

This report provides a detailed account of deaths, life expectancy, and leading causes of mortality in Bexar County for 2017.

- By understanding the causes of death, health in general is better understood, and the community as a whole can work together to improve health outcomes in a targeted manner. Programs can also better tailor to the community's needs and better measure improvement towards health goals.
- Wherever possible, data is displayed by sociodemographic characteristics such as race/ethnicity and sex/gender, to highlight differences in mortality among various subgroups. This can help answer: What subgroups of the population are at a higher risk for a particular disease? Are there disparities between different subgroups for a particular disease?

Key Findings from Report:

- 13,280 deaths occurred in 2017 in Bexar County.
- 31% of these deaths occurred in those less than 65 years old.
- Non-Hispanic Blacks have the highest age-adjusted mortality rate compared to other races.
- Overall, mortality rates among men are higher than among women, regardless of race.
- Among men, Hispanics have the highest age-adjusted mortality due to stroke.
- For individuals 25-44 years old, cancer moved from the 5th leading cause of death in 2016 to the 2nd leading cause of deaths in 2017.

Unless specified, all data has been provided from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics: Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2017 on CDC Wonder Online Database, released December, 2018

Table 1: Mortality across the Ten Largest Counties in Texas, 2017

Location	Deaths	Population	Crude Rate	Age-Adjusted Rate
Harris	26,806	4,652,980	576.1	700.5
Dallas	16,446	2,618,148	628.2	735.2
Tarrant	13,236	2,054,475	644.3	735.6
Bexar	13,280	1,958,578	678.0	726.2
Travis	5,656	1,226,698	461.1	602.9
Collin	4,411	969,603	454.9	566.9
Hidalgo	4,445	860,661	516.5	596.8
El Paso	5,448	840,410	648.3	671.2
Denton	3,761	836,210	449.8	609.8
Fort Bend	3,375	764,828	441.3	566.1
Texas	198,106	28,304,596	699.9	735.7
USA	2,813,503	325,719,178	863.8	731.9

*Rates are per 100,000 population; age-adjusted rates are adjusted to the 2000 Standard Population

What is the difference between CRUDE RATES and AGE-ADJUSTED RATES?

Crude rates: are simply calculated as the number of deaths in a place divided by population size of that place. They do not take the age-distribution of the population in that place into consideration.

Age-adjusted rates: are calculated in a more complex manner. They take into consideration that diseases or health outcomes occur at different rates for various age groups, and that different places have different age distributions. To make a death rate of one place comparable to that of another place, age-adjusted rates are more appropriate.



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Deaths by Selected Demographics

Table 2.	Bexar County				Texas Age-Adjusted Rate	USA Age-Adjusted Rate
Descriptor	Deaths	Population	Crude Rate	Age- Adjusted Rate		
Gender						
Female	6,300	991,717	635.3	601.9	624.8	619.7
Male	6,980	966,861	721.9	726.2	865.4	864.5
Race/Ethnicity						
NH White	5,740	559,391	1,026.1	759.9	784.1	755.0
NH Black	1,079	148,883	724.7	877.7	902.7	881.0
Hispanic	6,188	1,181,315	523.8	686.0	607.5	524.7
Asian/ Pacific Islander	176	63,459	277.3	388.2	386.2	395.3
American Indian/ Alaska Native	*	5,530	*	*	271.3	800.2

Data suppression is identified by (*). Data is suppressed when the data meets the criteria for confidentiality constraints.

NH = Non- Hispanic

*Rates are per 100,000 population; age-adjusted rates are adjusted to the 2000 Standard Population

- Of the 13,280 deaths in 2017 in Bexar County, Hispanics accounted for 47%, NH Blacks for 8%, and NH Whites for 43%. 31% of deaths occurred in individuals less than 65 years old.

- **Table 2** shows that according to age-adjusted rates, NH Blacks had the highest death rate compared with other races.

