

SURVEY NAME	Mortality Component of National Vital Statistics System (NVSS)
SPONSOR	Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
MODE OF ADMINISTRATION	Administrative records (death certificates) completed by physicians, coroners, medical examiners, and funeral directors are filed with State vital statistics offices; selected statistical information is forwarded to NCHS to be merged into a national statistical file. Beginning with 1989, revised standard certificates replaced the 1978 versions. Demographic information on the death certificate is provided by the funeral director based on information supplied by an informant. Medical certification of cause of death is provided by a physician, medical examiner, or coroner.
SURVEY SAMPLE DESIGN	NVSS mortality data include data for 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. All deaths are included (approximately 2.2 - 2.3 million annually).
RESPONSE RATES	N/A
PRIMARY SURVEY CONTENT	Data year, place of decedent's residence, place death occurred, age at death, day of week and month of death, Hispanic origin, race, marital status, injury at work, hospital and patient status, place of birth, sex, underlying and multiple causes of death for all States, and educational attainment and industry and occupation for selected States.
POPULATION TARGETED	The entire U.S. population
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA	Sex, race, age at death, place of decedent's residence, place death occurred, Hispanic origin (beginning in 1984), injury at work (beginning in 1993), marital status, hospital and patient status, educational attainment (beginning in 1989) for selected States, industry and occupation for selected States. Race and ethnic origin are separate items on the death certificate. Beginning with 1992 data, California, Hawaii, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Texas, and Washington reported expanded Asian and Pacific Islander categories of Asian Indian, Korean, Vietnamese, Samoan, and Guamanian. The rest of the States reported a combined Other Asian and Pacific Islander category in addition to the categories of white, black, American Indian, Chinese, Hawaiian, Japanese, and Filipino that all States report. As of 1997, all States report Hispanic origin. The categories reported include Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, and Other Hispanic.
YEARS COLLECTED	The data system began in 1900 but not all States participated before 1933. Coverage for deaths has been complete since 1933. The current U.S. Standard Death Certificate was last modified in 1989.
SCHEDULE	Annual calendar year data. Data collected continually with cut-off date for receipt at NCHS in April of the following year for preliminary data and in September of the following year for final data.
GEOGRAPHIC ESTIMATES POSSIBLE	National; regional; State; county. Beginning with 1989 data, some changes were initiated to increase confidentiality protection. Identifying information including date of death and geographic identifiers for counties of less than 100,000 persons are not available for public use.
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