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# Colorado Births and Deaths 2003

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## Selected birth characteristics: Colorado residents, 2003

Characteristic	Number	Percent
Total Live Births	69,304	100.0
Age of Mother		
10-17	2,418	3.5
18-19	4,387	6.3
20-29	35,193	50.8
30+	27,274	39.4
Low Weight Births (<2,500 Grams)	6,272	9.1
Very Low Weight Births (<1,500 Grams)	906	1.3
Prenatal Care Later than 1st Trimester/No Care	14,138	20.7
No Prenatal Care	692	1.0
Preterm Births (<37 Weeks)	6,685	9.6
Education of Mother <12 Years	15,389	22.2
Live Births to Unmarried Women	18,505	26.7
Smoking During Pregnancy	5,602	8.1

\* indicates one or two events in the category.

Sums may not add to total due to cases with age of mother unknown.

Percentages are of total births, excluding cases with specific characteristics unknown.

See technical notes at [www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs) for definitions of data items.

Source: Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

**Selected birth characteristics by age group of mother: Colorado residents, 2003**

Characteristic	All Ages		10-17		18-19		20-29		30+	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total Live Births</b>	69,304	100.0	2,418	100.0	4,387	100.0	35,193	100.0	27,274	100.0
<b>Race/Ethnicity of Mother</b>										
White Non-Hispanic	42,330	61.1	704	29.1	1,846	42.1	19,695	56.0	20,066	73.6
White Hispanic	20,803	30.0	1,452	60.0	2,093	47.7	12,306	35.0	4,946	18.1
Black	2,930	4.2	173	7.2	295	6.7	1,657	4.7	805	3.0
Other	3,235	4.7	89	3.7	152	3.5	1,535	4.4	1,455	5.3
<b>Low Weight Births (&lt;2,500 Grams)</b>	6,272	9.1	278	11.5	408	9.3	3,004	8.5	2,576	9.4
Very Low Weight Births (<1,500 Grams)	906	1.3	42	1.7	71	1.6	418	1.2	374	1.4
<b>Prenatal Care Later than 1st Trimester/No Care</b>	14,138	20.7	1,004	42.1	1,456	33.7	8,008	23.1	3,662	13.7
No Prenatal Care	692	1.0	50	2.1	79	1.8	394	1.1	166	0.6
<b>Preterm Births (&lt;37 Weeks)</b>	6,685	9.6	281	11.6	392	8.9	3,157	9.0	2,846	10.4
<b>Education of Mother &lt;12 Years</b>	15,389	22.2	2,138	88.4	2,132	48.6	8,474	24.1	2,641	9.7
<b>Live Births to Unmarried Women</b>	18,505	26.7	2,096	86.7	2,952	67.3	10,633	30.2	2,806	10.3
<b>Smoking During Pregnancy</b>	5,602	8.1	256	10.6	671	15.4	3,409	9.7	1,263	4.6

\* indicates one or two events in the category.

Sums may not add to total due to cases with age of mother unknown.

Percentages are of total births, excluding cases with specific characteristics unknown.

See technical notes at [www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs) for definitions of data items.