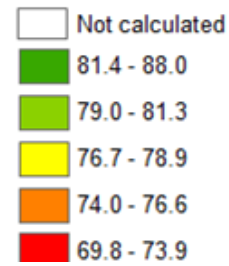
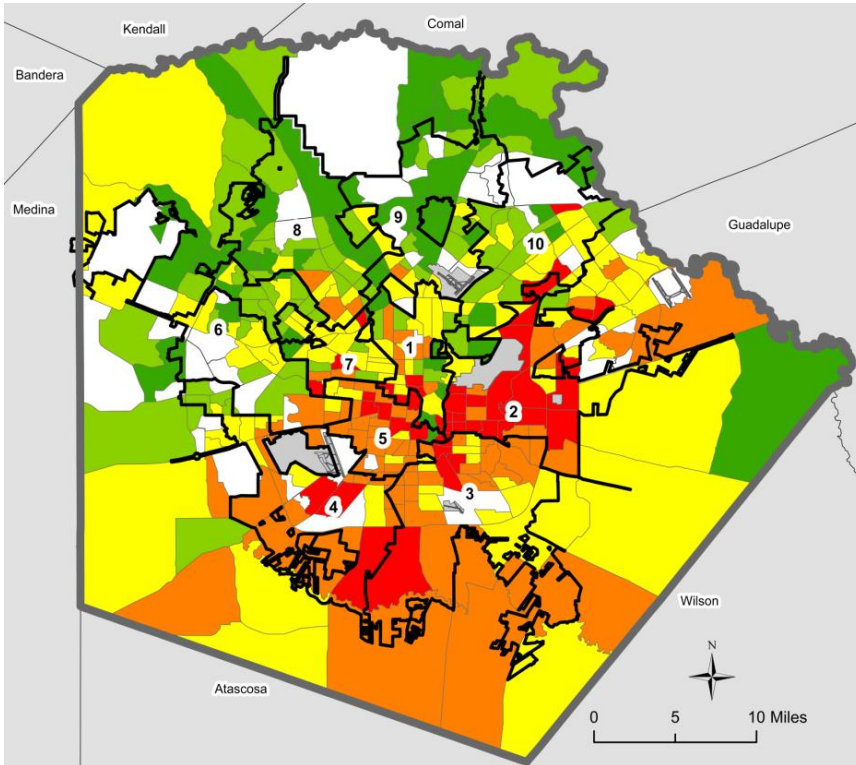
- Overall, in Bexar County, death rates among men are higher than among women regardless of race.

Table 3.	Bexar County				
Descriptor	Deaths	Population	Crude Rate	Texas Crude Rate	USA Crude Rate
Age					
< 1 Year	178	28,308	628.8	554.6	567.0
1-14 Years	62	393,236	15.8	17.3	16.6
15-24 Years	194	287,062	67.6	71.6	74.0
25-44 Years	854	574,005	148.8	140.3	162.4
45-64 Years	2,879	444,085	648.3	638.4	642.6
65-74 Years	2,543	138,416	1,837.2	1,883.9	1,790.9
75-84 Years	2,939	65,367	4,496.2	4,652.8	4,472.6
85+ Years	3,630	28,099	12,918.6	13,285.6	13,573.6

*Rates are per 100,000 population; age-adjusted rates are adjusted to the 2000 Standard Population

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Figure 1: Life Expectancy at Birth by Census Tract and Council District for Bexar County, Texas, 2010 - 2015



According to the map in **Figure 1** there is almost a 20 year difference in life expectancy from the areas with the lowest life expectancy (red) compared to the areas with the highest (green).

Data Source: CDC Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project

Top 10 Leading Causes of Deaths in Bexar County

Cause of Death	Bexar County			Texas Crude Rate	Texas Age-Adjusted Rate
	Deaths	Crude Rate	Age-Adjusted Rate		
Heart Disease	3,113	158.9	171.1	160.2	169.2
Cancer	2,619	133.7	141.5	143.7	146.5
Stroke	743	37.9	41.6	38.1	41.3
Accidents	698	35.6	36.9	38	38.8
Alzheimer's disease	668	34.1	39	33.7	38.5
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	582	29.7	33	37.6	40.5
Diabetes	466	23.8	25.5	20.6	21.2
Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	356	18.2	18.2	14.5	13.9
Septicemia	303	15.5	16.4	15.1	15.8
Suicide	261	13.3	13.3	13.3	13.4

