



Minnesota Department of Health  
 Office of Public Health Practice  
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**Public Health Curriculum Idea: *Causes of Death***

**Instructions to students:**

Put an X in the intersecting boxes where actual causes of death are contributing to the leading causes of death (e.g. tobacco use contributes to cancer – put an X in the intersecting box).

Leading Causes of Death	Actual Causes of Death							
	Tobacco use	Poor diet <sup>4</sup>	Lack of physical activity <sup>4</sup>	Alcohol abuse	Firearms	Unsafe sexual behavior	Motor vehicles	Lack of preventive medical care
Cancer								
Heart disease								
Unintentional injuries								
Suicide								
Liver disease								
Stroke								
Diabetes								
COPD								
Homicide								
HIV								



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Use the following grid to talk about the role public health plays in preventing premature death.

	Actual Causes of Death							
Leading Causes of Death	Tobacco use	Poor diet	Lack of physical activity <sup>4</sup>	Alcohol abuse	Firearms	Unsafe sexual behavior	Motor vehicles	Lack of preventive medical care
Cancer	Prevention of various cancers	Prevention of various cancers	Prevention of colon cancer	Prevention of various cancers				Screening: early detection
Heart disease	Prevention	Prevention	Prevention, Control	Use can be beneficial at low doses				Screening for RFs such as BP <sup>4</sup> and cholesterol
Unintentional injuries				Prevention	Prevention		Prevention	Anticipatory guidance
Suicide			Control of depression	Prevention	Prevention			Control of mental disorders
Liver disease				Prevention				Screening for alcohol abuse
Stroke	Prevention	Prevention	Prevention					Screening for BP; Control
Diabetes	Control	Control, Prevention	Control, Prevention					Control
COPD	Prevention							
Homicide					Prevention			
HIV						Prevention		Screening for STDs; Control