

## Overview

These technical notes are intended to give a detailed description of the methods and sources used to examine causes of death described in the September 2021 Causes of Death Data Brief.

## Methods

The KDHE multiple cause-of-death research files from 2019-2020 were used to identify the top ten causes of death in Douglas County. Cause of death referred to in this report is the primary or underlying cause of death, which is defined as the disease or injury that initiated the chain of events leading directly to death, or the circumstances of the accident or violence that produced the fatal injury. The underlying cause of death is established through a system called the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision (ICD-10). This system promotes uniformity and comparability in the collection and presentation of mortality data.

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) uses a ranking standard to provide consistent groupings among states and localities. The causes that are ranked are a broad grouping of all the causes in the list of 113 selected causes of death. (Heron, 2021) 1 Prior to 2019, 50 rankable causes were identified from the list of 113 conditions. In 2019, Enterocolitis due to Clostridium difficile was added to this list 1,3, and in 2020 Covid- 19 was added to the list. 2 The 10 leading causes of death are those causes with the highest frequencies. Age-adjusted rates should never be used to rank cause of death.

**Table 1. Standard list of causes of death from the 113 Selected Causes of Death**

Cause of Death	ICD-10 Codes	Notes
Salmonella Infections	A01-A02	
Shigellosis and Amebiasis	A03, A06	
Tuberculosis	A16-A19	
Whooping Cough	A37	
Scarlet Fever and Erysipelas	A38, A46	
Meningococcal Infection	A39	
Septicemia	A40-A41	
Syphilis	A50-A53	
Acute Poliomyelitis	A80	
Arthropod-Borne Viral Encephalitis	A83-A84, A85.2	
Measles	B05	
Viral Hepatitis	B15-B19	
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	B20-B24	
Malaria	B50-B54	
Malignant Neoplasms	C00-C97	Common name: Cancer
In Situ Neoplasms, Benign Neoplasms, & Neoplasms of uncertain or unknown behavior	D00-D48	
Anemias	D50-D64	
Diabetes Mellitus	E10-E14	
Nutritional Deficiencies	E40-E64	
Meningitis	G00, G03	
Parkinson Disease	G20-G21	
Alzheimer Disease	G30	
Disease of Heart	I00-I09, I11, I13, I20-I51	Common name: Heart Disease
Essential Hypertension Renal Disease	I10, I12, I15	
Cerebrovascular Diseases	I60-I69	Common name: Stroke
Atherosclerosis	I70	
Aortic Aneurysm and Dissection	I71	
Influenza and Pneumonia	J09-J18	
Acute Bronchitis	J20-J21	
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	J40-J47	Includes chronic bronchitis, emphysema, asthma, & other CLRDs
Pneumoconioses and Chemical Effects	J60-J66, J68	
Pneumonitis due to solids and liquids	J69	

(Table 1 continued from previous page)

**Table 1. (continued) Standard list of causes of death from the 113 Selected Causes of Death**

Cause of Death	ICD-10 Codes	Notes
Peptic Ulcer	K25-K28	
Diseases of Appendix	K35-K38	
Hernia	K40-K46	
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	K70, K73-K74	
Cholelithiasis & other gallbladder disorders	K80-K82	
Nephritis, Nephoric Syndron & Nephrosis	N00-N07, N17-N19, N25-N27	
Infections of Kidney	N10-N07, N13.6, N15.1	
Hyperplasia of Prostate	N40	
Inflammatory Diseases of female pelvic organs	N70-N76	
Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Peurperium	O00-O09	Differs from Maternal Mortality
Certain conditions originating in the prenatal period	P00-P96	
Congenital Malformations, Deforations, and Chromosomal Abnnormalities	Q00-Q99	Common name for birth defects or congenital anomalies
Unintentional Injuries	V01-X59, Y85-Y86	
Intentional Self-Harm (suicide)	X60-X84, Y87.0, *U03	
Assault (homicide)	X85-Y09, Y87.1, *U01-*U02	
Legal Intervention	Y35, Y89.0	
Operations of War and their Sequelae	Y36, Y89.1	
Complications of Medical or Surgical Care	Y40-Y84, Y88	
Enterocolitis Due to <i>Clostridium Difficile</i>	A04.7	Common name: <i>C. Diff</i> : Added to cause of death list in 2019
Coronavirus Disease 2019	U07.1	Common name: COVID-19. Added to cause of death list in 2020

All analyzes were conducted using SAS 9.4 unless otherwise noted (e.g. Kansas Information for Communities, etc.).

## References

1. Heron M. Deaths: Leading causes for 2019. National Vital Statistics Repots; vol 70 no 9. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2021. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc:107021>.



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