

Erie County Leading Causes of Death, 2009-2011

---



*Erie County Leading Causes of Death, 2009-2011*

February, 2014

Erie County Department of Health  
606 West Second Street  
Erie, PA 16507  
Tel: 814-451-6700  
Fax: 814-451-6767  
Website: <http://www.ecdh.org>

Author: Jeff Quirk, Epidemiologist (jqquirk@eriecountygov.org)

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

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Erie County Resident Deaths.....	4
Leading Causes of Death.....	5

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 8,076 Erie County residents died during the period 2009 to 2011, for a corresponding crude death rate of 9.6 deaths per 1,000 population (Table 1). Overall, 3,873 (48.0%) deaths were to males and 4,203 (52.0%) were to females. The crude death rates for males and females were 9.4 and 9.8 deaths per 1,000, respectively.

Although only 8.4% of all resident deaths occurred in persons under the age of 50 years, over half (51.1%) occurred in those 80 years and older. Of the 75 total infant deaths, 53 (70.7%) occurred during the neonatal period (first 27 days of life). With respect to race and ethnicity, 7,639 (94.6%) deaths were to Whites, 389 (4.8%) were to Blacks, and 48 (0.6%) were to persons classified as Other or Unknown Race. A total of 59 (0.7%) deaths were to Hispanics or Latinos, of any race.

Table 1. Erie County Resident Deaths, 2009-2011

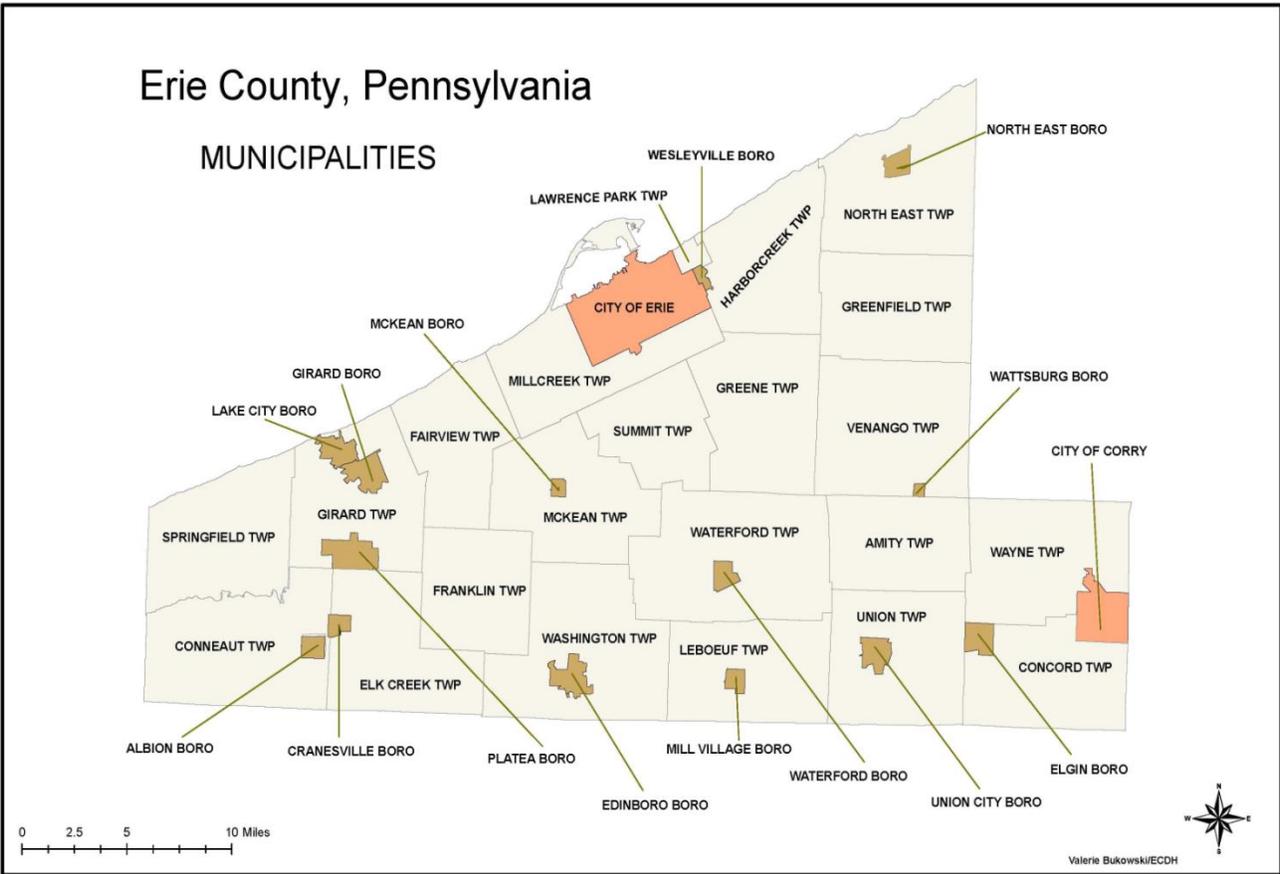
<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Total Population (%)</u>	<u>Males (%)</u>	<u>Females (%)</u>
All Ages	8,076 (100.0)	3,873 (100.0)	4,203 (100.0)
0 - 9	102 (1.3)	60 (1.5)	42 (1.0)
10 - 19	31 (0.4)	18 (0.5)	13 (0.3)
20 - 29	118 (1.5)	84 (2.2)	34 (0.8)
30 - 39	129 (1.6)	85 (2.2)	44 (1.0)
40 - 49	302 (3.7)	171 (4.4)	131 (3.1)
50 - 59	708 (8.8)	419 (10.8)	289 (6.9)
60 - 69	1,010 (12.5)	598 (15.4)	412 (9.8)
70 - 79	1,552 (19.2)	832 (21.5)	720 (17.1)
80 and older	4,124 (51.1)	1,606 (41.5)	2,518 (59.9)
Infant deaths	75 (0.9)	46 (1.2)	27 (0.6)
< 28 days	53 (0.7)	31 (0.8)	21 (0.5)
28 - 364 days	22 (0.3)	15 (0.4)	6 (0.1)
<u>Race or Ethnicity</u>			
White	7,639 (94.6)	3,628 (93.7)	4,011 (95.4)
Black or African American	389 (4.8)	221 (5.7)	168 (4.0)
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	59 (0.6)	35 (0.9)	24 (0.6)

