State of Connecticut

DDS

Mortality

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2014

This is the thirteenth of a series of annual reports on mortality, mortality trends and related information pertaining to the health and quality of care received by individuals served by the Connecticut State Department of Developmental Services. Reports focus on an analysis of mortality data and specific findings resulting from the Connecticut DDS mortality case review process.

Issue Date: November, 2015

CT DDS Mortality Report

SECTION ONE OF THIS REPORT:
CT DDS MORTALITY REVIEW PROCESS

This section describes the CT DDS Mortality Reporting and Review Process.

SECTION TWO OF THIS REPORT:
ANALYSIS OF ALL CT DDS MORTALITIES

This section includes information and data concerning all deaths of individuals served by DDS who were listed in the CT DDS data base and died during the 2014 fiscal year (July 1, 2013- June 30, 2014) including death rates and life expectancy.

SECTION THREE OF THIS REPORT:
DATA GENERATED BY THE CT DDS MORTALITY REVIEW PROCESS

This section includes information and analysis of data generated for the 178 deaths reviewed by the DDS nurse investigators, regional mortality review committees and Independent Mortality Review Board (IMRB) for the period of July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014.

SECTION FOUR OF THIS REPORT:
MORTALITY TRENDS CT DDS

This section provides an analysis and synthesis of CT DDS mortality data over time.

SECTION FIVE OF THIS REPORT:
LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

This section presents CT DDS leading cause of death data.

SECTION SIX OF THIS REPORT:
BENCHMARKS

This section presents and compares CT DDS, National, and State mortality statistics and leading cause of death information.

SECTION SEVEN OF THIS REPORT:
SUMMARY MORTALITY CASE REVIEW FINDINGS

This section includes information on the findings identified through the DDS mortality review process and examples of quality initiatives implemented as a result of the CT Mortality Review Process.

Appendix: Includes demographic information on the population served by the CT DDS

This report represents a review of the period between July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.
Data in this report was obtained from the CT DDS Database system.

Mortality ANNUAL REPORT – 2014

Issue Date: November 2015

Table of Contents

	Page
Executive Summary 2014 Report	4
CT DDS Mortality Review	5
CT DDS Death Reporting Process	5
Section One: CT DDS Mortality Review Process	6
Critical Components of the CT DDS Mortality Process	6
Section Two: Analysis of All CT DDS Mortalities	9
Overall Mortality Rate	9
Mortality and Residence	9
Mortality and Gender	12
Mortality and Age	13
Section Three: Data Generated by the CT DDS Mortality Review Process	16
Community Hospice Support	16
Autopsies/Post Mortem Examinations	16
Predictability	17
Context: Manner of Death for Cases Reviewed	18
DNR	19
Risk Factors	20
Investigations	21
Pronouncement of Death (Location at Time of Death)	22
Summary of Mortality Data	23
Section Four: Mortality Trends CT DDS	24
Section Five: Leading Causes of Death	30
Heart Disease	30
Respiratory Disease	31
Alzheimer's Disease	32
Leading Causes of Death for People with Down Syndrome	34
Analysis of Cancer Deaths	35
Section Six: Benchmarks	36
Mortality Rate Comparison	36
Leading Causes of Death Benchmarks: National, State of CT and CT DDS	38
Section Seven: Summary Mortality Case Review Findings	39
CT DDS Mortality Review/General Findings	40
Findings and Quality Enhancement Action	40
General Community Awareness Findings	41
References	42
List of Figures	43
List of Tables	44
Appendices	45

Executive Summary 2014 Report

- There were 238 deaths resulting in a crude mortality rate of 14.4/1000
- The strongest predictors of mortality were age, mobility status, and the need for special assistance when eating
- The average age of death for individuals with ID was 59.1 years
- Starting early in the fifth decade of life there was a progressive increase in the mortality rate for people with intellectual disabilities
- People with intellectual disabilities have a decreased life span as compared to the general population which may be related to the onset of multiple chronic and acute co-morbidities at a younger age
- Mortality is related to the level of intellectual disability. The greater the level of disability the higher the mortality rate
- Heart disease continues to be the leading cause of death in the CT DDS population (29.8%)
- Aspiration pneumonia/pneumonia accounted for 6.7% of all deaths
- The incidence of deaths related to cancer in the DDS population (10.5%) was lower than the national (22.5%) and state (23%) [13,14]
- Accidental deaths continue to occur at a rate below that of the general state and national population [13,14]
- The average age of death for people with Down syndrome was 60.6 years
- Cardiac Arrest was the leading cause of death for people with Down syndrome
- Hospice supports were provided in 41% of the reviewed deaths which allowed individuals to remain in their home residences in the final stages of a terminal illness

CT DDS MORTALITY REVIEW

An important component of the quality and risk management systems present within DDS involves the analysis and review of deaths to identify important patterns and trends that may help increase knowledge about risk factors and provide information to guide systems enhancements. Consequently CT DDS continues to embrace a planned organization wide approach to design performance measurement, analysis and improvement by collecting information pertaining to the deaths of all individuals served by the department. The CT DDS mortality review system has proven to be a valuable quality assurance mechanism providing information to trigger corrective action and reduce future risk.

The CT DDS mortality review process provides a retrospective analysis

THAT

- assures compliance with standards
- reduces adverse events
- leads to ongoing improvement

AND GENERATES

- changes in policy and procedure
- protocol development
- practice standards
- focused training
- systems improvement strategies

CT DDS DEATH REPORTING PROCESS

Per State of Connecticut Executive Order No. 42. The Department of Developmental Services shall report all deaths of persons placed or treated under the direction of the Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services to the Office of Protection and Advocacy whether or not abuse or neglect is suspected or contributed to the individual's death.

The CT DDS death reporting process is a dynamic process that ensures that all deaths are immediately reported to the department and death report forms are submitted to the department within 24 hours of the death notification.

SECTION ONE: CT DDS MORTALITY REVIEW PROCESS

CRITICAL COMPONENTS OF THE CT DDS MORTALITY PROCESS:

- Uniform death reporting system
- Screen individual death reports with standard information
- Standardized mortality review process (regional and state)
- Medical professionals participate in the process
- External stakeholders included in the review process
- State level interdisciplinary/independent mortality review board (IMRB) aggregates mortality data over time to identify trends
- Direct link between mortality findings and improvement
- Publically report and document mortality information (Annual CT DDS Mortality Report)

Connecticut law (which comprises statutes and executive order) currently requires CT DDS to review the death of anyone for whom it has direct or oversight responsibility for medical care. The review must cover the events, overall care, quality of life issues, and medical care preceding the death to assure that a vigorous and objective evaluation and review of the circumstances surrounding untimely deaths takes place. The CT DDS does not review the deaths of individuals who lived at home with their families or who were placed by their family/guardian into a licensed nursing facility.

CT DDS has established a three tier mortality review process as part of its quality assurance system to trigger corrective action and reduce future risk for people. As noted below, the three tier system includes an Abridged Review, Regional Mortality Review Committee and Independent Mortality Review Board. In addition, the mortality process includes a Medical Desk Review by trained Nurse Investigators and a final review of all IMRB cases by the CT DDS Commissioner and Director of Health and Clinical Services (IMRB Chair).

The mortality review process seeks to address the following questions:

- Was the death anticipated or unexpected?
- Could this death have been prevented?
- Are there systems issues identified in the course of the review?
- Are there case specific issues identified in the course of the review?
- What actions should DDS take to improve the health and safety of individuals?

Abridged Review
Criteria for Review

Any death that had a DNR in force that was reviewed per the DDS DNR review process, was related to a pre-existing condition/diagnosis, did not have an allegation/investigation of abuse/neglect at time of death and did not have a post mortem examination. Individual was not a Class Member and did not reside in a ICF/MR.

Regional Mortality Review Committee
Criteria for Review

Any death where the department bears direct or oversight responsibility for medical care.

Independent Mortality Review Board
Criteria for Review

- Determined necessary by the regional mortality review committee
- Medical, health or residential care concerns
- Post mortem examination
- Suspicion of abuse/neglect, etc.
- Ongoing abuse/neglect investigation

Assume immediate jurisdiction and conduct an expedited review when determined necessary by the Commissioner or the OPA Executive Director if it is likely that the death occurred because of abuse or neglect or at the request of the Director of Quality Management Services and/or the Director of Health and Clinical Services.

Nurse Investigators Medical Desk Review

In addition to the regional mortality review committees and the Independent Mortality Review Board, the DDS death reporting and mortality review process requires that all deaths are reported to a **Nurse Investigator** (NI) who is assigned to the DDS Investigations Division. The Nurse Investigator conducts a **Medical Desk Review** (MDR), an abbreviated mortality review to determine the need for an abridged review, a comprehensive review by a regional mortality committee and/or the Independent Mortality Review Board or if an immediate investigation of the death by another state agency is warranted.

Role of the Nurse Investigators

The Nurse Investigator will forward the Medical Desk Review and associated documents to the DDS Director of Investigations, DDS Director of Health Services (Chair of the Regional Mortality Review Committee) and the DDS Director of Health and Clinical Services (Chair of the Independent Mortality Review Board) when:

- Abuse or neglect is suspected according to DDS abuse/neglect policies and procedures
- Systems deficiencies are identified or suspected
- For routine mortality review as defined in DDS procedure

Independent Mortality Review Board Membership

Members of the Independent Mortality Review Board (IMRB) are appointed by the CT DDS Commissioner and Executive Director of the CT Office of Protection and Advocacy for DD and include:

- DDS Director of Health and Clinical Services (Chair)
- DDS Director Division of Investigations
- DDS Director Division of Quality Management
- Associate Medical Examiner (State Office of the Chief Medical Examiner)
- Community based physician
- State Office of Protection and Advocacy
- State Department of Public Health
- Executive Director private provider agency
- Family representative

Regional Mortality Committee Membership

Members of the Regional Mortality Review Committees are appointed by the regional or training school (STS) Director and include:

- DDS Regional Health Services Director (Chair)
- Medical Director (for STS campus)
- Non DDS registered nurse
- Non DDS consumer advocate
- DDS Residential Manager
- DDS Assistant Regional Director
- DDS abuse/neglect liaison
- Family representative

Mortality Annual Report - 2014

Issue Date: November 2015

SECTION TWO: ANALYSIS OF *ALL* CT DDS MORTALITIES (JULY 1, 2013 – JUNE 30, 2014) NUMBER OF DEATHS REPORTED = 238

Overall Mortality Rate

During the 12 month time period between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 a **total of 238** individuals supported by CT DDS passed away **resulting in a mortality rate of 14.1** (Figure 1 & 2 below). Both the number of deaths and mortality rate decreased in FY 14.

Figure 1

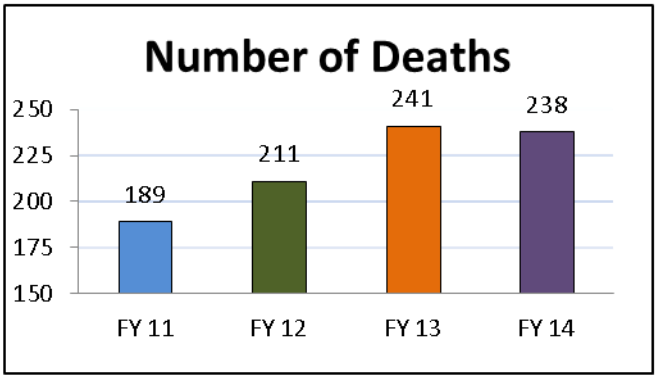
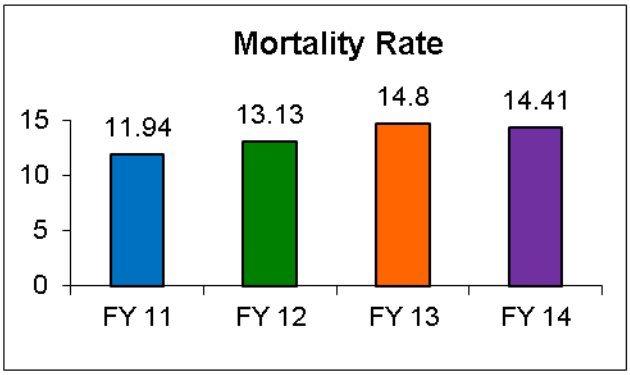


Figure 2



Mortality and Residence

As can be seen in Figure 3 (to the right), forty-five percent of deaths occurred in settings that were not operated, funded or licensed by CT DDS.

