

## PROFILING HEART DISEASE AND STROKE IN TENNESSEE AS LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

- In 2001, heart disease<sup>5</sup> was the leading cause of death and stroke the third leading cause in Tennessee. Thus, 28.4% of 2001 deaths in Tennessee were due to diseases of the heart; 22.2% were due to malignant neoplasms or cancer; and cerebrovascular disease or stroke accounted for 7.3% of deaths.
- Heart disease death rates have declined in Tennessee, from 316.1 deaths per 100,000 in 1990 to 273.2 in 2001. All age-groups experienced the decline in heart disease death rates over the past 10 years, with the exception of those 18-39 years of age, for whom already low rates increased slightly. The largest decline in heart disease death rates occurred in the 65 and over age-group, and particularly among those aged 65-74 years.
- Age-adjusted death rates from heart disease based on the year 2000 standard million population show that blacks had substantially higher heart disease death rates than whites in 2001. Blacks' rates were 350.2 per 100,000, compared to 276.7 for whites.
- Age-adjusted heart disease death rates for Tennessee for 2001 show that males had higher heart disease death rates (351.2 per 100,000) than females (232.4 per 100,000).
- By gender and by race, black males had by far the highest age-adjusted heart disease death rates at 423.0 per 100,000, followed by white males at 346.8 and black females at 300.5. White females exhibited the lowest heart disease death rates at 225.1 deaths per 100,000 population.
- Heart disease death rates were very low for other races at 47.4 per 100,000 overall, with lower rates for females than males at 35.7, compared to 63.9. Other races were mainly Hispanics in Tennessee, and their population is transient, with a young age structure.
- Overall, age-adjusted heart disease death rates for 2001 for nonmetropolitan and metropolitan regions of Tennessee were 287.4 and 275.6, respectively, compared to the age-adjusted rate of 282.6 for the state as a whole.

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<sup>5</sup>Diseases of the heart include ICD-10 codes, I00-I09, I11, I13, and I-20 through I-51. See Mortality Rates under SPOT at [www.tennessee.gov/hitspot](http://www.tennessee.gov/hitspot) for data source.