



## Minnesota Death Rates Are Falling

Martha McMurry

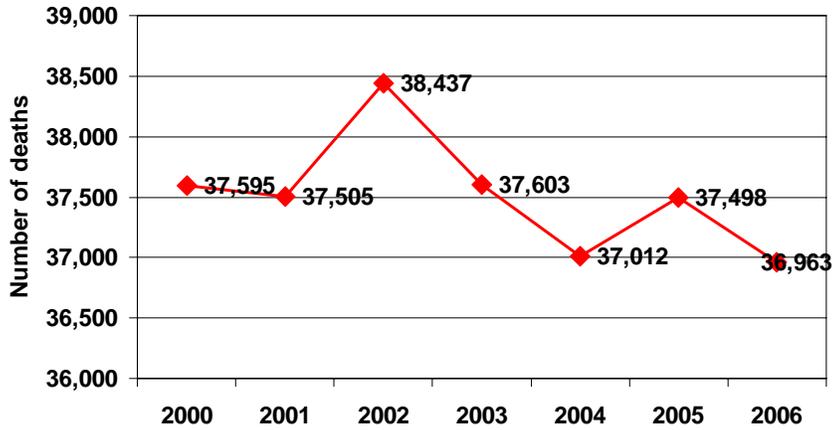
- Minnesota age-adjusted death rates have fallen 11 percent since 2000.
- Rapidly falling death rates from circulatory system diseases are the major reason for this decline.
- The death rate from cancer (malignant neoplasms) has also fallen.
- Minnesota has the second-lowest age-adjusted mortality rate in the U.S.

Minnesota's population is growing and becoming older, but the number of deaths has remained stable or fallen since 2000. This trend reflects falling mortality rates in most age groups, particularly in the older age groups where most deaths occur.

The total death rate per 100,000 population fell from 761.9 in 2000 to 715.4 in 2006, a decline of 6 percent.

Falling death rates among older people were the major reason. The death rate for people ages 65 to 74 dropped by 388 deaths per 100,000 population; the rate for those ages 75 to 84 by 398 per 100,000, and the rate for those 85 and older by 1,902 deaths per 100,000.

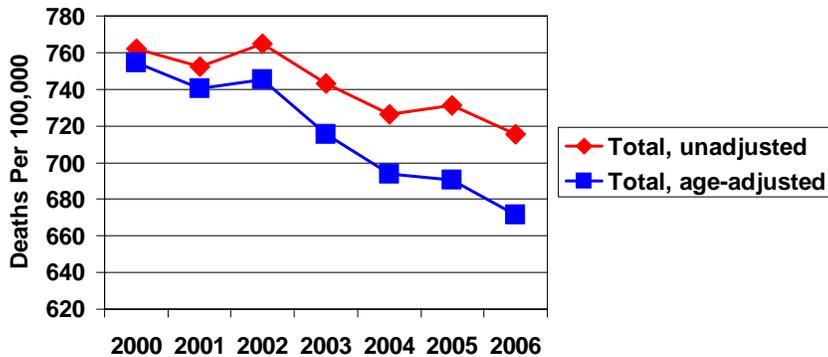
# Minnesota deaths since 2000



Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

# Total death rates fell between 2000 and 2006

Minnesota, 2000 to 2006

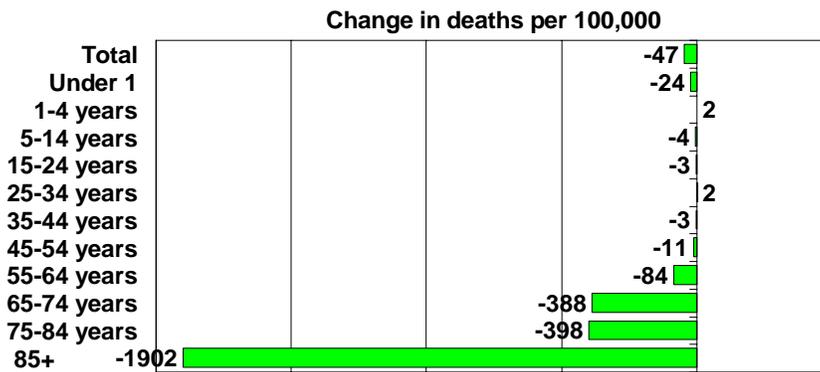


Minnesota Center for Health Statistics; U.S. Census Bureau estimates.

Death rates for children and young adults showed a mixed pattern, decreasing in some age groups, such as infants, and increasing slightly in others. Since mortality in young age groups is very low, these shifts had little effect on the total mortality rate.

