

10 Leading causes of death among American Indians by year, South Dakota, 2007–2023

Rank	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	Heart 79	Heart 70	Heart 94	Cancer 84	Heart 79	Cancer 107	Cancer 89	Heart 82	Heart 92	Heart 90	Heart 103	Heart 123	Heart 98	COVID-19 206	Liver 175	Liver 144	Cancer 118
2	Cancer 61	Cancer 64	Cancer 69	Heart 76	Cancer 76	Heart 87	Heart 84	Cancer 80	Cancer 77	Cancer 86	Cancer 96	Cancer 105	Cancer 91	Heart 117	Heart 127	Heart 131	Heart 115
3	Diabetes 44	Liver 39	MVA 41	Diabetes 51	Diabetes 43	Liver 47	Liver 55	Liver 59	Diabetes 53	Liver 58	Liver 62	Liver 79	Liver 64	Liver 109	COVID-19 111	Cancer 103	Liver 107
4	Liver 38	Diabetes 33	Suicide 33	Liver 29	Liver 37	Diabetes 37	MVA 39	Diabetes 42	Liver 52	Diabetes 50	Diabetes 56	Diabetes 70	Diabetes 56	Cancer 101	Diabetes 87	Diabetes 74	Diabetes 61
5	MVA 34	Suicide 26	Liver 30	MVA 29	MVA 30	MVA 34	Diabetes 37	MVA 25	Suicide 47	MVA 38	MVA 48	MVA 45	Suicide 28	Diabetes 82	Cancer 86	MVA 62	Suicide 42
6	CLRD 19	CLRD 25	Diabetes 27	Suicide 23	Suicide 23	Suicide 19	Suicide 21	Suicide 20	MVA 41	Suicide 33	Suicide 44	Suicide 34	MVA 27	Suicide 42	MVA 61	COVID-19 62	MVA 41
7	Suicide 17	MVA 22	CLRD 20	CLRD 16	CLRD 21	CLRD 19	Stroke 21	Stroke 20	CLRD 19	I & P 22	CLRD 31	CLRD 25	CLRD 23	MVA 39	Suicide 50	Suicide 43	Homicide 30
8	Stroke 16	Stroke 16	Stroke 16	Septicemia 14	Stroke 17	Stroke 15	CLRD 15	Septicemia 13	Stroke 16	CLRD 21	Stroke 21	Septicemia 20	Stroke 21	Stroke 31	CLRD 34	Homicide 35	Drug 29
9	I & P 12	I & P 15	Homicide 16	Stroke 13	I & P 16	I & P 13	I & P 15	CLRD 12	I & P 16	Homicide 18	I & P 18	I & P 16	Drug 18	Homicide 29	Drug 25	Drug 23	Septicemia 25
10	Septicemia 9	Alcohol 9	Septicemia 10	Falls 12	Homicide 11	Falls 11	Homicide 12	I & P 12	Septicemia 14	Kidney 18	Falls 14	Stroke 14	I & P 17	Septicemia 21	Alcohol 24	CLRD 22	CLRD 14
Total	488	493	498	532	524	580	568	560	636	649	714	732	688	1,086	1,102	1,013	859
CDR*	750	750	750	765	749	820	799	786	888	898	982	1,002	936	1,488	1,504	1,445	1,219
AADR*	1,392	1,318	1,250	1,339	1,266	1,343	1,322	1,280	1,354	1,406	1,517	1,549	1,392	2,174	2,140	1,993	1,629

Highlighted areas indicate the highest rank from 2007-2023 for the given cause of death. Tie breaker goes to highest percentage of total deaths.

