



NCHS Data on Parkinson's Disease

About NCHS

The CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is the nation's principal health statistics agency, providing data to identify and address health issues. NCHS compiles statistical information to help guide public health and health policy decisions.

Collaborating with other public and private health partners, NCHS employs a variety of data collection mechanisms to obtain accurate information from multiple sources. This process provides multiple perspectives to help understand the population's health, influences on health, and health outcomes.

Parkinson's Disease

Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurological disorder characterized by rigidity of the muscles, tremors, slow movement and poor balance. It may eventually lead to difficulty in swallowing and breathing. Parkinson's disease can be difficult to diagnose because of the overlap between some symptoms of Parkinson's disease and other motor and neuropsychiatric disorders.

Key Findings

Prevalence

- Approximately 1 percent of the United States population over 65 years old has received a doctor's diagnosis of Parkinson's disease. It is slightly more common in men than women and somewhat more common in whites than in blacks.

Mortality

- In 2000 a total of 15,600 deaths were attributed to Parkinson's disease, a rate of 5.5 per 100,000 persons in the total population.
- Among persons over the age of 65, the death rate was 43.6 per 100,000, a total of 15,300 deaths.
- Among those 65 and older, the death rate was higher among men (59.3 per 100,000) than among women (32.7 per 100,000).
- Among people 65 years of age and older it is a more common cause of death than motor vehicle-related injury.

Health care utilization

- In 1999 and 2000 there was an average of 238,400 hospital discharges, per year, with a mention of Parkinson's disease.
- In 1999 approximately 9 percent of men and 4.3 percent of women over 65 years of age had Parkinson's disease upon admission to a nursing home.

Parkinson's Disease Data Sources

NCHS employs a variety of data collection mechanisms to obtain accurate information from multiple sources. They include:

- **National Health Interview Survey** – obtains information on the nation's health status through confidential household interviews that measure: health status and disability, insurance coverage, access to care, use of health services, immunizations (child), health behaviors, injury, and the ability to perform daily activities. This survey measures Parkinson's prevalence. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>
- **National Vital Statistics System** – collects mortality information from death certificates in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, including characteristics of the decedent and underlying and contributing causes of death. Parkinson's death rates are available from this data system. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss.htm>
- **National Hospital Discharge Survey** – is a national probability survey designed to meet the need for information on characteristics of inpatients discharged from non-Federal short-stay hospitals in the United States. This survey is a source of Parkinson's hospitalization data. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/hdasd/nhds.htm>
- **National Nursing Home Survey** - provides information on nursing homes from two perspectives--that of the provider of services and that of the recipient. Data about the facilities include characteristics such as size, ownership, Medicare/Medicaid certification, occupancy rate, and expenses. For recipients, data are obtained on demographic characteristics, health status, and services received. This survey tells us the number of persons with a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, and of the prevalence of Parkinson's disease in nursing homes. Rates shown are based on population estimates from the 1990 census. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/nhds/nhds.htm>

For further information about NCHS and its programs, visit us at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs> or call the Office of Planning, Budget and Legislation at 301-458-4100.