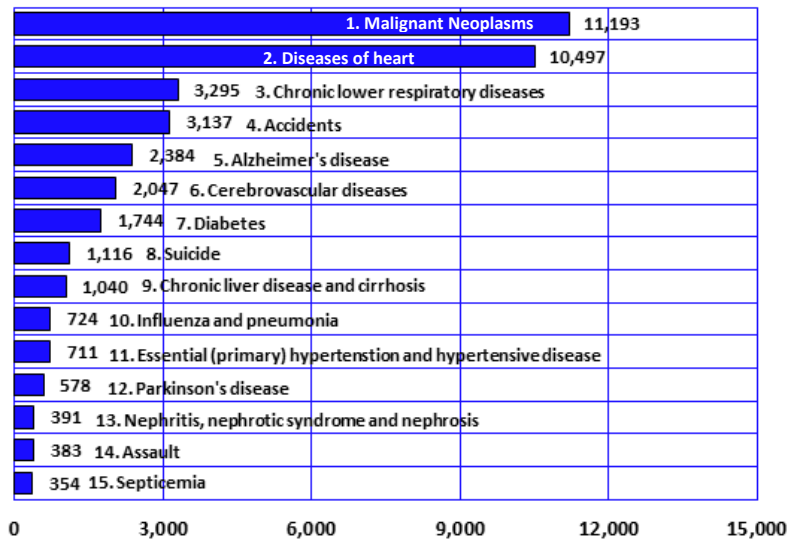


2B. LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

Figure 2B-1A
Leading Causes of Death among Arizona Residents in 2013

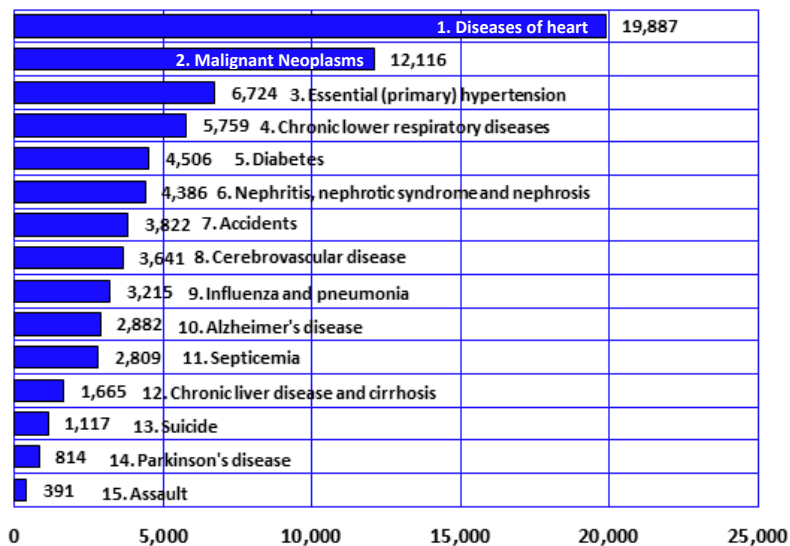
BASED ON THE NUMBER OF DEATHS DUE TO THE UNDERLYING CAUSE:



Based on the number of deaths (but not age-adjusted mortality rate), the leading underlying cause of death to Arizona residents in 2013 was cancer (11,193 or 22.4 percent of all deaths), closely followed by *heart disease*, which accounted for 10,497 or 21.0 percent of deaths (**Figure 2B-1A, Table 2B-1, Table 5E-14**). The third leading cause of death, *chronic lower respiratory diseases*, accounted for 3,295 or 6.6 percent of total deaths. Deaths due to *accidents (unintentional injuries)* ranked fourth in 2013, with 3,137 resident deaths reported. Deaths due to *Alzheimer's disease* ranked fifth in 2013, with 2,384 resident deaths reported. Together, these five causes accounted for 61.1 percent of total deaths in 2013. The fifteen leading causes accounted for 79.3 percent of all deaths among Arizona residents.

Figure 2B-1B
Leading Causes of Death among Arizona Residents in 2013

BASED ON THE NUMBER OF DEATHS DUE TO ANY MENTION OF A CAUSE:



For the purpose of mortality statistics, every death is attributed to one underlying condition or underlying cause of death. The underlying cause is defined as the disease or injury that initiated the chain of events leading directly to death. It is selected from up to 20 causes and conditions entered by the physician on the death certificate. The totality of all these conditions is known as multiple cause of death.

In addition to 10,497 deaths that had diseases of the heart assigned as the underlying cause, another 9,390 deaths had diseases of the heart assigned as a secondary cause of death. The sum of these two counts (19,887, **Figure 2B-1B**) is the total number of deaths that had any mention of diseases of the heart on the 2013 death certificates. The ranking based on any mention of the 15 diagnostic categories is different from ranking of the leading causes of death based on the underlying cause. In particular, essential (primary) hypertension ranked 10th as the underlying cause but ranked 3rd when any mention of it was counted.