

Recent Death Trends by State, Grouped by Governor's Political Party

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The Menges Group

Strategic Health Policy & Care Coordination Consulting

Overview

This edition of our 5 Slide Series analyzes overall death rates, and COVID death rates, by state, during the past few years. Key findings include:

- States with Republican governors collectively had higher overall death rates during 2018 and 2019 (prior to COVID), 7% above the state group with Democrat governors.
- This differential has doubled during the COVID years, widening to 15%. The COVID death rate across the first 30 months of the pandemic has been 23% higher across the Republican-led states.
- West Virginia experienced the nation's highest overall (and the highest COVID) death rate during the first nine months of 2022. Utah has the lowest overall death rate during 2022; Alaska has the lowest COVID death rate.

Total Monthly Deaths by Year and State Group

State Grouping (Based on Governor's Political Party)	Average Monthly Total Deaths Per 100,000 Population				
	2018 (Jan-Dec)	2019 (Jan-Dec)	2020 (Apr-Dec)	2021 (Jan-Dec)	2022 (Jan-Sep)
Democrat-Led States (22 + DC)	69.0	69.3	80.1	79.0	74.5
Republican-Led States (28)	73.9	74.4	91.0	92.8	85.6
Percentage by Which Republican-Led States' Rate Exceeds Democrat-Led States' Rate	7.2%	7.3%	13.6%	17.4%	14.9%

- During 2018 and 2019 (the last two pre-COVID years), death rates across the Republican-led states were approximately 7% above the Democrat-led state group.
 - During the COVID era, this differential doubled, widening to approximately 15%.
- Overall death rates during 2022, while far below the 2021 rate, have remained well above the pre-COVID years. The 2022 death rate was 7% above 2019 across Democrat-led states and 15% above 2019 across Republican-led states.

Methodology Notes:

We assessed only the April-December portion of CY2020, so that COVID era impacts could be isolated.

Governor's political party as of early 2022 was used to group states throughout our analyses.

Monthly COVID Deaths by Year and State Group

State Grouping (Based on Governor's Political Party)	Average Monthly COVID Deaths Per 100,000 Population			
	2020 (Apr-Dec)	2021 (Jan-Dec)	2022 (Jan-Sep)	All 30 Months (Apr '20 - Sep '22)
Democrat-Led States (22 + DC)	11.3	9.6	6.1	9.1
Republican-Led States (28)	12.5	13.1	7.4	11.2
Percentage by Which Republican-Led States' Rate Exceeds Democrat-Led States' Rate	10.8%	35.3%	20.7%	23.2%

- During the COVID-impacted months of 2020, COVID death rates in Republican-led states were 10.8% above Democrat-led states. (Note that overall death rates were 7.3% higher in the Republican-led states during 2019, relative to the Democrat-led states, explaining most of the observed 10.8% COVID differential that occurred during 2020.)
- During 2021, the adverse differential in COVID death rates mushroomed to 35.3% in the Republican-led states; this differential has been 20.7% during the first 9 months of 2022.

Note that age mix is not driving these death rate differentials. The percentage of the total population age 65+ in the two state groups is nearly identical – 16.94% across the Republican-led states and 16.95% across the Democrat-led states.

However, the population per square mile is much larger (136) across the Democrat-led states than in the Republican-led states (70). This dynamic would be expected to create a lower rate of COVID transmission of in the Republican-led states.

State-by-State Death Rates, 2022 Year to Date

- The remaining slides convey 2022 death rate data by state.
- State rankings on overall death rates and COVID death rates during 2022 tend to be fairly similar, although there are many exceptions to this pattern.
- Rankings on percentage of the population above age 65 and on population per square mile are also shown to provide context.

Monthly Death Rates by State: January - September 2022, Alabama - Iowa

State or Jurisdiction	Governor Political Party	Total Monthly Deaths/100,000 Population, Jan-Sep 2022	Monthly COVID Deaths/100,000 Population, Jan-Sep 2022	Rank, Total Monthly Deaths/100,000 Population, Jan-Sep 2022	Rank, Monthly COVID Deaths/100,000 Population, Jan-Sep 2022	Rank, Percentage of Population Above Age 65	Rank, Population Per Square Mile
Alabama	Republican	99.9	8.3	7	10	20	28
Alaska	Republican	58.9	2.0	49	51	48	51
Arizona	Republican	87.0	7.6	20	16	13	34
Arkansas	Republican	102.9	8.5	4	8	26	35
California	Democrat	65.5	5.3	48	35	45	12
Colorado	Democrat	67.6	5.2	47	36	45	38
Connecticut	Democrat	78.9	6.2	33	28	17	5
Delaware	Democrat	93.6	7.3	13	19	6	7
District of Columbia	Democrat	79.5	3.9	32	46	50	1
Florida	Republican	94.2	7.7	12	15	2	9
Georgia	Republican	77.7	6.6	36	22	47	18
Hawaii	Democrat	74.0	3.2	41	49	5	14
Idaho	Republican	76.5	5.2	39	39	33	45
Illinois	Democrat	76.7	6.5	38	24	37	13
Indiana	Republican	91.1	8.3	15	9	39	17
Iowa	Republican	86.5	6.2	22	30	20	37

