Leading Causes of Death in Union County, Kentucky, 2011

Cause of Death	Number of Deaths in Union County[a] (% of all deaths)	Rate per 100,000 Total Population		
		Union County[a]	Kentucky[b]	United States[b]
†Heart Disease	30 (21.0%)	181.4	205.6	173.7
†Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer)	26 (18.2%)	155.5	195.9	168.6
†Chronic Lower Respiratory	8 (5.6%)	48.6	63.1	42.7
Unintentional Injuries	10 (7.0%)	70.5	55.7	38.0
†Stroke	4 (2.8%)	24.7	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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