

Leading Causes

LEADING CAUSES OF HOSPITALIZATION

“Leading causes of hospitalization” reflects how many people were hospitalized due to a disease or condition. It can be used as an indicator for morbidity, which refers to how many people are affected by a disease or condition. In DeKalb County, from 2002 to 2007, the leading cause of hospitalization was pregnancy and childbirth complications (Table 9 and Figure 3). These complications were to the mother and associated with pregnancy, childbirth and the time period surrounding these.

Other leading causes of hospitalization include cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.

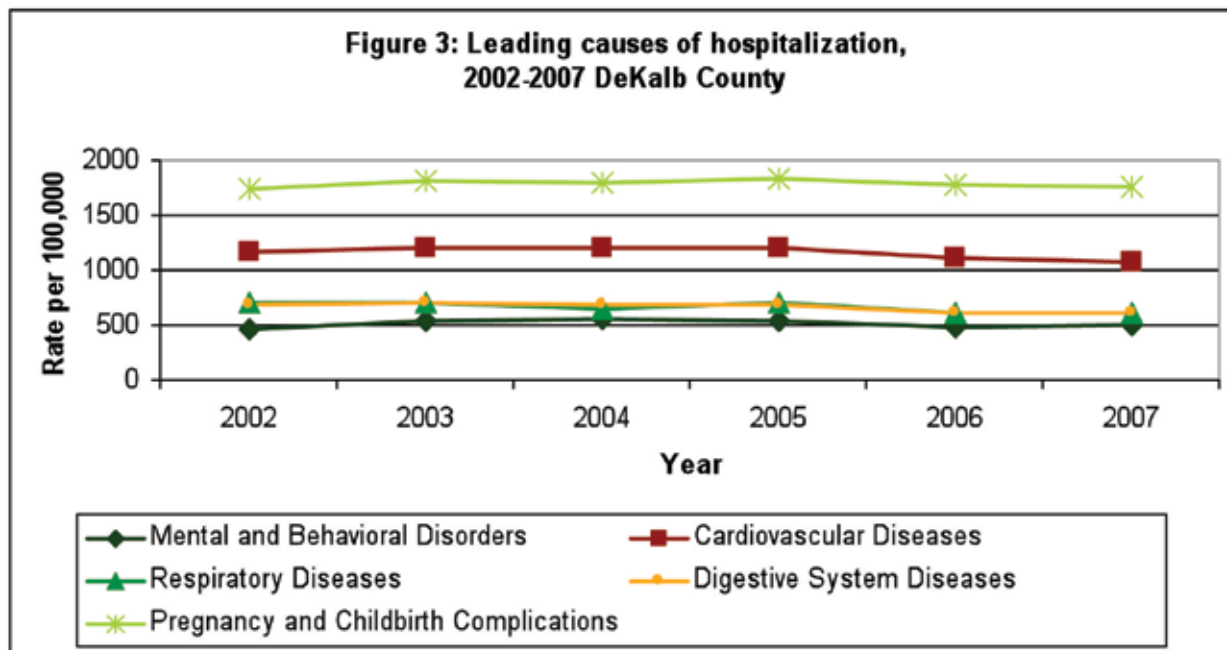
- Among residents with cardiovascular diseases, 30 percent suffered from heart disease and 15 percent from stroke.
- Flu and pneumonia were responsible for 35 percent of respiratory diseases and asthma was responsible for 19 percent.

From 2002 to 2007, there was a six percent increase in the rate of hospitalizations due to mental and behavioral disorders (Figure 3). Mental and behavioral disorders are disorders which may be developmental or brought on by external factors, such as drug overdoses.

Cause	Number of Hospitalizations	Average Hospitalization Rate (per 100,000)
1.Pregnancy and Childbirth Complications	74,479	1,787.9
2.Cardiovascular Diseases	48,180	1,156.6
Heart disease (incl. heart attack)	14,231	341.6
Stroke	7,449	178.8
3.Digestive System Diseases	27,500	660.2
4.Respiratory Diseases	27,488	659.9
Flu and pneumonia	9,490	227.8
Asthma	5,350	128.4
5.Mental and Behavioral Disorders	21,235	509.8

Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS), Georgia Department of Community Health, Division of Public Health.





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LEADING CAUSES OF MORTALITY

Mortality is another way to say death. A cause of death is defined by the World Health Organization as the underlying disease or injury that initiated a series of events leading directly to death.

