

CITY OF BERKELEY HEALTH STATUS REPORT 2007**V. DEATH FROM ALL CAUSES / MORTALITY OVERVIEW**

What people die of in Berkeley tells us a lot about our progress in reducing unnecessary deaths by fighting preventable disease, and the impact of our programs to identify and treat diseases early. This section contains information about Berkeley trends in deaths, life expectancy, leading causes of death, the years of potential life lost, and deaths due to various chronic diseases.

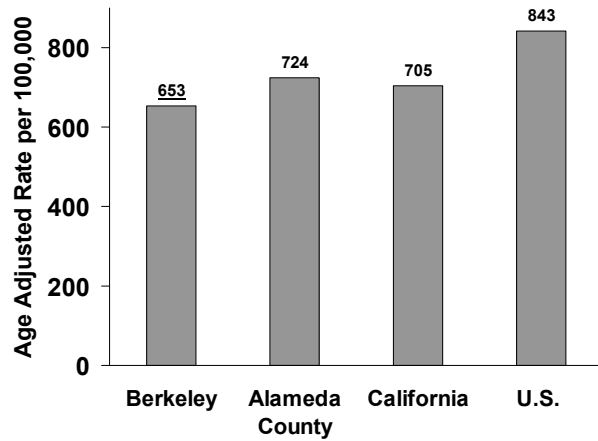
Highlights

- Life expectancy is improving for Berkeley overall.
- Death rates in Berkeley are lower than the surrounding Alameda County and California.
- Health inequities exist for all causes of death combined and for the leading causes of death. One-third of the nearly 200 deaths occurring in African Americans each year would not occur if African Americans and Whites had the same death rate.
- About half of all deaths can be attributed to tobacco, inadequate nutrition and physical activity, alcohol consumption, and other behavioral risk factors.

All Causes of Death in Berkeley

Approximately 626 residents die each year. Berkeley's death rate is lower than that of Alameda County, California, and the United States.

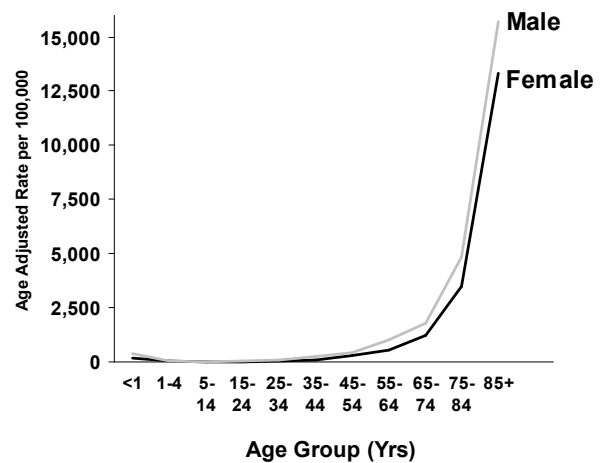
Figure 5.1 – Deaths in Berkeley, Alameda County, California (2002-2004), and the United States (2001-2003)



Source: Public Health Division, US Census, Death Certificates

There are 2-3 deaths each year in infants less than 1 year of age. The death rate is very low in adolescents and young adults, and increases after age 65.

Figure 5.2 – Deaths by Age and Gender, Berkeley, 2002-2004

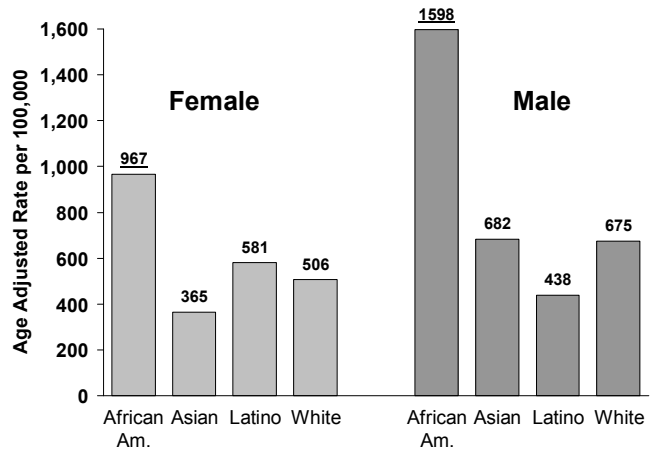


Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates, US Census



African American males have a death rate 3 times greater than Asian males, and African American females have a death rate 2.6 times higher than Asian females.