	% Deaths	% DDS population
CLA	36	23
SNF	26	2
Family	19	55
STS	8	2
IHS	5	8
CRS	2	4
RC	2	1
CCH	1	3
Other	1	2

SNF = skilled nursing facility; RC = regional center; STS = Southbury Training School; CLA = community living arrangement (group home); CCH = community companion home (formerly called CTH); IHS = individualized home supports; CRS = continuous residential supports, Family = live with family at home or independently.

Shaded areas represent settings operated, funded or licensed by CT DDS.

Figure 3

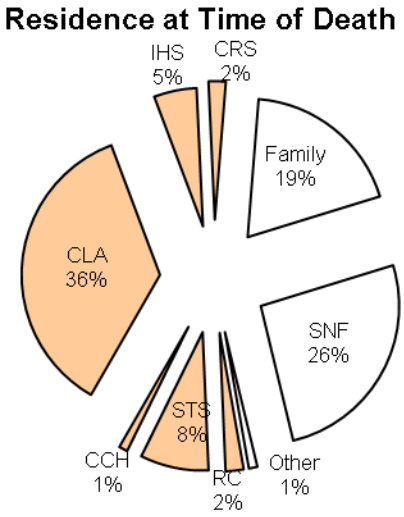
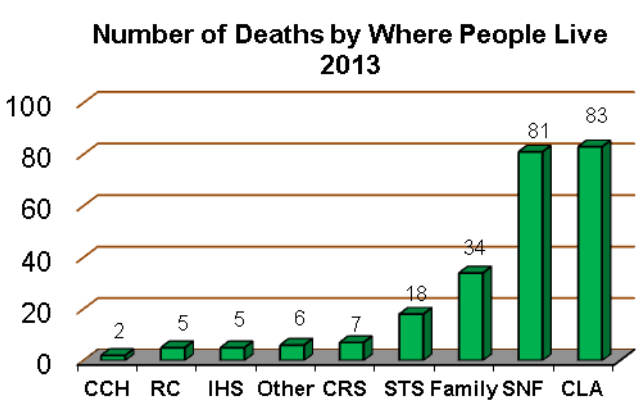


Figure 4



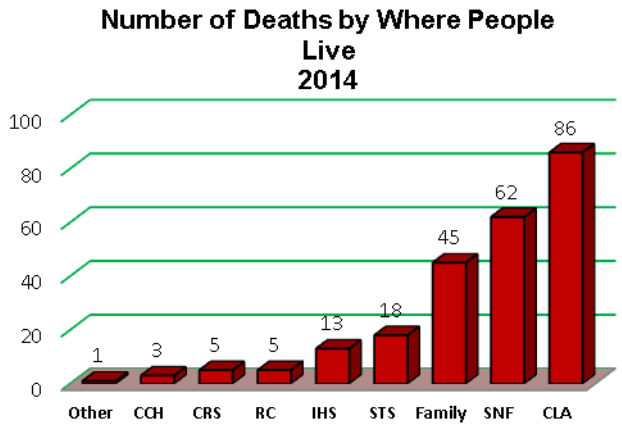


Figure 4 (above) depicts the actual number of deaths by where people live. As last year, the greatest number of deaths occurred in CLAs followed by skilled nursing facilities, family homes and STS. Of note: Sixty-three (63%) of the people DDS supports live in family homes or in their own home with individualized supports, 23% in group homes (CLA's) and only 2% in skilled nursing facilities.

Figure 5

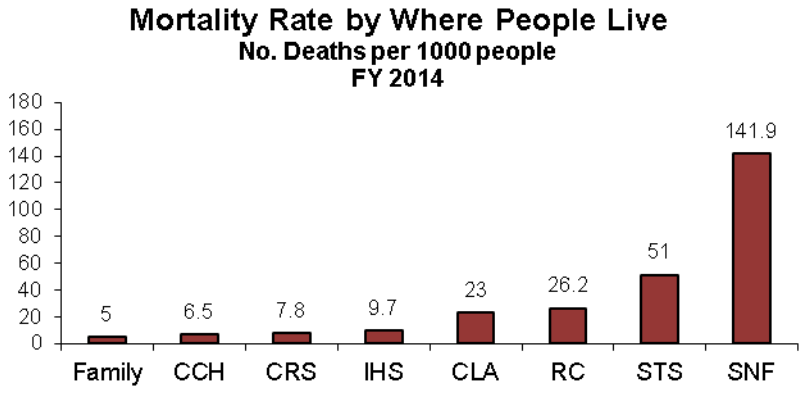


Figure 5 (left) depicts the number of people who died for every 1000 people served by type of support.

Of note: In general, individuals supported by DDS who live in skilled nursing facilities and at STS tend to be older. In addition, residents of skilled nursing facilities have considerable health co-morbidities.

Mortality and Residence Definitions

Family Home: People who live with their family without significant residential DDS supports or independently represent 55% of the DDS population. However, in FY 2014 only 46 deaths (19.3% of all deaths) occurred in a family home with an associated mortality rate of 5. All but one CT DDS deaths of children were for those who lived with their families. Twenty-three of the 46 people died in a hospital, hospital emergency department or hospice.

CLA: These settings serve people with varying levels of intellectual disabilities who require 24 hour supervision for their health and direct care supports. In FY 2014, 80 or 33.6% of all deaths occurred in CLA's compared to 34.4% in FY 13. Sixty of the 80 people died in a hospital, hospital emergency department, hospice or SNF.

CCH: There were 3 reported deaths in the community companion homes compared with 2 reported deaths in FY 2013. The CCH mortality rate of 6.5 was greater than the mortality rate for people living at home with their family or people living in their own home. People living in CCH's represent 2% of the DDS population and accounted for 1% of the reported deaths. Two of the people died in a hospital, hospital emergency department or SNF.

CRS: People receiving 24 hour supports in their own homes, People receiving continuous residential supports in their own homes, in most cases, are less medically involved than people living in other settings. Five or 2.1% of reported deaths occurred in this environment. Two of the people died in a hospital, hospital emergency department, hospice or SNF.

IHS: Similar to people living in CRS, however, this population does not require 24 hour support. As with CRS. people receiving individualized home supports in their own homes, in most cases, are less medically involved than people living in other settings. This year 13 or 5.4% of reported deaths occurred in this environment compared with 2.1% last year. Ten of the 13 died in the hospital, hospital emergency department or SNF.

STS: The higher mortality rate of 51 is not surprising as this larger campus setting serves a population of older adults (average age of 65.1 years). Eighteen deaths were reported at STS this past fiscal year representing 7.6% of all DDS deaths. Last year the Training School accounted for 7.5% of all deaths. Twelve of the 18 people died in a hospital or hospital emergency department.

RC: Less than 2% of DDS consumers reside at DDS regional centers. Five RC residents died in FY 2014 accounting for 2% of all DDS deaths. Four of the 5 individuals died in a hospital or hospital emergency department.

SNF: Only 2% of people served by CT DDS live in a skilled nursing facility. This older (average age 65.7 years) and medically fragile population accounted for 62 or 26.1% of all reported deaths. People living in licensed nursing facilities had the highest mortality rate 141.9 per thousand. Fifteen percent (15%) of all DDS consumers over 65 years of age live in a skilled nursing facility. It is important to note that 21 of the 62 people died in a hospital, hospital emergency room or hospice.

- Community Living arrangement (CLA): 24 hour support is provided with staff in small group home settings. People share an apartment or house also known as a group home.
- Community Companion Home (CCH): A family setting that is not the consumer's own family. CCH provider has received training and is licensed by DDS to provide services. (Formerly known as CTH, Community Training Home.)
- Continuous Residential Supports (CRS): 24 hours of support for consumers to live in their own home.
- Individualized Home Supports (IHS): Less than 24 hours of support for consumers to live in their own home. Staff support may be from a few hours a day to only a few hours a month depending on the support needs of the individual.
- Southbury Training School (STS): 24 hour support is provided in a large campus setting serving a population of older adults.
- Regional Center (RC): Regional Centers are facilities for over 16 people that provide 24 hour staffing.
- Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF): A Department of Public Health licensed nursing facility for people requiring skilled nursing level of care not licensed or funded by the Department of Developmental Services also known as a nursing home.

Mortality and Gender

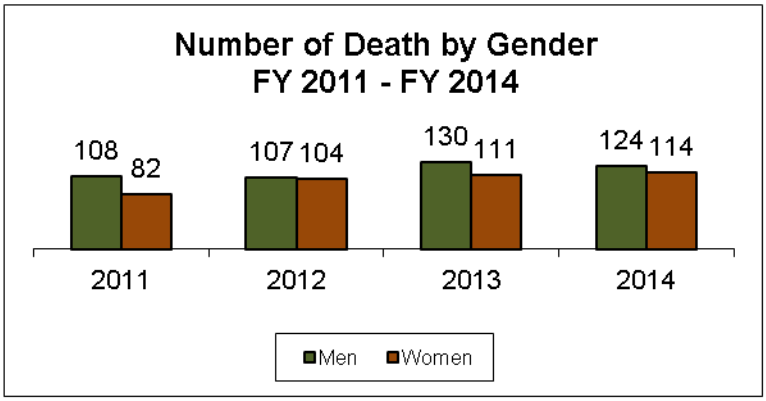
Table 1

Mortality Rate by Gender - 2014

GENDER	All Individuals Served by DDS	Total Number of Consumers	No. Deaths	Percentage of Deaths	Rate (No. Deaths Per 1000)
Men	58%	6,841	124	52%	13
Women	42%	9,433	114	48%	16.4
Total	**100%**	**16,274**	**238**	**100%**	**14.4**

In FY 2014 both the number of males and females who died within the DDS was similar to the gender distribution of those people served by the department.

Figure 6



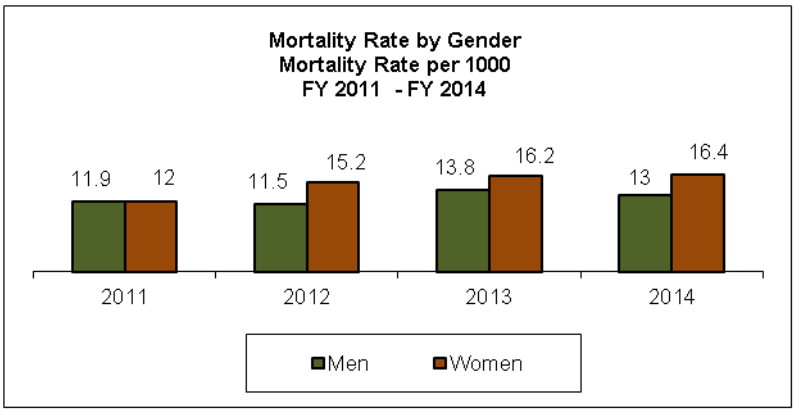


Figure 7

Although there are year to year variations in the actual number of deaths by gender, the data consistently demonstrate that more men than women die each year and that women have a higher mortality rate.

