

COMPARISON OF MORTALITY IN KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE, 1996-1997

- Comparing all-cause mortality for both females and males in 1997, the two border states of Tennessee and Kentucky exhibit very similar rates.
- In specific cause categories, some differences are noted.
 - Higher cerebrovascular disease death rates and pneumonia/influenza death rates are observed among Tennessee females and males, compared to their Kentucky counter-parts.
 - Higher cancer death rates are observed among Kentucky males and females, compared to their Tennessee counterparts.
- The respective percentages of deaths attributable to the five leading causes in 1997 are fairly uniform across the two states.
- Age-adjusted mortality rates for 1996 (adjusted to the 1940 standard population) are higher among Kentucky females for lung cancer, heart disease, and COPD, with some excess stroke mortality again noted for Tennessee females.
- Both age-adjusted suicide and homicide rates are higher among Tennessee females, while unintentional injury mortality is higher among Kentucky females in 1996.
- All-cancer death rates are higher for both white and black females in Kentucky, compared to white and black females in Tennessee in 1996.
- White females in Tennessee had lower overall cancer mortality rates and lower lung cancer rates, but about the same death rates from breast cancer as their Kentucky counterparts. White females in Tennessee also had lower heart disease and COPD mortality and lower unintentional injury death rates compared to rates among their Kentucky peers.
- Among black females, the most striking difference in age-adjusted mortality rates is the relatively low rate of death from all cancers, especially lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in the Tennessee's population compared to the Kentucky population. On the other hand, Tennessee black females showed excess age-adjusted death rates from genital cancers and, to a lesser extent, breast cancer, heart disease, and stroke (CVD). Other causes of death are similar among black females from the two neighboring states, including rates of diabetes, and unintentional and intentional injuries.

Source: Health Information Tennessee (HIT) Web site at server.to/hit and "A Profile of Women's Health Status in Kentucky", Kentucky Office of Women's Health, Frankfort, Kentucky, circa 1998/1999.