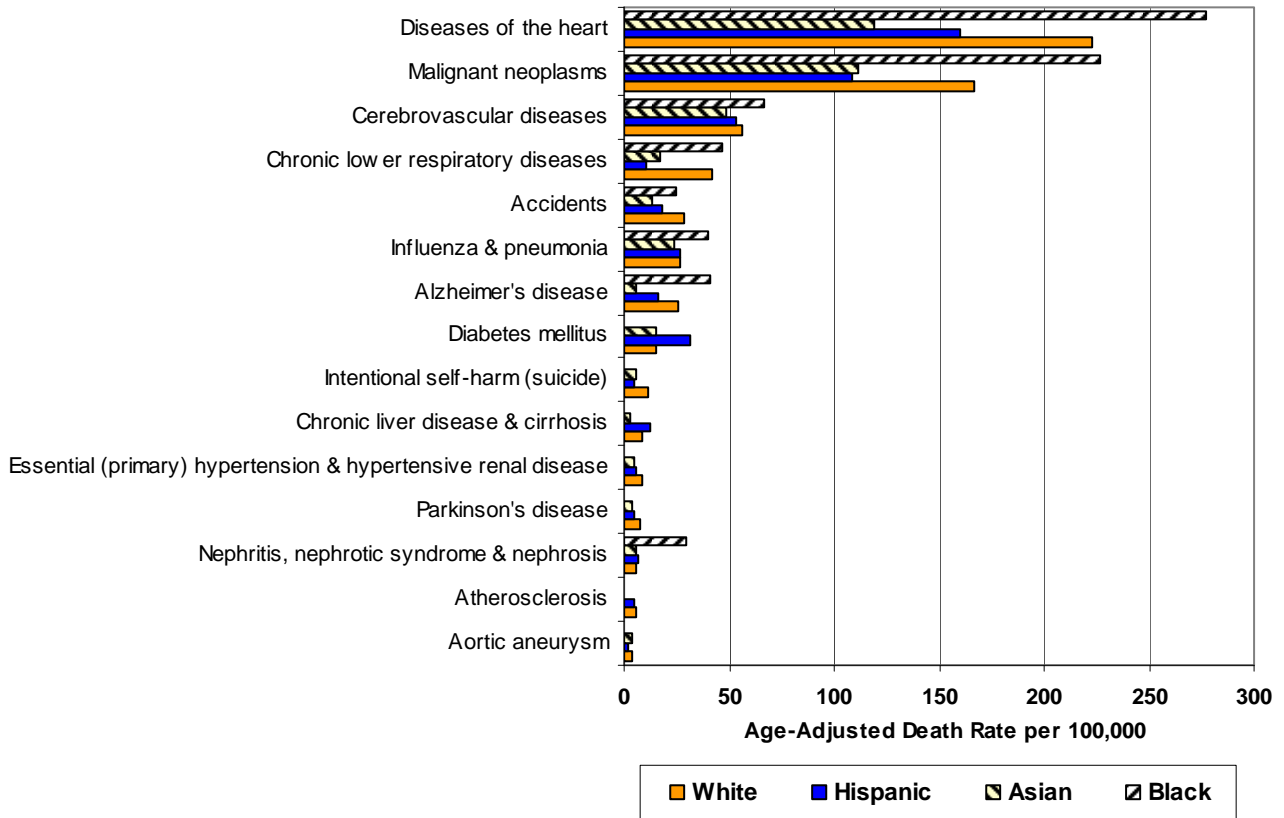
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- *Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease*, the 21<sup>st</sup> leading cause of death for all ages, was ranked highest among age groups 25-34 and 35-44 years (ranked 7<sup>th</sup> for these age categories; 4 and 14 deaths, respectively). Additionally, *HIV disease* was a leading cause of death for 45-54 year olds (ranked 10<sup>th</sup>, 13 deaths), and 55-64 year olds (ranked 12<sup>th</sup>, 9 deaths).