Premature Death

A premature death is defined as when a person dies before the age of 75. Premature death is described using Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL). Refer to the Methodology section for more specifics.

The causes of premature death are not always the same as the causes of death to persons of all ages.

- Between 2002 and 2007 in DeKalb County 54 percent of all deaths occurred among persons under the age of 75.

Injuries, which include intentional (e.g., homicide) and unintentional (e.g., motor vehicle crash) injuries, were the leading cause of premature death in DeKalb County between 2002 and 2007 (Table 10 and Figure 4).

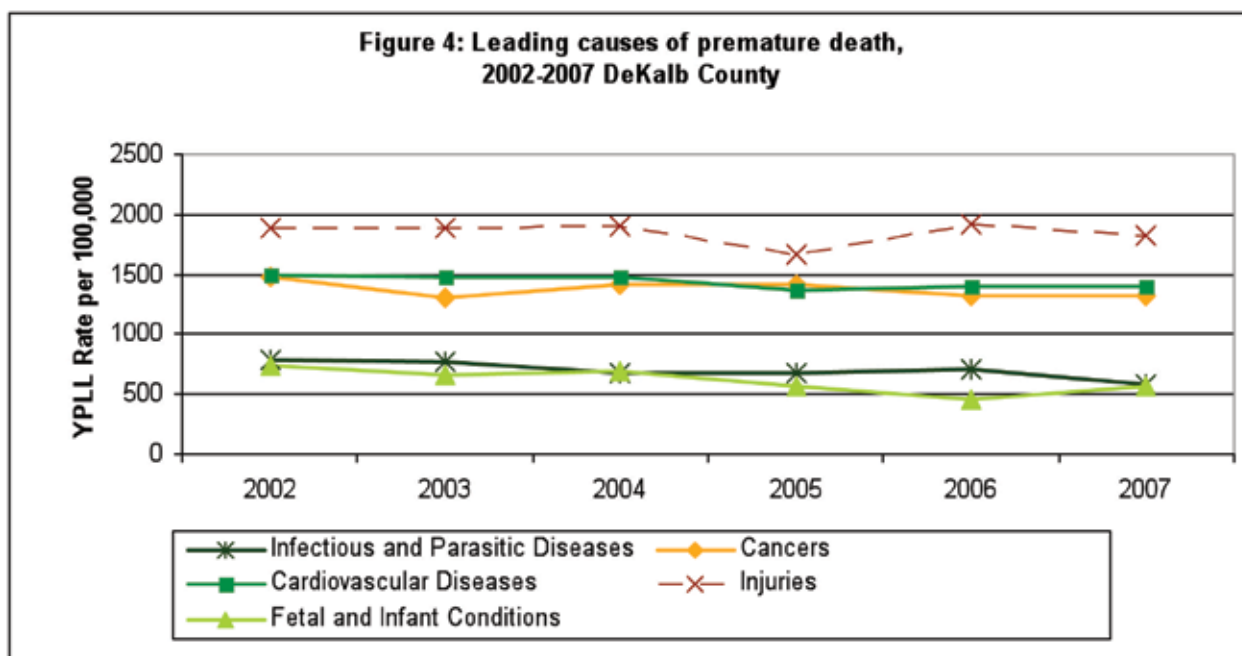
- Injuries were responsible for 24 percent of all YPLL between 2002 and 2007.

Cardiovascular diseases were the second leading cause of premature death, responsible for 18 percent of all YPLL. Cancers were also responsible for 18 percent and infectious and parasitic diseases were found to cause 9 percent of all YPLL. Fetal and infant conditions rounded out the top five causes of premature deaths at 8 percent of all YPLL.

Table 10: Leading causes of premature death, 2002-2007 DeKalb County		
Cause	YPLL	Average YPLL Rate (per 100,000)
1. Injuries	74,197	1849.8
Homicide	25,408	633.4
Motor vehicle crashes	19,545	485
2. Cardiovascular Diseases	57,424	1431.7
Heart disease (incl. heart attack)	17,423	434.4
Stroke	10,140	252.8
3. Cancers	55,157	1375.1
Lung	11,849	295.4
Breast	8,315	207.3
4. Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	28,095	700.4
HIV/AIDS	19,643	489.7
5. Fetal and Infant Conditions*	24,334	606.7
Prematurity	10,647	265.4

Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS), Georgia Department of Community Health, Division of Public Health.

