MORTALITY IN NEW JERSEY, 2017

PRELIMINARY DATA FROM CDC WONDER

SUMMARY

The age-adjusted death rate decreased by 0.1% from 668.5 deaths per 100,000 standard population in 2016 to 667.5 in 2017.

Age-specific death rates did not change significantly for any age group.

The 10 leading causes of death in 2017 remained the same as in 2016.

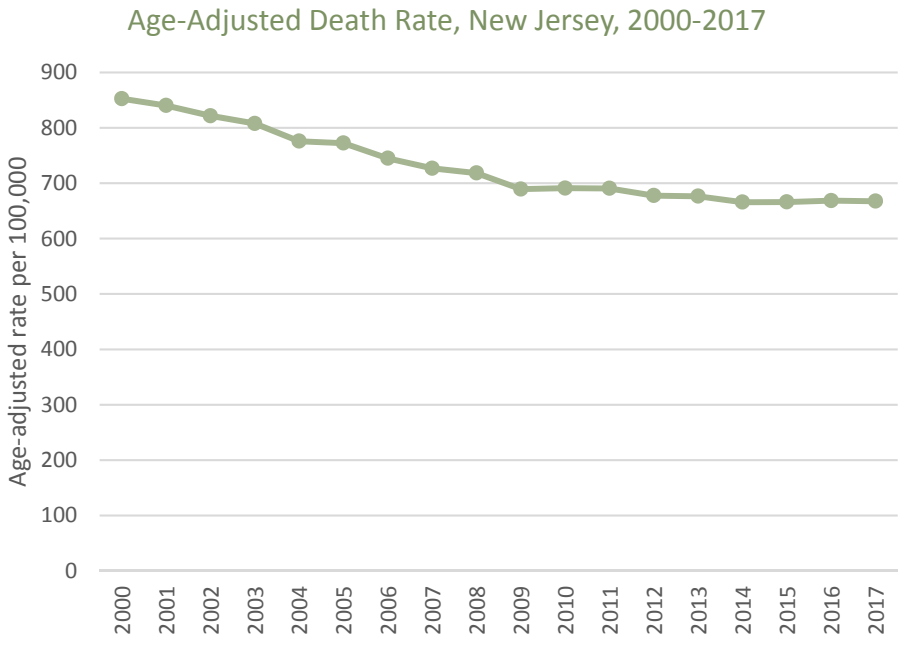
The infant mortality rate increased 9.0% from 410.1 infant deaths per 100,000 live births in 2016 to 447.4 in 2017.

The 3 leading causes of infant death in 2017 remained the same as in 2016 although the top two causes changed ranks.

This report presents selected highlights from 2017 preliminary mortality data on key demographic and medical characteristics.

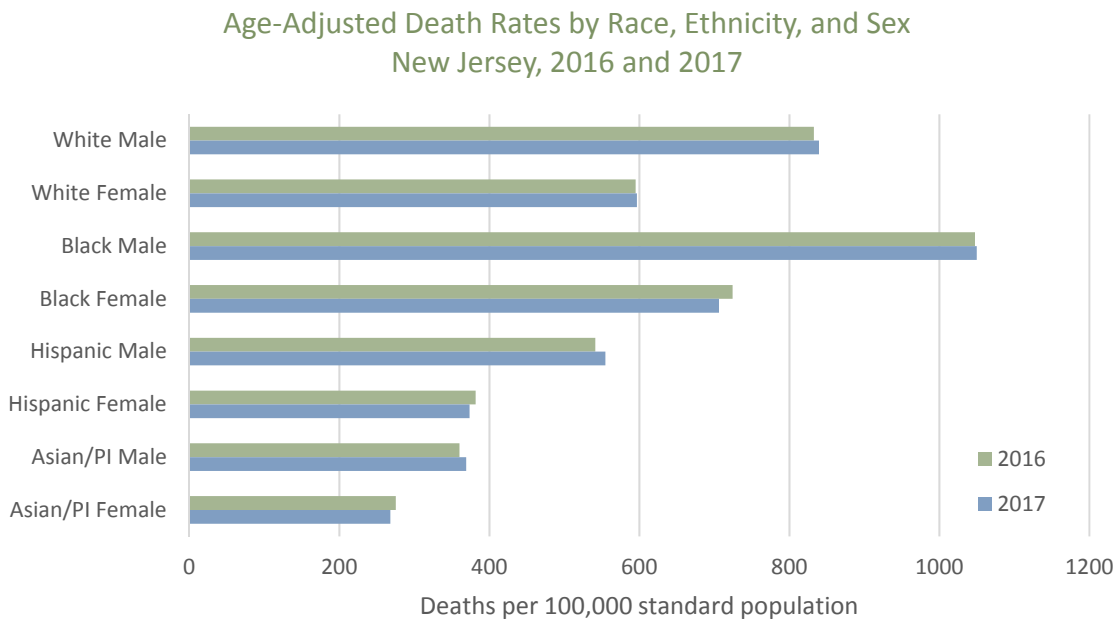
All 2017 data in this report are preliminary and subject to change when final data are released.

