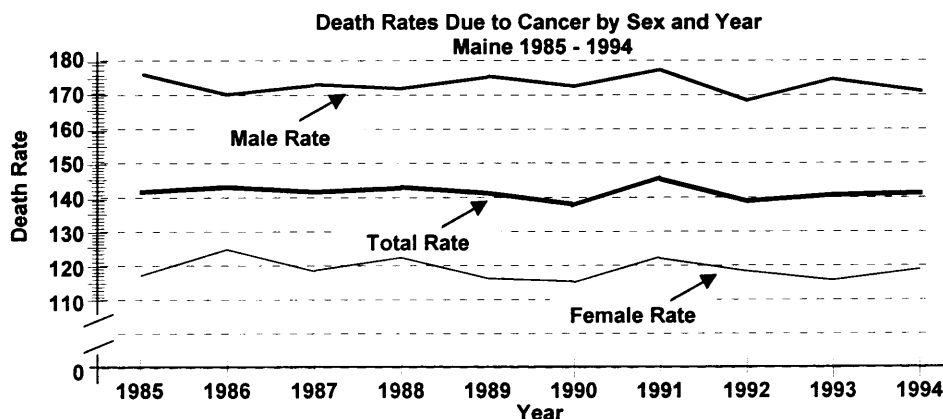


DEATHS DUE TO CANCER

Maine Residents: 1985 - 1994

- ➔ From 1985 to 1994, cancer claimed 27,957 Maine lives. In 1994, nearly 2,950 Maine residents died from cancer; this resulted in a death rate of 141 deaths per 100,000 population, a rate significantly greater* than the 1992 national rate of 130.¹
- ➔ During the 10 year period, 1985 - 1994, cancer death rates in Maine decreased or remained stable for all age groups except the very elderly, 80 years old and older, where it increased from 1,537/100,000 to 1,755. Although this age group represented only 3% of Maine's population for the period, they accounted for nearly ¼ of the cancer
- ➔ The *number* of deaths from cancer increased by 12% during this period; however, the death *rate* remained relatively stable. For both sexes, the number of deaths increased, but while the death rate decreased slightly for men, it increased slightly for women. For 1994, the difference between the male and female rates was statistically significant*.



- ➔ For the 10 year period, the lowest death rate due to cancer, 134 deaths/100,000 population, was in Knox county; the highest rate was in Sagadahoc county with a death rate of 157; the difference between these rates is statistically significant*.
- ➔ Of the different types of cancer, cancers of the respiratory and thoracic organs (which include lung cancer) claimed the greatest number of Maine lives during the 10 year period and accounted for the highest cancer death rate, 44/100,000; this was followed by cancers of the digestive organs and peritoneum. The 3rd leading cause varied for men and women; for men it was cancers of the genital/urinary organs; for women it was cancers of the bone, connective tissue, skin, and breast.

NOTES: All rates are for underlying cause of death, for whites only and are age-adjusted to the US 1940 standard population; these are rates that have been standardized to eliminate differences due solely to variations in the age composition of the populations.

* Unless noted, differences in rates are not statistically significant, i.e., they could be accounted for by chance

Footnote 1: A full citation is available upon request.

For further data on this topic, please contact:

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Series 5

CANCER DEATHS - FACT SHEET