

Leading Causes of Death in Pierce County

In 2013, the leading causes of death among Pierce County residents were cancer and heart disease, and accounted for nearly half (44%) of all deaths. For the last five years, cancer and heart disease have remained the top two causes of death in Pierce County, Washington State and US.

Gender

Causes of death are fairly consistent across genders however; cancer, heart disease, accidents, diabetes, suicide, influenza & pneumonia, and chronic liver disease & cirrhosis deaths are significantly higher for males.

Age

Injuries (accidents and suicide) were the leading cause of death for younger age groups, whereas chronic conditions (heart disease, cancer, chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD), and stroke) were the leading causes of death for older age groups.

Race

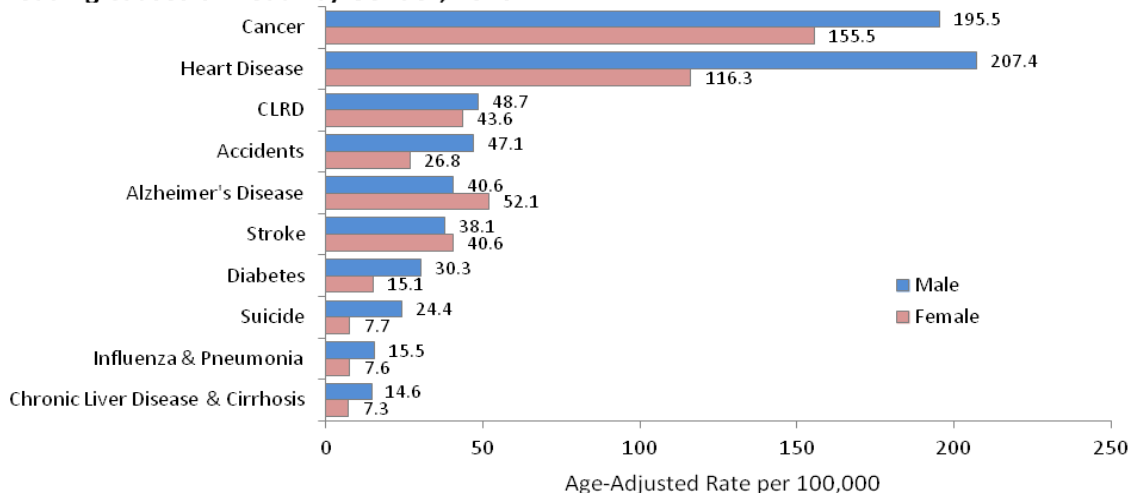
In 2013, heart disease and cancer were the two leading causes of death across all racial and ethnic groups. Deaths from heart disease and diabetes among Blacks far exceeded Whites.

Top 10 Leading Causes of Death, 2013

Rank	Cause of Death	Number of Deaths	Death Rate*
1	Cancer	1,408	172
2	Heart Disease	1,254	156
3	Alzheimer's Disease	365	48
4	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	355	46
5	Stroke	307	40
6	Accidents	296	37
7	Diabetes	177	22
8	Suicide	136	16
9	Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis	97	11
10	Influenza & Pneumonia	88	11
	All Other Causes	1,516	-
	Total	5,999	-

*Deaths per 100,000 persons, age-adjusted to the 2000 Standard population.

Leading Causes of Death by Gender, 2013



Leading Causes of Death by Age Group, 2009-2013

Age Group	#1 Cause	#2 Cause	#3 Cause
Total Deaths in age group Age-specific death Rate	Number of Deaths Age-specific death rate	Number of Deaths Age-specific death rate	Number of Deaths Age-specific death rate
<1 year old 315 563 per 100,000	Perinatal Conditions 150 268 per 100,000	Birth Defects 62 111 per 100,000	Accidents 20 36 per 100,000
1-14 years 106 14 per 100,000	Accidents 21 3 per 100,000	Cancer 19 -	Homicide 12 -
15-24 years 365 65 per 100,000	Accidents 127 23 per 100,000	Suicide 89 16 per 100,000	Cancer 31 6 per 100,000
25-44 years 1,453 131 per 100,000	Accidents 354 32 per 100,000	Suicide 226 20 per 100,000	Cancer 205 18 per 100,000
45-64 years 6,383 600 per 100,000	Cancer 2,022 190 per 100,000	Heart Disease 1,236 116 per 100,000	Accidents 458 43 per 100,000
65+ years 20,212 4419 per 100,000	Heart Disease 4,974 1087 per 100,000	Cancer 4,599 1005 per 100,000	Alzheimer's Disease 1,661 363 per 100,000
Pierce County Total 28,834 757 per 100,000*	Cancer 6,876 177 per 100,000	Heart Disease 6,396 169 per 100,000	CLRD 1,846 50 per 100,000

*Age-adjusted rate

- Rates based on less than 20 deaths may be statistically unreliable and have been suppressed.

Leading Causes of Death by Race/Ethnicity, 2009-2013

Race/ethnicity	#1 Cause	#2 Cause	#3 Cause
Total number of deaths Age-adjusted Death Rate	Number of Deaths Age-adjusted death rate	Number of Deaths Age-adjusted death rate	Number of Deaths Age-adjusted death rate
White 24,812 769 per 100,000	Cancer 5,866 179 per 100,000	Heart Disease 5,590 172 per 100,000	CLRD 1,689 53 per 100,000
Black 1,604 872 per 100,000	Cancer 385 213 per 100,000	Heart Disease 356 198 per 100,000	Diabetes 89 53 per 100,000
Asian / Pacific Islander 1,413 548 per 100,000	Cancer 422 155 per 100,000	Heart Disease 270 110 per 100,000	Stroke 114 46 per 100,000
Hispanic 600 500 per 100,000	Cancer 120 105 per 100,000	Heart Disease 114 127 per 100,000	Accidents 65 35 per 100,000
American Indian/Alaskan Native 369 1,239 per 100,000	Cancer 78 277 per 100,000	Heart Disease 61 228 per 100,000	Accidents 39 89 per 100,000
Pierce County Total 28,834 757 per 100,000	Cancer 6,876 177 per 100,000	Heart Disease 6,396 169 per 100,000	CLRD 1,846 50 per 100,000

Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificate Data, 2009-2013.

Leading causes of death by age and by race/ethnicity were analyzed by combining 5 years of data to obtain an average in order to overcome unstable and unreliable estimates due to small numbers.

Causes of death were defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).