

# Leading Causes of Death

## Utah, 1993-1997

Preventing premature death is one of the most important public health goals. Examining the leading causes of death can be an important step in assessing the health of a population. For example, reporting on leading causes of death identified the importance of suicide as a cause of death among young men in Utah.

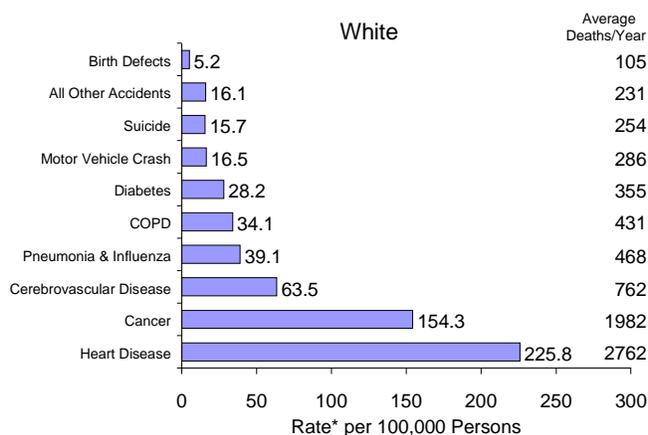
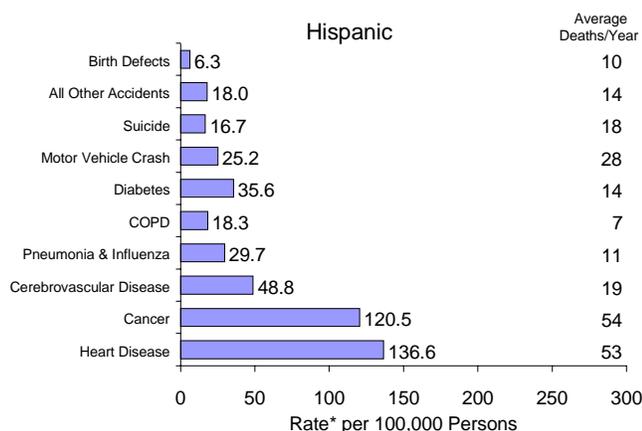
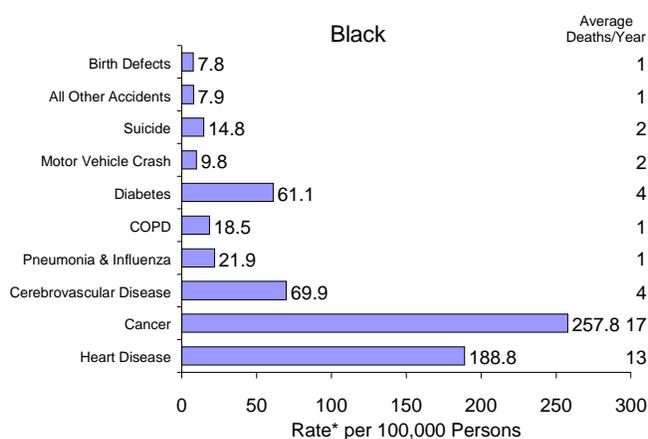
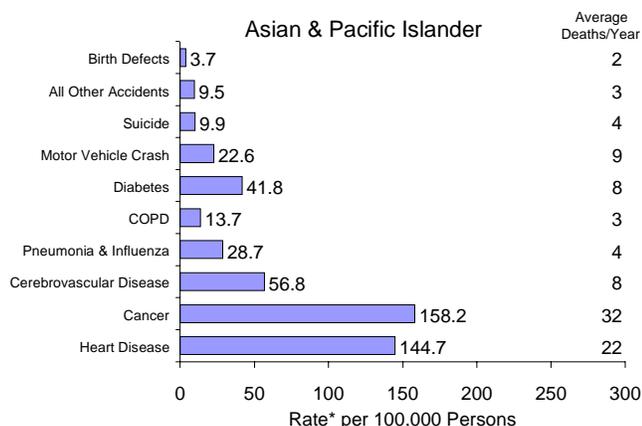
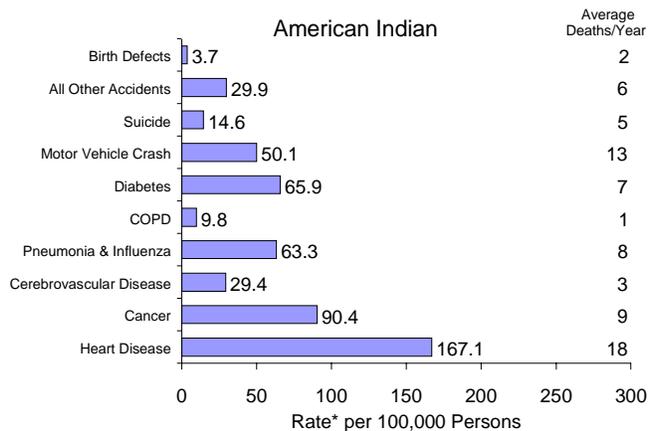
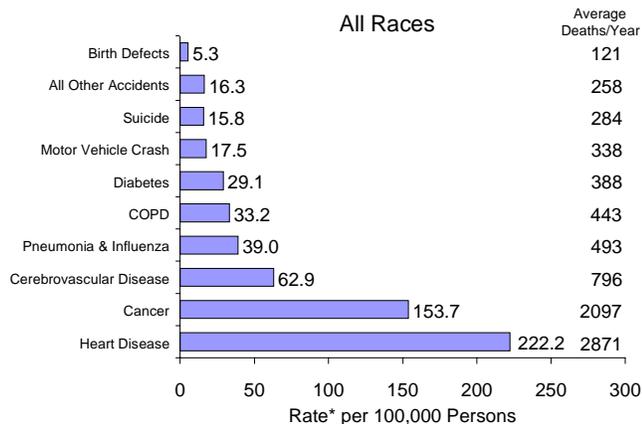
This section of this report presents leading causes of death for Utah's racial and ethnic populations. Data were aggregated for five years, 1993-1997, to yield more stable rates for the smaller populations. At least two kinds of comparison are possible using these data. First, the rank orders of causes of deaths can be examined to identify the causes of death that are most important for different populations. Secondly, the rates of death for different causes can be compared among populations to identify health problems that disproportionately affect one or more populations.

