# Leading Causes of Death in Nicholas County, Kentucky, 2011

| Cause of Death | Number of Deaths in Nicholas County[a] (% of all deaths) | Rate per 100,000 Total Population | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Nicholas County[a] | Kentucky[b] | United States[b] |
| **†Heart Disease** | 27 (25.7%) | 308.5 | 205.6 | 173.7 |
| **†Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer)** | 21 (20.0%) | 246.0 | 195.9 | 168.6 |
| **†Chronic Lower Respiratory** | 10 (9.5%) | 118.8 | 63.1 | 42.7 |
| Unintentional Injuries | 9 (8.6%) | 126.5 | 55.7 | 38.0 |
| **†Stroke** | 7 (6.7%) | 76.7 | 43.1 | 37.9 |

† Leading causes of death known to be associated with secondhand smoke exposure.

[a] 2011 Vital Statistics Reports from the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Age-adjusted rates per 100,000 2011 population.
Estimates reflect only Kentucky residents who died in Kentucky

[b] Hoyert DL, Xu JQ. Deaths: Preliminary data for 2011. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, *(61)*6. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 2012.

## How Secondhand Smoke is Connected with the Leading Causes of Death:

- Nonsmokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke at home or work increase their risks of developing *lung cancer* by 20–30%.[1]
- Nonsmokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke at home or work increase their *heart disease* risk by 25–30%.[1]

## Public Health Solutions:

- After strong smoke-free laws go into effect, communities experience a 15% drop in heart attacks annually.[2]
- Smoke-free laws create healthy places for workers and patrons and reduce health care costs. Smoke-free laws are a known public health solution.[1]

[1]U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General.* Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2006.
[2]Tan CE, Glantz SA.(2012). Association between smoke-free legislation and hospitalizations for cardiac, cerebrovascular, and respiratory diseases*. Circulation*, *126,* 2177-2183*.*

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