Note: Two infant deaths were of unknown sex

The 38 municipalities of Erie County are shown in Figure 1. During 2009-2011, the number of resident deaths ranged from a low of 7 in Elgin Borough to a high of 3,231 in the City of Erie. Erie County’s three most populous municipalities - the City of Erie (2012 population = 101,043), Millcreek Township (population = 54,093), and Harborcreek Township (population = 17,192) - accounted for nearly two-thirds (64.6%) of all county deaths, with 3,231, 1,545, and 442 deaths, respectively.

Of the 75 county infant deaths that occurred during 2009-2011, 53 (70.7%) were classified as residents of the City of Erie. The municipality with the next highest number of infant deaths was Millcreek Township, with 5. In 2009-2011, 91.5% of all Black deaths and 78.0% of all Hispanic/Latino deaths occurred among City of Erie residents.

Figure 1. The 38 Municipalities of Erie County



**Leading Causes of Death**

In the period 2009-2011, Erie County’s age-adjusted death rate for all causes of death was 777.1 deaths per 100,000 population (Table 2). The age-adjusted rates for males and females were 924.9 and 665.2 per 100,000, respectively. With respect to race, the age-adjusted rates for Whites and Blacks were 772.3 and 926.5 per 100,000, respectively.

The 10 leading causes of death for Erie County residents in 2009-2011 are shown in Table 2. Although these causes collectively accounted for 6,261 (77.5%) of the 8,076 county deaths, heart disease and cancer (malignant neoplasms) accounted for nearly half (48.5%) 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 three leading causes - heart disease, cancer, and stroke. Blacks experienced substantially higher death rates than Whites for each of these causes.

Table 2. Erie County Leading Causes of Death and Age-Adjusted Death Rates, 2009-2011

Cause of Death	Total Population			Male			Female			White			Black		
	Deaths	Erie Rate	PA Rate	Deaths	Erie Rate	PA Rate	Deaths	Erie Rate	PA Rate	Deaths	Erie Rate	PA Rate	Deaths	Erie Rate	PA Rate
All Causes of Death	8,076	777.1	765.0	3,873	924.9	918.8	4,203	665.2	645.1	7,639	772.3	754.2	389	926.5	971.2
Heart Disease	2,095	193.7	186.6	1,027	245.2	237.0	1,068	157.1	148.5	1,994	191.6	184.0	87	212.9	235.4
Cancer (Malignant Neoplasms)	1,819	181.6	180.0	922	216.0	218.6	897	158.5	153.7	1,721	182.0	178.3	86	236.6	230.9
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	476	45.9	38.9	242	58.7	46.0	234	38.3	34.4	464	46.3	39.8	11	NA	33.8
Stroke (Cerebrovascular Diseases)	439	40.1	39.3	156	37.4	39.3	283	41.5	38.5	417	40.8	38.2	21	66.4	55.5
Accidents (Unintentional Injuries)	338	37.5	40.8	212	51.2	55.9	126	25.2	27.0	319	38.1	42.5	18	NA	33.7
Alzheimer's Disease	253	21.7	19.3	73	18.1	15.8	180	21.4	21.1	249	21.6	20.0	3	NA	13.1
Diabetes Mellitus	221	22.1	20.2	119	28.4	23.8	102	16.6	17.3	203	20.8	19.4	16	NA	32.2
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, & Nephrosis	208	19.4	17.7	93	22.6	22.3	115	17.4	14.8	193	18.0	16.6	15	NA	31.8
Influenza & Pneumonia	193	16.8	14.7	84	19.9	18.3	109	14.3	12.4	185	15.6	14.7	7	NA	15.3
Suicide (Intentional Self-Harm)	111	12.9	12.2	87	21.0	20.1	24	5.4	4.9	105	14.6	13.4	4	NA	5.8

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