The NCSA Leading Cause of Death Reports tool allows users to create customized demographic rankings of annual U.S. deaths and years of life lost. This application lets you create annual reports that rank all deaths in the US by their cause, age, sex, and race.

Unlike standard reports from the CDC, these reports specifically show how road-traffic deaths from the NHTSA Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) rank against all other causes of death. Please note that reports broken down by race and Hispanic origin are not yet available for 2022 because of delays in processing death certificates, but they will be updated as soon as the 2022 FARS data is finalized.

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1. Introduction

This User Manual contains all the essential information for the user to be able to navigate the Leading Cause of Death tool. This application provides detailed analytical capabilities to inspect granular datasets across national motor vehicle crash tracking networks.

1.1 Purpose

The document will provide the user with the ability to maximize the use of the Leading Causes tool. It explains in general terms of the system and the purpose for which it is intended, such as generating automated, multi-demographic mortality ranking tables. This guide outlines configuration variables, advanced grouping pathways, and report extraction techniques.

1.2 What is the leading causes site?

The NCSA Leading Cause of Death Reports tool allows users to create customized demographic rankings of annual U.S. deaths. By establishing a direct cross-system connection, the utility contrasts with standard public health mortality records against crash metrics captured on federal transportation files.
The primary differentiators and source engines driving this system include:

- National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS): Supplies master baseline U.S. mortality data, tracking underlying causes of death, age cohorts, sex, and racial subsets.
- Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS): Integrates explicit motor vehicle traffic crash metrics from NHTSA's final data collection files and active Annual Report Files (ARF).
- NHTSA Custom Separation: Unlike reports from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), this application explicitly isolates and positions FARS traffic crash fatalities independently within the master cause list, demonstrating their true statistical rank among all other causes of death.

2. How to Navigate the leading causes site

The leading causes site features a unified, highly intuitive interface designed to give users streamlined access to data elements. This chapter walks you through the core navigation elements of the landing page, including layout structures, consistent global headers and footers, and direct pathways to data tables.

2.1 System Requirements

The leading cause site can be accessed from a variety of PC browsers such as Chrome, Firefox, and Edge. To access the system from chrome, it has to be version **67** or later. For Firefox, the version requirement is **52**. Additionally, the system can be accessed from iPhone, Android, and iPad. This website uses technology that will work best in Microsoft Edge and Chrome.

2.2 Site Overview

The Leading Causes landing page display can be found below in Figure 1. The page has a header, a body, and a footer. The Header and footer are consistent with all data tools. The Body holds general information, and the blue question mark icon holds a link to this user’s guide document, as well as each tool and resource.



Figure 1 – Leading Causes Page

2.3 Headers

The Header of the Databook Page is the same as headers for all NCSA Data Tools sites. It includes a search bar that conducts a google search restricted to cdan.dot.gov. The link for reporting problem has been customized so that that clicking "NCSA PROBLEM REPORTING" in the figure below will allow users to contact NCSA directly as well. Finally, the home icon allows users to navigate to the NHTSA Home Page. The Header is the same for all NHTSA tools.

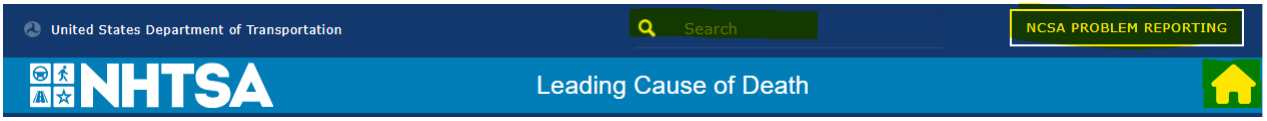


Figure 2 – Leading Causes Site Header

2.4 Select Table, Years, Cause and Sex

The Leading Cause site body only has five dropdowns as interactive elements. These can be found in the figure below:

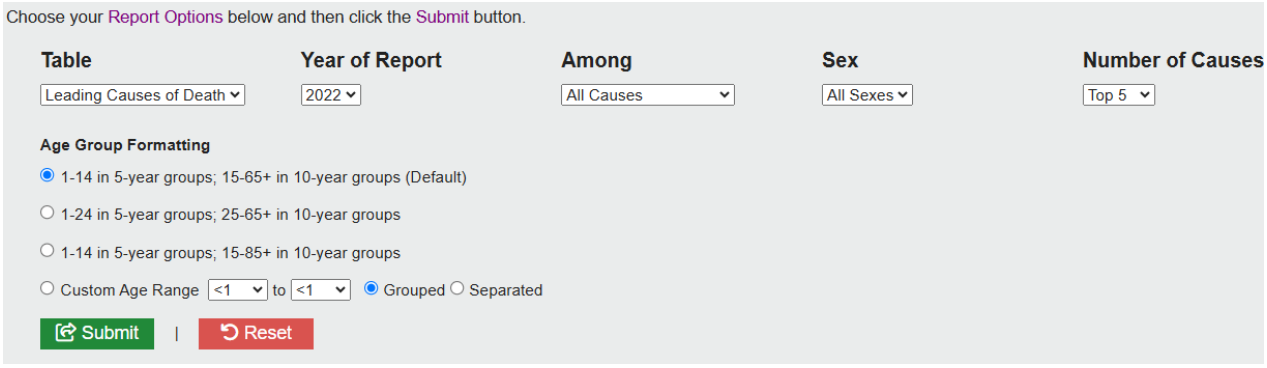


Figure 3 – Report Options Selection

The report options can be selected by the following fields:

- **Table**: Toggles the overall calculations metric. Users can choose between:
    - Leading Causes of Death: Strictly measures mortality rates
    - Years of Life Lost: a public health metric that is used to quantify premature mortality. Calculated by taking the difference of Age at death and expected lifespan
- **Year of Report**: Sets the Year of the report, the field can be any year from 2012 to 2022.
- **Among (Causes)**: Filters the underlying classification directory between **All Causes** or strict **Unintentional Injuries**.
- **Sex**: Filters the report by the sex. The options are: All Sexes, Male, or Female.
- **Number of Causes**: Adjusts the number of rows in the report, lets users customize the table to be only the Top 5 causes up to a Top 20 cause evaluation.
- **Age Group Formatting**: Radio buttons to select the range of ages shown in the report. The grouping of the ages are set to show under one year as one group, the first set of ages as 5-year groupings (e.g. 1-5, 6-10,etc.), then show the next set as 10-year groupings(e.g. 16-25,26-35, etc), and finally everything greater than the second set is one grouping (e.g. 65+). The pre-defined groupings are:
    - 1-14 in 5-year groups; 15-65+ in 10-year groups (Default)
    - 1-24 in 5-year groups; 25-65+ in 10-year groups
    - 1-14 in 5-year groups; 15-85+ in 10-year groups

  Lastly there is also a custom age range selection with this, users can select any age range from <1 to 100+. They can also identify if they want it Grouped, have the range as one column, or separated, each age in the range is its own column.

Note Hispanic and race information will not appear for the current year, if you select any year prior then the Race Hispanic dropdown will appear as shown below.