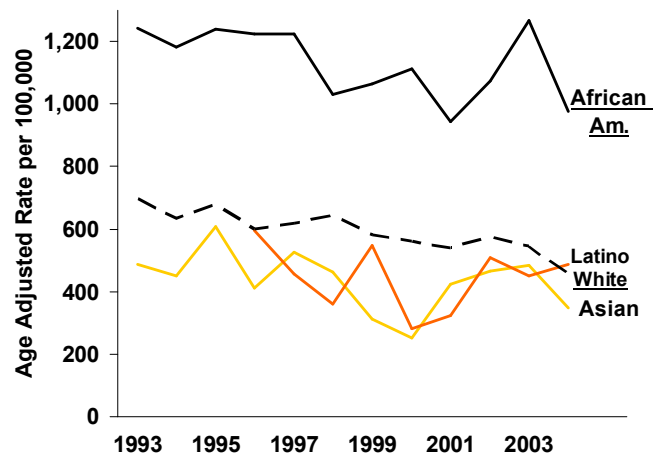
Figure 5.3 – Deaths by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, Berkeley, 2002-2004



Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates, US Census

Over the last decade, the death rate for each race/ethnicity has declined. African Americans have twice the death rate as Whites, and the gap does not appear to be closing.

Figure 5.4 – Deaths by Race/Ethnicity and Year of Death, Berkeley, 1993-2004

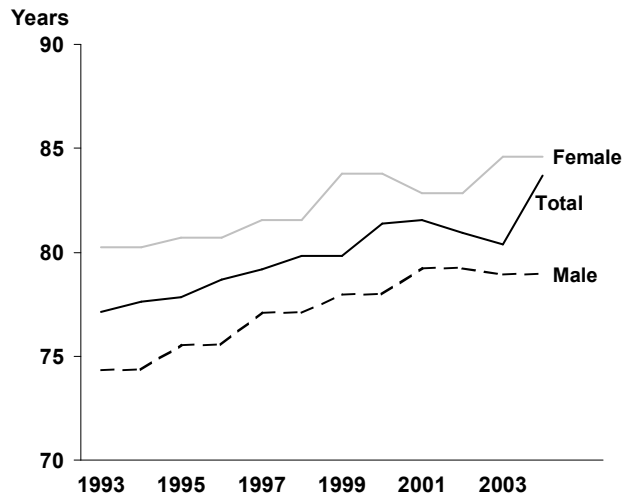


Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates, US Census



Over the last decade, life expectancy at birth has increased from 77 to 83 years. Women have a life expectancy 5 years greater than men.

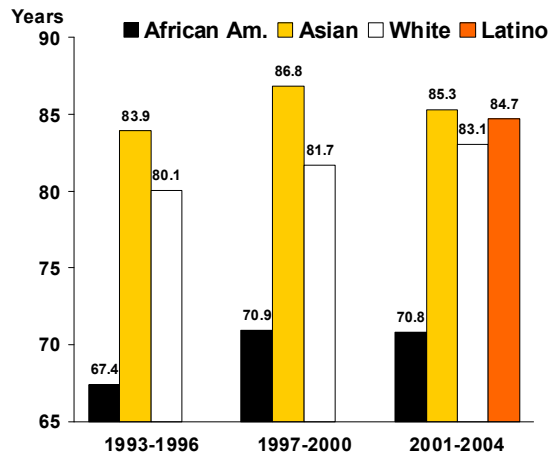
Figure 5.5 – Life Expectancy by Gender, Berkeley, 1993-2004



Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates, US Census

Life expectancy at birth is greatest for Asians and lowest for African Americans. Life expectancy for African Americans increased from 67 years to 71 years in the 1990s, but has leveled off after 2000.

Figure 5.6 – Life Expectancy by Race/Ethnicity, Berkeley, 1993-2004



Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates, US Census

The life expectancy of African Americans is 12 years less than that for Whites.

