

Quick Start Guide

RATES are the best way to compare risk between groups. A group with a higher rate of death than another group is at greater risk, even if they don't have a larger number of deaths

Table 1 ■ Heart disease deaths by race/ethnicity
Contra Costa County, 2005–2007

	Deaths	Percent	Rate
White	3,465	74.3%	151.9
African American	538	11.5%	258.8*
Hispanic	321	6.9%	107.4**
Asian/Pacific Islander	299	6.4%	99.5**
Total	4,664	100.0%	147.5

These are age-adjusted rates per 100,000 residents.
Total includes racial/ethnic groups not listed above.
* Significantly higher rate than the county overall.
** Significantly lower rate than the county overall.

The **TOTAL** provides a sense of the overall size of the problem.

The **PERCENT** gives you an easy way to see how a health problem is spread across different groups in the county.

For more help understanding the rates and numbers used in this report, see the “Understanding the Data” section.