

Annual Causes of Deaths in the US

Tobacco: 430,700¹

1. Average 1990-1994. Source: "Smoking-Attributable Mortality and Years of Potential Life Lost," Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control, 1997), May 23, 1997, Vol. 46, No. 20, p. 449.

Alcohol: 110,640²

2. 1996. Source: "Number of deaths and age-adjusted death rates per 100,000 population for categories of alcohol-related (A-R) mortality, United States and States, 1979-96," National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, from the web at <http://silk.nih.gov/silk/niaaa1/database/armort01.txt>, last accessed Feb. 12, 2001, citing Alcohol Epidemiologic Data System, Saadatmand, F, Stinson, FS, Grant, BF, and Dufour, MC, "Surveillance Report #52: Liver Cirrhosis Mortality in the United States, 1970-96" (Rockville, MD: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Division of Biometry and Epidemiology, December 1999).

Adverse Reactions to Prescription Drugs: 32,000³

3. Average 1982-1998. Source: Lazarou, J, Pomeranz, BH, Corey, PN, "Incidence of adverse drug reactions in hospitalized patients: a meta-analysis of prospective studies," *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Chicago, IL: American Medical Association, 1998), 1998;279:1200-1205, also letters column, "Adverse Drug Reactions in Hospitalized Patients," *JAMA* (Chicago, IL: AMA, 1998), Nov. 25, 1998, Vol. 280, No. 20, from the web at <http://jama.ama-assn.org/issues/v280n20/full/jlt1125-1.html>, last accessed Feb. 12, 2001.

Suicide: 30,575⁴

4. 1998. Source: Murphy, Sheila L., "Deaths: Final Data for 1998," National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 48, No. 11 (Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, July 24, 2000), Table 10, p. 53.

Homicide: 18,272⁵

5. 1998. Source: Murphy, Sheila L., "Deaths: Final Data for 1998," National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 48, No. 11 (Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, July 24, 2000), Table 10, p. 53.

All Licit & Illicit Drug-Induced Deaths: 16,926⁶

6. 1998. Source: Murphy, Sheila L., "Deaths: Final Data for 1998," National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 48, No. 11 (Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, July 24, 2000), pp. 1, 10.

Anti-Inflammatory Drugs such as Aspirin: 7,600⁷

7. 1992. Source: Robyn Tambllyn, PhD; Laeora Berkson, MD, MHPE, FRCPC; W. Dale Dauphinee, MD, FRCPC; David Gayton, MD, PhD, FRCPC; Roland Grad, MD, MSc; Allen Huang, MD, FRCPC; Lisa Isaac, PhD; Peter McLeod, MD, FRCPC; and Linda Snell, MD, MHPE, FRCPC, "Unnecessary Prescribing of NSAIDs and the Management of NSAID-Related Gastropathy in Medical Practice," *Annals of Internal Medicine* (Washington, DC: American College of Physicians, 1997), September 15, 1997, 127:429-438, from the web at <http://www.acponline.org/journals/annals/15sep97/nsaid.htm>, last accessed Feb. 14, 2001, citing Fries, JF, "Assessing and understanding patient risk," *Scandinavian Journal of Rheumatology Supplement*, 1992;92:21-4.

Marijuana: 0⁸

8. ?-Present. Sources: Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), available on the web at <http://www.samhsa.gov/>; also see Janet E. Joy, Stanley J. Watson, Jr., and John A. Benson, Jr., *Marijuana and Medicine: Assessing the Science Base*. Division of Neuroscience and Behavioral Research, Institute of Medicine (Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 1999, available on the web at <http://www.nap.edu/html/marimed/>; and US Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, "In the Matter of Marijuana Rescheduling Petition" (Docket #86-22), September 6, 1988, p. 57.

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