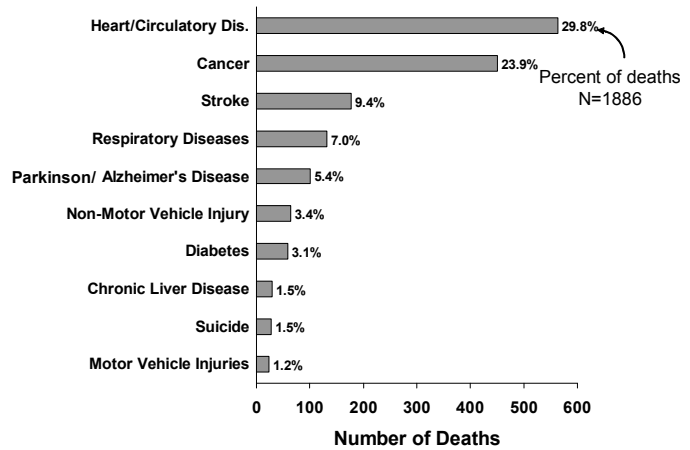
Rates for Latinos are not reliable before Year 2000 due to differing Census classification and small numbers.



Heart disease and cancer are the leading diseases that account for the most deaths in Berkeley

The next figure shows key factors that contribute to the diseases that cause death.

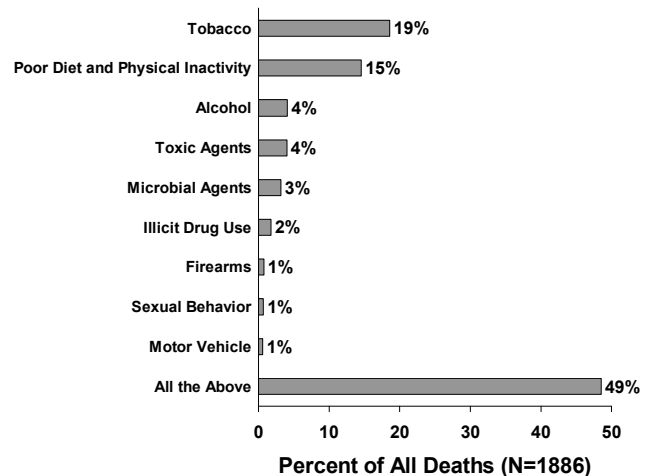
Figure 5.7 – Leading Causes of Death by Disease Category, Berkeley, 2002-2004



Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates

Use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs, lack of physical activity, inadequate diet, violence, and unsafe sex are estimated to be responsible for nearly 1/2 of all deaths in Berkeley.

Figure 5.8 – Leading Causes of Death by Behavioral Risk Factor, Berkeley, 2002-2004

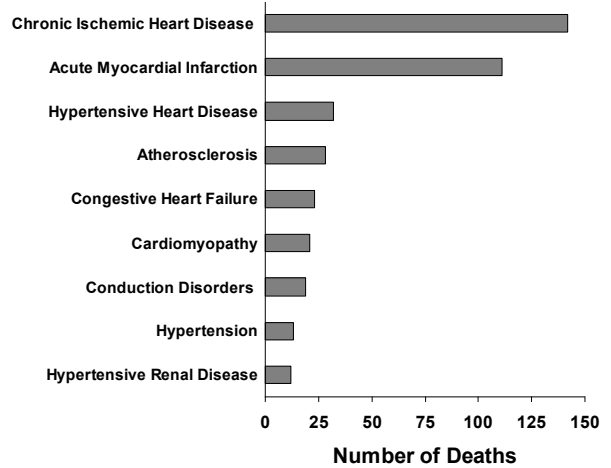


Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates, McGinnis JM, Foege WH. Actual causes of death in the United States. JAMA 1993;270:2207-2212.



Coronary heart disease and hypertensive heart disease are major contributors to heart disease mortality.