Source: Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

**Selected birth characteristics by race/ethnicity of mother: Colorado residents, 2003**

Characteristic	White Non-Hispanic		White Hispanic		Black		Asian		American Indian	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total Live Births</b>	42,330	100.0	20,803	100.0	2,930	100.0	2,673	100.0	562	100.0
<b>Age of Mother</b>										
<b>10-17</b>	704	1.7	1,452	7.0	173	5.9	46	1.7	43	7.7
<b>18-19</b>	1,846	4.4	2,093	10.1	295	10.1	93	3.5	59	10.5
<b>20-29</b>	19,695	46.5	12,306	59.2	1,657	56.6	1,214	45.4	321	57.1
<b>30+</b>	20,066	47.4	4,946	23.8	805	27.5	1,317	49.3	138	24.6
<b>Low Weight Births (&lt;2,500 Grams)</b>	3,731	8.8	1,736	8.3	467	15.9	274	10.3	63	11.2
<b>Very Low Weight Births (&lt;1,500 Grams)</b>	502	1.2	264	1.3	104	3.6	27	1.0	9	1.6
<b>Prenatal Care Later than 1st Trimester/No Care</b>	5,817	13.9	6,758	33.0	833	29.1	556	21.1	174	32.1
<b>No Prenatal Care</b>	300	0.7	298	1.5	53	1.9	25	1.0	16	3.0
<b>Preterm Births (&lt;37 Weeks)</b>	4,083	9.6	1,856	8.9	427	14.6	256	9.6	63	11.2
<b>Education of Mother &lt;12 Years</b>	3,469	8.2	10,812	52.0	604	20.6	332	12.4	172	30.6
<b>Live Births to Unmarried Women</b>	7,714	18.2	8,581	41.2	1,528	52.2	389	14.6	289	51.4
<b>Smoking During Pregnancy</b>	4,152	9.8	983	4.7	306	10.5	84	3.1	77	13.9

*\* indicates one or two events in the category.*

*Sums may not add to total due to cases with age of mother unknown.*

*Percentages are of total births of each race/ethnicity group, excluding cases with specific characteristics unknown.*

*See technical notes at [www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs) for definitions of data items.*

*Source: Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.*

**Live births and fertility rates by age group of mother: Colorado residents, 2003**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Births</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Fertility Rate</b>
<b>All Ages</b>	69,304	999,652	69.3
<b>Teen Age Groups</b>			
<b>13-14</b>	112	62,904	1.8
<b>15-17</b>	2,304	94,858	24.3
<b>18-19</b>	4,387	70,199	62.5
<b>10-17</b>	2,418	252,749	9.6
<b>10-19</b>	6,805	322,949	21.1
<b>All Age Groups</b>			
<b>10-14</b>	114	157,892	0.7
<b>15-19</b>	6,691	165,057	40.5
<b>20-24</b>	16,880	149,959	112.6
<b>25-29</b>	18,313	153,691	119.2
<b>30-34</b>	17,293	170,809	101.2
<b>35-39</b>	8,052	170,361	47.3
<b>40-49</b>	1,924	371,867	5.2

*\* indicates one or two events in the category.*

*Sums may not add to total due to cases with age of mother unknown.*

*Rates are live births per 1,000 female population in each age group.*

*Population data for 'all ages' are females ages 15-44.*

*See technical notes at [www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs) for definitions of data items.*

*Source: Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.*

**Vital statistics summary: Colorado residents, 1993, 1999-2003**

	1993	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999-2003 Annual Average
<b>Total Population</b>	3,605,032	4,215,972	4,339,549	4,445,431	4,520,884	4,585,130	4,421,393
<b>Total Births</b>							
Number	54,013	62,142	65,429	67,006	68,420	69,304	66,460
Birth Rate	15.0	14.7	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.0
General Fertility Rate	62.4	64.8	66.9	67.7	68.7	69.3	67.5
<b>Age of Mother 10-17</b>							
Number	2,559	2,685	2,729	2,452	2,546	2,418	2,566
Percent of Total Births	4.7	4.3	4.2	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.9
Fertility Rate	13.3	11.5	11.3	9.9	10.2	9.6	10.5
<b>Low Weight Births (&lt;2,500 Grams)</b>							
Number	4,545	5,233	5,537	5,765	6,116	6,272	5,785
Percent	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.9	9.0	8.7
<b>Prenatal Care Later Than 1st Trimester</b>							
Number	10,882	11,315	12,413	13,342	14,121	14,138	13,066
Percent	20.5	18.3	19.3	20.2	20.9	20.7	19.9
<b>Births to Unmarried Women</b>							
Number	13,367	15,781	16,339	16,713	18,309	18,505	17,129
Percent	24.7	25.4	25.0	24.9	26.8	26.7	25.8
<b>Mother's Education &lt;12 Years</b>							
Number	9,413	12,324	13,490	14,499	15,241	15,389	14,189
Percent	18.0	20.0	20.9	21.9	22.5	22.4	21.6
<b>Infant Deaths</b>							
Number	426	415	402	387	413	419	407
Rate	7.9	6.7	6.1	5.8	6.0	6.0	6.1
<b>Neonatal Deaths</b>							
Number	229	266	279	288	273	304	282
Rate	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.4	4.2
<b>Total Deaths</b>							
Number	23,740	27,033	27,229	28,243	29,157	29,410	28,214
Crude Rate	658.5	641.2	627.5	635.3	644.9	641.4	638.1
Age-Adjusted Rate	839.2	803.6	783.5	777.9	783.4	785.2	786.4
<b>Cardiovascular Disease</b>							
Number	7,842	9,167	8,929	9,126	9,325	9,228	9,155
Age-Adjusted Rate	292.3	284.0	267.5	262.1	260.7	257.4	266.0
<b>Heart Disease</b>							
Number	6,124	6,386	6,135	6,271	6,403	6,483	6,336
Age-Adjusted Rate	226.6	196.4	182.3	178.5	177.6	179.3	182.5