Mortality and Age

Table 2

Age of Death

Year	Men	Women	Average Age
CT DDS FY 2014	**57.9**	**60.4**	**59.1**
CT DDS FY 2013	57.7	60.4	59
CT DDS FY 2012	59.6	62.1	60.8
CT DDS FY 2011	57.4	60.5	58.7

Figure 8

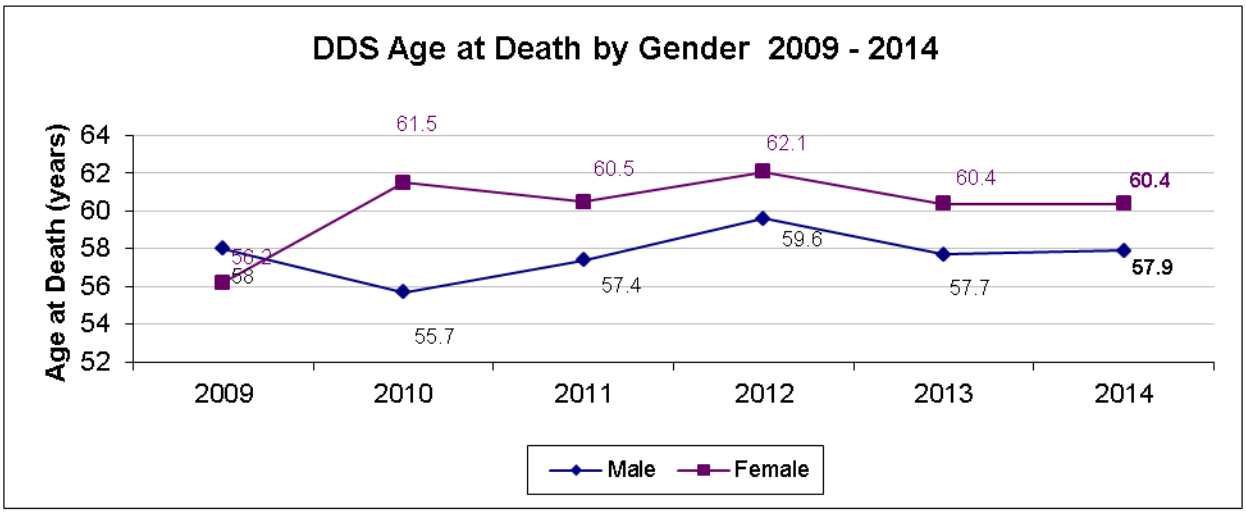
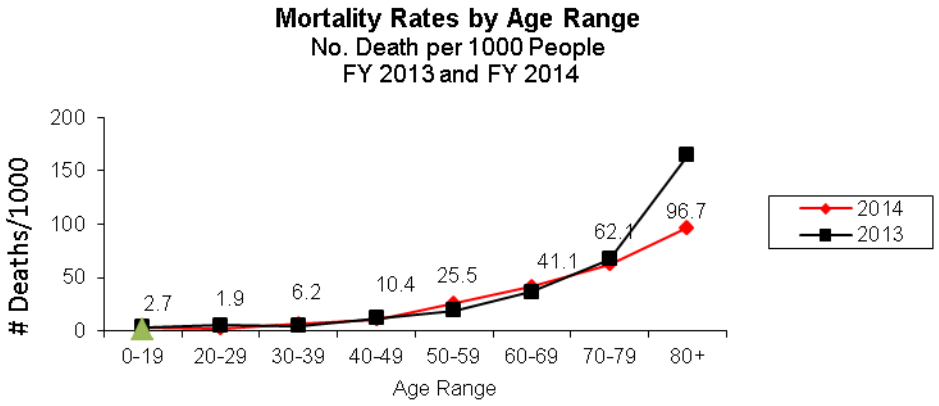


Figure 9



The relationship between **age** and **mortality** demonstrates the expected trend, with the mortality rate increasing as people served by DDS get older. As seen in Figure 9, there is an increase in the mortality rate that begins early in the fifth decade of life that continues to increase with advancing age. This finding is consistent with previous CT DDS mortality rate by age data.

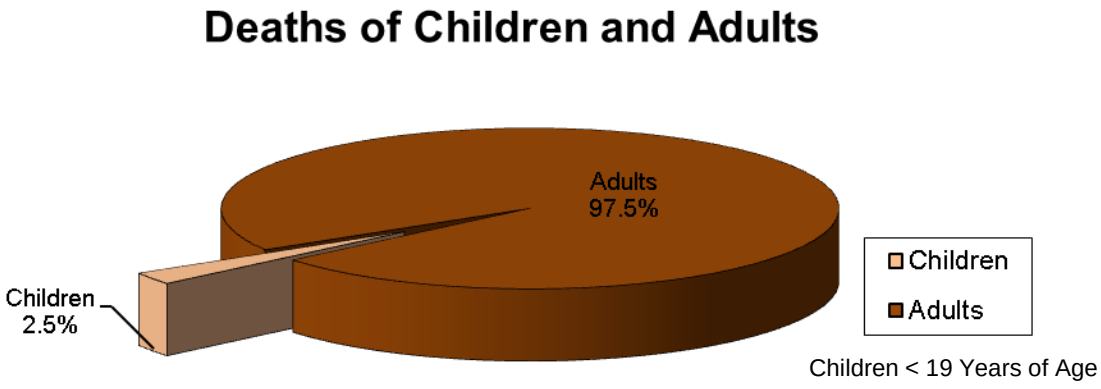
Table 3

Mortality Age Range Distribution Data
FY 2014

AGE RANGE	# OF DEATHS	% OF DEATHS	MORTALITY RATE
Age 0-19	9	3.8%	2.7
Age 20-29	7	2.9%	4.9
Age 30-39	15	6.3%	6.2
Age 40-49	23	9.7%	10.4
Age 50-59	63	26.5%	25.5
Age 60-69	64	26.9%	41.1
Age 70-79	36	15.1%	62.1
Age 80+	21	8.8%	97.7
TOTAL	**238**	**100%**	

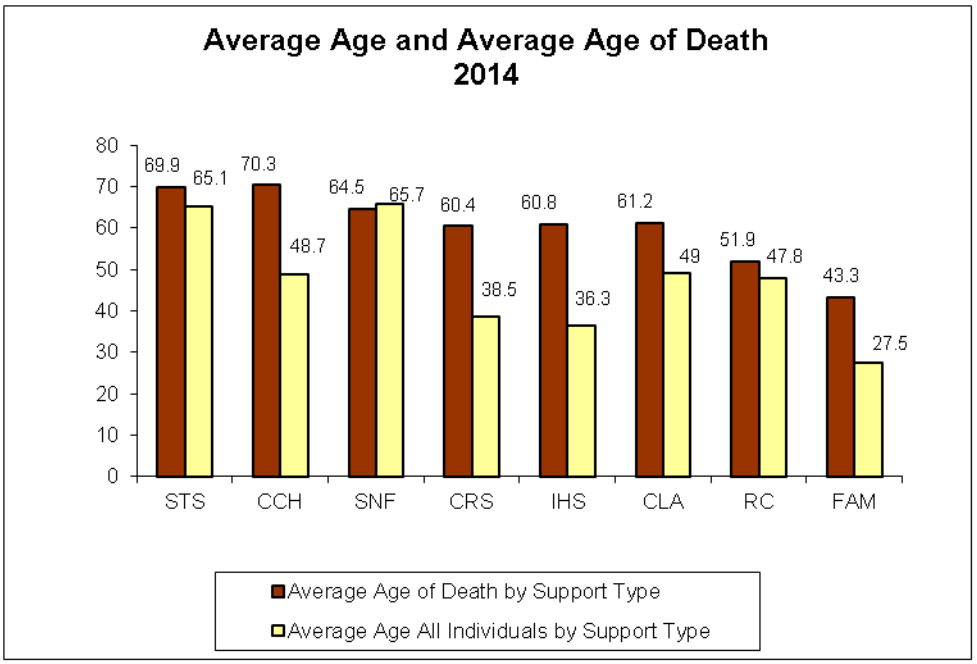
Mortality statistics for the DDS population in Table 3 reveal a progressive increase in the mortality rate as the age range increases.

Figure 10



In FY14 six children died. All but one of the children lived at home with their family.

Figure 11



The average age of death in the CT DDS population is 59.1. Almost all of the children served by DDS live at home with their family that translates into a much lower average age and age of death. Excluding children the average age of death in the CT DDS population is 60.2 years.

SECTION THREE: DATA GENERATED BY THE CT DDS MORTALITY REVIEW PROCESS

IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE:

THE INFORMATION PRESENTED IN THIS SECTION SUMMARIZES ONLY THOSE DEATHS THAT WERE REVIEWED BY THE NURSE INVESTIGATORS, REGIONALCOMMITTEE AND/OR STATE INDEPENDENT MORTALITY REVIEW BOARD IN FY 2014

THEREFORE, THE MORTALITY DATA WILL DIFFER FROM THE INFORMATION PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED IN SECTION TWO OF THIS REPORT

DDS NURSE INVESTIGATORS/MORTALITY COMMITTEE/BOARD REVIEWS = 178 cases (of total 238 deaths)

**** 65 of the 178 cases reviewed were Abridged Reviews ****

Community Hospice Support

The concept of end of life planning including hospice care has been embraced by the CT DDS and is routinely requested and provided for individuals served by DDS who live in all settings, including regional centers, Southbury Training School, community living arrangements, community companion homes, continuous residential supports, individualized home supports and family homes. This includes state of the art palliative and hospice care to provide end of life support, hope and comfort to individuals either in the home or in a hospital setting.

The use of hospice services allowed CT DDS to support people through the final stages of a terminal illness while remaining in their current residence. Forty-six individuals received hospice services: 54% lived in a community living arrangement, 20% lived at the training school, 17% lived in a nursing home, 4% lived in individual home support, and 4% lived in a regional center. The average age of death for people receiving hospice services was 65.

Forty-six people (41% of all reviewed deaths) received hospice supports *

Autopsies/Post Mortem Examinations

Autopsies are performed by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) for those deaths in which the OCME assumes jurisdiction or by hospital based pathology departments when DDS requests and the family consents to the autopsy.

GUIDELINES FOR REQUESTING AUTOPSIES

- certain sudden or unexpected deaths in which the cause of death is not due to a previously diagnosed condition or disease
- deaths involving an earlier accident or trauma
- deaths involving questionable contributing factors
- cases involving an allegation of abuse or neglect

Number of post mortem examinations performed:	**6 (3.4% of reviewed deaths)**
Number of post mortem examination performed by CT OCME:	**4**

* Does not include Abridged Reviews

Predictability

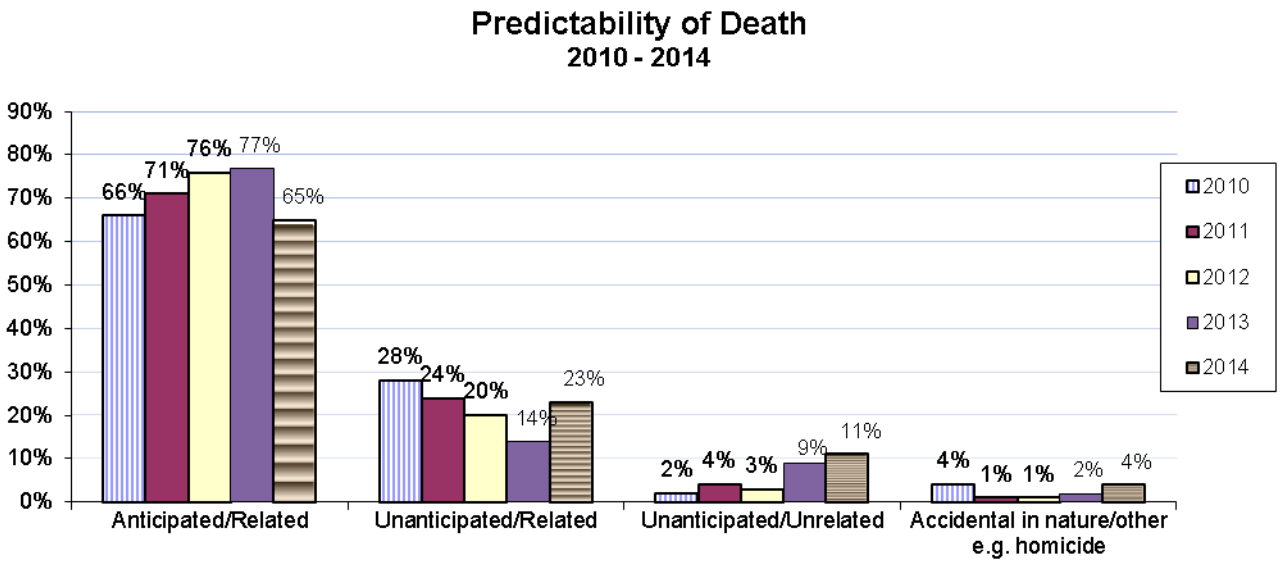
Analysis of the mortality review data indicates a relationship between an individual's pre-existing diagnosed medical condition(s) and his/her immediate cause of death (see Figure 12 below). In ninety-one percent of all deaths, an individual's immediate cause of death was related to a known or previously diagnosed medical condition/disease. For example: An individual who died as a result of a cardiac arrest had a medical history that included coronary artery disease.