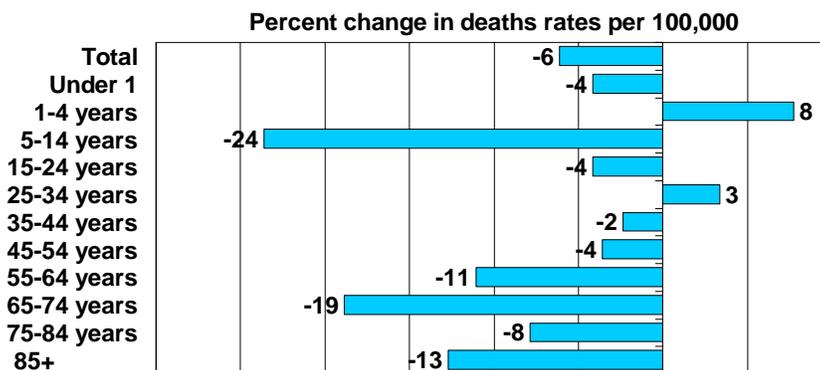
## Largest declines in death rates occur at ages 65 and older

Minnesota, 2000 to 2006



## Proportional declines in death are substantial for ages 5-14 and 65-74

Minnesota, 2000 to 2006

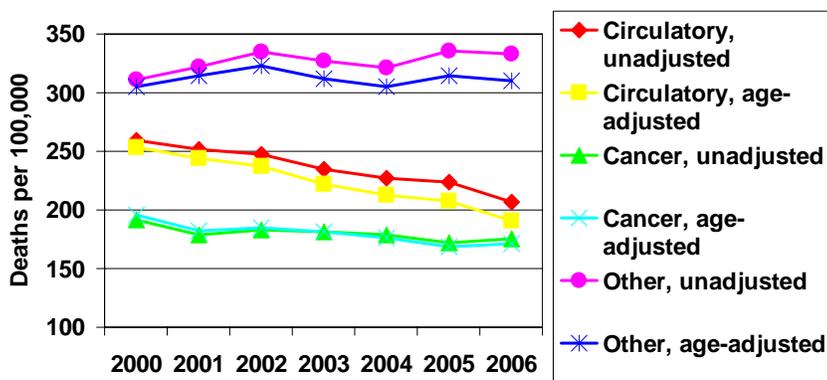


The age-adjusted Minnesota death rate dropped 11 percent from 754.7 to 671.6 per 100,000, more than the decline for the unadjusted rate. The age-adjusted death rate uses a standard 2000 U.S. age distribution and applies the current actual death rates by age to this constant age distribution. Age-adjusted death rates provide a way to remove the effects of age changes or age differences, allowing comparisons across time or geographic areas.

Cancer and circulatory system diseases such as heart disease and stroke account for more than half of all deaths. The decline in overall mortality reflects lower rates of death from both these major causes, especially from circulatory system diseases. Between 2000 and 2006, the death rate for circulatory system diseases fell 25 percent. The malignant neoplasm death rate dropped 13 percent.

## Circulatory system death rates have declined

**Minnesota, 2000-2006**



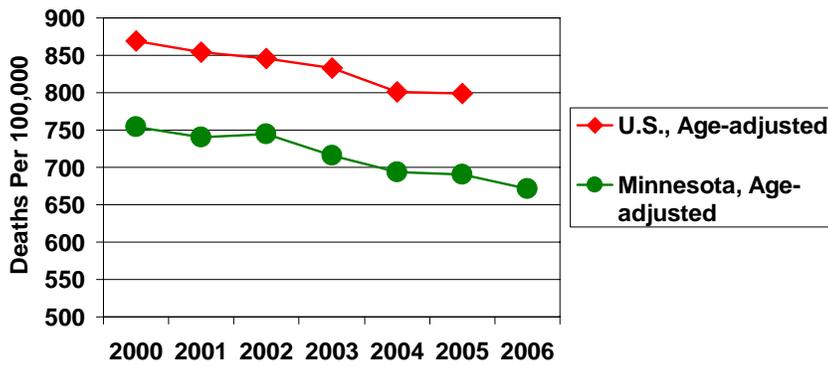
Minnesota Center for Health Statistics; U.S. Census Bureau estimates.

The death rate for all other causes rose 2 percent. The largest gains were for mental and behavioral conditions, nervous system conditions and external causes. Nervous system conditions include Alzheimer's disease. Dementias other than Alzheimer's are the major contributor to the rise in deaths from mental and behavioral conditions. External causes include falls, traffic accidents, suicide and homicide.

