The Health of Tennessee’s Men 2011 examines some of the factors that affect the health status of Tennessee’s male population. Risk factors such as no physical activity, obesity, no access to healthcare, smoking, having diabetes, not controlling blood pressure, and not having blood cholesterol monitored can precipitate premature loss of quality of life and early mortality.

Mortality trends along with behavioral risk data are included in this report. The challenge facing men as individuals is to modify their lifestyles to maintain good health and prevent diseases. Health education, preventive screening, and early detection are important factors to reduce mortality risk from diseases such as cancer, cerebrovascular, and heart disease.

In 2011, the ten-year age group 40-49 contained Tennessee’s greatest number of males (439,775). This age group accounted for 14.1 percent of Tennessee’s total male population (3,120,803). The percentage of males under 10 years of age was 13.3, while 7.8 percent of males were aged 70 and older. It should be noted that Tennessee’s black male population was greatest for the ten-year age group 10-19 years, while the white male population was greatest for the age group 40-49 years. The percent of the total black male population that was aged 70 and older was 4.1 percent, while the percent of the total white males 70 years and older was 8.7 percent in 2011.
Leading Causes of Male Deaths (ICD-10 Codes), By Race, with Percentage of Deaths, Resident Data, Tennessee, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Deaths</td>
<td>30,285</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>25,975</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>4,158</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Diseases of heart (I00-I09, I11, I13, I20-I51)</td>
<td>7,381</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>6,356</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>993</td>
<td>23.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Malignant neoplasms (C00-C97)</td>
<td>7,300</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>6,233</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>1,030</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Accidents (V01-X59, Y85-Y86)</td>
<td>2,077</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>1,815</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Chronic lower respiratory diseases (J40-J47)</td>
<td>1,743</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>1,641</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Cerebrovascular diseases (I60-I69)</td>
<td>1,299</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>1,058</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Diabetes mellitus (E10-E14)</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>706</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Alzheimer’s disease (G30)</td>
<td>735</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Intentional self-harm (X60-X84, Y87.0)</td>
<td>733</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>692</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Influenza and pneumonia (J10-J18)</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>611</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis (K70, K73-K74)</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Leading Causes of Death for Tennessee Males

In 2011, diseases of heart and malignant neoplasms accounted for 48.5 percent of all deaths to Tennessee’s males. While diseases of heart was the leading cause of death for white males, malignant neoplasms was the leading cause for black males. Accidents ranked third accounting for 6.9 percent of the total male deaths. Chronic lower respiratory diseases accounted for 5.8 percent of all male deaths, while cerebrovascular diseases accounted for 4.3 percent. Lifestyle changes are seen as one of the best indicators toward improving the health of the male population. Not smoking, improved physical exercise, a better diet, and safety belt usage could increase quality of life and longevity.

Male Heart Disease Death Rates By Race Resident Data, Tennessee, 2002-2011

Male Selected Causes of Death for Malignant Neoplasms, with Rates Per 100,000 Population, Resident Data, Tennessee, 2011

Heart disease, the leading cause of all deaths in Tennessee, has generally declined in recent years. There were 7,381 deaths to Tennessee males from diseases of heart in 2011. From 2002 to 2011, the crude death rate for white males declined 11.7 percent and for black males decreased 23.6 percent. The 2011 rate for black males (194.5) was the lowest for the 10-year period.

There were 7,300 malignant neoplasms (cancer) deaths for males in 2011. Of these deaths, malignant neoplasms of the trachea, bronchus, and lung had the highest crude rate at 81.6 per 100,000 males. Colon, rectum and anus cancer had a rate of 20.7, while prostate cancer was 18.4 per 100,000 male population. The male crude rate for cancer of the pancreas was 12.7 and Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma had a rate of 7.8 in 2011.
Percent of Male Respondents Who Reported Current Smoking By Race, Tennessee, 2011

Behavioral Risk Factors that Affect Tennessee Men’s Health

Beginning in 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) made two important changes in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey. First, they adopted a new statistical method for weighting data (i.e. raking) and second, they began incorporating cell phone users for the first time (cell phones were added to the Tennessee BRFSS in August 2011). These improvements were necessary to ensure that the survey data continue to represent the population in each state and to maintain an accurate picture of behaviors and chronic health conditions in the U.S.

As a result of these changes, 2011 BRFSS results cannot be compared to those from earlier years – any shifts in estimates from previous years to 2011 estimates may be the result of the new method and not a true change in behaviors.

A more detailed explanation of the changes described above can be found in the following Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report from the CDC: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm6122.pdf

Smoking data for males was collected from the 2011 Tennessee Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. In 2011, Hispanic or non-white males reported a higher smoking percentage of 27.8, than the percent for non-Hispanic white males of 24.0. Smoking is an extreme risk behavior and can contribute to other health problems including malignant neoplasms of the trachea, bronchus and lung, heart disease, and cerebrovascular diseases.

