

Utah Health Status Update:

Leading Causes of Death in Utah by Age and Sex

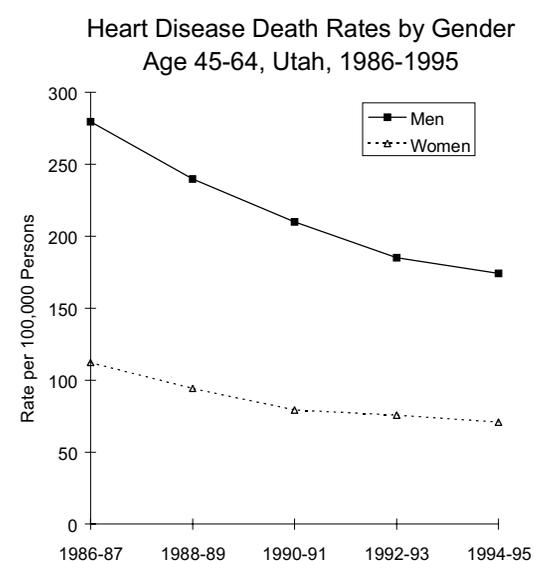
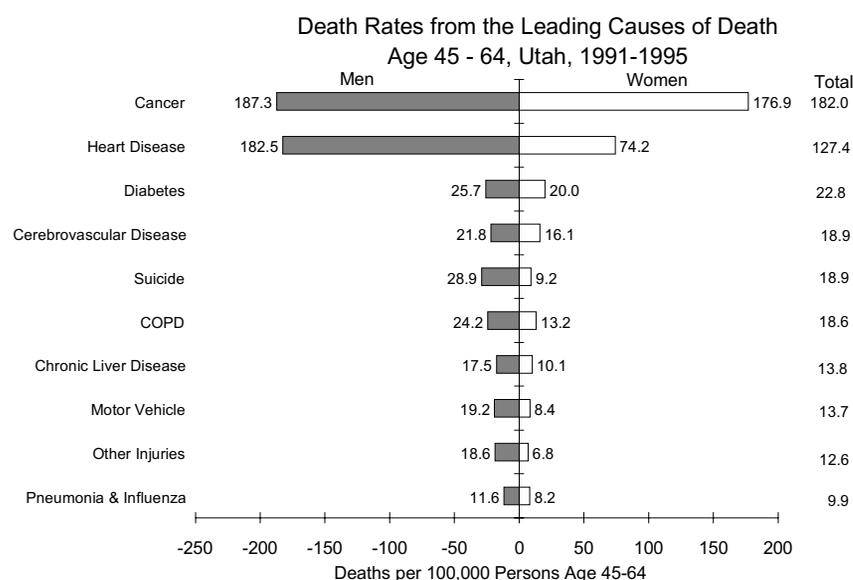
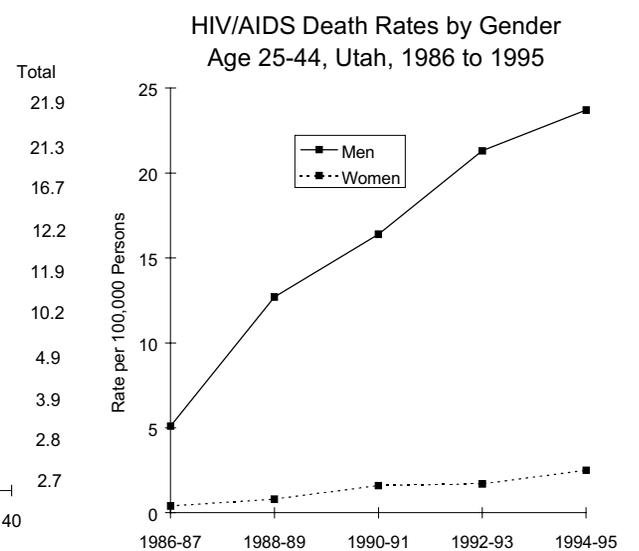
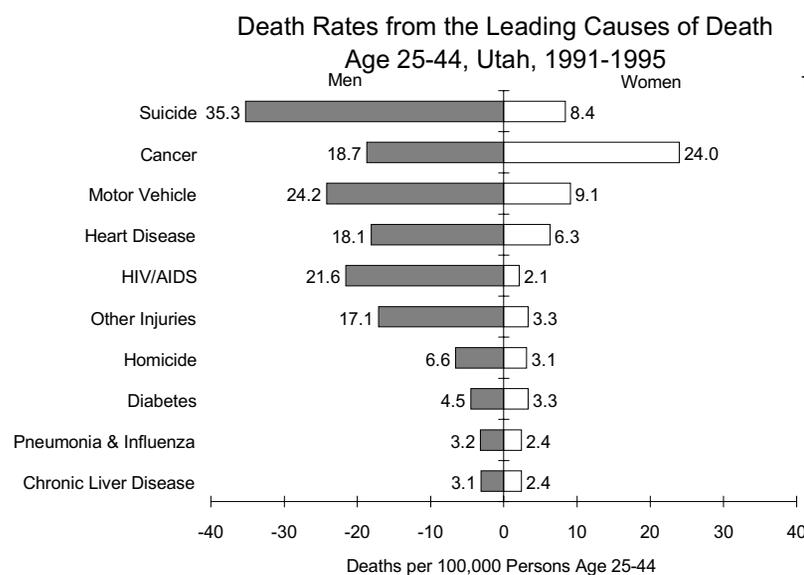
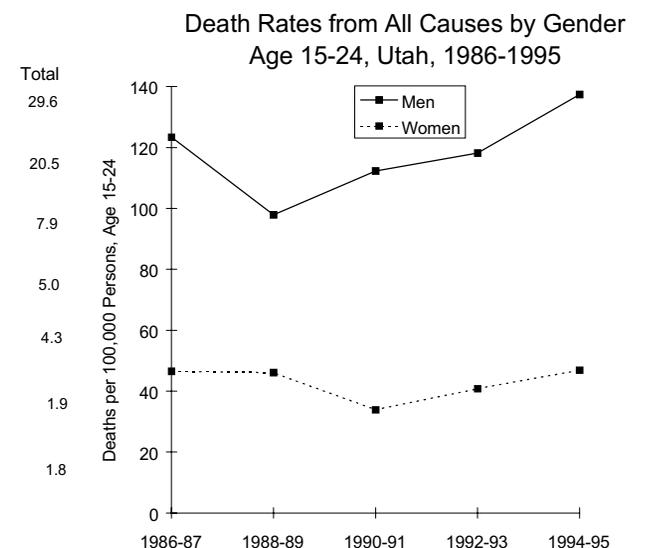
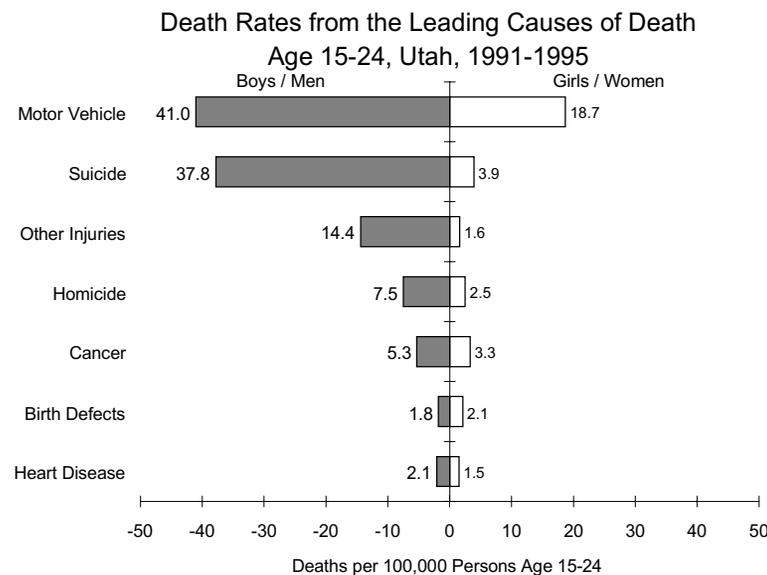
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Utah Department of Health

Preventing premature death is one of the most important goals of health care and of public health. Examining the leading causes of death and considering the cost and effectiveness of available prevention methods are, together, a first step toward appropriately allocating scarce health care and public health resources. The most important causes of premature death are different at different ages and for men and women.

Important Findings

- At all ages, boys and men have higher death rates overall and from most specific causes than girls and women.
- While injuries and suicide are the main threats for younger people, heart disease, cancer and other chronic diseases become the main dangers for older people.
- Motor vehicle crashes and suicide are leading causes of death for boys and men from age 15 to age 44.
- Deaths from HIV/AIDS increased dramatically for young men aged 25-44 years.
- The death rate increased for boys and men aged 15-24 years; that increase was mostly due to motor vehicle crash deaths.
- Heart disease death rates decreased for Utahns aged 45-64 and 65-84 years; the decrease was greater for men.



Office of Public Health Data



These data come from the recently released report *Leading Causes of Death in Utah by Age and Sex*. The complete report is available on the Internet at <http://hlunix.hl.state.ut.us/action2000/reports.html> and copies can be obtained by calling (801) 538-6108 or by email at hlhda.phdata@state.ut.us.