

Erie County Leading Causes of Death, 2011-2013

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*Erie County Leading Causes of Death, 2011-2013*

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*“Our mission is to preserve, promote, and protect  
the health, safety, and well-being of the people and the environment of Erie County.”*

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Note: The primary sources of data and information for this report are the Erie County Department of Health, the Bureau of Health Statistics and Research at the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the United States Census Bureau. Federal and state sources are not responsible for any of the analyses, interpretations, or conclusions herein.

## Erie County Resident Deaths

A total of 8,474 Erie County residents died during the period 2011 to 2013, for a corresponding crude death rate of 10.1 deaths per 1,000 population (Table 1). Overall, 4,196 (49.5%) deaths were to males and 4,278 (50.5%) were to females. The crude death rates for males and females were 10.1 and 10.0 deaths per 1,000, respectively.

Although only 8.4% of all resident deaths occurred in persons under the age of 50 years, nearly half (49.8%) occurred in those 80 years and older. Of the 66 total infant deaths, 47 (71.2%) occurred during the neonatal period (first 27 days of life). Males accounted for 69.7% of all infant deaths.

With respect to race and ethnicity, 7,980 (94.2%) deaths were to Whites, 376 (4.4%) were to Blacks, and 118 (1.4%) were to persons classified as Other or Unknown Race. A total of 72 (0.8%) deaths were to Hispanics or Latinos, of any race.

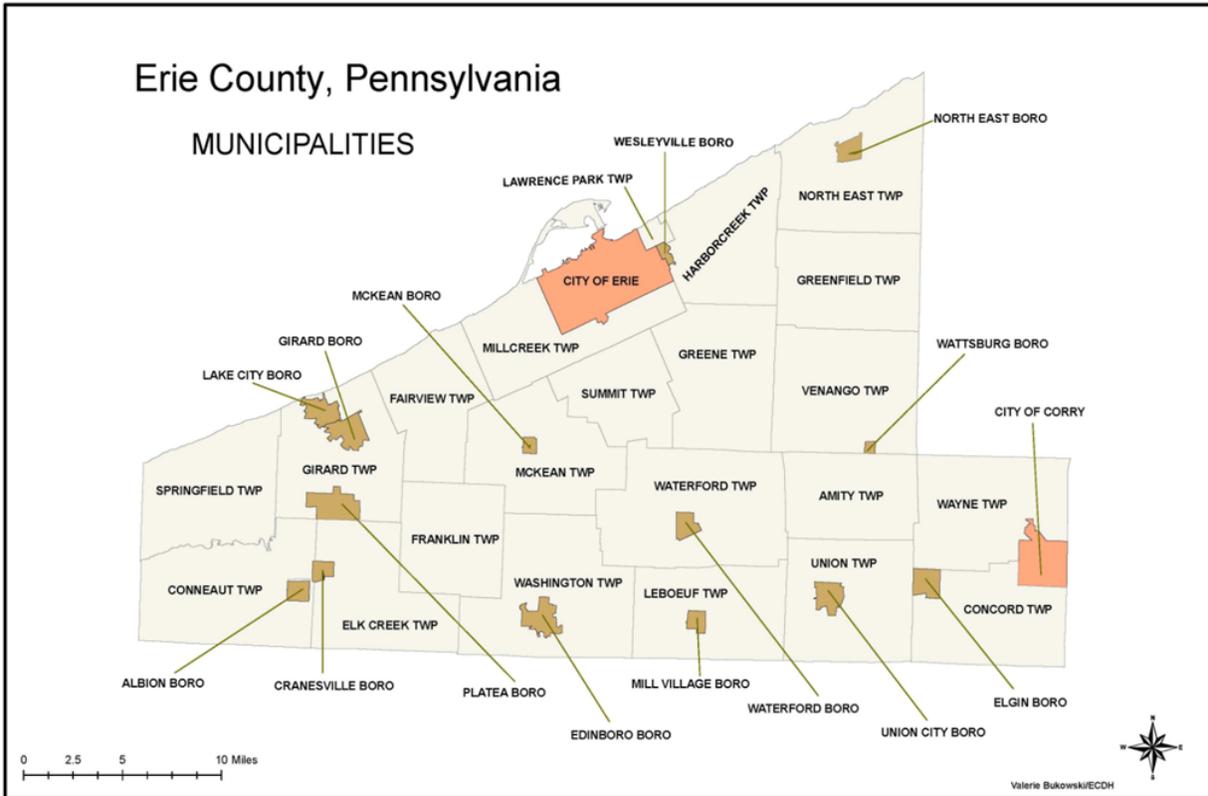
Table 1. Erie County Resident Deaths, 2011-2013