*NOTE: Fetal and infant deaths occur before the age of 1 year and therefore each death contributes 74 years of potential life lost. When analyzed for all ages, fetal and infant conditions are not a leading cause of death (there were 327 deaths related to fetal and infant conditions between 2002 and 2007).



Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS), Georgia Department of Community Health, Division of Public Health.

Death

The leading causes of death reflect mortality trends among DeKalb County residents of all ages. Table 11 shows the top five leading causes of death between 2002 and 2007.

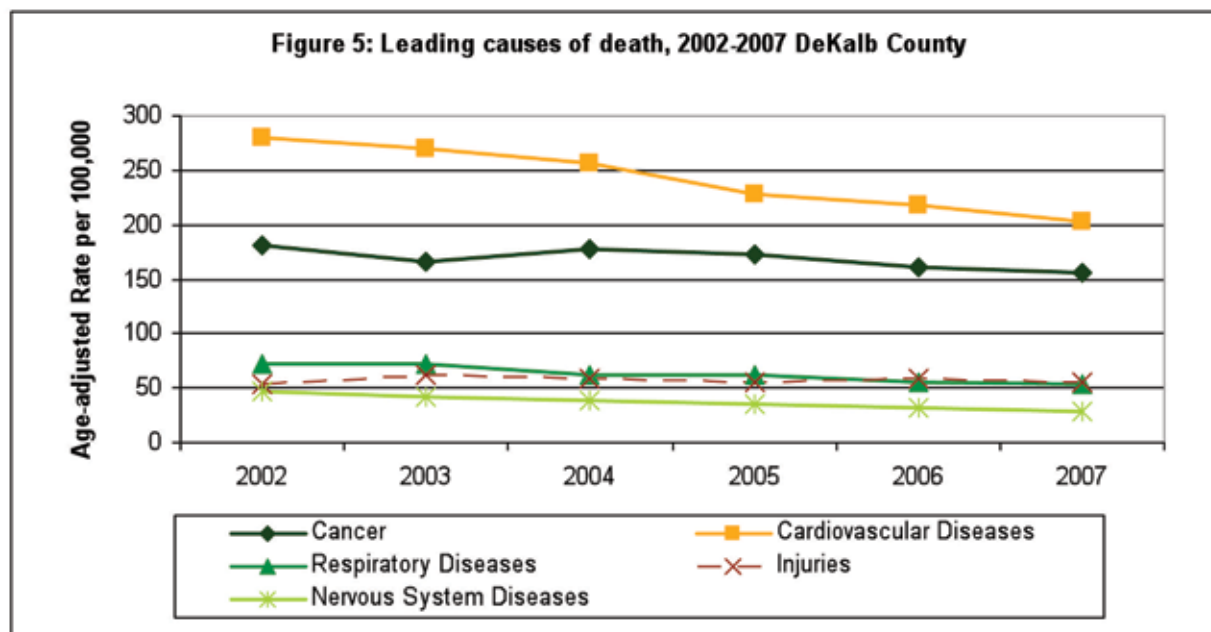
Between 2002 and 2007:

- Cardiovascular diseases were responsible for 30 percent of deaths.
- Cancers were responsible for 22 percent of deaths.
- Respiratory diseases were responsible for 7 percent of deaths.
- Injuries were responsible for 9 percent of deaths.
- Nervous system diseases were responsible for 4 percent of deaths.

Cause	Number of Deaths	Average Age-Adjusted Death Rate (per 100,000)
1. Cardiovascular Diseases	7,311	241.2
Heart disease (incl. heart attack)	2,460	81.8
Stroke	1,417	47.5
2. Cancers	5,308	168.2
Lung	1,357	43.9
Breast	571	16.6
Colon	545	17.1
3. Respiratory Diseases	1,796	62.1
Flu and pneumonia	495	17.1
4. Injuries	2,254	57.3
Homicide	579	13.1
Motor vehicle crashes	513	12.4
5. Nervous System Diseases	1,064	36.9
Alzheimer's disease	575	21.3

Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS), Georgia Department of Community Health, Division of Public Health.

Between 2002 and 2007 there was a 27 percent decrease in cardiovascular disease rates (Figure 5). There was also a 39 percent decrease in nervous system disease rates, which includes Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.



Source: Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS), Georgia Department of Community Health, Division of Public Health.