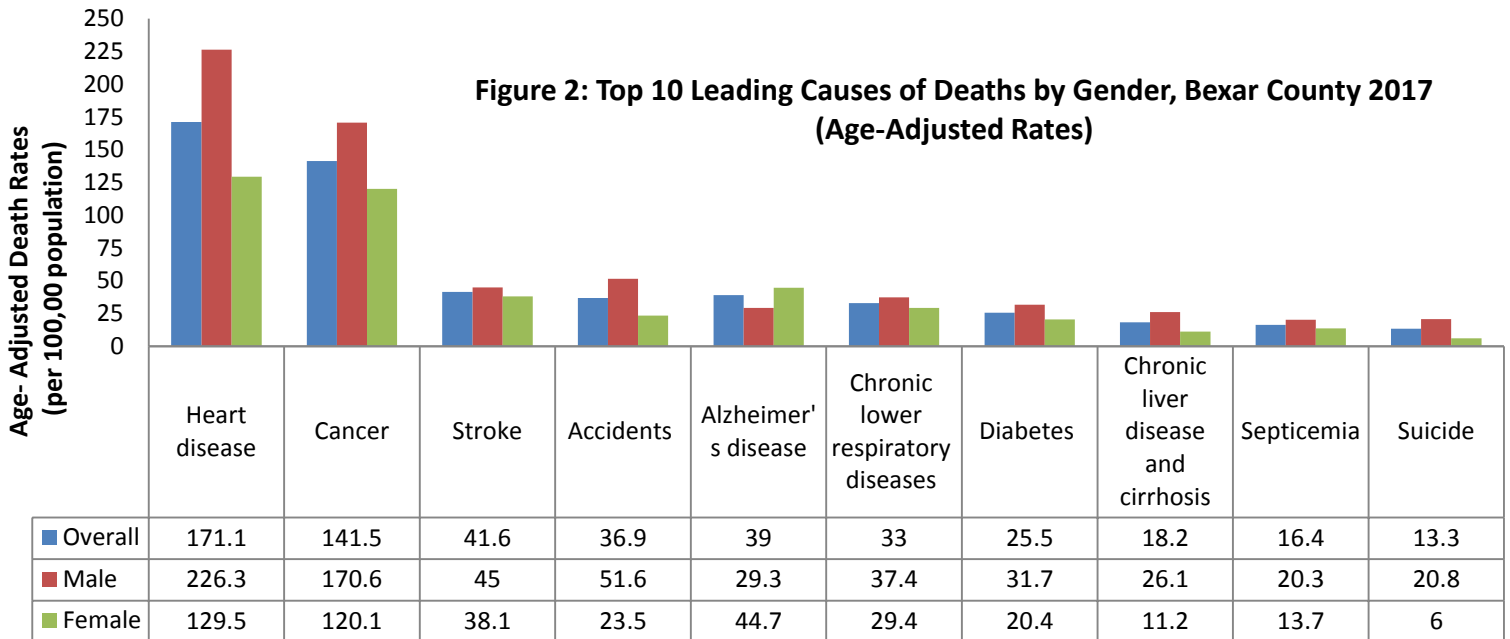
• **Table 4** shows that heart disease, cancer, strokes are the leading causes of death respectively in Bexar County and in Texas overall.

• **Figure 2** on the following page shows that men have a higher mortality rate for almost every cause of death. Alzheimer's disease is the only cause of death for which women have a higher rate of mortality compared to men.

*Rates are per 100,000 population; age-adjusted rates are adjusted to the 2000 Standard Population

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Leading Causes of Deaths Overall in Bexar County by Sex/Gender



Did You Know?

25% of deaths in Bexar County were related to heart disease and 20% were related to cancer. Family history, poor diet, lack of physical activity, and obesity are common risk factors for both heart disease and cancer.

Did You Know?