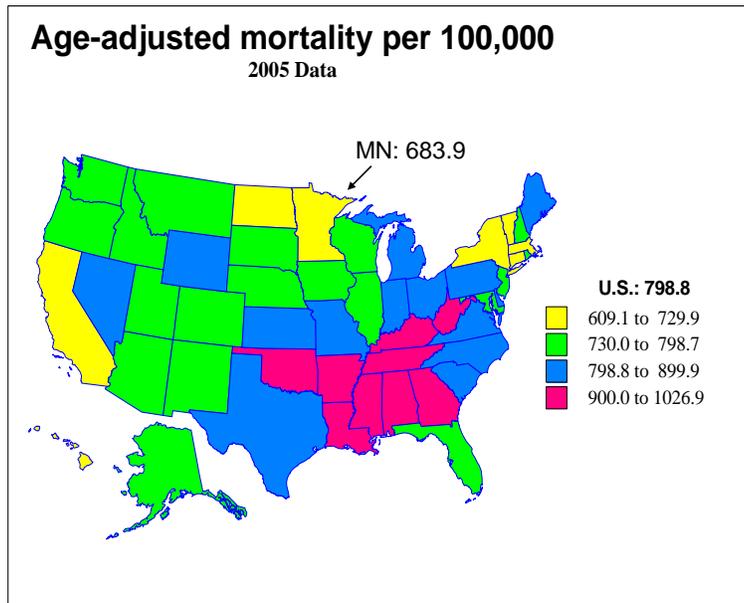
Minnesota has the second-lowest age-adjusted mortality rate in the United States, lagging only behind Hawaii. Other places with low mortality rates include New England, North Dakota and California. Southeastern states have the highest mortality rates.

## Minnesota death rates below U.S. average; state and U.S. death rates are both falling

U.S. and Minnesota, 2000 to 2006

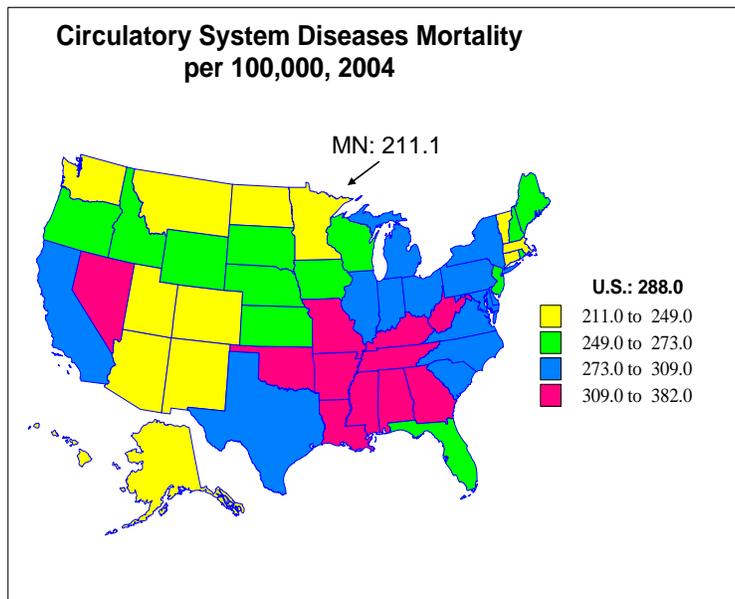


National Center for Health Statistics, Minnesota Center for Health Statistics; U.S. Census Bureau estimates.



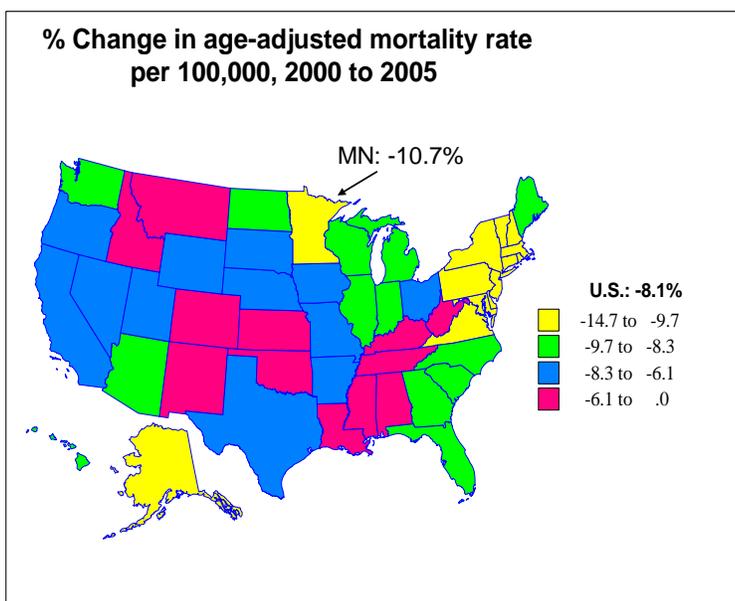
National Center for Health Statistics

Since circulatory system diseases are the largest single cause of death, the states with the lowest circulatory system death rates are generally those with the lowest overall death rates. National Center for Health Statistics data for 2004 (the most recent available) show Minnesota had the lowest age-adjusted death rate from circulatory system disease, 211.1 per 100,000. Mississippi was the highest with 381.9.



National Center for Health Statistics

Age-adjusted mortality rates fell in all states except Louisiana between 2000 and 2005. Minnesota's rate of decline was tenth-highest. Other areas with substantial decreases were the northeastern U.S. and Alaska.



National Center for Health Statistics

### Sources

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