

Leading Causes



LEADING CAUSES

LEADING CAUSES OF MORTALITY (DEATH)

The top 5 leading causes of mortality (death) for Cobb County were consistent with the top 5 leading causes of mortality for the U.S. in 2007. From 2003-2007, there were a total of 16,557 deaths in Cobb County, averaging approximately 3,000 deaths per year. During that same period, the overall mortality rate of the white population was 582.7 per 100,000 population. This is higher than the black population, which had a mortality rate of 309.8 per 100,000 population.



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

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Overall Rate*
Diseases of the Heart	133.9	125.2	123.1	109.7	105.9	119.3
Cancers	109.1	118.5	113.1	106.4	113.7	112.2
Stroke	27.2	32.4	31.9	29.1	28.5	29.8
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	28.1	23.7	24.3	24.0	22.3	24.4
Accidents	12.7	17.9	23.5	28.3	23.1	21.2
Alzheimer's Disease	12.3	12.5	13.3	10.9	14.5	12.7
Kidney Diseases	9.7	9.8	11.0	9.1	11.9	10.3
Influenza and Pneumonia	11.4	9.6	9.2	8.1	9.2	9.5
Diabetes	9.1	7.8	10.4	11.3	8.1	9.3
Suicide	9.2	9.3	7.1	9.3	8.1	8.6

*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.

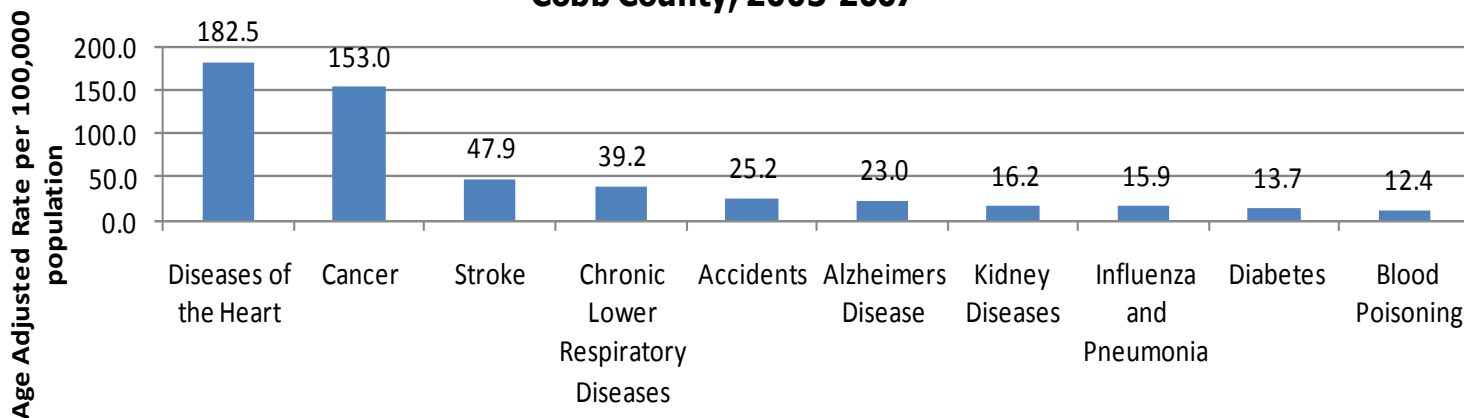
The age adjusted mortality rate for Cobb County is lower than for Georgia. Additionally, the black population has a higher rate than that of the white population for both Cobb County and for Georgia.

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

	Cobb County	Georgia
Total Population	723.5	884.4
White	729.5	855.1
Black	782.5	1,031.0
Hispanic	321.1	279.4

