I begin my flyer by asking…

Consumption is a top 10 contributor to the Nashville city cemetery. Historically, consumption usually referred to tuberculosis, according to healthination.com The tuberculosis vaccine was first used in 1921, but was not widely used until the 1940's, when we also started to make use of antibiotics. This explains the steep dip in the percentage of deaths caused by "consumption". Don't get too comfortable though, according to the WHO, TB is still considered a public health crisis, as may antibiotic resistant strains are on the rise!

Speaking of changing death trends, I looked at a comparison between death by complications and cancer. Complication deaths are also a top 10 contributor to the Nashville city cemetery

Dying from complication can mean many things, but it often referred to dying from an aspect of disease that doctors did not know how to treat at the time, or dying from the treatment or surgery itself, according to the article Ten Ways to Die In the Victorian Era. This graph shows that with modern medicine, the death rates from complication decrease. An unfortunate side effect of longer lives is the higher prevalence of cancer related deaths in modern times. This chart shows that while advances of medicine lower some causes of death like complications, it can lead to other causes of death to become more common. The upside to this is that more people are living longer healthy lives.

We are living in a time where our chances of a long, healthy life are greater than ever, but if you want to learn more about a time when that was not the case, visit the Nashville city cemetery!

Although the term tuberculosis was coined back in 1834, the term was not widely used until the early 20th century.