

Leading Causes



LEADING CAUSES

LEADING CAUSES OF MORTALITY (DEATH)

The top 5 leading causes of mortality (death) for Douglas County differed slightly compared to the top 5 leading causes of mortality for the U.S. in 2007; in the U.S., stroke was the third and accidents were the fifth leading cause of death. From 2003-2007, there were a total of 3,582 deaths in Douglas County, averaging approximately 700 deaths per year. During that same period, the overall mortality rate of the white population was 788.5 per 100,000 population. This is higher than the black population, which had a mortality rate of 354.5 per 100,000 population.



Table 4-1: Leading Causes of Mortality Douglas County, 2003-2007

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Overall Rate*
Diseases of the Heart	197.0	182.8	165.8	178.2	188.8	182.3
Cancers	126.5	150.2	143.7	156.4	116.5	138.5
Accidents	23.5	33.6	34.6	37.6	30.5	32.2
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	28.4	39.2	29.3	31.8	24.9	30.6
Stroke	38.2	27.0	29.3	27.6	29.7	30.2
Kidney Diseases	16.7	14.9	15.1	13.4	20.9	16.3
Alzheimer's Disease	15.7	14.9	16.0	10.0	18.5	15.0
Diabetes	21.6	16.8	14.2	14.2	7.2	14.5
Influenza and Pneumonia	13.7	14.0	12.4	8.4	7.2	11.0
Blood Poisoning	12.7	7.5	12.4	7.5	12.0	10.4

* Rate = number of deaths per 100,000 Source: OASIS

AGE ADJUSTED MORTALITY RATES

Most diseases and health outcomes occur at varying rates dependent upon age groups. For example, chronic conditions like heart disease occur more often among older people. The age distribution of a population often determines the most common health problems in a community. Calculating age adjusted rates allows for comparison across populations with different age distributions.

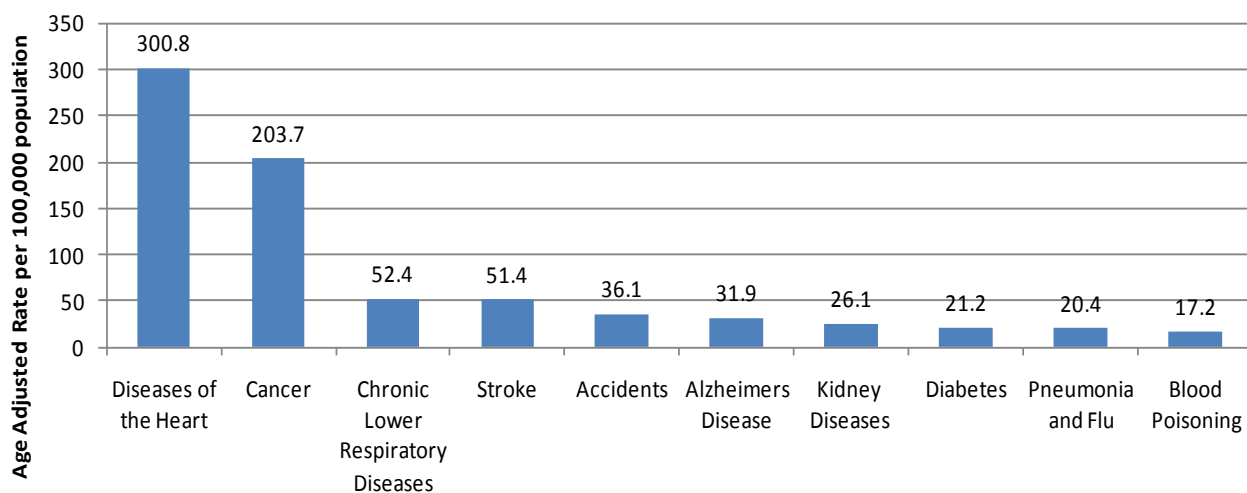
The age adjusted mortality rate for Douglas County is higher than for Georgia. Additionally, the white population had a higher rate than that of the black population in Douglas County.