### Key Findings

- The first two leading causes of death were heart disease and cancer for all race/ethnic groups, except American Indians for whom motor vehicle crash was the second, and cancer the third, most common cause of death.
- Heart disease death rates were lower for American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic people.
- Cancer death rates were lower for American Indian and Hispanic people and higher for Black people.
- Diabetes death rates for American Indian and Black people were twice as high as for the Utah population overall.
- Stroke death rates for American Indian people were only about half that of the Utah overall rate.
- Motor vehicle crash and other injury death rates were 2-3 times as high for American Indian people as for Utah overall.
- Pneumonia and influenza death rates were nearly twice as high for American Indian people as for Utah overall.
- Motor vehicle crash was the leading cause of death for Utahns age 44 and under in nearly all race/ethnic populations.
- Among American Indian young people, the motor vehicle crash death rate and the death rate from other injuries were both about 2.5 times the overall state rate.
- Homicide death rates among Black, Hispanic, and American Indian young people were four to six times higher than the overall state rate.
- The death rate from AIDS among Black people age 44 or under was four and one half times the overall state rate.
- Heart disease and cancer were the leading causes of death for Utahns age 45 and over in all race and ethnic populations. The order of these two causes was reversed, with cancer causing more deaths than heart disease, for Asian/Pacific Islander and Black people.