### DEATH FREQUENCIES AND RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY

- Non-Hispanic Whites accounted for 78.8% of all Orange County deaths in the year 2004, while Hispanics accounted for 11.4%, Southeast Asians 2.8%, Other Asians 5.2%, Blacks 1.2%, and others less than 1.0%.
- Age-adjusted rates of death per 100,000 population were as follows: Blacks 869.8; Non-Hispanic Whites 717.7; Hispanics 540.5; and Asians 434.9.
- *Diseases of the heart* was the leading cause of death for Non-Hispanic Whites and Hispanics. *Malignant neoplasms* was the leading cause of death for Asians and Blacks.
- Age-adjusted rates were higher for Non-Hispanic Whites than Hispanics for 12 of the 15 leading causes of death, and higher for Non-Hispanic Whites than Asians for all 15 leading causes of death. Due to a relatively small Black population in Orange County, rates are available for 8 of the 15 leading causes of death for this race/ethnicity category. Of those 8 leading causes, Blacks had higher rates than did Non-Hispanic Whites for 7 leading causes and higher rates than did Asians and Hispanics for 8 leading causes.
- Blacks had the highest age-adjusted death rate due to *Diseases of the heart*, followed by Non-Hispanic Whites, Hispanics, and Asians.
- Blacks also had the highest age-adjusted death rate due to *Malignant neoplasms*, followed by Non-Hispanic Whites, Asians, and Hispanics. Age-adjusted rates for these and other leading causes of death are shown in Figure 3.

**Figure 3: Age-Adjusted Death Rate by Race/Ethnicity per 100,000 Population  
Orange County Residents, 2004**



Note: Due to fewer than five deaths, rates are not presented for Blacks for the following causes: *Diabetes mellitus*, *Suicide*, *Chronic liver disease & cirrhosis*, *Essential (primary) hypertension & hypertensive renal disease*, *Parkinson's disease*, *Atherosclerosis*, and *Aortic aneurysm*; rates are not presented for Asians for *Atherosclerosis*.

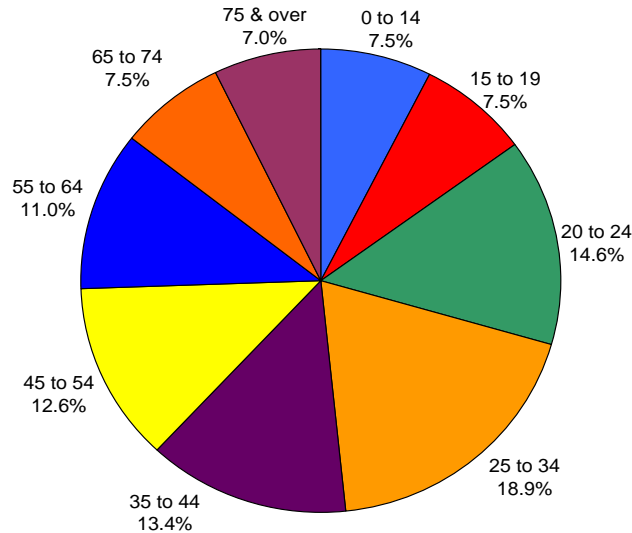
Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment

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### INJURY MORTALITY (EXTERNAL CAUSES OF DEATH)

- *Motor vehicle accidents* and *Intentional self-harm (suicide)* were the leading external causes of death in Orange County in 2004, with 254 deaths each. There were 172 *Motor vehicle accident* deaths among males and 82 among females. The age groups with the highest rates of *Motor vehicle accident* deaths per 100,000 were 20-24 years olds (17.7) and 75 years and older (12.5). The proportion of *Motor vehicle accident* deaths by age category is shown in Figure 4. Decedents in the 20-24 and 25-34 year old groups accounted for 33.5% of all such deaths.

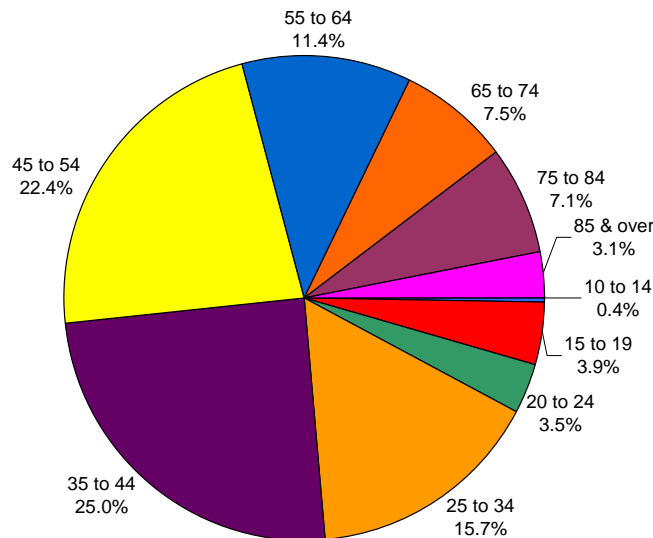
**Figure 4. Proportion of Deaths due to *Motor vehicle accidents* by Age Group (Years)  
Orange County Residents, 2004**



Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment

- There were 187 *Suicide* deaths among males and 67 among females. The age groups with the highest rates of *Suicide* per 100,000 were 45-54 years (13.8) and 35-44 years (12.6). The proportion of *Suicides* by age category is shown in Figure 5. Decedents in the 35-44 and 45-54 year old age groups accounted for nearly half of all suicides (47.4%).