Many health concerns can be directly attributed to obesity. The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System indicated that in 2011 there continued to be a high percentage in the at risk male population for being overweight or obese. This trend could be a risk factor for other health concerns such as hypertension, cerebrovascular diseases, heart disease, diabetes and other chronic respiratory diseases. Results of the 2011 surveillance showed that 74.1 percent of non-Hispanic white males reported overweight/obese and 69.4 percent of Hispanic or non-white males were in that category with a total percentage of 73.1 for overweight/obese.

Percent of Male Respondents Who Reported Overweight/Obesity*, By Race, Tennessee, 2011

*Includes all respondents to weight and height questions that have a computed body mass index greater than or equal to 25.0.

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System collected the percent of male respondents who reported in 2011 no physical activity within the past 30 days. For both population groups non-Hispanic white males and Hispanic or non-white males over 30 percent reported no physical activity. In 2011, the percentage of all Tennessee male respondents reporting no physical activity was 32.9. Lack of exercise has been linked to obesity, high cholesterol, depression, high blood pressure and coronary heart disease.


In 2011, Tennessee’s at-risk male population for high blood pressure was reported at 39.6 percent, according to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. The percent of non-Hispanic white males reporting high blood pressure was 39.9 while 38.6 percent of Hispanic or non-white males reported having high blood pressure. The modifiable risk factors for heart disease and cerebrovascular diseases are high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol and smoking.


The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System shows the percent of Tennessee’s male population, who reported ever having their blood cholesterol checked was 79.8 in 2011. Non-Hispanic white males reported 80.0 percent, and Hispanic or non-white males reported 78.9 percent for ever having their blood cholesterol checked.

In 2011, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System collected alcohol consumption data from Tennessee males. According to the BRFSS, 4.3 percent of male respondents reported (chronic or heavy drinking) having more than two drinks per day. For non-Hispanic white males the percentage was 4.0, and for Hispanic or non-white males 5.2 percent reported chronic or heavy drinking.

*Male respondents reporting having more than two drinks per day.

The 2011 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System showed that 15.1 percent of all male respondents reported they drank in the past 30 days and had five or more drinks on one or more occasion in the past month. The percent for non-Hispanic white males was 15.3, while Hispanic or non-white males reported 14.6 percent.

*Male respondents reporting having five or more drinks on one occasion.

In 2011, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System indicated 11.0 percent of non-Hispanic white males and 11.2 percent of Hispanic or non-white males reported diabetes. For Tennessee males, diabetes was the 6th leading cause of death in 2011. Diabetes has been associated with end-stage renal disease, blindness, and lower extremity amputation.

*Doctor diagnosed diabetes.
The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a state-based computer-assisted telephone interviewing effort conducted in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Since 1984, adults have been surveyed every month in randomly selected households throughout the state. Questions are constructed to determine the behaviors of individuals that will affect their risk of developing chronic diseases that may lead to premature mortality and morbidity. Beginning in 1999, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) redefined its demographic classification scheme to include the ethnicity factor of Hispanic or non-Hispanic origin in its data collection and presentations. Thus where Tennessee Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data were previously analyzed and presented according to the broad categories of white, black, and other races groups, current BRFSS data are now presented using the categories of non-Hispanic white and Hispanic or nonwhite. Since the Hispanic population in Tennessee is relatively small in comparison to the total population this new classification scheme is basically a change in terminology and does not significantly differ from the previous classification used. However, the population and vital statistics data presented in this report still follows a racial classification scheme of white, black and other races.

Please note that there are technically two different racial definitions employed in this report depending upon the source of the data. This difference should be very minimal in the context of the report.

NOTE: The population estimates for Tennessee used to calculate the rates in this report for 2002 - 2009 were based on figures prepared from the 2000 Census in February 2008 by the Office of Health Statistics. The population estimates for 2010 were based on the 2010 Census data. Population estimates for 2011 were interpolated from the Census five-year age cohort estimates (CC-EST2011-ALLDATA-[ST-FIPS] May 2012) by the Office of Health Statistics in October 2012. These population figures may result in rates that differ from those published in previous time periods.

Death certificates filed with the Office of Vital Records supplied the death data for this report.

*Do NOT compare 2011 BRFSS data to previous years. Due to changes in methods, comparisons are NOT valid and may be misleading.

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Please visit the Office of Health Statistics pages on the Tennessee Department of Health website at: health.state.tn.us

The mission of the Department of Health is to protect, promote and improve the health and prosperity of people in Tennessee.

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