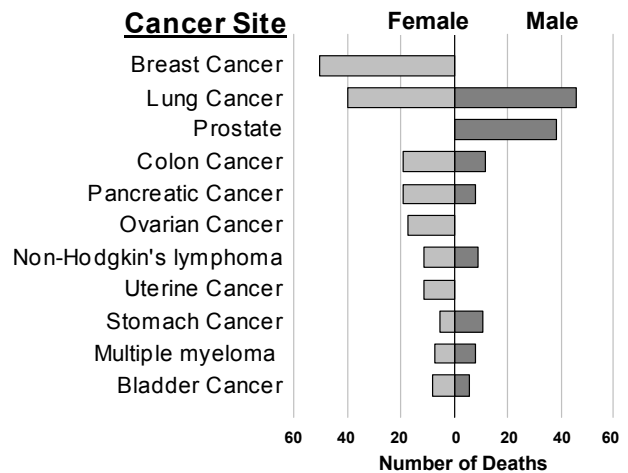
Figure 5.9 – Leading Heart Disease Causes of Death, Berkeley, 2002-2004



Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates

For women, breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death, followed by lung cancer. For men lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death, followed by prostate cancer.

Figure 5.10 – Leading Cancer Causes of Death, Berkeley, 2002-2004

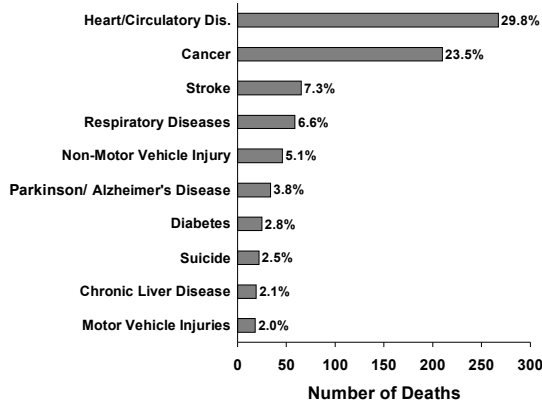


Source: Public Health Division Death Certificates



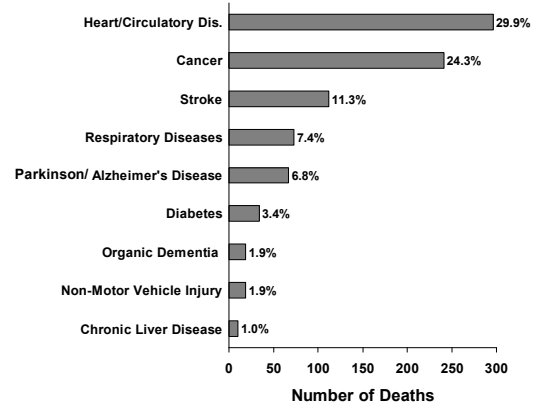
Males and females share the 4 top-ranked causes of death: Heart Disease, Cancer, Stroke and Respiratory Disease. Diabetes, Non-motor vehicle injuries, Neurological diseases of the brain (e.g., Alzheimer's/Parkinson), and Chronic liver disease are each in the top 10 leading causes of death for each sex.

Figure 5.11 – Leading Causes of Death, Males, Berkeley, 2002-2004



Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates

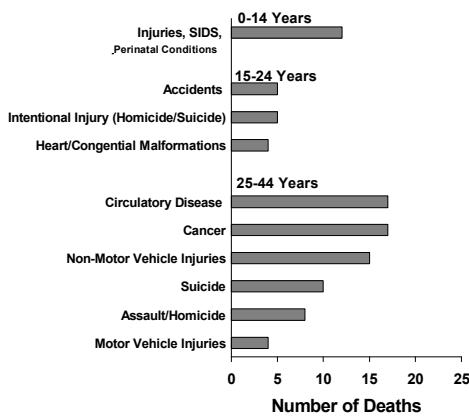
Figure 5.12 – Leading Causes of Death, Females, Berkeley, 2002-2004



Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates

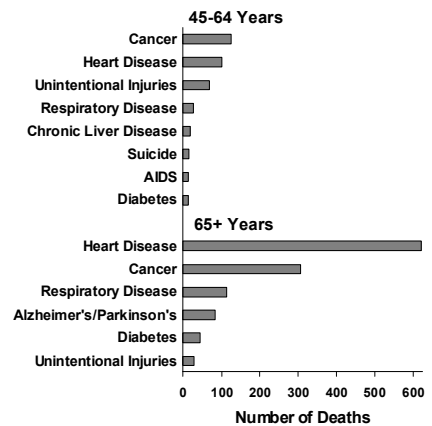
Injuries are leading causes of death from childhood to early adulthood. Although injuries are a leading cause in adults under 45 years of age, chronic diseases, such as cancer and heart disease, are more prevalent. After age 45, additional chronic diseases become more common as the cause of death.