Cancer rates have been decreasing over the recent years across the nation, but the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Cancer Institute predict that cancer will be the leading cause of death in the United States by 2020. In the United States, about 1.5 million Americans are diagnosed with new cases of cancer every year, and approximately 610,000 people will die from the disease each year.



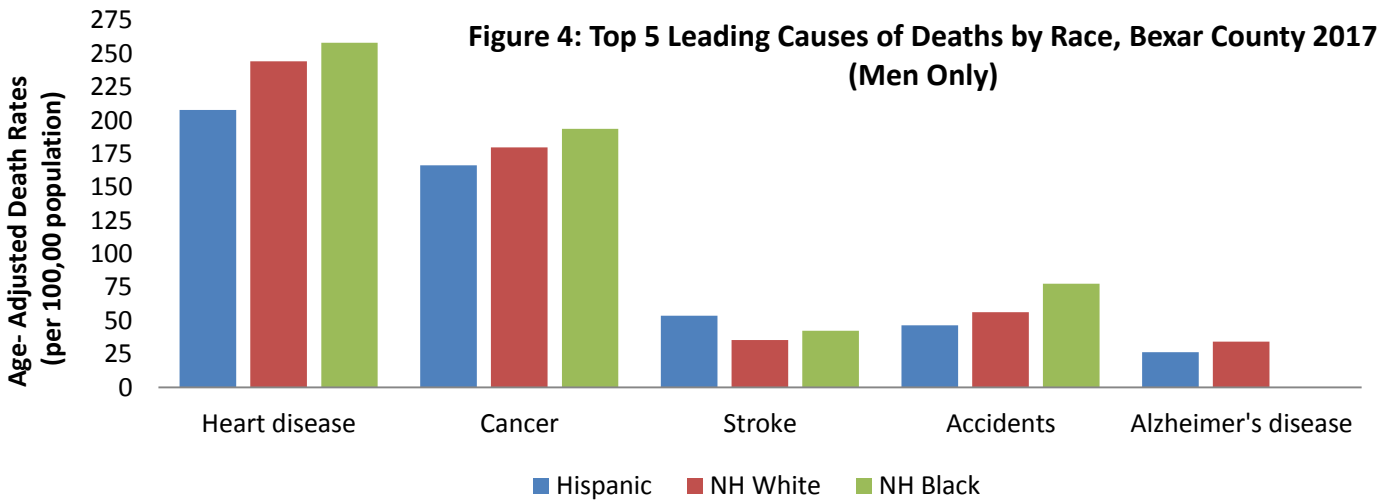
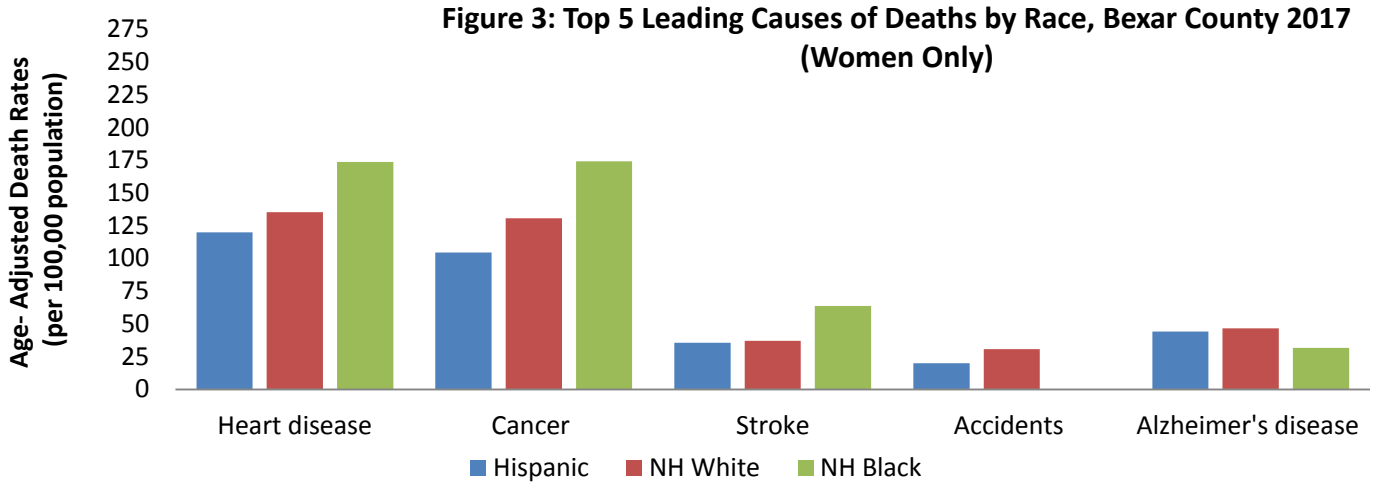
What is the difference between RATES and PERCENTAGES?

