

2016 Leading Causes of Death (LCOD), Santa Barbara County



The **age-adjusted death rate** is a rate that would have existed if the Santa Barbara County population had the same age distribution as the “standard” US population (as determined by the US Census Bureau). The rates are adjusted for differences in age distributions seen in Santa Barbara County to allow for comparisons with other counties and regions across the US. By calculating and adjusting for differences in age distributions in different locations, death rates are comparable.

[2016 Santa Barbara County population estimates](#) per the California Department of Finance demographics unit are used to calculate the age-adjusted death rates.

- The Santa Barbara County population estimates between 2015 and 2016 increased about 10,000 (439,082 to 448,353)
- Below when death rates are mentioned, assume age-adjusted death rates.

LCOD – Total County population

- The LCODs in 2016 were similar to 2015.
 - Top 3 LCODs were:
 1. Cancer
 2. Heart disease
 3. Alzheimer’s disease
- Overall the death rate for the County has stayed consistent at 540.2 deaths per 100,000 population, but the death rates for the top 7 causes of death have increased.
- Santa Barbara County was well below the mortality rates of those causes of death that have Healthy People 2020 objectives.

LCOD by sex

- Female to male population in Santa Barbara County is approximately 50-50, but more female deaths occurred in 2016.
- Once age-adjustment rates were calculated, the death rate in women substantially lowered (474.2 vs 619.8 per 100,000 population).
- Deaths occur in the older population and more of the older County population is female.
- The top 2 leading causes of death were the same in both sexes.
- Chronic diseases that have a significant impact on older populations were seen higher ranked in the female population due to the aging of the population.

LCOD by ethnicity

- Comparing LCOD in non-Hispanic White (NHW) and Hispanic (H) populations (non-Hispanic white: 202,484; Hispanic: 204,310), there was a significantly lower death rate in the Hispanic population.
- Almost 40% of the NHW population was over 55 while less than 15% of the H population was over 55. Due to these differences in the population ages, the death rates for many of the CODs were much lower in the Hispanic population.
- *Diabetes* had a significant impact on Hispanics (31.1 per 100,000 population) than the NHWs (11.1 per 100,000 population).
- The death rates for cancer, cerebrovascular disease and digestive diseases were about equal between the 2 populations.