There were 74,846 deaths of New Jersey residents in 2017, up 2.3% from 2016 and continuing a three year increasing trend. The crude death rate per 100,000 residents was 831.1 in 2017, up 1.6% from 2016 and the age-adjusted rate of 667.5 was down 0.1% from 2016.

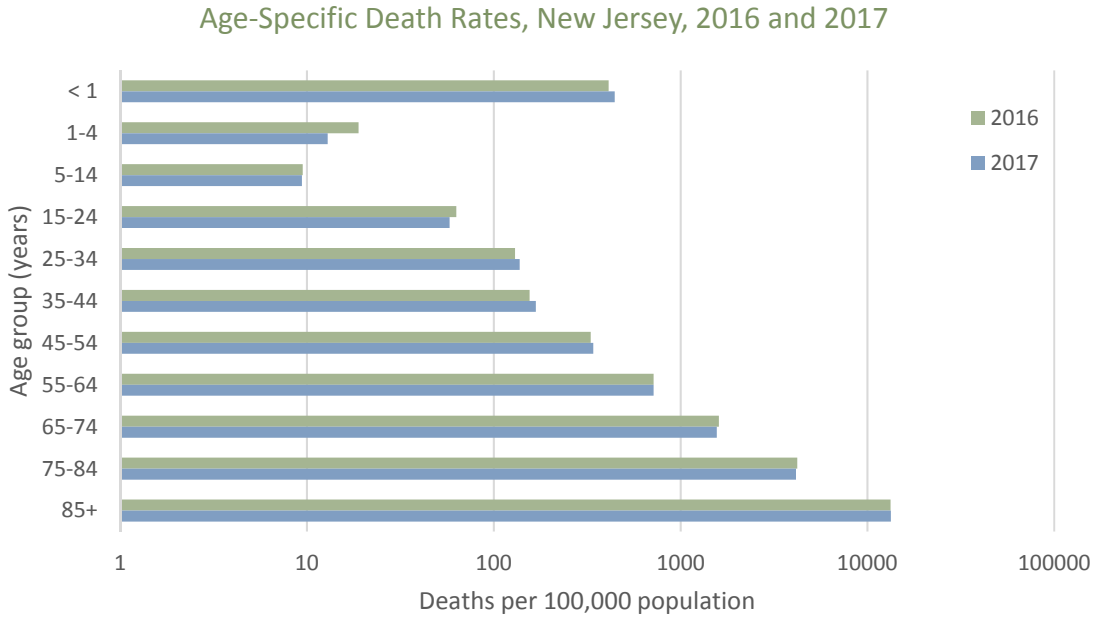


DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Age-adjusted death rates increased in 2017 from 2016 for males of all races and White females. Rates decreased for Black, Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islander females. None of the changes were statistically significant.



There were no statistically significant changes in age-specific death rates between 2016 and 2017.

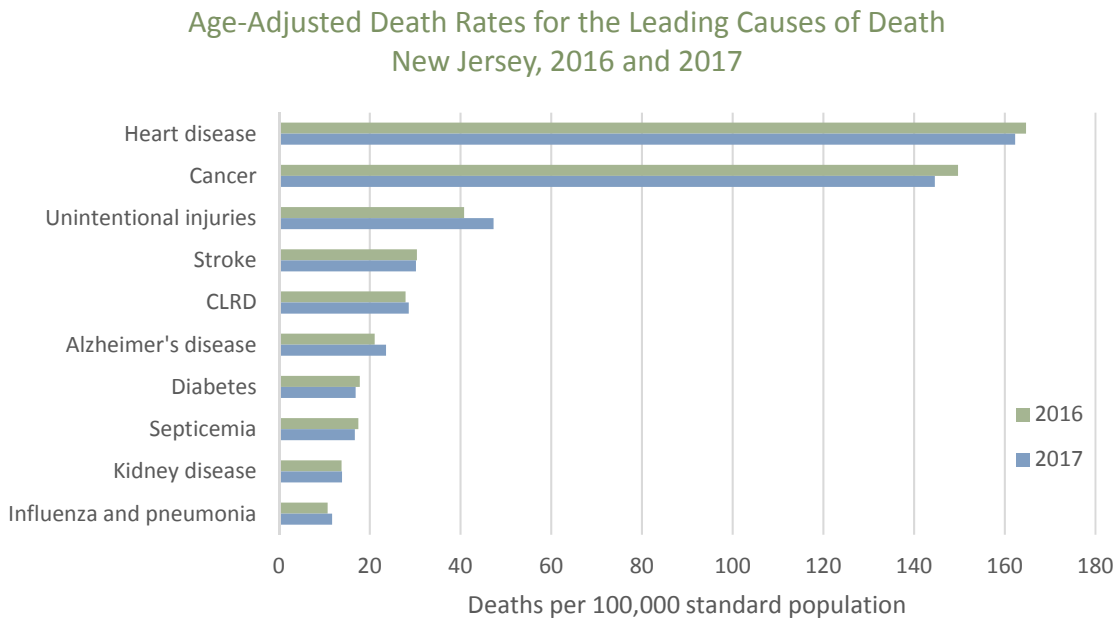


NOTE: Rates in the above graph are plotted on a logarithmic scale.