- **Death was anticipated and related to a preexisting diagnosis: 65%**
- **Death was unanticipated but related to a preexisting diagnosis: 23%**
- **Death was unanticipated and unrelated to a preexisting diagnosis: 11%**
- **Death was accidental in nature 4%**

Two of the accidental deaths were included in the "unanticipated but related to a preexisting diagnosis" percentage.

Two of the accidental deaths were included in the "unanticipated and unrelated to a preexisting diagnosis" percentage.

Figure 12



OF NOTE:

The CT DDS data illustrates that for people over the age of 65 the cause of death was directly related to a pre-existing or known medical condition 96% of the time.

Context: Manner of Death for Cases Reviewed

According to Connecticut State law, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) determines the cause of death and the manner of death: ***natural, accident, suicide, homicide*** or ***undetermined***.

In the State of Connecticut deaths for which the OCME does not assume jurisdiction, pronouncement is made by a private physician. In these cases the manner of death **must** be classified as natural. According to state statute any other manner of death must be determined by the OCME.

Of the 178 cases reviewed during FY 14, 173 (97%) were classified as **due to natural causes**. Four cases were determined to be the result of an accident and one case was undetermined.

Table 4

FY 14 Manner of Death

Manner of Death	*No.*	*Percent*
Natural	*173*	*97%*
Accident	*4*	*2%*
Undetermined	*1*	*1%*
Total	*162*	*100%*

Cause of death for the deaths determined by the CT OCME to be *accidental in nature*:

Choked	(2)
Fell	(1)
Accident involving Train	(1)

UNANTICIPATED/UNRELATED DEATHS:

Of the 12 deaths that were unanticipated and not related to a known condition 2 were due to an accident, 1 was undetermined and 9 were due to natural causes. The cause of mortality for the unanticipated deaths due to natural causes was cardiac arrest (7), respiratory failure (1), septicemia (1).

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

Two cases of accidental death were the result of choking, one was the result of a fall and one was the result of being hit by a train.

DNR

Per Connecticut State Statute, CT DDS has an established procedure which requires that **specific criteria must be met along with a special review process** for all withholding cardiopulmonary resuscitation (DNR) orders to be issued/implemented for persons who are placed and treated under the direction of the Commissioner of DDS. Documentation regarding end of life planning and withholding of cardiopulmonary resuscitation is required per CT DDS policy.

Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders are medically indicated when an individual's attending physician and another physician (second opinion) have diagnosed that an individual is in the final stages of a terminal disease or condition, or is permanently unconscious based upon appropriate tests and studies. This confirmation by the attending physicians that an individual has a terminal disease or condition is reviewed by DDS medical staff (Health Services Directors and in some cases Director of Health and Clinical Services).

For the 178 mortality cases reviewed in FY 2014

137 cases had a DNR order in place

96% of the DNR orders were formally reviewed by DDS

100% of the DNR orders met the established DDS medical criteria

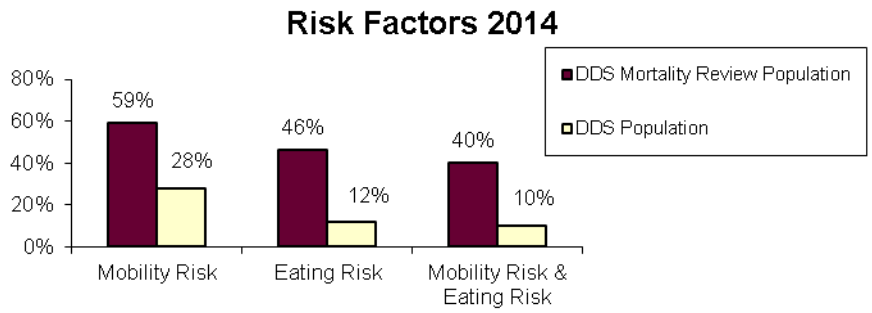
In 4% of all cases in which a DNR was ordered by a medical practitioner DDS was not notified prior to the implementation of the DNR order as is required by DDS procedure. However, the DDS mortality review process determined that in every case but one the medical criteria to support the decision to initiate the DNR was met. DDS continues to provide written education and support to those agencies that fail to notify of a DNR implementation.

OF NOTE: Sixty-seven percent (67%) of DDS consumers residing in *skilled nursing facilities* had a DNR order in place at the time of their death.

Risk Factors

Mobility impairments and dysphagia/swallowing risks are well known risk indicators that place individuals at significantly higher risk of morbidity and mortality. CT DDS mortality data has consistently demonstrated that people who require the need for special assistance when eating and those who cannot ambulate without assistance have a greater mortality rate. Therefore the CT DDS mortality review process carefully analyzes the presence or absence of these two risk indicators. Once again the FY 2014 data illustrates the relationship between these risk factors and mortality (see Figure 13 below).

Figure 13



It is well documented in the literature that the more compromised an individual's level of mobility, the greater the likelihood of death.[3,9,10] CT mortality data supports the importance of mobility as an indicator of morbidity and mortality. In FY 2014, 67 (59%) of the deceased did not ambulate independently.

* MORTALITY REVIEW POPULATION ONLY	* TOTAL DDS POPULATION
59% did not ambulate independently 46% did not eat independently	28% do not ambulate independently 12% do not eat independently
* Does not include Abridged Reviews	* Does not include Family Homes

Of note: Information regarding the presence and/or risk of silent aspiration is not available and therefore is not included in the eating risk factor data.

Level of Intellectual Disability and Mortality Rate

	2012	2013	2014	Percent of Population
Mild	9.4	4.1	**5**	44
Moderate	10.5	4.2	**4.7**	30
Severe	11.3	6.7	**8.2**	13
Profound	25.8	20.6	**23.5**	7

Table 5

Table 5 above illustrates the relationship between an individual's level of intellectual disability and mortality rate. There is an inverse relationship between the level of intellectual disability and the mortality rate within the DDS population. Over the years, individuals with severe or profound intellectual disabilities have a higher mortality rate than those with moderate or mild intellectual disability.

Of note: Traditionally intellectual disabilities have been divided into four levels of severity based largely on IQ scores. Although this classification system is no longer used by CT DDS, data is included for longitudinal comparative purposes.

Investigations

Office of Protection & Advocacy / Abuse Investigations Division

CT DDS must report *all* deaths to the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities Abuse Investigations Division (OPA/AID) which determines if abuse or neglect was involved in the death.

Of the 178 mortality cases reviewed by DDS, 5 cases were investigated by either the OPA/AID or the DDS through its Investigations Division when abuse or neglect is suspected to have contributed to a person's death. In several cases, deaths that were investigated by the Office of Protection and Advocacy were also referred to and investigated by the CT Department of Public Health.

Disposition of OPA/AID Cases	
Neglect substantiated	***3***
Neglect not substantiated	***0***
Cases still open	***2***

In the cases where neglect was substantiated, the lack of supervision by direct care staff, delay in treatment, delay in recognition of a changing health condition, lack of programmatic safeguards and monitoring of an individual's health care status led to a ***chain of events*** that may well have contributed to the individual's death.

Department of Public Health

The CT Department of Public Health investigates the quality of care/practice by licensed practitioners and licensed healthcare facilities that include hospitals, long term care/nursing facilities, dialysis facilities, ambulatory care centers and outpatient surgical centers.

During FY 2014 two (2) mortality cases were referred by the regional mortality committee or IMRB to the **State of Connecticut Department of Public Health** (DPH) Health Systems Regulation Division for further investigation by the Facilities and/or the Practitioner and Licensing Section.

Disposition of DPH Investigations

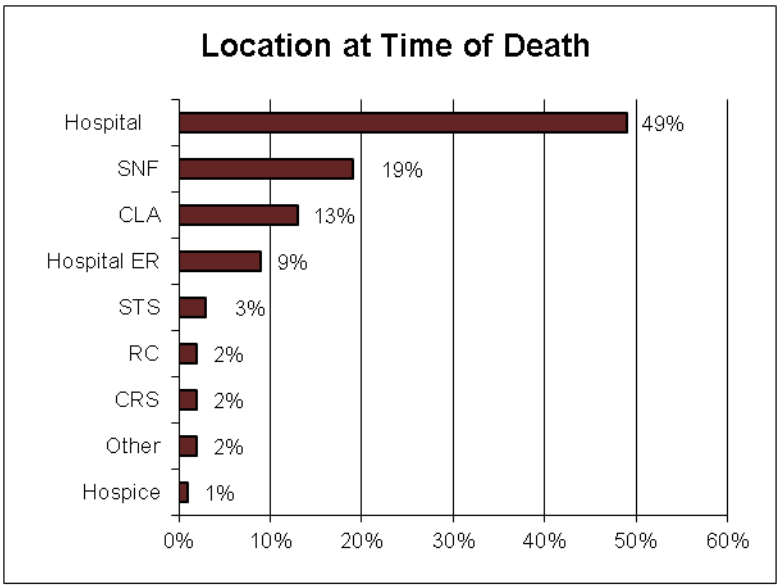
Practitioner Division Referrals– (1)
cases open – 0
cases closed - 1
citations, violations found - 0

Facility Division Investigations – (1)
cases open – 0
cases closed - 1
citations, violations found – 0

Pronouncement of Death (Location at Time of Death)

Figure 14 below depicts the location where death was pronounced.

Figure 14



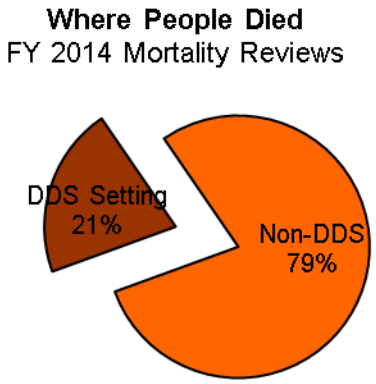
KEY: Location of Death

Hospital = Admission to the hospital as an inpatient, death occurred in the hospital.

Hospital ER = Evaluated in hospital ER, died in ER while receiving treatment, not admitted to the hospital.

All Other = Died where the person lived or worked or other community location.

Figure 15



As can be seen in Figure 15 to the right, 79% of all deaths reviewed by the mortality review committee during FY 14 occurred outside of a DDS operated, licensed or funded residential setting, this represents an increase in the number of people dying outside of a DDS setting compared to FY 13 (77%).

SUMMARY OF MORTALITY DATA

for the 178 deaths that were reviewed in FY14

- **100%** of required cases were reviewed **Regionally**.
- **24%** of all cases were reviewed by the **IMRB**.
- **41%** of the individuals received **Hospice** supports prior to their deaths. *
- **3%** of the individuals had **Autopsies** performed.
- **93%** of all deaths were **Related** to an existing medical diagnosis.
- **77%** of the individuals had a **DNR** order in place at the time of death.
- **40%** of the individuals had two **Risk Factors** (non-ambulatory and could not eat without assistance). *
- **97%** of the deaths reviewed were due to **Natural** causes.
- **4** number of deaths that were classified as **Accidental**.
- **2** number of referrals to **Department of Public Health**.
- **5** number of referrals to **Office of Protection & Advocacy Abuse Investigation Division**.
- **3** number of cases **Neglect** was substantiated by OPA or DDS.

* Does not include Abridged Reviews

SECTION FOUR: MORTALITY TRENDS CT DDS

For the past thirteen years the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services has collected, reviewed and analyzed mortality data.