(Continued)

\* indicates one or two events in the category.

Birth rates are per 1,000 total population.

General fertility rates are births per 1,000 females ages 15-44.

Fertility rates for mothers ages 10-17 are births per 1,000 females of this age group.

Infant and neonatal mortality rates are per 1,000 live births.

Other death rates are per 100,000 population.

Age-adjusted rates are adjusted to the 2000 U.S. population using the direct method applied to 10-year age groups.

Source: Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

**Vital statistics summary: Colorado residents, 1993, 1999-2003**

	1993	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999-2003 Annual Average
<b>Cerebrovascular Disease</b>							
Number	1,607	1,821	1,854	1,821	1,907	1,806	1,842
Age-Adjusted Rate	61.3	57.2	56.5	53.2	54.1	51.3	54.4
<b>Malignant Neoplasms</b>							
Number	5,333	5,830	5,896	6,134	6,372	6,400	6,126
Age-Adjusted Rate	185.0	170.8	167.8	166.6	168.7	167.3	168.2
<b>Lung Cancer</b>							
Number	1,305	1,362	1,426	1,484	1,544	1,541	1,471
Age-Adjusted Rate	44.7	40.3	40.8	40.7	41.2	40.8	40.7
<b>Breast Cancer</b>							
Number	495	486	480	468	495	509	488
Age-Adjusted Rate	16.7	13.8	13.0	12.1	12.5	12.7	12.8
<b>Total Unintentional Injuries</b>							
Number	1,177	1,506	1,715	1,702	1,803	1,783	1,702
Age-Adjusted Rate	34.8	38.8	42.7	40.8	42.4	41.5	41.3
<b>Motor Vehicle</b>							
Number	598	555	714	746	771	691	695
Age-Adjusted Rate	16.5	13.3	16.6	16.8	17.1	15.2	15.8
<b>Other Unintentional Injuries</b>							
Number	579	951	1,001	956	1,032	1,092	1,006
Age-Adjusted Rate	18.3	25.5	26.1	24.0	25.3	26.4	25.4
<b>Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases</b>							
Number	1,519	1,890	1,777	1,829	1,847	1,925	1,854
Age-Adjusted Rate	55.0	58.2	53.2	52.3	51.4	53.4	53.7
<b>Suicide</b>							
Number	606	567	612	717	724	718	668
Age-Adjusted Rate	17.2	13.6	14.1	16.3	16.0	15.7	15.2
<b>Homicide and Legal Intervention</b>							
Number	206	204	155	172	194	202	185
Age-Adjusted Rate	5.5	4.6	3.5	3.8	4.2	4.3	4.1
<b>Work-Related Injury</b>							
Number	86	78	102	95	95	81	90
Age-Adjusted Rate	2.4	1.8	2.3	2.1	2.1	1.7	2.0

\* indicates one or two events in the category.