Figure 5.13 – Leading Causes of Death, Age 44 Years and Younger, Berkeley, 2002-2004



Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates

Figure 5.14 – Leading Causes of Death, Age 45 Years and Older, Berkeley, 2002-2004



Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates



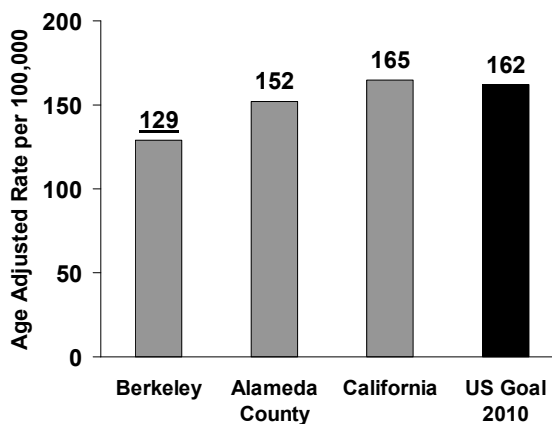
Coronary Heart Disease Deaths

There are 123 deaths per year due to coronary heart disease in Berkeley.

Berkeley has a lower death rate due to coronary heart disease than Alameda County and the State of California.

Berkeley's rate is better than the HP2010 goal.

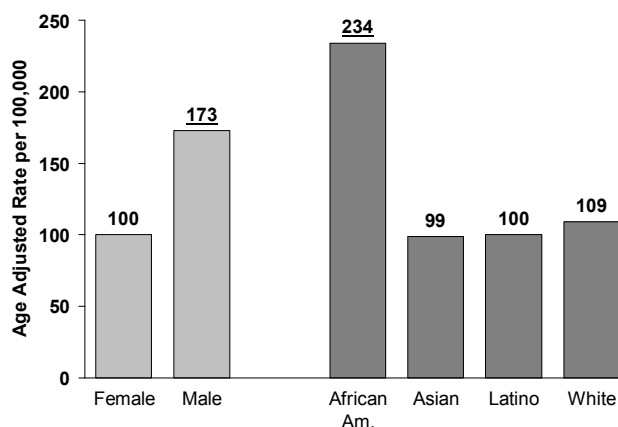
Figure 5.15 – Coronary Heart Disease Deaths, Berkeley, Alameda County, and California, 2002-2004



Source: Public Health Division, US Census, Death Certificates

Males and African Americans have high rates of death from coronary heart disease compared to females and other race/ethnicity groups.

Figure 5.16 – Coronary Heart Disease Deaths by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, Berkeley, 2002-2004

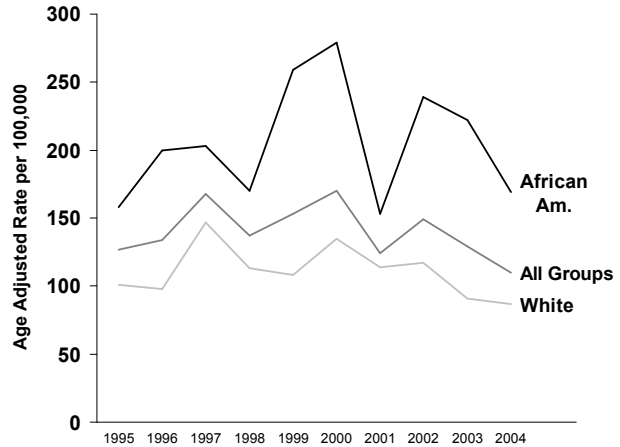


Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates, US Census



Coronary heart disease mortality has not consistently declined in the past decade.