Rates A rate is a measure of frequency for a particular outcome in a defined population and a defined time.

For example: "The number of deaths related to heart disease per hundred thousand Bexar County residents in one year is 158.9", or alternatively: "The mortality rate for heart disease in Bexar County is 158.9/100,000 population."

Percentages: A percentage is a proportion that compares a particular part of the population to the whole of the population. For example: "The proportion of Non-Hispanic Blacks that died from heart disease is 24%", or, "24% of deaths that occurred in Non-Hispanic Blacks were due to Heart Disease."

Leading Causes of Deaths Overall in Bexar County by Race



- **Regardless of sex/gender, the NH Black population in Bexar County is leading the mortality rate for both heart disease and cancer.**
- When looking only among women (Figure 3), NH Black women are leading the mortality rate for heart disease, cancer, and stroke.
- Among men (Figure 4), NH Black men are leading the mortality rate for heart disease, cancer, and accidents, but it is Hispanic men that have the highest mortality rate for stroke

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Leading Causes of Death for Each Race (Age-Adjusted Rates)

Rank	NH White n (% , rate*)	NH Black n (% , rate*)	Hispanic n (% , rate*)
1	Heart Disease 1,428 (25%, 183.5)	Heart Disease 254 (24%, 210.0)	Heart Disease 1,369 (22%, 157.4)
2	Cancer 1,158 (20%, 152.6)	Cancer 218 (20%, 178.2)	Cancer 1,187 (19%, 130.3)
3	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease 385 (7%, 49.5)	Stroke 65 (6%, 57.1)	Stroke 372 (6%, 43.5)
4	Accidents 284 (5%, 43.3)	Accidents 68 (6%, 48.4)	Alzheimer's Disease 289 (5%, 37.7)
5	Alzheimer's Disease 310 (5%, 42.3)	Diabetes mellitus 51 (5%, 42.7)	Accidents 338 (5%, 32.4)
6	Stroke 288 (5%, 36.8)	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease 41(4%, 37.7)	Diabetes mellitus 289 (5%, 32.4)
7	Suicide 129 (2%, 21.2)	Septicemia 29 (3%, 23.0)	Chronic Liver Disease 225 (4%, 22.3)
8	Diabetes mellitus 120 (2%, 15.8)	Nephritis 28 (3%, 22.2)	Septicemia 156 (3%, 17.1)
9	Chronic Liver Disease 112 (2%, 15.6)	Kidney Disease 26 (2%, 22.2)	Nephritis 148 (2%, 17.2)
10	Septicemia 94 (2%, 12.4)	Homicide 31 (% , 20.2)	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease 141 (2%, 16.9)

*Rates are per 100,000 population

- For whites, NH Blacks, and Hispanics, the top two leading causes of deaths were heart disease and cancer.
- NH Blacks and Hispanics both shared stroke for their third leading cause of death, while the NH White population's third leading cause of death was chronic lower respiratory disease.
- Suicide was only in the top 10 leading causes of deaths for NH Whites, and kidney disease was only in the top 10 leading causes of deaths for NH Blacks.

Did You Know?