Birth rates are per 1,000 total population.

General fertility rates are births per 1,000 females ages 15-44.

Fertility rates for mothers ages 10-17 are births per 1,000 females of this age group.

Infant and neonatal mortality rates are per 1,000 live births.

Other death rates are per 100,000 population.

Age-adjusted rates are adjusted to the 2000 U.S. population using the direct method applied to 10-year age groups.

Source: Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

**Deaths from selected causes by race/ethnicity: Colorado residents, 2003**

Cause of Death	All Races		White Non-Hispanic		White Hispanic		Black		Asian		American Indian	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Total</b>	29,410	100.0	24,868	100.0	2,995	100.0	1,068	100.0	289	100.0	168	100.0
<b>Cardiovascular Disease</b>	9,228	31.4	8,040	32.3	731	24.4	331	31.0	74	25.6	45	26.8
Heart Disease	6,483	22.0	5,652	22.7	520	17.4	230	21.5	38	13.1	37	22.0
Cerebrovascular Disease	1,806	6.1	1,560	6.3	148	4.9	63	5.9	27	9.3	7	4.2
Atherosclerosis	493	1.7	437	1.8	30	1.0	19	1.8	6	2.1	*	*
<b>Malignant Neoplasms</b>	6,400	21.8	5,482	22.0	597	19.9	214	20.0	81	28.0	23	13.7
Lung Cancer	1,541	5.2	1,337	5.4	116	3.9	59	5.5	21	7.3	7	4.2
Breast Cancer	509	1.7	452	1.8	38	1.3	13	1.2	5	1.7	*	*
<b>Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease</b>	1,925	6.5	1,765	7.1	110	3.7	38	3.6	8	2.8	4	2.4
<b>Unintentional Injuries</b>	1,783	6.1	1,350	5.4	317	10.6	58	5.4	26	9.0	30	17.9
Motor Vehicle	691	2.3	479	1.9	163	5.4	23	2.2	13	4.5	13	7.7
Other Unintentional Injuries	1,092	3.7	871	3.5	154	5.1	35	3.3	13	4.5	17	10.1
<b>Pneumonia and Influenza</b>	809	2.8	699	2.8	75	2.5	21	2.0	9	3.1	4	2.4
<b>Suicide</b>	718	2.4	627	2.5	65	2.2	13	1.2	8	2.8	4	2.4
<b>Diabetes Mellitus</b>	709	2.4	513	2.1	134	4.5	44	4.1	8	2.8	9	5.4
<b>HIV Infection</b>	81	0.3	44	0.2	17	0.6	19	1.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis</b>	408	1.4	301	1.2	80	2.7	17	1.6	*	*	6	3.6
<b>Alzheimer's Disease</b>	897	3.0	830	3.3	46	1.5	16	1.5	3	1.0	*	*
<b>Nephritis, Nephrosis, Nephrotic Syndrome</b>	408	1.4	323	1.3	55	1.8	21	2.0	5	1.7	*	*
<b>Homicide and Legal Intervention</b>	202	0.7	82	0.3	74	2.5	39	3.7	*	*	5	3.0
<b>Septicemia</b>	318	1.1	258	1.0	41	1.4	9	0.8	7	2.4	3	1.8
<b>Congenital Anomalies</b>	147	0.5	95	0.4	36	1.2	11	1.0	3	1.0	*	*
<b>Perinatal Period Conditions</b>	223	0.8	100	0.4	77	2.6	43	4.0	3	1.0	0	0.0
<b>All Other</b>	5,154	17.5	4,359	17.5	540	18.0	174	16.3	51	17.6	29	17.3
<b>Injury by Firearm</b>	498	1.7	378	1.5	74	2.5	34	3.2	4	1.4	6	3.6
<b>Drug-Induced Deaths</b>	523	1.8	414	1.7	74	2.5	24	2.2	3	1.0	8	4.8
<b>Alcohol-Induced Deaths</b>	511	1.7	408	1.6	69	2.3	23	2.2	*	*	7	4.2
<b>Work-Related Injury (Y/N Check Death Certificate)</b>	81	0.3	54	0.2	23	0.8	3	0.3	0	0.0	*	*

\* indicates one or two events in the category.