Pink shading conveys the ten states with the highest death rates, green shading denotes states with the lowest death rates.

Monthly Death Rates by State: January - September 2022, Kansas – North Dakota

State or Jurisdiction	Governor Political Party	Total Monthly Deaths/100,000 Population, Jan-Sep 2022	Monthly COVID Deaths/100,000 Population, Jan-Sep 2022	Rank, Total Monthly Deaths/100,000 Population, Jan-Sep 2022	Rank, Monthly COVID Deaths/100,000 Population, Jan-Sep 2022	Rank, Percentage of Population Above Age 65	Rank, Population Per Square Miile
Kansas	Democrat	86.2	7.4	23	18	37	42
Kentucky	Democrat	102.5	11.8	6	2	28	24
Louisiana	Democrat	90.3	6.3	16	27	33	27
Maine	Democrat	102.8	6.2	5	29	1	39
Maryland	Republican	74.0	6.5	42	25	39	6
Massachusetts	Republican	75.0	5.5	40	33	22	4
Michigan	Democrat	88.8	7.2	18	20	15	19
Minnesota	Democrat	72.2	5.1	44	40	31	31
Mississippi	Republican	102.9	10.4	3	4	29	33
Missouri	Republican	96.7	8.3	9	11	22	29
Montana	Republican	89.7	5.2	17	38	7	49
Nebraska	Republican	77.7	5.2	35	37	39	44
Nevada	Democrat	85.4	8.2	24	12	33	43
New Hampshire	Republican	85.0	4.1	25	44	8	22
New Jersey	Democrat	72.0	6.5	45	23	31	2
New Mexico	Democrat	86.9	8.1	21	14	11	46
New York	Democrat	45.4	4.0	51	45	24	8
North Carolina	Democrat	87.6	7.5	19	17	27	16
North Dakota	Republican	79.7	4.7	31	43	44	48

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Monthly Death Rates by State: January - September 2022, Ohio – Wyoming (& USA totals)

State or Jurisdiction	Governor Political Party	Total Monthly Deaths/100,000 Population, Jan-Sep 2022	Monthly COVID Deaths/100,000 Population, Jan-Sep 2022	Rank, Total Monthly Deaths/100,000 Population, Jan-Sep 2022	Rank, Monthly COVID Deaths/100,000 Population, Jan-Sep 2022	Rank, Percentage of Population Above Age 65	Rank, Population Per Square Miile
Ohio	Republican	96.0	9.5	11	6	19	11
Oklahoma	Republican	97.1	10.9	8	3	42	36
Oregon	Democrat	84.7	5.8	26	32	11	40
Pennsylvania	Democrat	93.2	8.2	14	13	9	10
Rhode Island	Democrat	81.5	5.4	29	34	14	3
South Carolina	Republican	96.6	8.5	10	7	10	20
South Dakota	Republican	83.2	4.9	28	41	24	47
Tennessee	Republican	105.8	10.0	2	5	29	21
Texas	Republican	69.5	6.4	46	26	49	25
Utah	Republican	57.6	3.4	50	48	51	41
Vermont	Republican	80.2	3.5	30	47	3	32
Virginia	Republican	78.8	6.7	34	21	33	15
Washington	Democrat	73.3	4.9	43	42	42	23
West Virginia	Republican	123.8	12.2	1	1	3	30
Wisconsin	Democrat	83.5	5.9	27	31	18	26
Wyoming	Republican	77.2	3.1	37	50	16	50
USA Total		79.8	6.7				
Democratic Led States (22 + DC)		74.5	6.1				
Republican Led States (28)		85.6	7.4				

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5 Slide Series Overview

- Our 5 Slide Series is typically a monthly publication whereby we briefly discuss/address a selected topic outside the confines of our client engagements. The Menges Group has developed a variety of datasets that we use to support our 5 Slide Series and client projects.
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