Data collection has focused on mortality and residence, mortality and age, mortality and gender and leading causes and factors associated with death.

The consistency of the cumulative data/statistics from one year to the next seems to validate and support the trends and findings identified within the intellectual disability population group served by the State of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services.

Figure 16

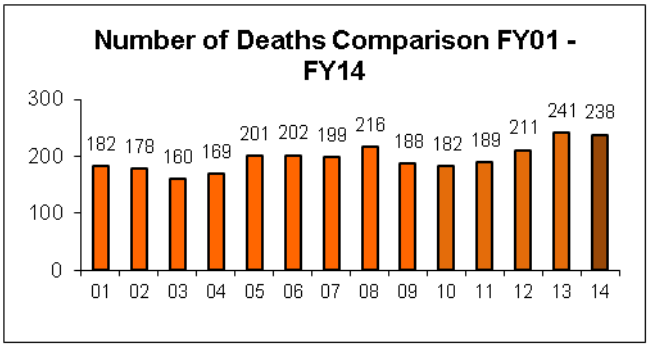
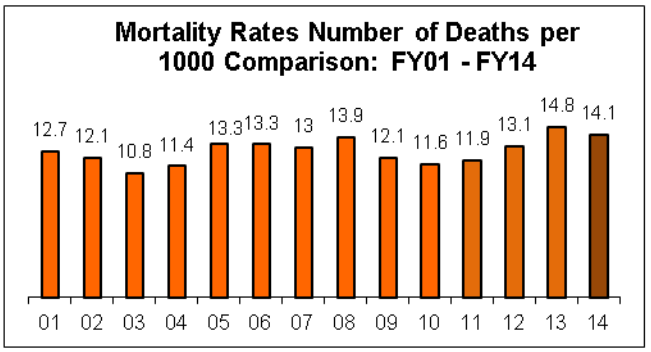
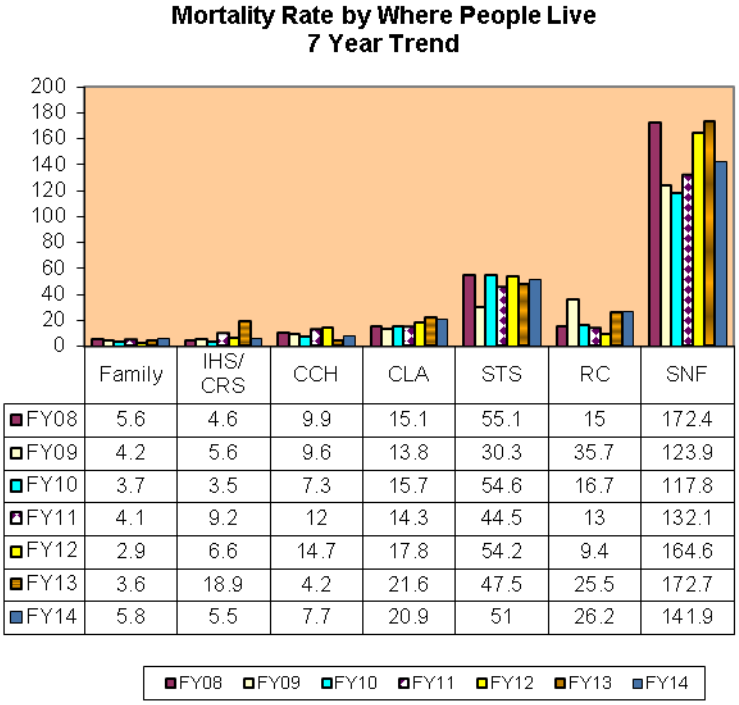


Figure 17



Figures 16 and 17 depict on an annual basis the number of deaths and the average death rate for FY 2001 – 2014 within the population served by DDS. The death rate average over the thirteen year period of time is 12.721/1000 people.

Figure 18



	Family	IHS/ CRS	CCH	CLA	STS	RC	SNF
FY08	5.6	4.6	9.9	15.1	55.1	15	172.4
FY09	4.2	5.6	9.6	13.8	30.3	35.7	123.9
FY10	3.7	3.5	7.3	15.7	54.6	16.7	117.8
FY11	4.1	9.2	12	14.3	44.5	13	132.1
FY12	2.9	6.6	14.7	17.8	54.2	9.4	164.6
FY13	3.6	18.9	4.2	21.6	47.5	25.5	172.7
FY14	5.8	5.5	7.7	20.9	51	26.2	141.9

Figure 18 (to the left) compares the death rate (the number of deaths per 1000 persons served) for the past seven (7) fiscal years by type of support.

Historically, individuals residing in residences (SNF, campus) that require more intensive nursing supports and medical oversight due to their compromised health status have a greater death rate than people living in other types of settings.

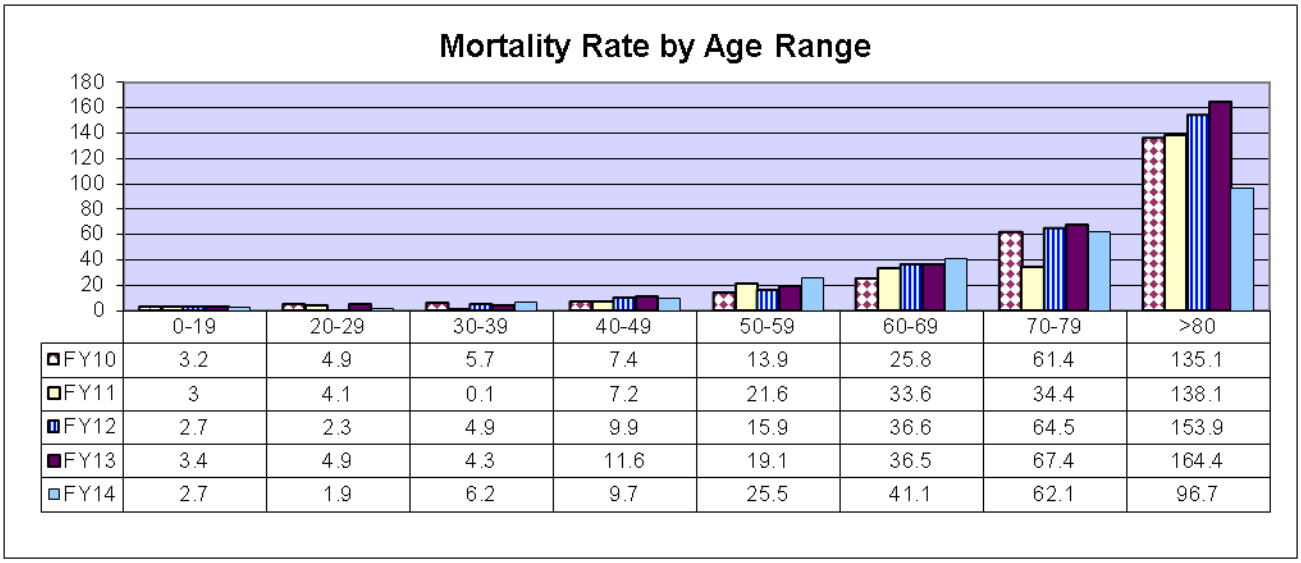
Caution must be exercised in reviewing this data since the actual number of deaths in some of these support settings are relatively small.

Table 6
Mortality and Gender
(2005 - 2014)

Year	# Deaths Men	# Deaths Women	Mortality Rate Men	Mortality Rate Women
2005	106	95	12.40	14.38
2006	102	100	11.86	15.11
2007	100	99	11.61	15.13
2008	122	94	13.8	14
2009	103	85	11.54	12.78
2010	100	82	11.11	12.27
2011	108	81	11.88	12.01
2012	107	104	11.57	15.23
2013	130	111	13.82	16.16
2014	**124**	**114**	**13**	**16.4**

Over the past ten years more men died annually than women and the mortality rate for women exceeded the mortality rate for men.

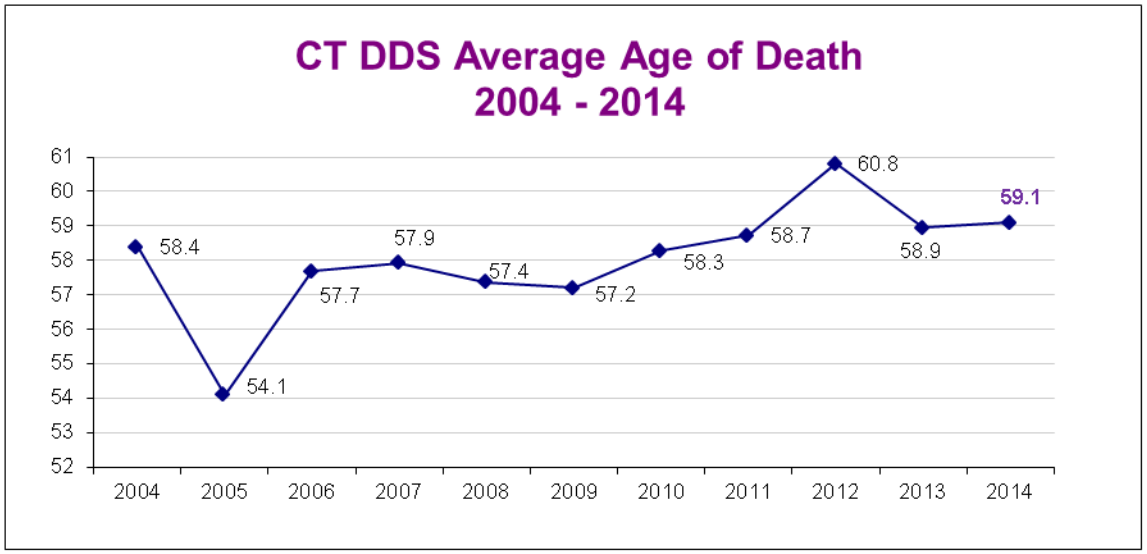
Figure 19



	0-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	>80
FY10	3.2	4.9	5.7	7.4	13.9	25.8	61.4	135.1
FY11	3	4.1	0.1	7.2	21.6	33.6	34.4	138.1
FY12	2.7	2.3	4.9	9.9	15.9	36.6	64.5	153.9
FY13	3.4	4.9	4.3	11.6	19.1	36.5	67.4	164.4
FY14	2.7	1.9	6.2	9.7	25.5	41.1	62.1	96.7

Figure 19 (above) illustrates mortality rate by age range. The data over the past five fiscal years reveals a consistent pattern of increasing mortality rates with each successive decade of life. The mortality rates increase markedly for adults who are in their fifth decade of life. The data also demonstrates that within each age range there is some fluctuation in mortality rates from one year to the next.