Percentages are of total deaths of each race/ethnicity category.

Source: Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.



## Deaths and age-specific death rates: Colorado county residents, 2003

Age Group	Deaths	Population	Age-Specific Death Rate
<b>All Ages</b>	29,410	4,585,130	6.4
<b>Infant</b>	419	69,304	6.0
<b>Neonatal</b>	304	69,304	4.4
<b>1-4</b>	79	261,665	0.3
<b>5-9</b>	34	312,024	0.1
<b>10-14</b>	68	323,646	0.2
<b>15-19</b>	207	341,560	0.6
<b>20-24</b>	303	318,188	1.0
<b>25-29</b>	282	322,702	0.9
<b>30-34</b>	334	358,773	0.9
<b>35-39</b>	497	350,115	1.4
<b>40-44</b>	814	382,579	2.1
<b>45-49</b>	1,051	364,636	2.9
<b>50-54</b>	1,317	318,607	4.1
<b>55-59</b>	1,472	243,964	6.0
<b>60-64</b>	1,688	170,210	9.9
<b>65-69</b>	1,979	131,445	15.1
<b>70-74</b>	2,695	111,581	24.2
<b>75-79</b>	3,748	89,755	41.8
<b>80-84</b>	4,283	63,326	67.6
<b>85+</b>	8,139	51,486	158.1
<b>1-14</b>	181	897,335	0.2
<b>15-24</b>	510	659,748	0.8
<b>25-64</b>	7,455	2,511,585	3.0
<b>65+</b>	20,844	447,594	46.6

\* indicates one or two events in the category.

Infant death is death in the first year of life. Neonatal death is death occurring prior to the 28th day of life.

Infant and neonatal mortality rates are per 1,000 live births. Other death rates are per 1,000 population of the age group. Population figures for infant and neonatal groups are live births.

Source: Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

**Deaths and age-specific death rates from selected causes by age group: Colorado county residents, 2003**

Cause of Death	<1		1-14		15-25		25-44		45-64		65+	
	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate
All Causes	419	6.0	181	0.2	510	0.8	1,927	1.4	5,528	5.0	20,844	46.6
Cardiovascular Disease	10	0.1	8	0.0	17	0.0	226	0.2	1,262	1.1	7,704	17.2
Heart Disease	9	0.1	7	0.0	13	0.0	188	0.1	1,007	0.9	5,259	11.7
Cerebrovascular Disease	*	*	*	*	*	*	24	0.0	181	0.2	1,596	3.6
Atherosclerosis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	*	*	14	0.0	478	1.1
Malignant Neoplasms	*	*	17	0.0	27	0.0	251	0.2	1,750	1.6	4,354	9.7
Lung Cancer	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	19	0.0	384	0.3	1,138	2.5
Breast Cancer	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	39	0.0	197	0.2	273	0.6
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	0	0.0	*	*	3	0.0	17	0.0	256	0.2	1,648	3.7
Unintentional Injuries	11	0.2	66	0.1	246	0.4	506	0.4	437	0.4	517	1.2
Motor Vehicle	*	*	39	0.0	178	0.3	225	0.2	157	0.1	90	0.2
Other Unintentional Injuries	9	0.1	27	0.0	68	0.1	281	0.2	280	0.3	427	1.0
Pneumonia and Influenza	*	*	17	0.0	6	0.0	13	0.0	71	0.1	701	1.6
Suicide	0	0.0	5	0.0	81	0.1	283	0.2	251	0.2	98	0.2
Diabetes Mellitus	0	0.0	0	0.0	*	*	28	0.0	160	0.1	519	1.2
HIV Infection	0	0.0	0	0.0	*	*	51	0.0	27	0.0	*	*
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	77	0.1	217	0.2	114	0.3
Alzheimer's Disease	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.0	892	2.0
Nephritis, Nephrosis, Nephrotic Syndrome	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	0.0	55	0.1	344	0.8
Homicide and Legal Intervention	6	0.1	15	0.0	63	0.1	80	0.1	27	0.0	11	0.0
Septicemia	3	0.0	*	*	*	*	19	0.0	60	0.1	233	0.5
Congenital Anomalies	90	1.3	7	0.0	9	0.0	12	0.0	13	0.0	16	0.0
Perinatal Period Conditions	223	3.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
All Other	74	1.1	43	0.0	53	0.1	355	0.3	937	0.9	3,692	8.2
Injury by Firearm	0	0.0	5	0.0	89	0.1	179	0.1	144	0.1	81	0.2
Drug-Induced Deaths	*	*	*	*	39	0.1	253	0.2	202	0.2	27	0.1
Alcohol-Induced Deaths	0	0.0	*	*	3	0.0	138	0.1	300	0.3	69	0.2
Work-Related Injury (Y/N Check Death Certificate)	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.0	32	0.0	38	0.0	7	0.0