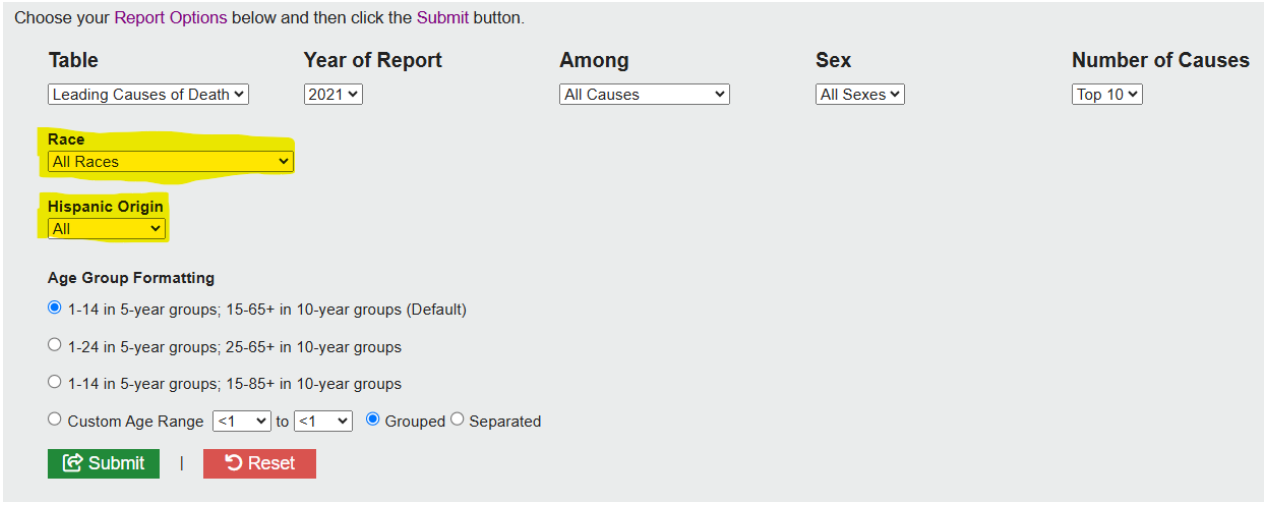


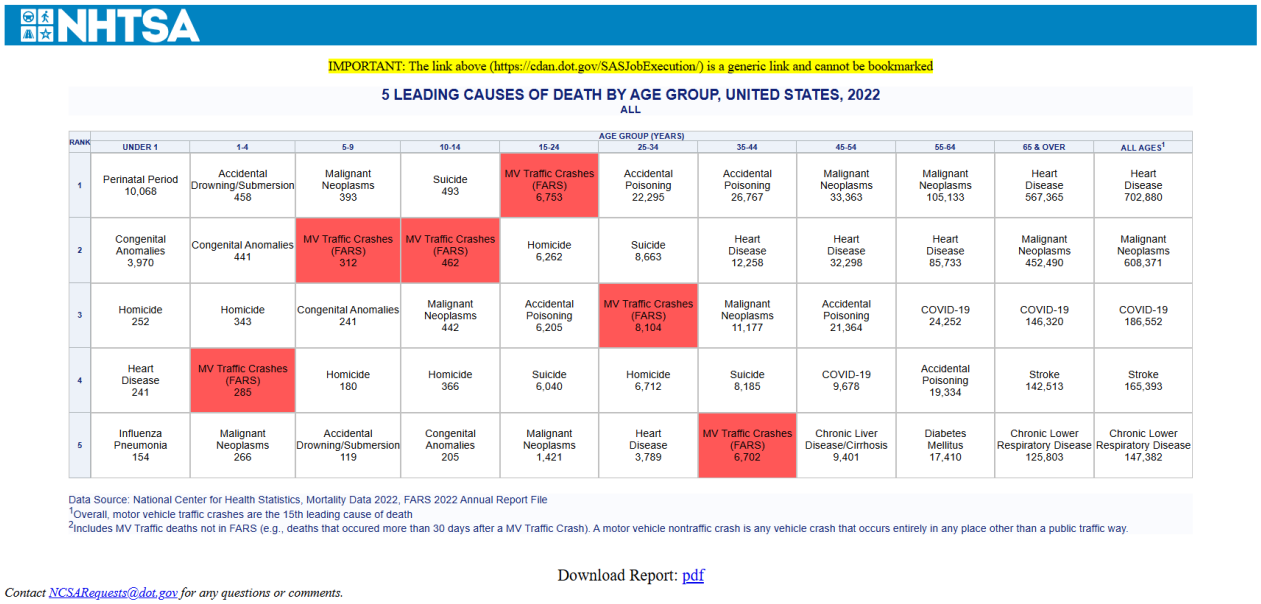
Figure 4 – Report Options Selection with Race and Hispanic Origin

The report options can be selected by the following fields:

- **Race:** Filters by Race: All Races, White, Black, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian/Pacific Islander
- **Hispanic Origin:** Filters by Hispanic Origin: All, Non-Hispanic, Hispanic

