Years of Potential Life Lost

DESCRIPTION
Years of potential life lost (YPLL) is a summary measure of premature mortality (early death). It represents the total number of years not lived by people who die before reaching a given age. Deaths among younger persons contribute more to the YPLL measure than deaths among older persons. In the U.S., the age limit is often placed at age 75. The number of years that a death occurs before age 75 are counted as years of potential life lost. YPLL can be measured as death from all causes, or as deaths from specific causes. In the U.S. cancer is the second leading cause of death but accounts for the largest YPLL per 100,000.[1]

HOW WE ARE DOING
For Minnesota in 2016, there were 16,555 premature deaths from all causes and an age-adjusted premature death rate of 249.4 (the number of deaths to residents under age 75 per 100,000). During that same year in Ramsey County, there were 1,694 deaths and a premature death rate of 279.2, which is much higher than the state rate. Because these 1,694 occurred before the person turned 75, it translates into 31,202 years of potential life lost. Compared to other metro counties, Ramsey County has the highest rate, with Hennepin County second highest at 239.7, which is lower than the state rate.[2]

DISPARITIES
In the last 15 years, premature death rates decreased among Hispanics, African-Americans and Asian/Pacific Islanders, due to fewer deaths from cancer, heart disease and HIV. Premature death rates are increasing among whites and American Indian/Alaska Natives nationally, due to drug overdoses, suicide and liver disease.[3]

RISK FACTORS
U.S. counties with lower incomes, higher prevalence of smoking, and lower education levels are associated with higher premature death rates. These relationships vary in magnitude and significance related to income groups.[4]

WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING
Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health provides data monitoring and reporting for this topic in order to better understand the overall health and current conditions in the community. The information may help inform community partners, policy makers or county program leadership.

Information to note

- Ramsey County has a higher premature death rate than any other metro county and Minnesota.

- Premature deaths among whites and American Indian/Alaska Natives are increasing due to causes such as drug overdoses, suicide and liver disease.
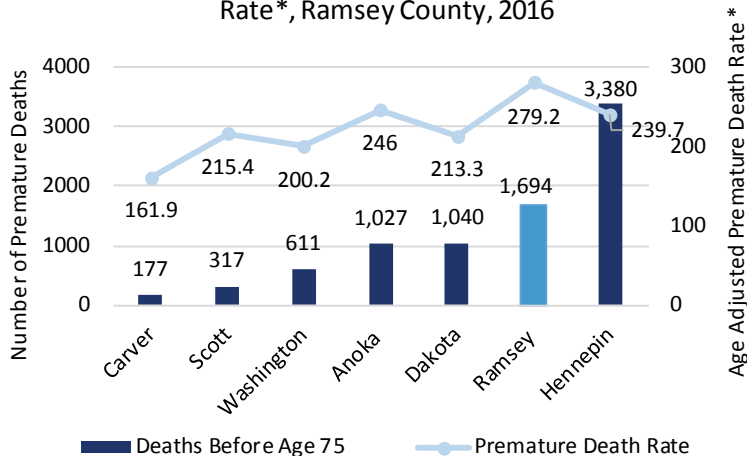
[1] General health status. HealthyPeople 2020. http://healthypeople.gov/2020/about/GenHealthAbout.aspx. Accessed August 2018.
[2] Minnesota County Health Tables. Minnesota Department of Health. http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/genstats/countytables/index.htm. Accessed August 2018.
[3] Toich L. Racial disparities in premature death rate discovered.The American Journal of Pharmacy Benefits. 2017. http://www.ajpb.com/news/racial-disparities-in-premature-death-rate-discovered. Published February 17, 2017. Accessed August 2018.
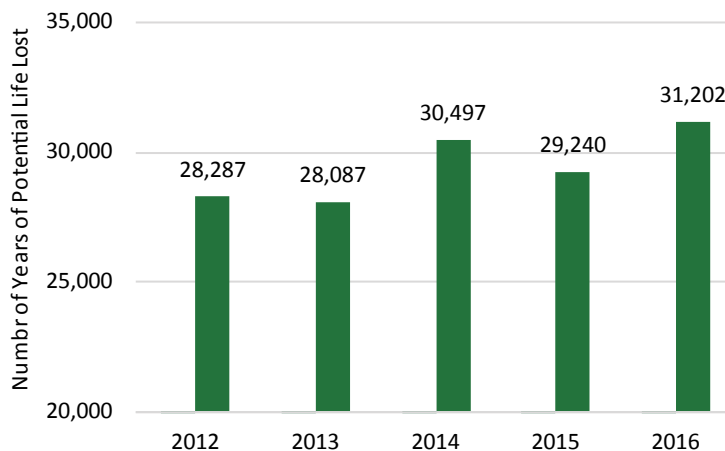[4] Cheng E, Kindig D. Disparities in premature mortality between high- and low-income US counties. National Center for Biotechnology Information. 2012; 9: E75. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3402341/. Published March 22, 2012. Accessed August 2018.

Number of Premature Deaths & Age Adjusted Rate*, Ramsey County, 2016

Number of Premature Deaths (left axis) / Age Adjusted Premature Death Rate* (right axis)

- Carver: 177, 161.9
- Scott: 317, 215.4
- Washington: 611, 200.2
- Anoka: 1,027, 246
- Dakota: 1,040, 213.3
- Ramsey: 1,694, 279.2
- Hennepin: 3,380, 239.7

Legend: ■ Deaths Before Age 75 ●— Premature Death Rate

*Number of deaths to residents under age 75 per 100,000 persons
Source: Minnesota Department of Health. County Health.[5]

Years of Potential Life Lost, Ramsey County

- 2012: 28,287
- 2013: 28,087
- 2014: 30,497
- 2015: 29,240
- 2016: 31,202

Source: Minnesota Department of Health. Minnesota Vital.[6]

All Deaths Compared to Premature Deaths (before age 75) Ranked by Numbers and Rates, Ramsey County, 2012-2016

Cause	All Deaths			Premature Deaths		
	Rank	Number	Rate per 100,000	Rank	Number	Rate per 100,000
Cancer	1	4,434	115	1	2,347	78
Heart Disease	2	3,350	111	2	1,054	36
Unintentional Injury	3	1,197	42	3	709	26
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	4	1,038	37	4	363	12
Suicide	5	306	11	5	289	11
Stroke	6	1,169	40	6	279	10
Diabetes	7	586	21	7	276	10
Cirrhosis	8	310	11	8	271	9
Nephritis	9	348	12	9	114	4
Pneumonia & Influenza	10	294	10	10	94	3

Source: Minnesota Department of Health. County Health Tables.[5]