\* indicates one or two events in the category.

Infant (<1 year) mortality rates are per 1,000 live births

Other rates are deaths per 1,000 population of the age group.

Source: Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

**Deaths, crude death rates and age-adjusted death rates with 95% confidence limits from selected causes:  
Colorado county residents, 2003**

Cause of Death	N	Rate	Age-Adjusted Rate	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
All Causes	29,410	641.4	785.2	776.5	793.9
Cardiovascular Disease	9,228	201.3	257.4	252.3	262.6
Heart Disease	6,483	141.4	179.3	174.9	183.6
Cerebrovascular Disease	1,806	39.4	51.3	48.9	53.7
Atherosclerosis	493	10.8	14.5	13.2	15.8
Malignant Neoplasms	6,400	139.6	167.3	163.2	171.4
Lung Cancer	1,541	33.6	40.8	38.7	42.8
Breast Cancer	509	11.1	12.7	11.6	13.9
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	1,925	42.0	53.4	51.0	55.8
Unintentional Injuries	1,783	38.9	41.5	39.6	43.5
Motor Vehicle	691	15.1	15.2	14.0	16.3
Other Unintentional Injuries	1,046	22.8	25.4	23.8	27.0
Pneumonia and Influenza	809	17.6	23.0	21.4	24.6
Suicide	718	15.7	15.7	14.5	16.9
Diabetes Mellitus	709	15.5	18.9	17.5	20.4
HIV Infection	81	1.8	1.7	1.4	2.1
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	408	8.9	9.3	8.4	10.2
Alzheimer's Disease	897	19.6	26.6	24.8	28.3
Nephritis, Nephrosis, Nephrotic Syndrome	408	8.9	11.4	10.3	12.5
Homicide and Legal Intervention	202	4.4	4.3	3.7	4.9
Septicemia	318	6.9	8.5	7.6	9.5
Congenital Anomalies	147	3.2	3.1	2.6	3.6
Perinatal Period Conditions	223	4.9	4.5	3.9	5.1
All Other	5,154	112.4	138.4	134.7	142.2
Injury by Firearm	498	10.9	11.0	10.0	12.0
Drug-Induced Deaths	523	11.4	11.1	10.1	12.0
Alcohol-Induced Deaths	511	11.1	11.1	10.1	12.1
Work-Related Injury (Y/N Check Death Certificate)	81	1.8	1.7	1.4	2.1

*\* indicates one or two events in the category.*

*Rates are deaths per 100,000 population.*

*Crude death rates are calculated without age-adjustment.*

*Age-adjusted rates are adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population using the direct method applied to 10-year age groups.*

*Age-adjusted rates provide a better basis for comparison among different geographical areas or time periods.*

*Source: Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.*