Chronic diseases were responsible for 6 out of every 10 deaths in Bexar County. It is estimated that 1.7 million people die each year in the United States because of chronic diseases. NH Blacks and Hispanics have higher mortality and morbidity rates related to chronic diseases when compared to NH Whites across the nation, predominantly because of racial disparities in health.

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Leading Causes of Death for Each Age-Group

	1 – 14 Yrs. n (% , rate)	15 – 24 Yrs. n (% , rate)	25 – 44 Yrs. n (% , rate)	45 – 64 Yrs. n (% , rate)	65 – 74 Yrs. n (% , rate)	75 – 84 Yrs. n (% , rate)	85 + Yrs. n (% , rate)
1	Accidents 18 (29%, *)	Accidents 68 (35%, 23.7)	Accidents 190 (22%, 33.1)	Cancer 744 (26%, 167.5)	Cancer 681 (27%, 492.0)	Heart Disease 718 (24%, 1,098.4)	Heart Disease 1,021 (28%, 3,633.6)
2	Cancer 13 (21%, *)	Suicide 43 (22%, 15.0)	Cancer 109 (13%, 19.0)	Heart Disease 642 (22%, 144.6)	Heart Disease 616 (24%, 445.0)	Cancer 639 (22%, 977.6)	Alzheimer's disease 425 (12%, 1,512.5)
3		Homicide 37 (19%, 12.9)	Heart Disease 104 (12%, 18.1)	Chronic Liver Disease 205 (7%, 46.2)	Stroke 144 (6%, 104.0)	Stroke 194 (7%, 296.8)	Cancer 423 (12%, 1,505.4)
4		Cancer 10 (5%, *)	Suicide 102 (12%, 17.8)	Accidents 171 (6%, 38.5)	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease 134 (5%, 96.8)	Alzheimer's Disease 190 (6%, 290.7)	Stroke 269 (7%, 957.3)
5			Homicide 82 (10%, 14.3)	Stroke 117 (4%, 26.3)	Diabetes 118 (5%, 85.3)	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease 182 (6%, 278.4)	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease 198 (5%, 704.7)
6			Chronic Liver Disease 25 (3%, 4.4)	Diabetes 107 (4%, 24.1)	Chronic Liver Disease 74 (3%, 53.5)	Diabetes 115 (4%, 175.9)	Accidents 109 (3%, 387.9)
7			Diabetes 24 (3%, 4.2)	Septicemia 88 (3%, 19.8)	Septicemia 69 (3%, 49.8)	Accidents 74 (3%, 113.2)	Diabetes 102 (3%, 363.0)
8			Septicemia 21 (2%, 3.7)	Suicide 84 (3%, 18.9)	Accidents 65 (3%, 47.0)	Parkinson's Disease 66 (2%, 101.0)	Nephritis 79 (2%, 281.1)
9			Stroke 17 (2%, *)	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease 58 (2%, 13.1)	Nephritis 56 (2%, 40.5)	Nephritis 66 (2%, 101.0)	Parkinson's Disease 60 (2%, 213.5)
10			HIV 13 (2%, *)	Nephritis 51 (2%, 11.5)	Alzheimer's Disease 47 (2%, 34.0)	Septicemia 64 (2%, 97.9)	Septicemia 57 (2%, 202.9)

*Rates are per 100,000 population

- For individuals under 44 years of age, accidents remained the leading cause of death, similar to 2016.
- For individuals 45-64, cancer remained the leading cause of death in 2017, but there was a decrease in the mortality rate from 181.7 in 2016 to 167.5 in 2017.
- In all age groups, cancer is in the top 5 leading causes of death.

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Death is a part of the cycle of life. However, dying prematurely should not be part of that cycle. By understanding how mortality affects groups of people differently, the community can proactively take charge of its health, and develop specific programs that will work to reduce mortality rates and health disparities within populations. By decreasing the mortality rates, we are able to improve the quality of life within communities.

Unless stated otherwise, all data for this report was derived from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Underlying Cause of Death 1999 – 2017 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released December, 2018. Accessed at <http://wwwonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html>

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To download mortality data in excel friendly format please click [here](#). Please note all data for Bexar County is able to be compared to Texas.