# Leading Causes of Death

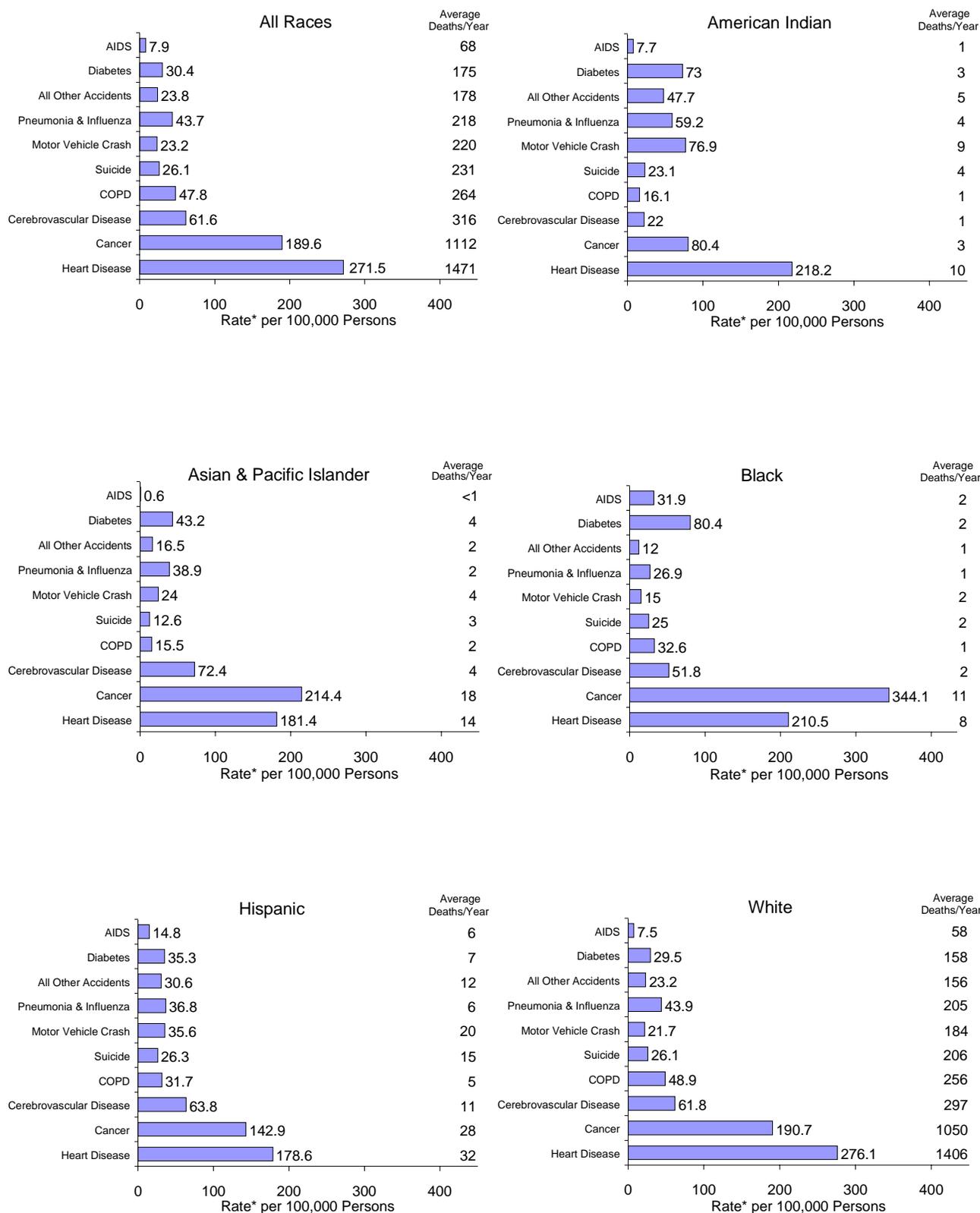
## Utah, 1993-1997



\* Mortality rates age-adjusted to projected U.S. 2000 population  
 Causes were ranked according to the number of deaths in all races during 1993-1997.