Figure 5.17 – Coronary Heart Disease Deaths by Race/Ethnicity and Year of Death, Berkeley, 2002-2004

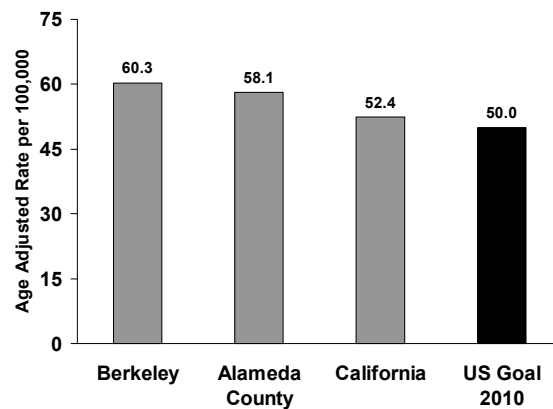


Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates, US Census

Stroke Deaths

There is an average of 60 stroke deaths every year in Berkeley.

Figure 5.18 – Stroke Deaths in Berkeley, Alameda County, and California, 2002-2004

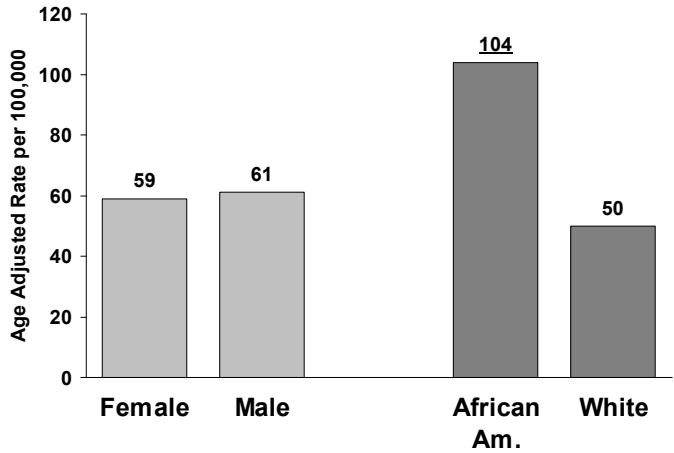


Source: Public Health Division, US Census, Death Certificates



African Americans have twice the death rate from stroke as Whites.

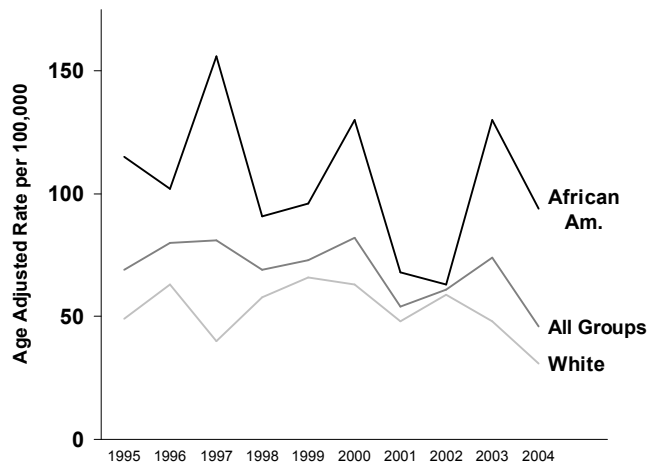
Figure 5.19 – Stroke Deaths by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, Berkeley, 2002-2004



Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates, US Census

The death rate due to stroke has not consistently declined in the past decade. Death rates for African Americans show large fluctuations.

