

## Leading Causes of Death Among Asian Americans in the United States, 2023

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This report presents the leading 10 causes of death among Asian Americans by age group in 2023, and compares the patterns with all races in the U.S. The underlying mortality data were collected by the National Center for Health Statistics from death certificates.

As shown in Table 1, the leading 3 causes of death for Asian Americans in the U.S. were cancer (malignant neoplasms), heart disease, and cerebrovascular diseases, contributing 20279, 17676, and 6288 deaths in 2023, respectively. Other major causes of death included accidents (unintentional injuries), diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, kidney disease, influenza and pneumonia, hypertension, and chronic lower respiratory diseases. By age groups, accidents (unintentional injuries) were the most common cause of death for Asian Americans aged 1-15 years and 25-34 years, while it was suicide for age group 15-24 years; cancer was the leading cause of death for 35-84 age groups, and heart disease for 85 years and older. The leading causes of death for infants (age <1 year) differed greatly from other age groups because of vulnerability to newborn/infant diseases.

The overall pattern of leading causes of death among Asian Americans were similar to that among the general U.S. population of all races (Table 2), with both having cancer and heart disease as the 2 most common causes of death, and sharing most of other major causes, although the ranks were different for some causes. There were also variations in ranks of causes by age group. For example, Accidents were the top cause of death for the general U.S. population ages 1-44 years, cancer for age groups 45-84 years, and heart disease for 85 years and older. Assault (homicide), a common cause of death for younger adults, and liver disease, a common cause of death for middle-aged adults, ranked higher in the general US population than in Asian Americans. In contrast, cerebrovascular diseases, diabetes and hypertension, common causes of death for middle-aged and older adults, ranked higher in Asian Americans than in the U.S. general population.

The pattern of leading causes of death among Asian Americans, along with its similarities and differences compared to the general U.S. population, can inform targeted public health efforts.

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**Table 1. Leading causes of death among Asian Americans in the U.S., 2023**

Age (yrs)	<1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	Total
1	Congenital Anomalies 124	Accidents26	Accidents45	Suicide295	Accidents529	Cancer555	Cancer1663	Cancer3310	Cancer5414	Cancer5478	Heart Disease7194	Cancer20279
2	Short Gestation 110	Congenital Anomalies 22	Cancer42	Accidents268	Suicide276	Accidents550	Heart Disease802	Heart Disease1611	Heart Disease3027	Heart Disease4562	Cancer3576	Heart Disease17676
3	Maternal Pregnancy Complications41	Cancer13	Congenital Anomalies18	Cancer71	Cancer154	Heart Disease339	Accidents453	Cerebrovascular diseases507	Cerebrovascular diseases952	Cerebrovascular diseases1707	Cerebrovascular diseases2675	Cerebrovascular diseases6288
4	Placenta, cord, and membranes complications32		Suicide16	Assault42	Heart disease94	Suicide254	Cerebrovascular diseases 254	Accidents437	Diabetes821	Diabetes1162	Alzheimer's disease2518	Accidents4344
5	Bacterial Sepsis22		Assault15	Heart Disease23	Assault60	Cerebrovascular diseases139	Suicide200	Diabetes436	Accidents530	Alzheimer's disease733	Diabetes1075	Diabetes3754
6	Sudden infant death syndrome20		Heart Disease11	Congenital Anomalies19	Cerebrovascular diseases40	Liver Disease128	Diabetes165	Suicide177	Kidney disease374	Accidents711	Hypertension914	Alzheimer's disease3409
7	Respiratory distress19				Liver disease23	Diabetes75	Liver disease162	Liver disease168	Influenza and pneumonia 307	Kidney disease608	Chronic lower respiratory diseases859	Kidney disease1971
8	Intrauterine hypoxia and birth hypoxia15				Congenital Anomalies23	Assault69	Kidney disease71	Kidney disease156	Hypertension270	Chronic lower respiratory diseases592	Influenza and pneumonia 856	Influenza and pneumonia 1930
9	Accidents15				Pregnancy and childbirth and puerperium 17	Kidney disease28	Hypertension68	Hypertension135	Chronic lower respiratory diseases268	Influenza and pneumonia 561	COVID-19 798	Hypertension1914
10	Neonatal hemorrhage13				Diabetes15	Septicemia 25	Septicemia 56	Septicemia 116	COVID-19247	Hypertension504	Accidents779	Chronic lower respiratory diseases1843