**Figure 5. Proportion of Deaths due to *Suicide* by Age Group (Years)  
Orange County Residents, 2004**

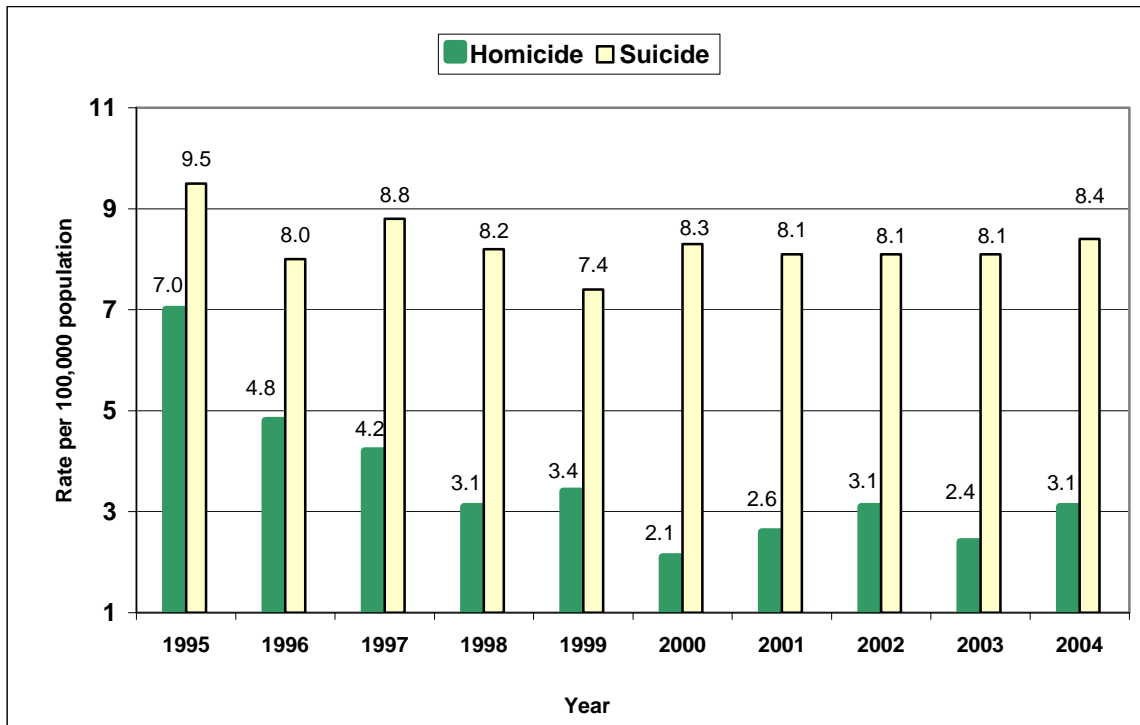


Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment

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- The third leading external cause of death was *Accidental poisoning* (163 deaths), followed by *Falls* (123 deaths), and *Homicide* (93 deaths).
- Among victims of *Falls*, 65.9% of deaths were among those aged 75 years and older.
- There were a total of 282 transport accident deaths, including 135 deaths to occupants of a car, pick-up truck, or van; 60 pedestrian deaths; 32 motorcyclist deaths; 10 pedal cyclist deaths; and 45 other transport accident deaths.
- A total of 25 deaths by *Accidental drowning* occurred; of these, 5 (20.0%) were among children aged 1-4 years of age.
- Firearms were involved in 163 deaths: 96 suicides, 55 homicides, 10 deaths during legal intervention, 1 accidental death, and 1 death due to undetermined intent. Firearms were used in 37.8% of suicides and 59.1% of homicides.
- Figure 6 shows that in the last 10 years, the suicide rate has decreased 11.6% from 9.5 per 100,000 in 1995 to 8.4 in 2004 with a low of 7.4 in 1999.

**Figure 6. Assault (Homicide) & Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide) Mortality Rate  
Orange County Residents, 1995-2004**




Note: Beginning in 1999, the federal government and the State of California implemented significant changes in the method of coding underlying cause of death by adopting the International Classification of Diseases – Tenth Revision (ICD-10). It is important to keep in mind that these changes make direct comparisons with mortality data from years 1998 and prior of uncertain validity, with the exception of comparisons of deaths due to all causes.

Source: County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment

Sources:

Orange County Mortality Data, 2003, County of Orange Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 2007.  
 State of California, Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics of California 2004.  
 Miniño AM, Heron M, Smith BL, Kochanek KD. Deaths: Final data for 2004. Health E-Stats.  
 Released November 24, 2007.

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