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Total Population (%)</u>	<u>Males (%)</u>	<u>Females (%)</u>
All Ages	8,474 (100.0)	4,196 (100.0)	4,278 (100.0)
0 - 9	82 (1.0)	56 (1.3)	26 (0.6)
10 - 19	29 (0.3)	24 (0.6)	5 (0.1)
20 - 29	129 (1.5)	92 (2.2)	37 (0.9)
30 - 39	135 (1.6)	88 (2.1)	47 (1.1)
40 - 49	337 (4.0)	215 (5.1)	122 (2.9)
50 - 59	779 (9.2)	450 (10.7)	329 (7.7)
60 - 69	1,168 (13.8)	741 (17.7)	427 (10.0)
70 - 79	1,599 (18.9)	834 (19.9)	765 (17.9)
80 and older	4,216 (49.8)	1,696 (40.4)	2,520 (58.9)
Infant deaths	66 (0.8)	46 (1.1)	20 (0.5)
< 28 days	47 (0.6)	32 (0.8)	16 (0.4)
28 - 364 days	19 (0.2)	14 (0.3)	4 (0.1)
<u>Race or Ethnicity</u>			
White	7,980 (94.2)	3,922 (93.5)	4,058 (94.9)
Black or African American	376 (4.4)	214 (5.1)	162 (3.8)
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	72 (0.8)	41 (1.0)	31 (0.7)

Among Erie County's 38 municipalities, the total number of resident deaths during 2011-2013 ranged from a low of 9 in Elgin Borough to a high of 3,121 in the City of Erie. Erie County's three most populous municipalities - the City of Erie (100,671 residents in 2013 and 3,121 deaths), Millcreek Township (54,239 residents and 1,762 deaths), and Harborcreek Township (17,479

residents and 528 deaths) - accounted for nearly two-thirds (63.9%) of all county deaths. Of the 66 county infant deaths, 44 (66.7%) were classified as City of Erie residents. The municipality with the next highest number of infant deaths was Millcreek Township, with 4.

Figure 1. The 38 Municipalities of Erie County



## Leading Causes of Death

In 2011-2013, Erie County's age-adjusted death rate for all causes of death was 799.4 deaths per 100,000 population. The age-adjusted rates for males and females were 968.6 and 665.6, respectively. With respect to race, the age-adjusted rates for Whites and Blacks were 788.1 and 944.7, respectively (Tables 2 and 3).

Although the 10 leading causes of death for Erie County residents collectively accounted for 6,336 (74.8%) of the 8,474 county deaths, heart disease and cancer (malignant neoplasms) accounted for nearly half (47.3%) of all resident deaths. With the exception of Alzheimer's disease, the age-adjusted death rates for males were higher than the rates for females for each of the leading causes. Due to low counts, age-adjusted rates for Blacks were calculated for only seven of the leading causes. Blacks experienced higher death rates than Whites for each of these causes, with the exception of Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases and Accidents.

Table 2. Erie County Leading Causes of Death & Age-Adjusted Death Rates by Sex, 2011-2013

Cause of Death	Total Population			Males			Females		
	Deaths	Erie Co.	PA	Deaths	Erie Co.	PA	Deaths	Erie Co.	PA
All Causes of Death	8,474	799.4	759.0	4,196	968.6	906.4	4,278	665.6	642.5
Heart Disease	2,132	193.4	179.2	1,061	244.3	227.5	1,071	153.8	142.6
Cancer (Malignant Neoplasms)	1,875	181.2	173.4	958	215.7	208.7	917	157.9	149.2
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	526	49.9	39.1	273	63.1	45.4	253	41.5	35.0
Stroke (Cerebrovascular Diseases)	453	40.7	37.6	181	41.7	37.7	272	39.4	37.0
Accidents (Unintentional Injuries)	374	42.8	43.8	247	60.1	60.7	127	26.3	28.3
Diabetes Mellitus	255	24.1	21.8	146	32.1	26.1	109	18.1	18.4
Alzheimer's Disease	253	21.1	18.4	77	18.7	15.0	176	22.0	20.2
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome & Nephrosis	199	18.0	16.1	91	21.1	19.8	108	16.0	13.7
Influenza & Pneumonia	154	13.5	15.0	68	16.0	18.6	86	11.7	12.8
Suicide (Intentional Self-Harm)	115	13.7	12.8	87	21.6	21.0	28	6.1	5.1

Notes: Age-adjusted rates were computed by the direct method using the year 2000 U.S. standard million population age distribution. Erie County and Pennsylvania rates are per 100,000 U.S. standard population. NA = Not available.