Figure 20



For 9 out of the last 10 fiscal years the average age of death has held in a tight range within the fifth decade of life. This is lower than the national life expectancy (79.5) [1] and the Connecticut life expectancy (82.7). [11,15]

Figure 21

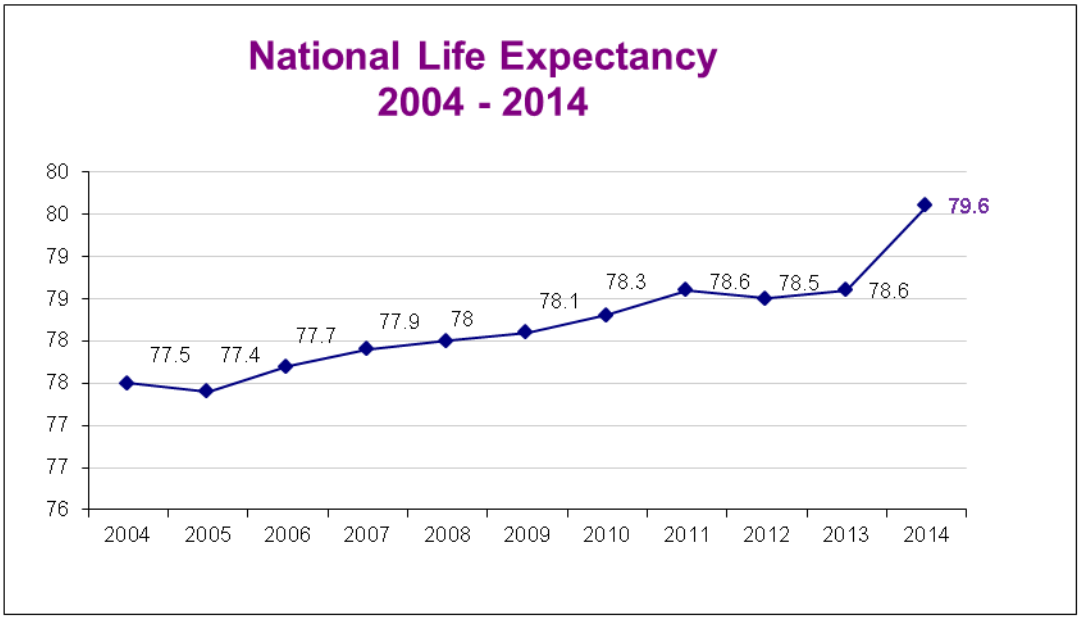


Table 7

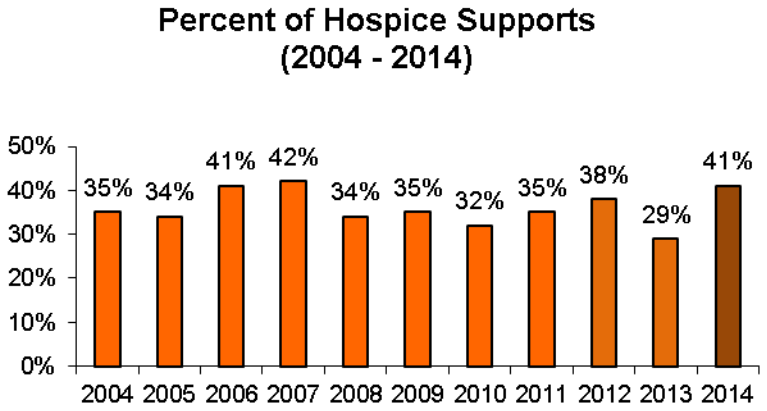
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF DEATH TRENDS
(2005 - 2014)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
SNF	40%	33%	33%	30%	31%	28%	31%	32%	34%	**26%**
CLA	23%	31%	29%	26%	28%	33%	29%	33%	34%	**36%**
Family	19%	18%	17%	20%	18%	18%	19%	12%	14%	**19%**
STS	7%	10%	10%	13%	8%	14%	11%	11%	8%	**8%**
IHS/CRS	4%	4%	7%	5%	6%	2%	5%	6%	5%	**7%**
RC	4%	2%	2%	2%	5%	2%	1%	1%	2%	**2%**
CCH	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	1%	**1%**
Other	2%	0%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	**1%**
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	**100%**

Table 7 depicts the percentage of deaths within various support types over a ten year period of time.

Although there is some variability, the percentage of DDS deaths that occur in SNF's and CLA's is greater than other settings.

Figure 22



End of life planning and hospice care has been a hallmark of the CT DDS system as noted above. Where appropriate, end of life planning and support services were provided prior to death with the individual's team involved in the planning process. The continued integration of hospice supports into the person's support plan can be attributed to mortality review findings and recommendations. Case managers, nurses and other team members actively seek out hospice services in cases where death is anticipated as a result of a terminal illness.

SECTION FIVE: LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

This section discusses cause of death data for people served by the CT DDS. The information used to determine the cause of death for each individual was gathered from the DDS Death Report Form and/or the Certificate of Death.* In addition the documented cause of death is also reviewed by the regional mortality committee and/or IMRB during the mortality review process.

Leading Cause of Death Data CT DDS
(based on the 2014 fiscal year)

29.8%	*of deaths were due to*	**Heart Disease**	*including*	Acute MI, CHF, Dysrhythmias, Pulmonary HTN, Asystole, Cardiomyopathy
25.2%	*of deaths were due to*	**Respiratory Disease**	*including*	Respiratory Failure, Pulmonary Embolism, Influenza, Multi-System Failure, COPD, ARDS, Asthma
10.5%	*of deaths were due to*	**Cancer**	*including*	Wide variety of primary origin sites
6.7%	*of deaths were due to*	**Aspiration Pneumonia**	*including*	Aspiration Pneumonia
5.0%	*of deaths were due to*	**Sepsis**	*including*	Septicemia, Bacterial, Shock, Urosepsis, Peritonitis
4.6%	*of deaths were due to*	**Pneumonia**	*including*	Pneumonia
2.9%	*of deaths were due to*	**Alzheimer's Disease**	*including*	Dementia
2.5%	*of deaths were due to*	**CVA**	*including*	Stroke, Cerebral Hemorrhage
1.7%	*of deaths were due to*	**Digestive System**	*including*	Intestinal Obstruction, Volvulus
1.3%	*of deaths were due to*	**Brain Disorders**	*including*	TBI, Subdural Hematoma

The 10 leading causes of death in 2014 (Table 10) are noted above. Heart disease remains the leading cause of death for the DDS population with respiratory disease, cancer aspiration pneumonia and sepsis rounding out the top five.

Heart Disease

According to the Centers for Disease Control[16] "The term 'heart disease' refers to several types of heart conditions. The most common type in the United States is coronary artery disease, which can cause heart attack, angina, heart failure, and arrhythmias."

* CT DDS receives certificates of death *and* death reports for all deaths *reviewed*.

Table 8

Location Where Death Pronounced

(FY 2005 - 2014)

Location	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	10 Year Total
Hospital	64	58	63	71	71	61	49	56	67	**87**	**647**
SNF	35	30	28	26	14	18	21	33	36	**34**	**275**
CLA	16	17	15	7	10	12	15	21	22	**24**	**159**
Hospital ER	18	14	16	9	13	12	9	10	17	**16**	**134**
STS	4	14	6	11	10	13	13	13	8	**5**	**97**
RC	3	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	**4**	**15**
IHS	4	5	3	3	5	3	3	5	2	**1**	**34**
Hospice	7	2	2	1	5	0	5	7	7	**2**	**38**
Other	1	3	3	5	4	1	1	2	1	**5**	**26**

Table 9

Number of Autopsies (FY 2006 – FY 2013)

FY 06	17	12%
FY 07	11	8%
FY 08	17	13%
FY 09	14	11%
FY 10	14	10%
FY 11	6	5%
FY 12	13	9%
FY 13	3	2%
FY 14	**6**	**3%**

As noted in Table 9 above the number of autopsies performed vary from one review year to the next. This variation can be attributed to the number of deaths in a given year, the specific death related circumstances and requests for consent post mortems by family members. The number of post mortem examinations during FY 2014 increased from FY 2013 (3% vs. 2%).

Table 11 provides an in-depth analysis of the cardiac deaths that were reviewed as part of the DDS mortality review process.* In FY 14 more men died as a result of heart disease than women and women lived longer than men.

Table 11

Deaths Due to Heart Disease

Year	Number of Male Deaths	Number of Female Deaths	Average Age Male	Average Age Female	Average Age
FY 12	27	19	63.4	66.5	64.7
FY 13	28	17	62.7	62.5	62.6
FY 14	**32**	**15**	**60.8**	**66.6**	**62.7**

As in the general population, many of the individuals served by DDS who died as a result of cardiovascular disease had at least one or more identified risk factors prior to their death such as high blood cholesterol, high blood pressure, coronary artery disease, peripheral vascular disease, congenital heart defects, congestive heart failure, physical inactivity, obesity and diabetes mellitus.

In the general population 80% of people who die of coronary heart disease are 65 or older [17] as compared with only 43% of individuals in the CT DDS population. Of the remaining cardiac related deaths in the DDS population group: Seventeen percent (17%) of the cardiac deaths occurred prior to the age of 50 years and 40% percent of the cardiac deaths occurred between the ages of 50-65.

There is a greater prevalence of congenital heart conditions and atrioventricular septal defects found in people with Down syndrome.[12] CT DDS data reveals that the incidence of cardiac deaths reported for people with Down syndrome was higher than that of the DDS population.

Respiratory Disease

The 2014 leading cause of death data demonstrates the significant impact of respiratory disease in the CT DDS population.

An analysis of the cases reviewed by the CT DDS mortality review process revealed that slightly more men died as a result of respiratory disease/aspiration pneumonia/pneumonia than women but that they both had the same average age of death.*

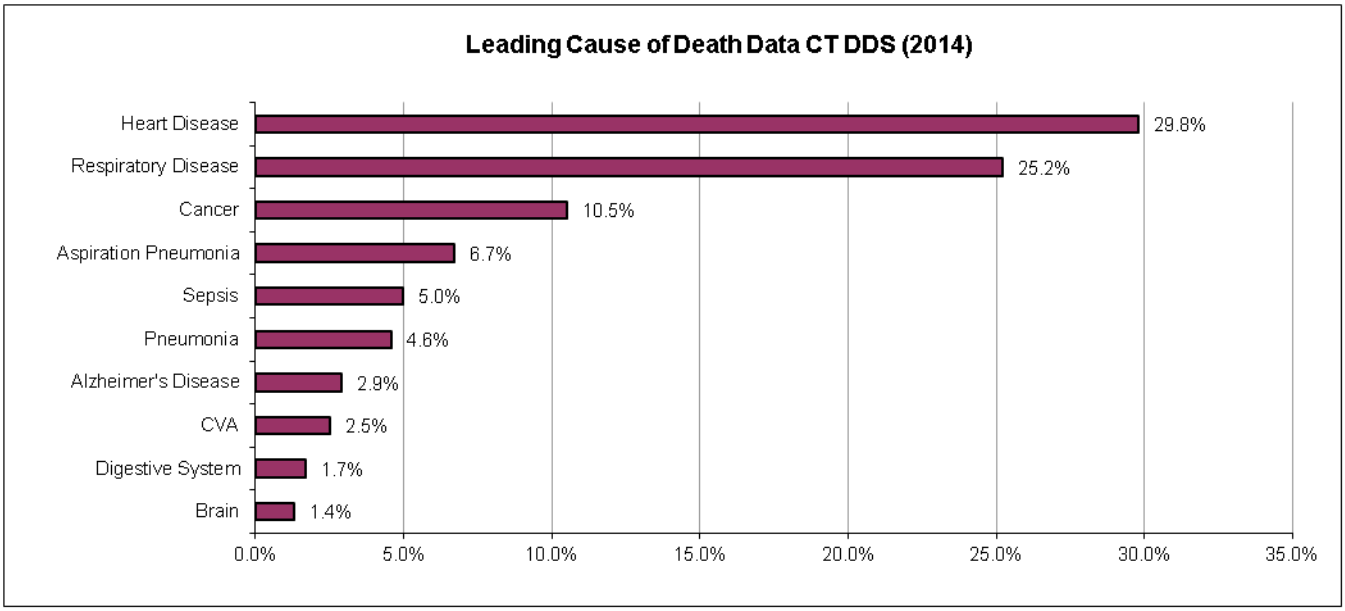
Table 12

Deaths Due to Respiratory Disease, Pneumonia and Aspiration Pneumonia

Year	Number of Males	Number of Females	Avg. Age of Males	Avg. Age of Females	Ave. Age
FY 12	14	11	63.9	65.2	64.5
FY 13	14	16	64.9	71.9	68.6
FY 14	**21**	**20**	**64.4**	**64.4**	**64.4**

* Abridged Reviews Excluded

Figure 23



All diseases of the lung/respiratory system due to an identified respiratory disease process such as acute bronchitis, emphysema, asthma, pulmonary embolism, respiratory failure, COPD, ARDS, pneumonia and aspiration pneumonia were responsible for 36.6 of all deaths in 2014 eclipsing the number of deaths caused by cardiac disease (29.8%).

The frequency of respiratory disease (specifically pneumonia and aspiration pneumonia) and the resultant high mortality rate seem to be closely related to the risk factors of immobility and dysphagia or swallowing dysfunction, restrictive pulmonary function due to curvature of the spine, cerebral palsy, genetic syndromes, hiatal hernia and other anatomical anomalies which are prevalent in the population served by DDS.