Figure 5.20 – Stroke Deaths by Race/Ethnicity and Year of Death, Berkeley, 2002-2004



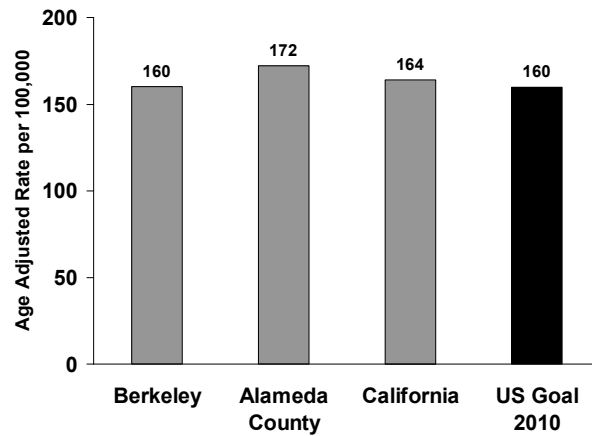
Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates, US Census



Cancer Deaths

There is an annual average of 160 cancer deaths in Berkeley.

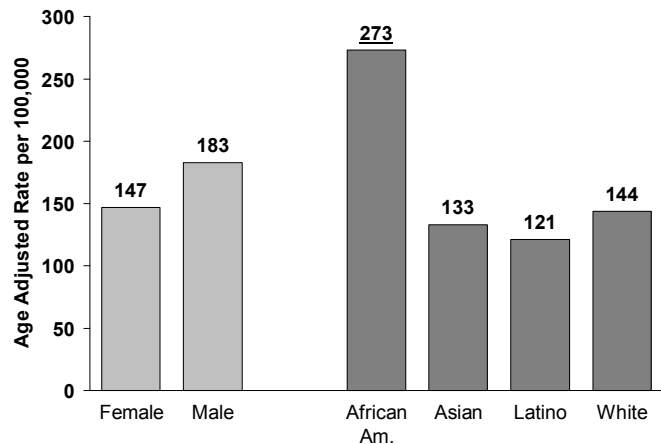
Figure 5.21 – Cancer Deaths, Berkeley, Alameda County, and California, 2002-2004



Source: Public Health Division, US Census, Death Certificates

Males and African Americans have the highest death rates compared to females and other race/ethnicity groups.

Figure 5.22 – Cancer Deaths by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, Berkeley, 2002-2004

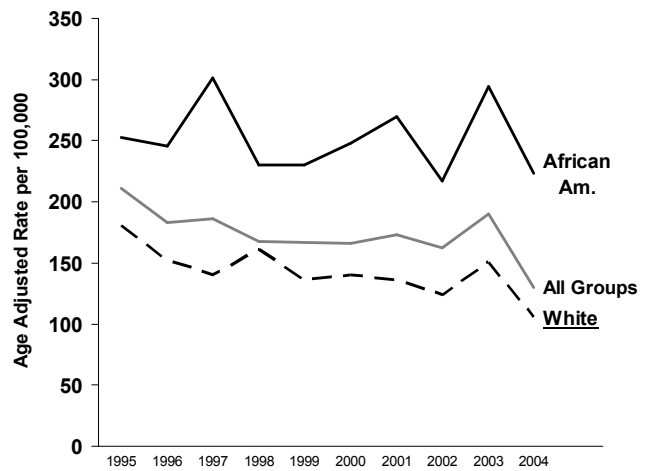


Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates, US Census



The death rate due to cancer has declined for Whites in the last 10 years. There is no consistent trend for African Americans.

Figure 5.23 – Cancer Deaths by Race/Ethnicity and Year of Death, Berkeley, 2002-2004



Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates, US Census



Program Highlight: City of Berkeley Vital Records Office

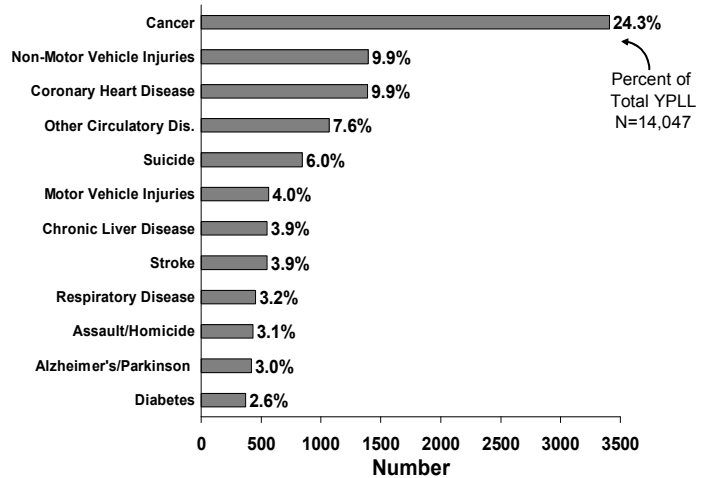
The Vital Records Office maintains documentation of births and deaths that occurred within Berkeley City limits since 1895, and plays an important role in the analysis of birth and death records and in surveillance of potential outbreaks. It was awarded two certificates of excellence and appreciation by the California State Office of Vital Records for “reaching and exceeding the State-mandated time frame for birth registration” and for “the completeness and accuracy of vital records data.” These awards are indicators of high performance in following State standards for maintaining data on Berkeley residents.