Source: OASIS

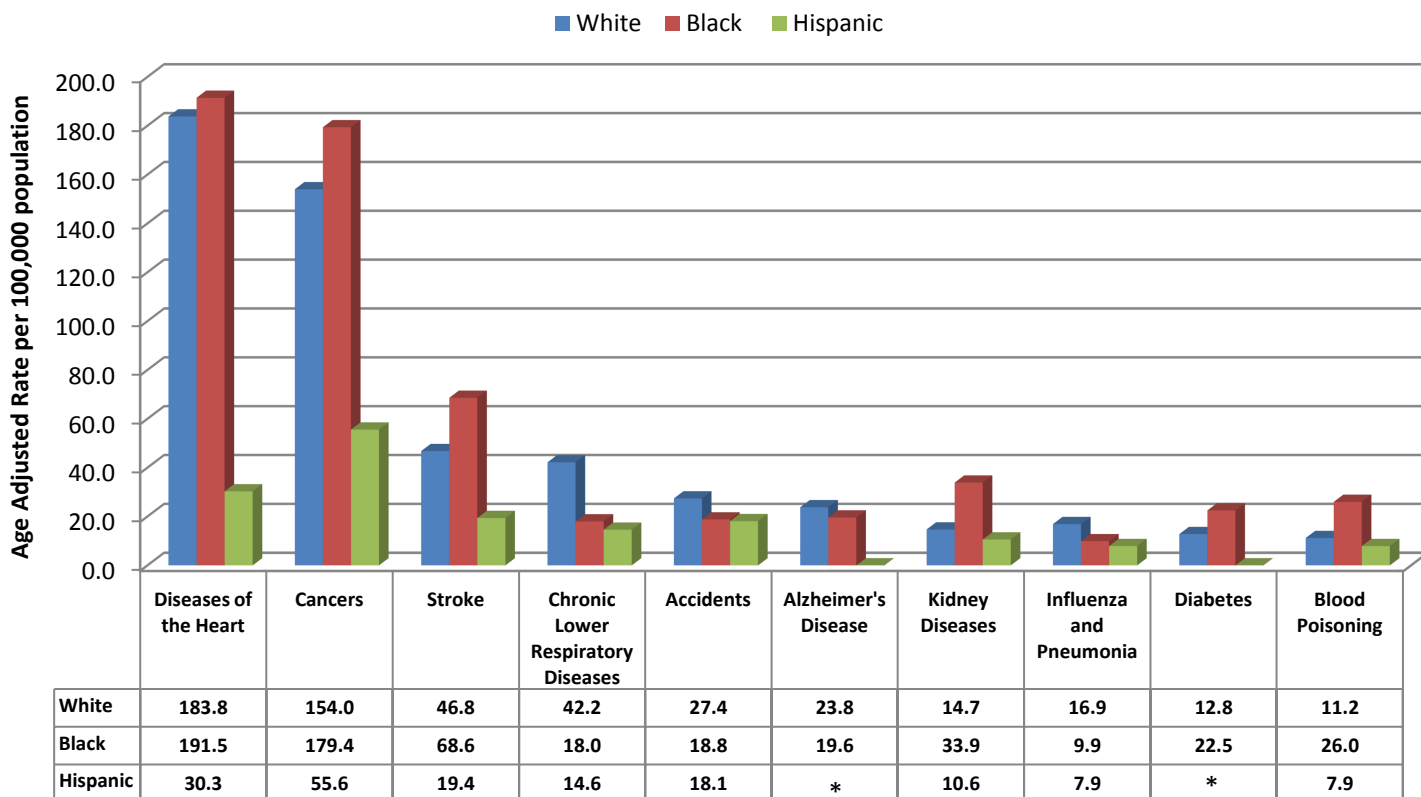
**Figure 4-1: Leading Causes of Mortality (Age Adjusted)
Cobb County, 2003-2007**



Source: OASIS

As shown in Figure 4-2, rates are higher in the black population for heart disease, cancers and stroke.

Figure 4-2: Leading Causes of Mortality by Race/Ethnicity Cobb County, 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 Cobb County are cancers, disease of the heart, accidents, fetal and infant conditions, and suicide. 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.

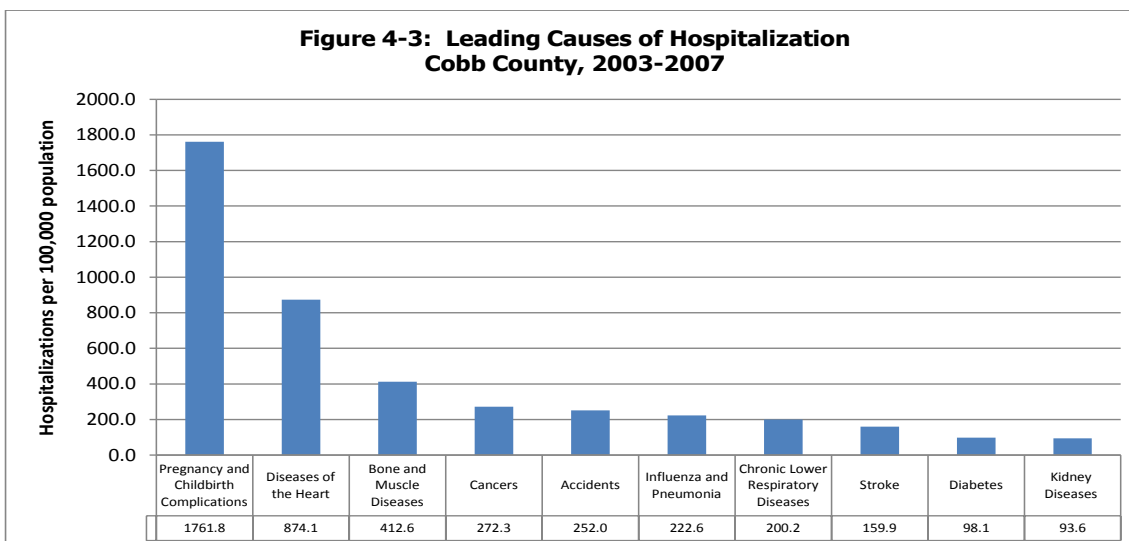
Currently, the estimated life expectancy for an infant born in Cobb County is 77.4 years. This is slightly higher than the U.S. at 76.5.

Table 4-3: Leading Causes of Premature Death Cobb County, 2003-2007	YPLL	YPLL Rate per 100,000
Cancers	38,230	1183.6
Diseases of the Heart	28,867	893.7
Accidents	19,629	607.7
Fetal and Infant Conditions	12,860	398.1
Suicide	8,862	274.4
Homicide	7,149	221.3
Birth Defects	5,865	181.6
Stroke	5,075	157.1
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	3,350	103.7
HIV/AIDS	3,180	98.5

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 Cobb County, the leading cause of hospitalization were pregnancy and childbirth complications, followed by diseases of the heart.



Source: OASIS