Alzheimer's Disease

Alzheimer's disease is the seventh leading cause of death (4.6%) in the CT DDS leading cause of death statistics. During the mortality review process it was determined that in 20% of the 113 deaths*, the person had a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease at the time of their death.

* Abridged Reviews excluded

Table 13

Leading Causes of Death CT DDS

Rank	CT DDS 2014	CT DDS 2013	CT DDS 2012	CT DDS 2011	CT DDS 2010	CT DDS 2009	CT DDS 2008
1	**Heart Disease 29.8%**	Heart Disease 28.6%	Heart Disease 21.8%	Heart Disease 22.5%	Heart Disease 28%	Heart Disease 29.9%	Heart Disease 31%
2	**Respiratory Disease 25.2%**	Respiratory Disease 22.4%	Aspiration Pneumonia 17.1%	Cancer 13.5%	Respiratory Disease 14.6%	Respiratory Disease 13.7%	Aspiration Pneumonia 15%
3	**Cancer 11%**	Cancer 10%	Respiratory Disease 14.2%	Aspiration Pneumonia 8.2%	Sepsis 12.9%	Pneumonia 12.8%	Respiratory Disease 12.3%
4	**Aspiration Pneumonia 6.7%**	Aspiration Pneumonia 7.9%	Cancer 13.3%	Respiratory Disease 11.1%	Cancer 12.9%	Aspiration Pneumonia 10.3%	Cancer 10.7%
5	**Sepsis 5.0%**	Sepsis 7.9%	Pneumonia 8.5%	Pneumonia 8.2%	Aspiration Pneumonia 12.3%	Sepsis 9.8%	Pneumonia 8.6%
6	**Pneumonia 4.6%**	Pneumonia 7.5%	Sepsis 3.3%	Sepsis 5.3%	Pneumonia 7.6%	Cancer 7.4%	Sepsis 8.6%
7	**Alzheimer's Disease 2.9%**	Alzheimer's Disease 3.7%	Kidney/ Renal 3.3%	Alzheimer's Disease 4.4%	Stroke 4%	Stroke 3.4%	Nervous System 3.7%
8	**Stroke 2.5%**	Seizures 1.7%	Alzheimer's Disease 1.9%	Digestive System 3.4%	Digestive System 3%	Kidney/ Renal 2.5%	Kidney/ Renal 3.2%
9	**Digestive System 1.7%**	Kidney/ Renal 1.2%	Accident 1.9%	Kidney/ Renal 3.4%	Kidney/ Renal 2%	Digestive System 2.5%	Stroke 2.7%
10	**Brain 1.3%**	Digestive System 0.8%	Digestive System 1.4%	Stroke 2.4%	Genetic Disorder 2%	Genetic Disorder 2.5%	Digestive System 1.6%

Based on 2014 Fiscal Year Data

Table 13 compares the top ten leading causes of death with CT DDS data from previous years.* Heart disease remained as the leading cause of death in the CT DDS population. There were some changes in the cause of death rankings compared to the 2013 data. For example: Stroke has become the eighth leading cause of death. Digestive System rose to the ninth leading cause of death.. Unlike other recent years, this year brain disorders ranked within the top ten causes of death at tenth. Respiratory disease, aspiration pneumonia and pneumonia as a cause of death once again represented over 1/3 of all CT DDS deaths.

* 2014, 2013 and 2012 data is based on fiscal year data – the previous years' data was based on calendar year data.

Leading Causes of Death for People with Down Syndrome

Table 14

FY14
Primary Cause of Death/Down Syndrome

Cardiac Arrest	7
Respiratory Failure	5
Alzheimer's Disease	1
Anoxic Brain Damage	1
Failure to Thrive	1
Pneumonia	1
Total	**16**

This year cardiac arrest was the leading cause of death for persons with Down syndrome (45%). (Table 14)

Since 2006 aspiration pneumonia and respiratory failure have accounted for 53% of all deaths for people with Down syndrome. (Table 15)

DDS mortality findings are also in line with other research studies that indicate that the life expectancy among adults with Down syndrome is about 55 years of age.[5,6,7,8] The average age of death for people with Down syndrome in the CT DDS system is 60.6.

Based on the DDS Down syndrome and death data (Table 16) there is no appreciable difference in lifespan for those individuals with or without Alzheimer's disease.

Although Alzheimer's disease was rarely documented as a cause of death the majority of people with Down syndrome had a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease at the time of their death (69%). This data supports other research studies that found increased prevalence of Alzheimer's disease in people with Down syndrome.[4,5]

Table 15

FY 06 - FY 14
Primary Cause of Death/Down Syndrome

Respiratory Failure	67
Cardiac Arrest	60
Aspiration Pneumonia	29
Sepsis	5
Renal Failure	4
Cancer	3
Pneumonia	3
Alzheimer's Disease	2
Anoxic Brain Damage	2
Failure to Thrive	2
Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage	2
Liver Disease	2
Subdural Hematoma	2
Asphyxia	1
CVA	1
Intracranial Hemorrhage	1
Lymphoma	1
Mucus Plug	1
Seizure Disorder	1
Total	**189**

Table 16

Average Age of Death Data

	2013	2014
Down syndrome:	58.6	**60.6**
Down syndrome & Alzheimer's disease:	60.5	**59.9**
Down syndrome without Alzheimer's disease:	55.2	**62.2**

Analysis of Cancer Deaths

Table 17

FY 14
Analysis of Cancer Deaths

Primary Site	Number of Deaths	Average Age at Death
Lung	4	70.4
Endometrial	4	64.2
Gastric	2	43
Renal	2	74.5
Ovarian	2	69.6
Unknown Origin	2	60.6
Bladder	1	70.9
Breast	1	59.9
Cervical	1	66.3
Colon	1	57.2
Esophageal	1	67.2
Melonoma	1	51.2
Neck	1	58.1
Pancreatic	1	56.5
Vulvar	1	55.4
TOTAL	**25**	**61.7**

In FY 2014 cancer was the third leading cause of death for people supported by the CT DDS

For FY 14 the distribution of cancers in men were: Lung (2), colon (1), esophageal (1), gastric (1), neck (1), pancreatic (1), renal (1), unknown origin (1)

The FY 14 distribution of cancers in women were: Endometrial (4), lung (2), ovarian (2), bladder (1), breast (1), cervical (1), gastric (1), melanoma (1), renal (1), vulvar (1), unknown origin (1)

The average age of death for all cancer victims (63.1 years) was above the average age of death for all CT DDS deaths (59.1 years).

The rate of death due to cancer in the CT DDS population (1.5/1000) is lower than the rate in the state of CT and nationally.[13,14]

Over the past 8 years cancers have represented 11% of CT DDS mortalities.

Table 18

FY 06 - FY14
Analysis of Cancer Deaths

Primary Site	Number of Deaths	Average Age at Death
Lung	28	69.3
Breast	17	56.1
Pancreas	17	59.6
Colorectal	14	65.8
Stomach	10	48.3
Brain	9	55
Renal	9	67.9
Leukemia	8	55.7
Ovary	8	67.3
Bladder	7	68.1
Endometrial	6	65.4
Myeloma	6	55.9
Liver	5	55.5
Lymphoma non-Hodgkins	5	59.9
Prostate	5	79.7
Esophagus	5	60.9
Cholagio	2	68.2
Gallbladder	2	57.2
Larynx	2	51.5
Lymphoma	2	65
Neck	2	64
Parotid Gland	2	54.2
Thyroid	2	64.5
Vulva	2	58.6
Adeno Carcinoma	1	46
Angiosarcoma	1	53
Aplastic Anemia	1	23
Bone	1	80.2
Cervical	1	66.3
Chrondroblastic	1	36.7
Duodenum	1	90.4
Endocrine/Adrenal Gland	1	61
Ethmoid Sinus	1	48
Lymphatic/Hemotopoietic	1	73
Nasopharyngeal	1	63.2
Oral/pharynx	1	68
Testicular	1	63
Trachael/Bronchus	1	81
Unknown Origin	7	62.3
TOTAL	**196**	**61.2**

SECTION SIX: BENCHMARKS

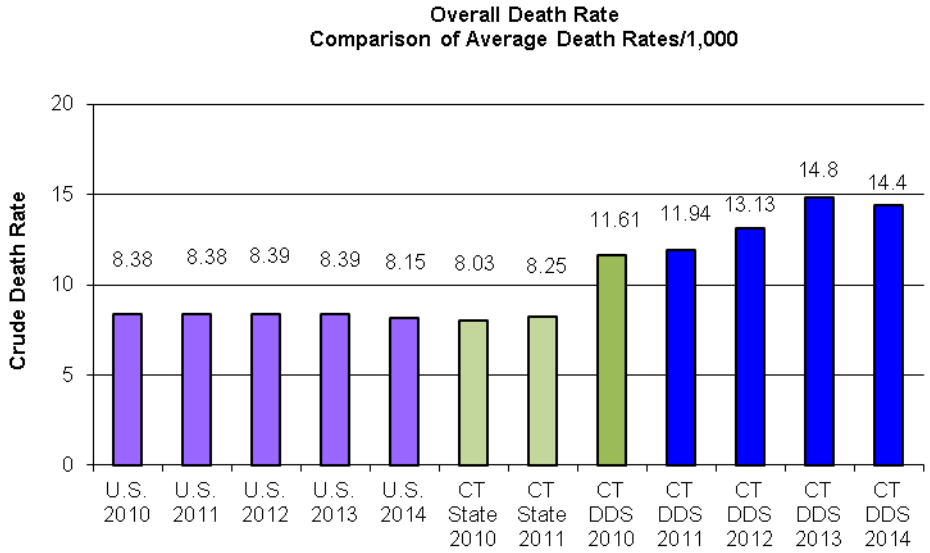
Mortality Rate Comparison

Benchmarks are standards by which similar items can be compared and allow the reader to place findings in context. Thus, the use of benchmarks including comparative data from other populations is an important mechanism for helping to understand analytical findings and trend data such as those presented in this report.

There are few relative benchmarks (data from other state agencies) available for use in comparing mortality data for persons with ID/DD and when data does exist, there may be differences in the way the data is reported and analyzed.

The overall CT DDS crude death rate of 14.4/1000 is higher than the rate of 8.27 in Connecticut (2011) and the rate of 8.15 in the general United States population (2013).[1,13] This would be expected due to the many health and functional complications associated with intellectual disabilities.

Figure 24



While comparison of CT DDS mortality data with benchmarks from the general population (state and national) are of interest, the comparison should be made with caution recognizing there are differences in population characteristics, adjusted age and statistical methods etc.[1,13,14]

In this report we use the term "average death rate" to reflect what is more commonly referred to as the "crude" death rate in mortality and epidemiological research. It is a measure of how many people out of every thousand served by CT DDS died within the fiscal year. It is determined by multiplying the number of individuals who died during the year times one thousand and dividing this number by the total number of individuals served by DDS during the same period of time.