# Leading Causes of Death

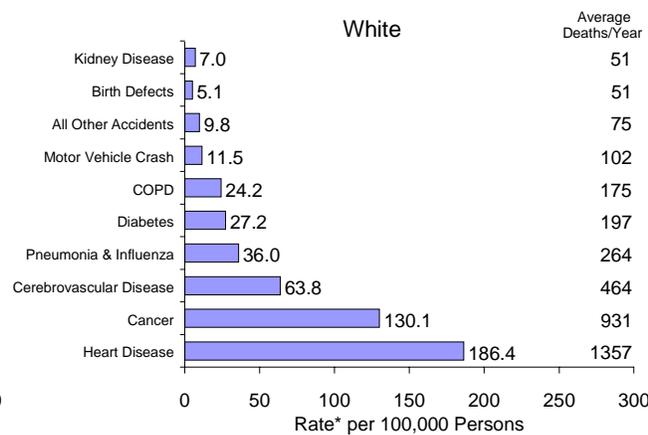
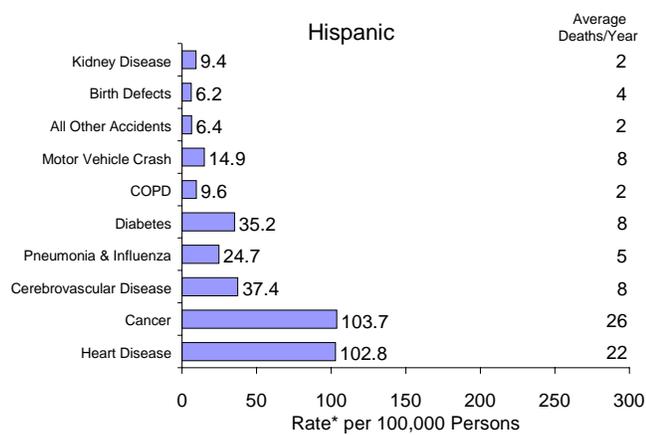
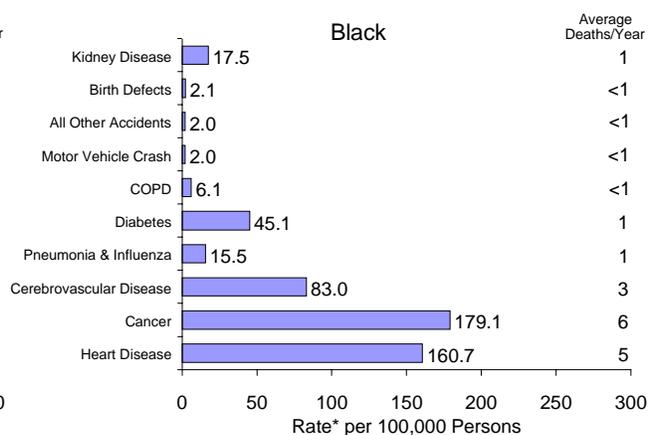
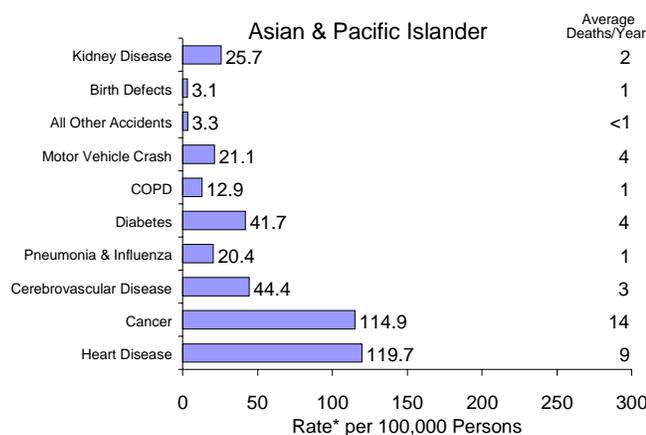
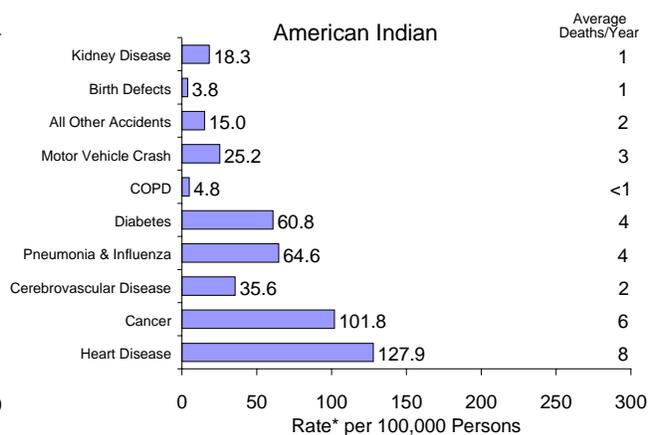
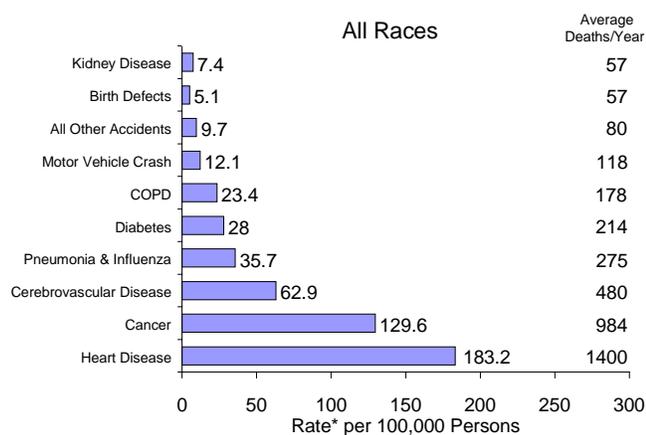
## Utah Men, 1993-1997



\* Mortality rates age-adjusted to projected U.S. 2000 population  
 Causes were ranked according to the number of deaths in men in all races during 1993-1997.

