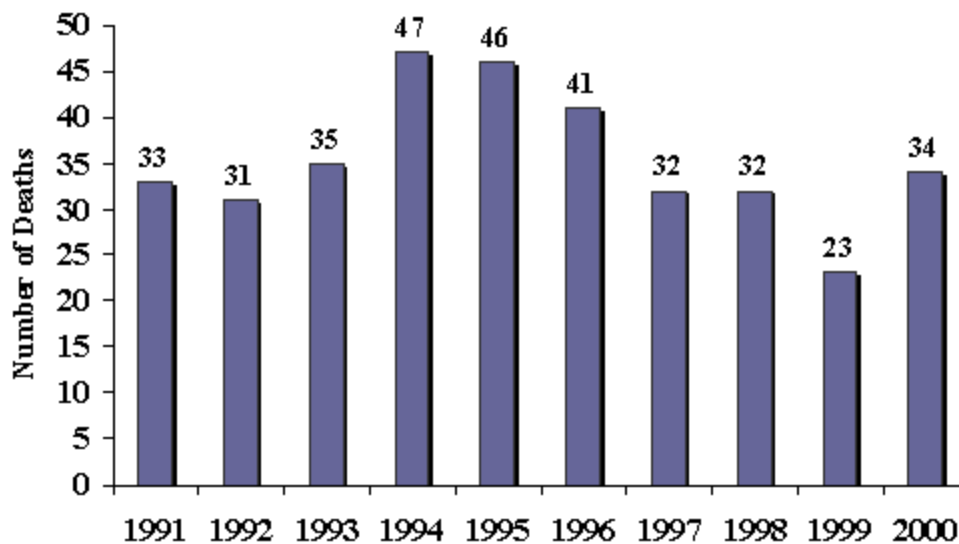


## Asthma Mortality Data

### West Virginia Vital Statistics

West Virginia's vital statistics database contains mortality records both for events that occur within the state and those that occur among residents. Most of the publications produced by this office pertain to residential data with the following being no exception. Causes of death from 1991 through 1998 were coded using the 9<sup>th</sup> revision of the International Classification of Disease (known as ICD-9). Beginning in 1999, there was a 10<sup>th</sup> revision. The ICD-9 code for asthma is 493, while the ICD-10 code is J45. Data are presented only for the primary cause of death from 1991 through 2000.

Figure 34  
Asthma Mortality by Year  
West Virginia Residents, 1991-2000



Although the graph indicates that asthma mortality has fluctuated over the 10-year span in West Virginia, it has averaged around 35 deaths per year comparable to the first and last years.

The tables that follow show the asthma mortality rates by race and age. Mortality rates are presented per 100,000 population.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Population figures are computed from the average difference between the 1990 and 2000 Censuses (known as interpolation) for each age group and race. For example, if the population in 1990 of a particular age group was 11,000 and in 2000 it was 10,500, the 500 decrease averages to 50 per year. Thus, the population would be 10,950 in 1991, 10,900 in 1992, etc. This provided the mid-point population (1995 and 1996 combined average) to calculate the average asthma mortality crude rates from 1991-2000.

Table 1  
**Asthma Deaths by Race**  
**West Virginia and United States, 1991-2000**

<b>Race</b>							
<b>West Virginia (1991-2000)</b>				<b>United States (1991-1998)</b>			
	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Rate *</b>			<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Rate *</b>	
		<b>Crude</b>	<b>Adj. †</b>			<b>Crude</b>	<b>Adj. †</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>42,900</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>32,015</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>Black</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>9,439</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>1,446</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.6</b>

The table indicates that African-Americans die more often from asthma than any other race. Although the actual number of deaths among blacks was lower compared with whites, the mortality rate was higher.

\* Mortality rate per 100,000 population.

† Age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Million.

Table 2  
**West Virginia Asthma Death Rates by Age**  
**1991-1995, 1996-2000, and 1991-2000**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>1991-1995</b>	<b>1996-2000</b>	<b>1991-2000</b>
<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>1-4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>5-14</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>25-34</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>35-44</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>
<b>45-54</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>55-64</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.6</b>
<b>65-74</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>6.1</b>
<b>75-84</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>8.9</b>
<b>85+</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>18.3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.0</b>

The table indicates a higher rate of West Virginians dying from asthma in the first five years (1991-1995) than in the last five years (1996-2000). The relatively low number of deaths each year from asthma makes rates for each individual year unstable.