Table 4-2: Age Adjusted Mortality Rate per 100,000 population (2003-2007)

	Douglas County	Georgia
Total Population	984.1	884.4
White	1,012.1	855.1
Black	895.4	1,031.0
Hispanic	315.1	279.4

Source: OASIS

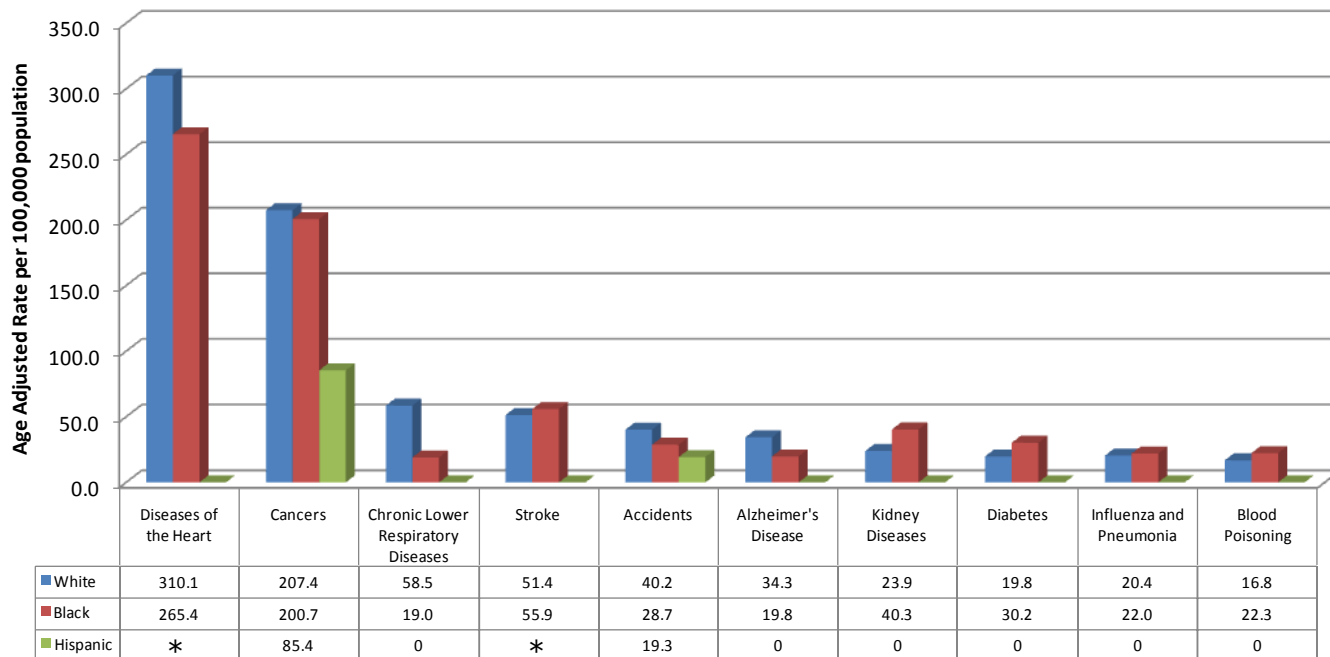
**Figure 4-1: Leading Causes of Mortality (Age Adjusted)
Douglas County, 2003-2007**



Source: OASIS

As shown in Figure 4-2, rates for heart disease are higher in the white population but rates of stroke are higher in the black population.

Figure 4-2: Leading Causes of Mortality by Race/Ethnicity, 2003-2007



*Rate could not be calculated due to small number of deaths.

Source: OASIS

LEADING CAUSES

LEADING CAUSES OF PREMATURE DEATHS

The top 5 leading causes of premature death in Douglas County are cancers, disease of the heart, accidents, suicide and fetal and infant conditions. Premature death is measured by the number of Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) due to a death occurring before the age of 75. Deaths in youth have greater impact to the YPLL total. The YPLL Rate is calculated by taking the total years of life lost and dividing by the population younger than 75.