Death data for resident US population in 50 states and District of Columbia are from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Mortality 2018-2023 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2024. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10-expanded.html>  
Underlying causes of deaths were coded using ICD-10 113 for adults and ICD-10 130 for infants.  
Data not shown when deaths <10.



**Table 2. Leading causes of death among all races in the U.S., 2023**

Age (yrs)	<1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	Total
1	Congenital Anomalies 4005	Accidents 1275	Accidents 1598	Accidents 14126	Accidents 30163	Accidents 36159	Cancer 32867	Cancer 101714	Cancer 180690	Cancer 177816	Heart disease 243271	Heart disease 680981
2	Short Gestation 2922	Congenital Anomalies 426	Cancer 850	Suicide 5936	Suicide 8453	Heart Disease 11528	Accidents 30559	Heart disease 79726	Heart disease 135016	Heart disease 176126	Cancer 102839	Cancer 613352
3	Sudden infant death syndrome 1445	Assault 275	Assault 525	Assault 5745	Assault 5828	Cancer 11291	Heart disease 30430	Accidents 33710	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 38548	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 50426	Alzheimer's disease 68255	Accidents 222698
4	Accidents 1291	Cancer 269	Suicide 487	Cancer 1463	Cancer 3503	Suicide 8533	Liver disease 8866	Diabetes 15958	Cerebrovascular diseases 27668	Cerebrovascular diseases 46825	Cerebrovascular diseases 66320	Cerebrovascular diseases 162639
5	Maternal Pregnancy Complications 1141	Influenza and pneumonia 142	Congenital Anomalies 402	Heart disease 835	Heart disease 3474	Liver disease 5013	Suicide 7653	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 15748	Diabetes 25489	Alzheimer's disease 35402	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 36629	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 145357
6	Bacterial sepsis 621	Heart disease 131	Heart disease 173	Congenital Anomalies 443	Liver disease 1626	Assault 4487	Diabetes 6653	Liver disease 14764	Accidents 23882	Diabetes 25606	Accidents 27037	Alzheimer's disease 114034
7	Placenta, cord, and membranes complications 569	Septicemia 68	Influenza and pneumonia 115	Diabetes 259	Diabetes 1110	Diabetes 2604	Cerebrovascular diseases 5364	Cerebrovascular diseases 13425	Liver disease 13009	Accidents 22885	COVID-19 19786	Diabetes 95190
8	Respiratory distress 449	Conditions from the perinatal period 54	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 104	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 219	Cerebrovascular diseases 579	Cerebrovascular diseases 2057	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 2641	Suicide 7816	Kidney disease 12265	Parkinson disease 18104	Diabetes 17455	Kidney disease 55253
9	Intrauterine hypoxia and birth hypoxia 365	Cerebrovascular diseases 53	Cerebrovascular diseases 103	Cerebrovascular diseases 162	Pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium 522	Septicemia 987	Assault 2571	Kidney disease 6196	Septicemia 10333	Kidney disease 16505	Kidney disease 16430	Liver disease 52222
10	Circulatory system diseases 356	COVID-19 44	Septicemia 86	Influenza and pneumonia 157	Influenza and pneumonia 458	Influenza and pneumonia 967	Kidney disease 2442	Septicemia 5665	Influenza and pneumonia 9005	COVID-19 15417	Hypertension 16116	COVID-19 49932

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<http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10-expanded.html>

Underlying causes of deaths were coded using ICD-10 113 for adults and ICD-10 130 for infants.