Table 3. Erie County Leading Causes of Death & Age-Adjusted Death Rates by Race, 2011-2013

Cause of Death	Total Population			Whites			Blacks		
	Deaths	Erie Co.	PA	Deaths	Erie Co.	PA	Deaths	Erie Co.	PA
All Causes of Death	8,474	799.4	759.0	7,980	788.1	740.5	376	944.7	923.7
Heart Disease	2,132	193.4	179.2	2,016	190.1	175.8	83	235.2	214.7
Cancer (Malignant Neoplasms)	1,875	181.2	173.4	1,751	177.9	169.6	96	252.7	217.7
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	526	49.9	39.1	513	50.8	39.6	10	26.0	34.0
Stroke (Cerebrovascular Diseases)	453	40.7	37.6	429	39.9	36.1	20	58.8	51.4
Accidents (Unintentional Injuries)	374	42.8	43.8	345	43.3	44.9	22	36.4	38.0
Diabetes Mellitus	255	24.1	21.8	249	21.5	18.8	3	NA	12.8
Alzheimer's Disease	253	21.1	18.4	236	23.4	20.6	15	31.2	33.8
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome & Nephrosis	199	18.0	16.1	185	17.2	15.0	14	33.2	27.8
Influenza & Pneumonia	154	13.5	15.0	149	13.5	15.0	3	NA	14.2
Suicide (Intentional Self-Harm)	115	13.7	12.8	107	14.1	13.7	5	NA	5.9

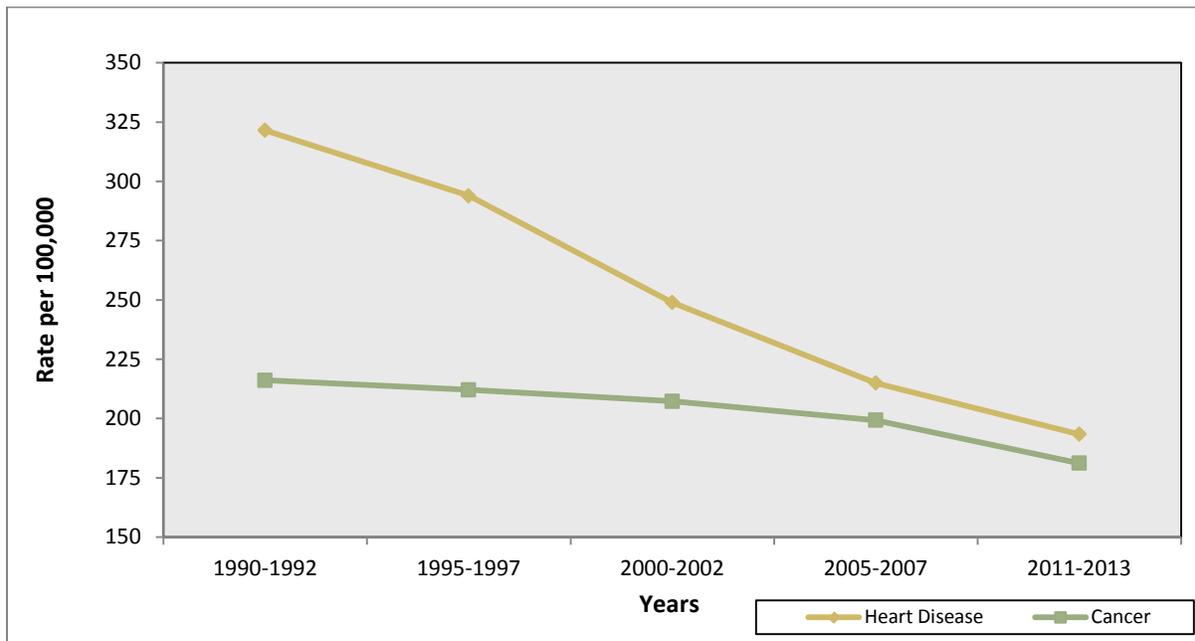
Notes: Age-adjusted rates were computed by the direct method using the year 2000 U.S. standard million population age distribution. Erie County and Pennsylvania rates are per 100,000 U.S. standard population. NA = Not available.

## Trends in Selected Erie County Leading Causes of Death

The Erie County age-adjusted death rate for heart disease dropped from 321.5 deaths per 100,000 population in 1990-1992 to 193.4 deaths in 2011-2013, a decline of 39.8%.

The age-adjusted death rate for cancer (primary malignant neoplasms) dropped gradually from 216.1 deaths per 100,000 population in 1990-1992 to 181.2 deaths in 2011-2013, a decline of 16.1% (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Historic Age-Adjusted Death Rates for Heart Disease and Cancer



The age-adjusted death rate for stroke (cerebrovascular diseases) dropped from 80.3 deaths per 100,000 population in 1990-1992 to 40.7 deaths in 2011-2013, a decline of 49.3%.

The age-adjusted death rate for Alzheimer's disease rose from 5.0 deaths per 100,000 population in 1990-1992 to 21.1 deaths in 2011-2013, an upsurge of 115.3%.

The age-adjusted death rate for accidents (unintentional injuries) rose from 31.8 deaths per 100,000 population in 1990-1992 to 42.8 deaths in 2011-2013, an increase of 34.6% (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Historic Age-Adjusted Death Rates for Stroke, Alzheimer's Disease, and Accidents