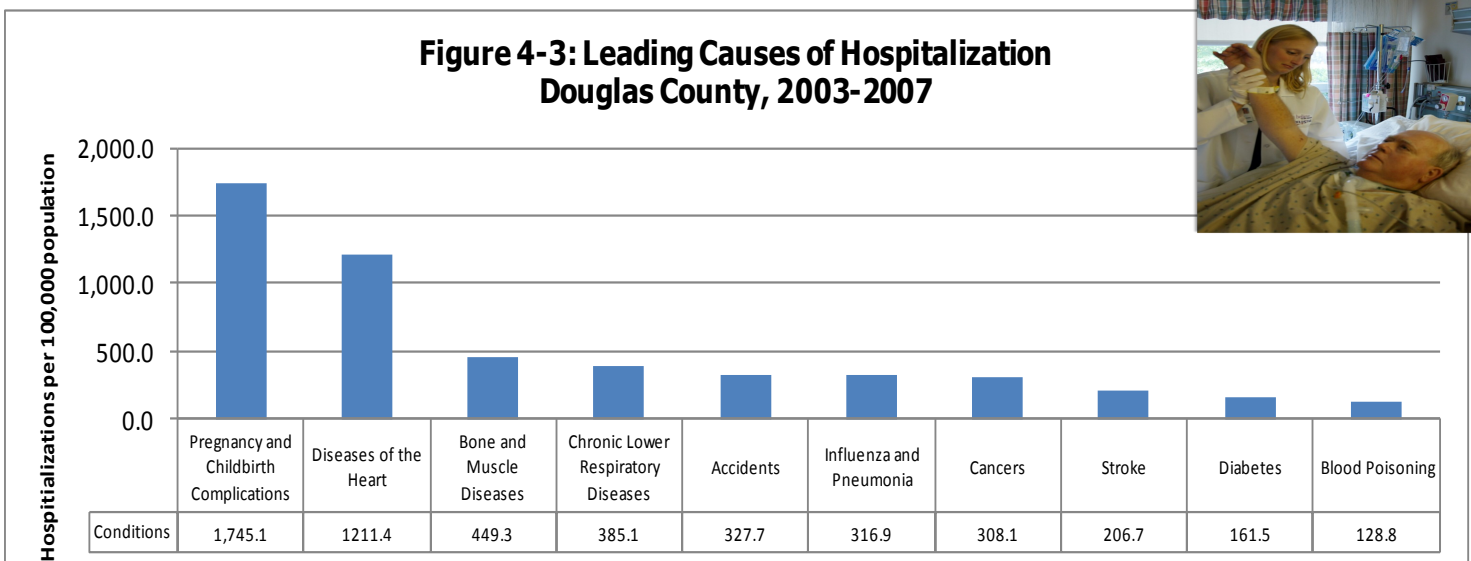
Currently, the estimated life expectancy for an infant born in Douglas County is 75.7 years. This is slightly below the U.S. at 76.5.

Table 4-3: Leading Causes of Premature Death Douglas County, 2003-2007	YPLL	YPLL Rate per 100,000
Cancers	8,616	1566.9
Diseases of the Heart	8,306	1510.4
Accidents	5,726	1041.2
Suicide	1,793	326.0
Fetal and Infant Conditions	1,714	311.6
Homicide	1,438	261.4
Stroke	1,238	225.1
Diabetes	1,002	182.1
Birth Defects	832	151.2
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	823	149.7

Source: OASIS

LEADING CAUSES OF HOSPITALIZATION

Hospitalization rate is a good health indicator for morbidity (illness or injury) or the amount of disease in a population. In Douglas County, the leading causes of hospitalization were pregnancy and childbirth complications, followed by diseases of the heart.



Source: OASIS