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

In 2017, the 10 leading causes of death remained the same as in 2016. Causes of death are ranked according to number of deaths. The 10 leading causes accounted for three-quarters of all New Jersey resident deaths in 2017.

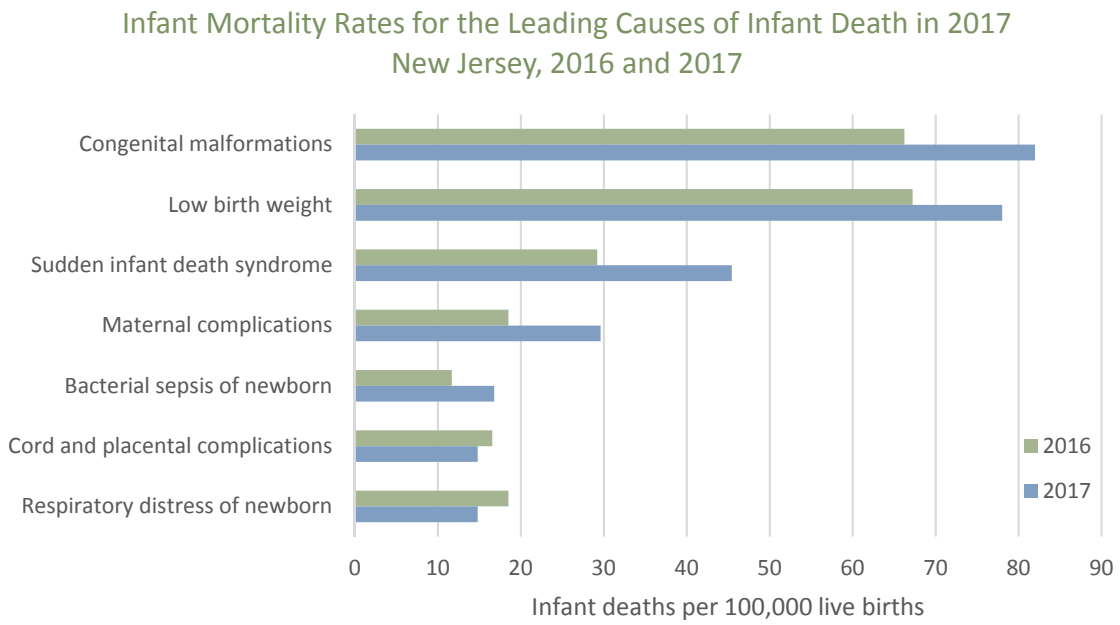
From 2016 to 2017, age-adjusted death rates increased significantly for two of the 10 leading causes of death and decreased for one. The rate increased 15.9% for unintentional injuries and 11.8% for Alzheimer's disease. The rate decreased 3.4% for cancer. Rates for the other seven leading causes did not change significantly.



INFANT MORTALITY

There were 453 infant deaths in New Jersey in 2017, up 7.6% from 2016. The infant mortality rate (IMR)—the ratio of infant deaths to live births in a given year—is generally regarded as a good indicator of the overall health of a population. IMR increased from 410.1 infant deaths per 100,000 live births in 2016 to 447.4 in 2017.

The 7 leading causes of infant death in 2017 accounted for 62.9% of all infant deaths in New Jersey. All other causes of death accounted for fewer than 15 deaths each. The leading causes changed somewhat from 2016, but due to relatively small numbers, it is typical for the ranking of leading causes of infant death to change from year to year. Congenital malformations became the leading cause while low birth weight became the second leading cause. Maternal complications became the fourth leading cause while unintentional injuries became ninth. Causes of infant death are ranked according to the number of deaths.



Definitions

Cause of death: Based on medical information entered on death certificates of New Jersey residents. This information is classified and coded in accordance with the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

Death rates: 2017 rates are computed using Vintage 2017 estimates released on June 27, 2018 and 2016 rates are computed using Vintage 2016 estimates released on June 26, 2017. Age-adjusted death rates are useful when comparing different populations because they remove the potential bias that can occur when the populations being compared have different age structures.

Infant mortality rate (IMR): Computed by dividing the number of infant deaths in a calendar year by the number of live births registered for that same time period.

Leading causes of death: Ranked according to the number of deaths assigned to rankable causes.

Data Source

United States Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2017, on CDC WONDER Online Database, December 2018. Accessed at http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html on Dec 28, 2018

Suggested Citation

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