

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	33,958	2,348	749	231
Guam	1,183	228	34	31
Virgin Islands	750	22	5	9
American Samoa	N/A*	N/A	N/A	N/A
Northern Mariana Islands	232	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

CDC WONDER excludes foreign residents - deaths occurring in the US where the decedent resided outside the US. When we exclude foreign residents (resident_status = 4) from the public-use files, the counts match CDC WONDER exactly:

Metric	CDC WONDER	Public-Use (ALL)	Public-Use (excl. foreign)
2023 Overdose Deaths	112,106	114,121 (+1.8%)	112,106 (exact match)
2023 Total Deaths	3,090,964	3,101,016 (+0.3%)	3,090,964 (exact match)

This analysis excludes foreign residents to match CDC WONDER methodology. In 2023, there were 10,052 foreign resident deaths (0.32% of total) and 2,015 foreign resident overdose deaths (1.77% of overdoses).

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)