# Leading Causes of Death

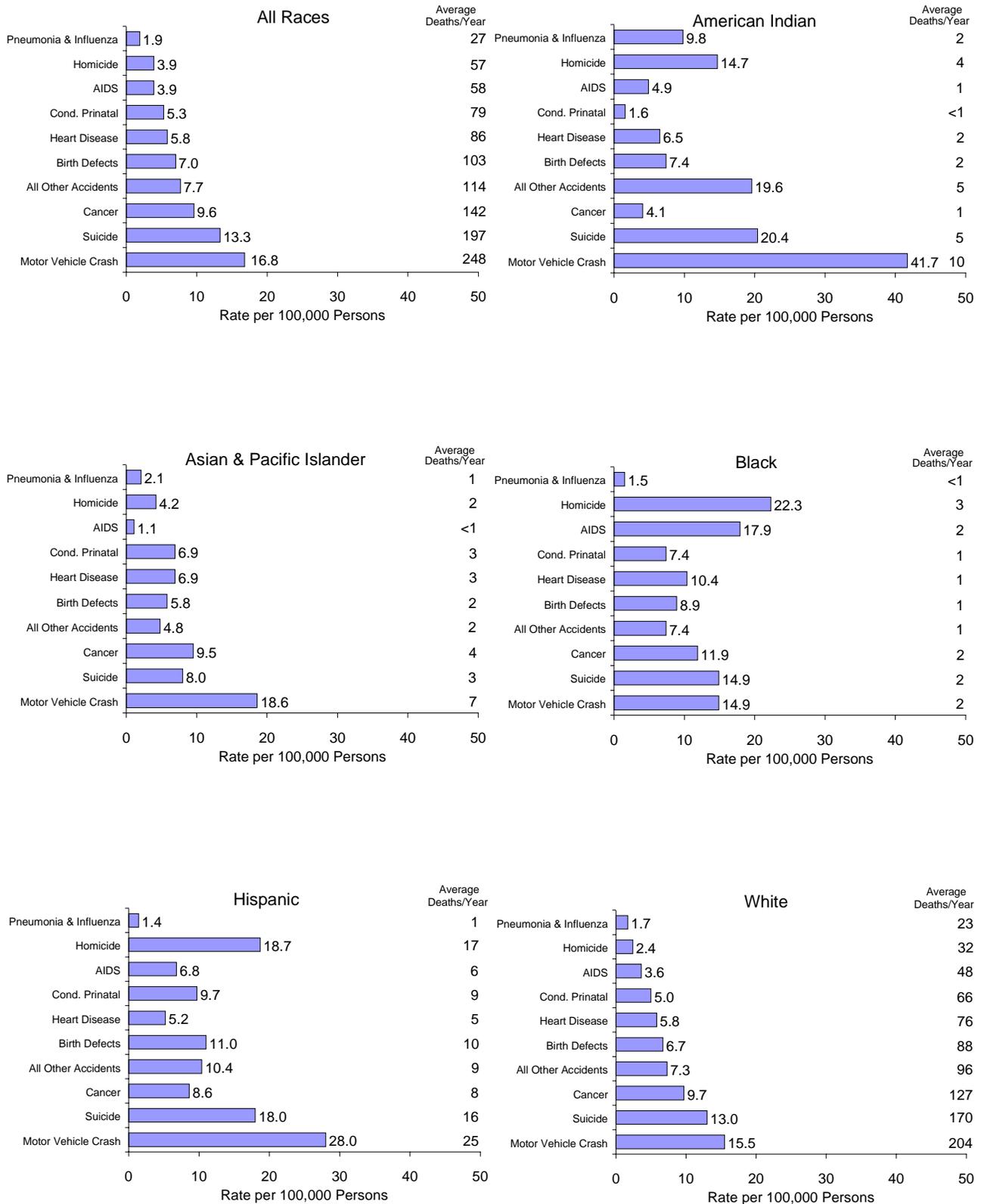
## Utah Women, 1993-1997



\* Mortality rates age-adjusted to projected U.S. 2000 population  
 Causes were ranked according to the number of deaths in women in all races during 1993-1997.