2.5 View Report Detail

Leading Causes reports are charts that provide rankings of leading causes of death for each age group, with counts. There is also the feature to download the table as a PDF file. The Report for the Top 5 Leading Causes of Death in United states in 2022 is shown below in Figure 5. Please note that all Traffic Accidents are highlighted in red



NHTSA

IMPORTANT: The link above (https://cdan.dot.gov/SASJobExecution/) is a generic link and cannot be bookmarked

5 LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH BY AGE GROUP, UNITED STATES, 2022
ALL

RANK	AGE GROUP (YEARS)										
	UNDER 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 & OVER	ALL AGES[1]
1	Perinatal Period 10,068	Accidental Drowning/Submersion 458	Malignant Neoplasms 393	Suicide 493	MV Traffic Crashes (FARS) 6,753	Accidental Poisoning 22,295	Accidental Poisoning 26,767	Malignant Neoplasms 33,363	Malignant Neoplasms 105,133	Heart Disease 567,365	Heart Disease 702,880
2	Congenital Anomalies 3,970	Congenital Anomalies 441	MV Traffic Crashes (FARS) 312	MV Traffic Crashes (FARS) 462	Homicide 6,262	Suicide 8,663	Heart Disease 12,258	Heart Disease 32,298	Heart Disease 85,733	Malignant Neoplasms 452,490	Malignant Neoplasms 608,371
3	Homicide 252	Homicide 343	Congenital Anomalies 241	Malignant Neoplasms 442	Accidental Poisoning 6,205	MV Traffic Crashes (FARS) 8,104	Malignant Neoplasms 11,177	Accidental Poisoning 21,364	COVID-19 24,252	COVID-19 146,320	COVID-19 186,552
4	Heart Disease 241	MV Traffic Crashes (FARS) 285	Homicide 180	Homicide 366	Suicide 6,040	Homicide 6,712	Suicide 8,185	COVID-19 9,678	Accidental Poisoning 19,334	Stroke 142,513	Stroke 165,393
5	Influenza Pneumonia 154	Malignant Neoplasms 266	Accidental Drowning/Submersion 119	Congenital Anomalies 205	Malignant Neoplasms 1,421	Heart Disease 3,789	MV Traffic Crashes (FARS) 6,702	Chronic Liver Disease/Cirrhosis 9,401	Diabetes Mellitus 17,410	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease 125,803	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease 147,382

Data Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Mortality Data 2022, FARS 2022 Annual Report File
[1]Overall, motor vehicle traffic crashes are the 15th leading cause of death
[2]Includes MV Traffic deaths not in FARS (e.g., deaths that occured more than 30 days after a MV Traffic Crash). A motor vehicle nontraffic crash is any vehicle crash that occurs entirely in any place other than a public traffic way.

Download Report: pdf

Contact NCSARequests@dot.gov for any questions or comments.

Figure 5 – Example of a Leading Cause Report

2.6 Contact Information Link and Release Date

Finally, at the bottom of the Databook page there is Figure 6, If there are any issues with the site or tools, users can click the email link for NCSARequests@dot.gov and send an email with their questions or comments. This feature is available on all sites for NHTSA tools. There is also a Date of release.



Figure 6 – Contact Information Link and Release Date

3. Acronyms Used

This table contains commonly used DOT and FARS acronyms used on this website.

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
BTS	Bureau of Transportation Statistics
CDAN	Crash Data Acquisition Network
CDC	Centers for Disease Control
CDS	Crashworthiness Data System
CISS	Crash Investigation Sampling System
CODES	Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System
CRSS	Crash Reporting Sampling System
DOT	Department of Transportation
FARS	Fatality Analysis Reporting System
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIRST	Fatality and Injury Reporting System Tool
GES	General Estimates System
NASS	National Automotive Sampling System
NCHS	National Center for Health Statistics
NCSA	National Center for Statistics and Analysis
NHTSA	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
PAR	Police Accident Report
PCR	Police Crash Report
STSI	State Traffic Safety Information
TSFAR	Traffic Safety Facts Annual Report Tables
VIN	Vehicle Identification Number

Table 1 – Acronyms Used