

US Territory Mortality Statistics 2023

Mortality statistics for US territories extracted from CDC Multiple Cause of Death Public Use Files. Statistics include deaths where the relevant ICD-10 code appears as either the underlying cause or any contributing cause.

Results Summary

Territory	Total Deaths	Drug-Related	Overdose	Suicide
Puerto Rico	34,290	2,412	786	236
Guam	1,193	229	34	31
Virgin Islands	758	23	5	10
American Samoa	N/A*	N/A	N/A	N/A
Northern Mariana Islands	235	25	0	4

*American Samoa did not report mortality data for 2023 (CDC NVSR Vol 74, No 8).

Methodology

Multiple Cause of Death Approach: Deaths are counted if the relevant ICD-10 code appears as either the underlying cause OR any of up to 20 contributing causes. Statistics are based on State of Occurrence (where death occurred).

Overdose Deaths: X40-X44, X60-X64, X85, Y10-Y14

Drug-Related Deaths: Based on CDC NVSR 74-04 definitions - includes overdose codes plus D52.1, D59.0, D59.2, D61.1, D64.2, E06.4, E23.1, E24.2, E27.3, E66.1, F11-F19 (specific subcategories), G/I/J/K/L/M/R codes (specific only). Does NOT include T36-T50.

Suicide Deaths: Manner of Death = 2 (Suicide) OR ICD-10 codes X60-X84, U03, Y87.0

Validation: Public-Use Files vs CDC WONDER

To validate our methodology, we compared **national US overdose death counts** from both data sources using identical ICD-10 codes (X40-X44, X60-X64, X85, Y10-Y14) as underlying or contributing cause. The public-use files consistently show 0.3-1.8% more deaths because: (1) CDC WONDER suppresses cells with <10 deaths for privacy and excludes them from totals; (2) Downloadable files include late-filed death certificates not yet in WONDER; (3) Data release timing differences.

Year	CDC WONDER	Public-Use Files	Difference
2018	72,444	72,984	+0.7%
2019	76,083	76,655	+0.8%
2020	97,841	98,598	+0.8%

2021	113,555	114,488	+0.8%
2022	114,652	116,253	+1.4%
2023	112,106	114,121	+1.8%

The methodology matches the methodology that CDC WONDER uses. However, the public-use mortality files show 0.3-1.8% more deaths because they include more complete data than the WONDER online query system.

Data Source

CDC NCHS Multiple Cause of Death Public Use Files

Download: https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Datasets/DVS/mortality/
 File: mort2023ps.zip (US Territories)

References: CDC NVSR 74-04 (drug-induced death codes), CDC NVSR 74-08 (2023 mortality summary)