Heart: Heart disease

CLRD: Chronic lower respiratory disease, (Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)

Liver: Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis

Kidney: Kidney disease

CDR: Crude death rate per 100,000 population

MVA: Motor vehicle accidents

I & P: Influenza and pneumonia

Alcohol: Chronic alcohol abuse

AADR: Age-adjusted death rate per 100,000 population

Falls: Accidental falls

Drug: Accidental drug overdose

Local physicians or coroners submit death certificates to the South Dakota Department of Health. Over the past 17 years, 2007-2023, the top three leading causes of death in any given year have been heart disease, cancer, chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, diabetes, motor vehicle accidents, and COVID-19. Cancer was the leading cause in 2023 for the first time since 2013.

Age-grouped deaths during the 10 years, 2014-2023, show motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of death in children 1-9 years of age. Suicide was the leading cause of those 10-29 years old. Chronic liver disease was the leading cause for 30-59-year-olds, while COVID-19 caused more deaths from 2020-2023 for 60-69-year-olds than the average of the next highest cause for the previous ten years. Cancer was the leading cause for 70-79-year-olds, while heart disease was most common in the 80+ age group.

Source: Office of Health Statistics, SD Dept. of Health

10 Leading causes of death by age group among American Indians, South Dakota, 2014-2023 Average Deaths per Year

Rank	Age Groups											Total
	<1	1-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+	
	Yearly Average 21	Yearly Average 9	Yearly Average 23	Yearly Average 56	Yearly Average 88	Yearly Average 100	Yearly Average 144	Yearly Average 142	Yearly Average 126	Yearly Average 73	Yearly Average 22	Yearly Average 804
1	Congenital malformation 3	Motor vehicle accident 2	Suicide 12	Suicide 14	Chronic liver disease 20	Chronic liver disease 24	Chronic liver disease 25	COVID-19 (2020-2023) 28	Cancer 27	Heart disease 14	Heart disease 6	Heart disease 108
2	Short gestation and low birth weight 2	Homicide 2	Motor vehicle accident 5	Motor vehicle accident 12	Motor vehicle accident 10	Heart disease 12	COVID-19 (2020-2023) 17	Heart disease 28	COVID-19 (2020-2023) 25	COVID-19 (2020-2023) 12	COVID-19 (2020-2023) 2	COVID-19 (2020-2023) 98
3	SIDS 2		Homicide 2	Chronic liver disease 5	Suicide 7	Diabetes 9	Heart disease 21	Cancer 27	Heart disease 22	Cancer 11	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 2	Cancer 94
4	Suffocation in bed 2			Homicide 5	Accidental drug overdose 6	COVID-19 (2020-2023) 8	Cancer 18	Diabetes 15	Diabetes 14	Diabetes 7	Alzheimer's disease 2	Chronic liver disease 91
5	Undetermined cause 2			Accidental drug overdose 4	Homicide 6	Motor vehicle accident 5	Diabetes 13	Chronic liver disease 11	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 7	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 5	Dementia 2	Diabetes 63
6	Placenta issues 1			Heart disease 2	COVID-19 (2020-2023) 5	Cancer 4	Motor vehicle accident 5	Stroke 5	Stroke 4	Dementia 3	Cancer 2	Motor vehicle accident 43
7				COVID-19 (2020-2023) 2	Heart disease 5	Suicide 3	Septicemia 4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 4	Chronic liver disease 4	Alzheimer's disease 3	Influenza & pneumonia 1	Suicide 38
8				Accidental alcohol poisoning 1	Diabetes 4	Chronic alcohol abuse 3	Stroke 3	Septicemia 4	Influenza & pneumonia 3	Influenza & pneumonia 3		Chronic lower respiratory diseases 22
9				Exposure to natural cold 1	Cancer 3	Accidental drug overdose 3	Chronic alcohol abuse 3	Motor vehicle accident 3	Kidney disease 3	Stroke 2		Homicide 20
10					Septicemia 2	Homicide 3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 3	Influenza & pneumonia 3	Septicemia 3	Kidney disease 2		Stroke 18

Top 5 causes of death are highlighted.

Source: Office of Health Statistics, SD Dept. of Health