# Leading Causes of Death

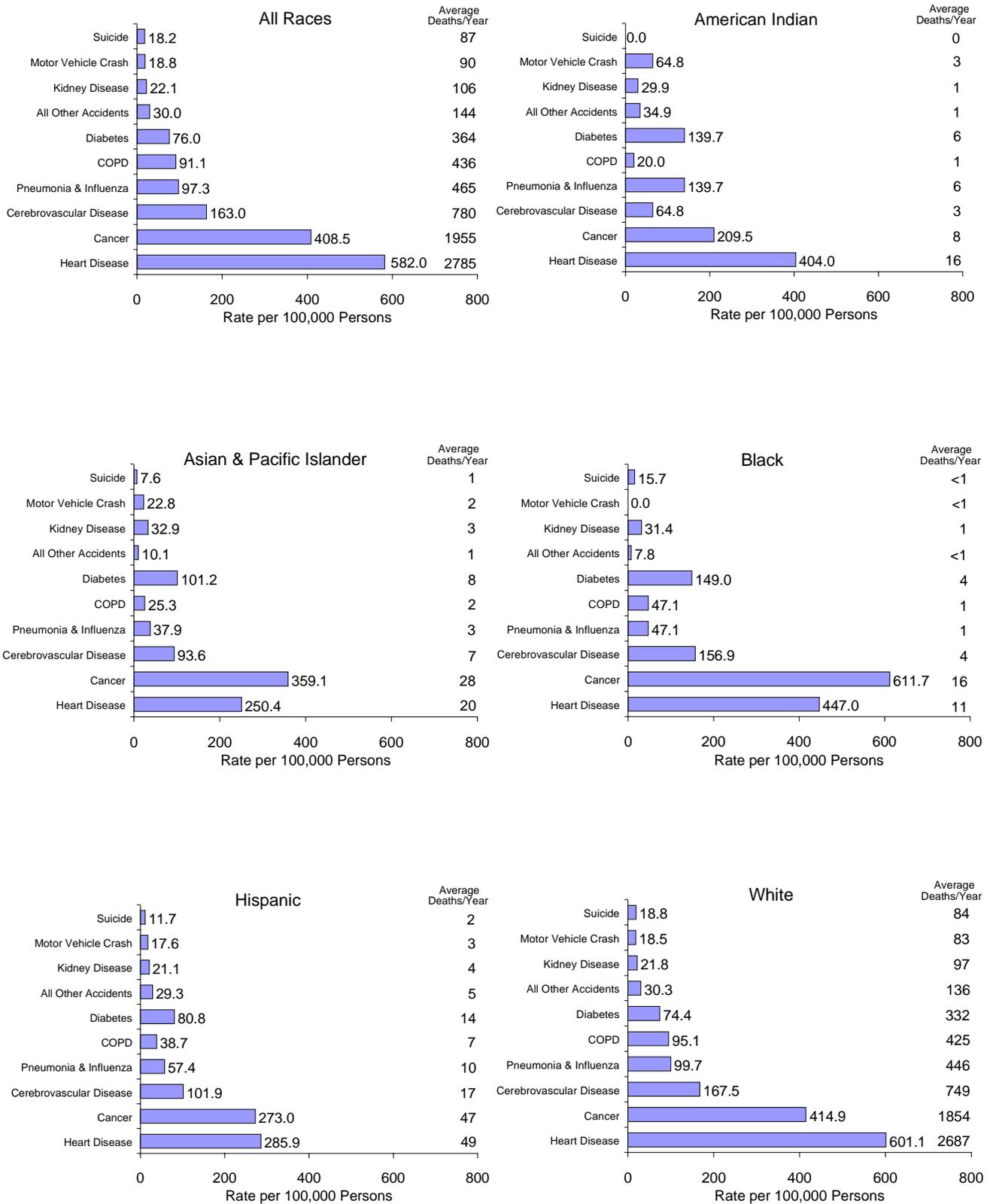
## Utahns Age 0-44, 1993-1997



Causes were ranked according to the number of deaths in Utahns of all races age 44 or under during 1993-1997.

# Leading Causes of Death

## Utahns Age 45 and Over, 1993-1997



Causes were ranked according to the number of deaths in Utahns of all races age 45 or over during 1993-1997.