

2017 Santa Barbara County Mortality Supplemental Documentation

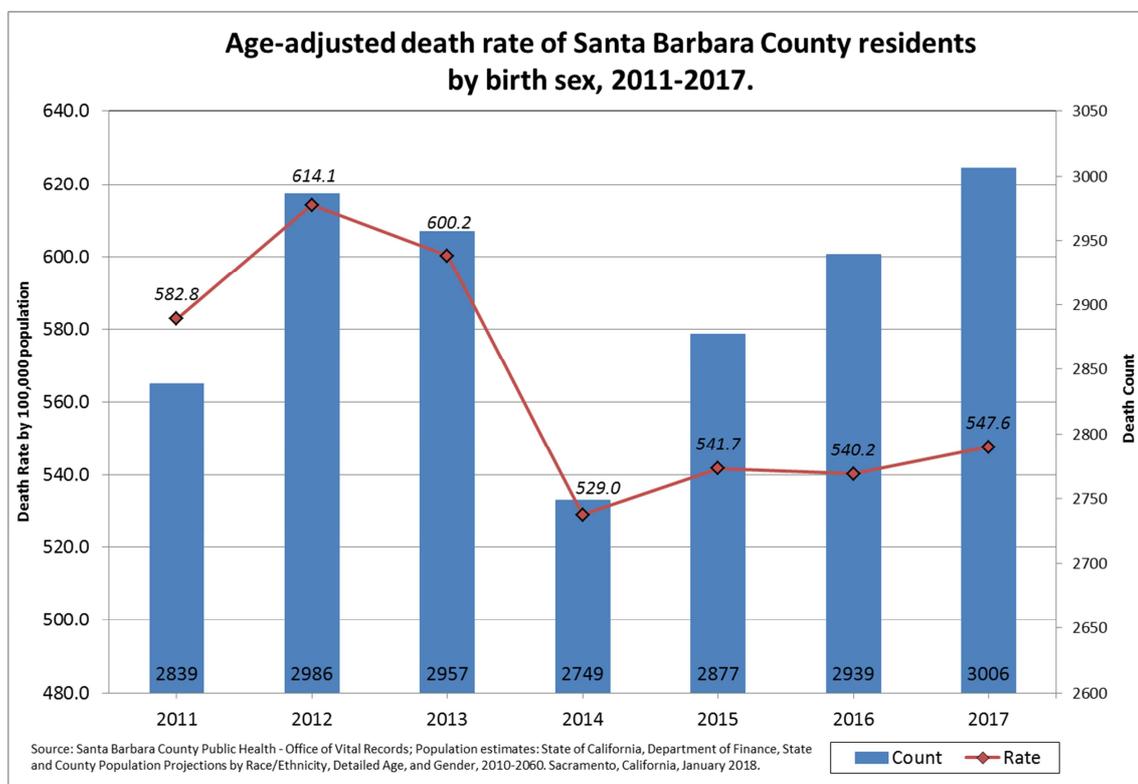
The 2017 Leading Causes of Death tables are available on the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department website (<https://countyofsb.org/phd/epidemiology/data.sbc>). Refer to those tables while reviewing the supplemental documentation below.

Crude death rate is used to describe the frequency of a particular death event across the total population without regard to age or sex and a good measure of the overall magnitude of mortality in a population.

Age-adjusted death rate is a death rate that controls for the effects of differences in the population age distributions. It weights the crude death rate observed in an age group in Santa Barbara County by the proportion of each age group in the 2000 U.S. standard population published by the National Center for Health Statistics. Some conditions are more common among younger people, while others are more common among older people. This allows for comparing across geographic areas and controls the influence that different population age distributions might have on health event rates.

Data Highlights

- In 2017, there were 3,006 deaths of Santa Barbara County residents. The death rate was 548 deaths per 100,000 population (chart 1). Compared to 2016, the number of deaths increased by 2.3% and the overall death rate increased by 1.4%.



- The number of deaths among men and women were nearly equal, 1491 and 1515, respectively. The overall death rate was higher for men than for women: 642 vs 470 per 100,000 population.
- Overall, mean (average) age at death was 77 years of age for county residents. Men died at a younger age than women, with a mean age at death of 74 for men and 81 for women.
- By race/ethnicity, the lowest death rate was amongst Hispanics (463 deaths per 100,000 population) vs Non-Hispanic whites (601 deaths per 100,000 population).
- In 2017, on an average day, 8 people died in the county. Six of those 8 deaths (79.5%) occurred among adults 65 or older.
- One in every four deaths in 2017 was caused by heart disease (753 deaths).
- There were 634 deaths from all types of cancer combined. Of these, lung cancer was the most common (113) followed by breast (67), pancreatic (48), and colorectal (43).
- Together, all types of cancer (634 deaths) and all types of heart disease (753 deaths) were the underlying cause in almost half (46%) of all the deaths of Santa Barbara County residents.
- Diabetes remained an important cause of death (73 deaths) for both men and women, as well as for all race/ethnic groups. The diabetes-specific death rates were higher for Hispanics, and higher for men than for women.
- Alzheimer's disease was the third-leading cause of death for women (152 deaths), but only the sixth-leading cause of death for men (63 deaths).
- Death rates were higher for men than for women for every leading cause of death, except for Alzheimer's disease, cerebrovascular disease and digestive system diseases.