Years of Potential Life Lost

Deaths before the age of 75 are considered premature. For those who die before age 75, the years not lived is a measure of potential life lost. Causes of death that are more common in young people, such as injuries, have a strong impact.

Each year, Berkeley loses 4,682 years of potential life from the 626 persons who die.

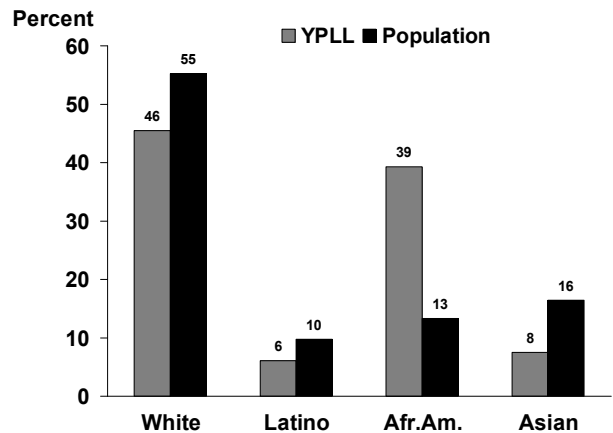
Figure 5.24 – Years of Potential Life Lost by Cause of Death, Berkeley, 2002-2004



Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates

Although African Americans comprise 13% of Berkeley's population, they account for 39% of the years of potential life lost.

Figure 5.25 – Years of Potential Life Lost by Race/Ethnicity, Berkeley, 2002-2004



Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates

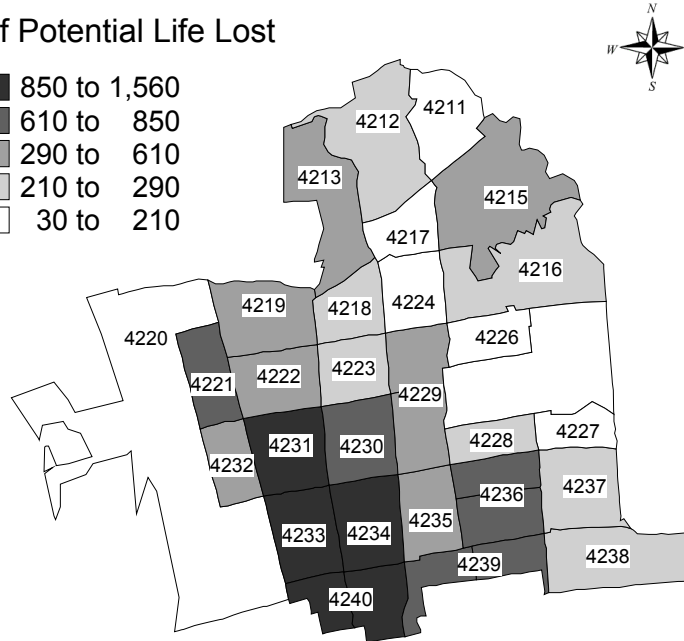


The highest concentrations of years of potential life lost are in southwest Berkeley.

Map 5.1 – Years of Potential Life (YPLL) by Census Tract Berkeley, 2002-2004

Years of Potential Life Lost

- 850 to 1,560
- 610 to 850
- 290 to 610
- 210 to 290
- 30 to 210



Source: Berkeley Public Health Division Death Certificates