Table 19

Comparison Leading Causes of Death National, State of CT and CT DDS

(based on calendar year)

Comparison Leading Causes of Death National, State of CT and CT DDS

Rank	US 2013	US 2012	US 2011	State CT 2011	**CT DDS 2014**	CT DDS 2013	CT DDS 2012	CT DDS 2011
1	Heart Disease 23.5%	Heart Disease 23.6%	Heart Disease 23.7%	Heart Disease 24.3%	**Heart Disease 29.8%**	Heart Disease 25.6%	Heart Disease 28.2%	Heart Disease 27.4%
2	Cancer 22.5%	Cancer 22.9%	Cancer 22.9%	Cancer 23%	**Respiratory Disease 25.2%**	Respiratory Disease 17.8%	Respiratory Disease 18.1%	Cancer 13.5%
3	Respiratory Disease 5.7%	Respiratory Disease 5.6%	Respiratory Disease 5.7%	Respiratory Disease 4.8%	**Cancer 10.5%**	Cancer 12%	Aspiration Pneumonia 12.5%	Aspiration Pneumonia 8.2%
4	Stroke 5%	Stroke 5.1%	Stroke 5.1%	Accidents 4.5%	**Aspiration Pneumonia 6.7%**	Aspiration Pneumonia 9.7%	Cancer 10.7%	Respiratory Disease 11.1%
5	Accidents 5%	Accidents 5%	Accidents 4.9%	Stroke 4.4%	**Sepsis 5%**	Pneumonia 8.9%	Sepsis 5.6%	Pneumonia 8.2%
6	Alzheimer's Disease 3.3%	Alzheimer's Disease 3.3%	Alzheimer's Disease 3.4%	X	**Pneumonia 4.6%**	Sepsis 6.9%	Pneumonia 4.6%	Sepsis 5.3%
7	Diabetes Mellitus 2.9%	Diabetes Mellitus 2.9	Diabetes 2.9%	X	**Alzheimer's Disease 2.9%**	Alzheimer's Disease 3.9%	Accidents 1.9%	Alzheimer's Disease 4.4%
8	Influenza/ Pneumonia 2.2%	Influenza/ Pneumonia 2.0%	Influenza/ Pneumonia 2.1%	X	**Stroke 2.5**	Digestive System 1.2%	Digestive System 1.4%	Kidney/ Renal 3.4%
9	Nephritis/ Kidney 1.8%	Nephritis/ Kidney 1.8%	Nephritis/ Kidney 1.8%	X	**Digestive System 1.7%**	Genetic Disorder 1.2%	Kidney/ Renal 1.4%	Digestive System 3.4%
10	Intential Self-Harm 1.6	Intentional Self-Harm 1.6%	Intentional Self-Harm 1.5%	X	**Brain 1.3%**	Accident 1.2%	Stroke 1.4%	Stroke 2.4%

Leading Causes of Death Benchmarks: National, State of CT and CT DDS

Table 19 compares the top ten leading causes of death for people served by CT DDS with vital statistics benchmarks data for the State of Connecticut, and United States. Year over year data comparisons continue to demonstrate consistency in the leading causes of death data. [1,13,14]

Heart Disease: (Due to various cardiac diagnoses) is the number one cause of death for all of the referenced populations. As in past years the prevalence of cardiac disease is slightly greater in the DDS population at 29.8% versus 24.3% in the CT general population and 23.5% nationally.

Respiratory Diseases: Is the second leading cause of death in the CT DDS population (25.2%). This category which includes influenza causes death in the CT DDS population at a rate 4 times the rates reported in the CT and national vital statistics data base (4.8%) and (5.7%) respectively .

Cancer: Is the third leading cause of death in the CT DDS population responsible for 10.5% of deaths. Unlike the other mentioned leading causes of death, cancer in DDS occurs less frequently in the CT DDS population than in the CT (23%) and national (22.5) general populations.

Aspiration Pneumonia: Is the forth leading cause of death in the DDS population (6.7%) and as mentioned earlier in this report is unique to the ID/DD population due to many factors including the prevalence of dysphagia, Down syndrome, Alzheimer's disease and enteral feedings. In comparison, aspiration pneumonia is not reflected in the state of CT or national vital statistics as one of the top ten leading causes of death.

Septicemia: Originating from various sites and usually acute in onset is the fifth leading cause of death in the CT DDS population resulting in 5% of deaths . Sepsis is not reflected in the state of CT or national vital statistics as one of the top ten leading causes of death.

Pneumonia: Is the sixth leading cause of death accounting for 4.6% of CT DDS deaths compared to <3% in the US population. Many of the multiple co-morbidities found in the CT DDS ID/DD population such as cerebral palsy, congenital syndromes, epilepsy, GERD, hiatal hernia, and immuno-deficiency disorders result in a compromised pulmonary system that makes this population vulnerable for developing pneumonia.

Alzheimer's Disease: In calendar year 2014 the percent of deaths resulting from Alzheimer's Disease in the CT DDS system (2.9%) was the seventh leading causes of death and was slightly lower than the number of Alzheimer's Disease deaths in the 2013 US population (3.3%).

Caution: While comparison of CT DDS mortality data with benchmarks from the general population (state and national) are of interest, they are not very practical for direct comparison purposes due to differences in population characteristics, adjusted age and statistical methods etc. For example, the added medical health concerns (co-morbidities) inherent in people with intellectual disabilities are related to a greater mortality rate. Also, many individuals in the CT DDS system had a diagnosis of dysphagia and or gastro esophageal reflux disease at the time of their death. Both of which have been linked to aspiration pneumonia, respiratory failure, sepsis and death in the ID/DD population.[2,9]

Seasonal variations in mortality require consistency when conducting comparative analysis and, therefore, the previous data regarding leading causes of death is based on the calendar year 2013 Leading cause of death data for the calendar year will allow benchmark data from CT DDS to be consistent with Connecticut and national mortality benchmarks developed for the general population calendar year.

SECTION SEVEN: SUMMARY MORTALITY CASE REVIEW FINDINGS

The CT DDS mortality review process has evolved into a powerful quality assurance system for ensuring the delivery of optimal health care oversight and services in the CT DDS. The regional and state recommendations regarding health care oversight and standardization of health care practices for professional and non-professional staff have improved basic health care services and mitigated health related risk. The impact of mortality findings and recommendations has been observed within DDS and has extended to community based health care providers including practitioners in private practice licensed nursing facilities, acute care hospitals, hospice providers, health and dental clinics and other state agencies.

Table 20

Mortality Case Review Summary (FY 2013)

*Death Reviewed by Regional Committees **	*Cases Closed at Regional Level **	*Cases Closed at Regional Level ***	*Cases Referred and Reviewed by IMRB ***	*QA Cases Closed by Region ***	*Total Cases Reviewed by IMRB ***
178	135 (76%)	70 (62%)	36 (32%)	7 (10%)	43 (38%)

The table above, provides a summary of all deaths reviewed by the CT DDS Mortality Review Committees. Seventy-six percent of the 178 cases reviewed were closed by the local regional mortality committees. The regional committees referred 43 mortality cases to the state Independent Mortality Review Board for further review. The reasons for the case referrals are noted in Table 21 (below).

The CT DDS Mortality Review Process requires that at least 10% of all cases that are closed at the regional level are reviewed by the Independent Mortality Review Board (IMRB) for quality assurance purposes. This year the IMRB reviewed 10% of cases closed by regional mortality committees.

* Includes Abridged Reviews.

** Does not include Abridged Reviews

Table 21

Cases Referred to IMRB (36)	
Medical/Health Care	23
Pending Abuse/Neglect Investigations	7
Post Mortem Examination	5
Unexplained Death	1

CT DDS Mortality Review: General Findings

Predictors of Mortality in the ID Population

- age
- mobility status
- the need for special assistance when eating
- sudden or progressive weight loss
- level of intellectual disability
- a distinct cluster of co-morbidities
- chronic aspiration pneumonia
- pneumonias that result in hospitalization

I. Findings and Quality Enhancement Action

Mortality Review Finding	DDS Quality Enhancement Action
Health care coordination by registered nurses is an essential support for the ID/DD population who are at risk for chronic and acute health conditions.	• The department chaired a workgroup of private providers, nurse consulting agencies and DDs providers and created a Healthcare Coordination Fact Sheet to better facilitate the enhanced implementation of the waiver service.
The premature onset of acute and chronic health issues which lead to morbidity and mortality in people with ID presents a unique challenge to caregivers.	• Offered a number of health promotion oriented educational opportunities to providers • Implemented a Healthy Living Community of Practice Subcommittee focused on identify and enhancing health and wellness supports for families
The CT DDS process for reviewing advanced life directives including the withholding of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (DNRs) provides the team with a foundation for quality end of life planning.	• Connecticut DDS will continue its **t protocol** for the monitoring of all contemplated or existing **Do Not Resuscitate** (DNR) orders for all adjudicated individuals treated under the direction of the Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).
End of life planning that included hospice services and supports allowed many individuals with irreversible or terminal conditions to remain in their home or current residence.	• Reinforced commitment to ensuring individuals remain in their homes and communities regardless of their ability or age represented in Health services collaboration in the **Aging Conference, facilitating a Hospice end of Life Panel presentation** • Individuals are supported to **die with dignity where they have lived**. This policy and philosophical position applies to all individuals for whom the department bears direct or oversight responsibility for medical care.
CT DDS mortality cases referred to the CT Department of Public Health resulted in improvements in healthcare facility and/or health care practitioners standards of practice which we expect will ultimately advance the quality of care for people with ID/DD.	• DDS continues to **foster partnerships** with Department of Public Health, PH, Office of Protection and Advocacy and other health care systems and facilities.
Fall risk has been identified as a consistent area of concern through our mortality review process	• The department's **Fall Prevention Protocol**, is currently under consideration for modification based on this year's fall data.

II. General Community Awareness Findings

These are general findings that we believe the community at large should be aware of.

1. Individuals living in their own home or receiving individualized supports benefit from health education and training that focuses on health promotion and disease prevention.
2. Post mortem examinations are a valuable tool to confirm the cause and manner of death in cases where the cause of death was not immediately determined.
3. As individuals age, the “aging in place phenomenon” within the ID/DD population presents a future challenge for the CT DDS service system and for all care providers, but must be embraced through creative solutions and strengthened partnerships.
4. The aging Down syndrome population requires specialized and comprehensive supports.
5. CT DDS has sustained quality in the area of water temperature safety. There have been no mortality events related to scalding. The anti scalding devices continue to assist in ensuring maximum water temperature safety practices.

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The next Annual Mortality Report UPDATE will be issued in March of 2016

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With thanks to Julie Bouchard with assistance from Tim Deschanes-Desmond and Victoria Berman.

List of Figures

Figures			Page
Figure:	1	Number of Deaths	9
Figure:	2	Mortality Rate	9
Figure:	3	Residence at Time of Death	9
Figure:	4	Number of Deaths by Where People Live	10
Figure:	5	Mortality Rate by Where People Live	10
Figure:	6	Number of Deaths by Gender	12
Figure:	7	Mortality Rate by Gender	12
Figure:	8	DDS Age at Death by Gender	13
Figure:	9	Mortality Rates by Age Range	14
Figure:	10	Deaths of Children and Adults	15
Figure:	11	Average Age and Average Age of Death	15
Figure:	12	Predictability of Death	17
Figure:	13	Risk Factors	20
Figure:	14	Location at Time of Death	22
Figure:	15	Where People Died	22
Figure:	16	Number of Deaths Comparison	25
Figure:	17	Mortality Rates Comparison	25
Figure:	18	Mortality Rate by Where People Live 7 Year Trend	25
Figure:	19	Mortality Rate by Age Range	26
Figure:	20	CT DDS Average Age of Death	27
Figure:	21	National Life Expectancy	27
Figure:	22	Percent of Hospice Supports	28
Figure:	23	Leading Cause of Death Data CT DDS	32
Figure:	24	Overall Death Rate Comparison of Average Death Rates (CT/US)	36

List of Tables

Tables:			Page
Table:	1	Mortality Rate by Gender	12
Table:	2	Age of Death	13
Table:	3	Mortality Age Range Distribution Data	14
Table:	4	Manner of Death	18
Table:	5	Level of Intellectual Disability and Mortality Rate	20
Table:	6	Mortality and Gender	26
Table:	7	Residence at Time of Death Trends	28
Table:	8	Location Where Death Pronounced	29
Table:	9	Number of Autopsies	29
Table:	10	Leading Cause of Death Data CT DDS	30
Table:	11	Deaths Due to Heart Disease	31
Table:	12	Deaths Due to Respiratory Disease, Pneumonia and Aspiration Pneumonia	31
Table:	13	Leading Causes of Death CT DDS	33
Table:	14	Primary Cause of Death/Down Syndrome (FY 14)	34
Table:	15	Primary Cause of Death/Down Syndrome (FY 06 - FY 14)	34
Table:	16	Average Age of Death Data	34
Table:	17	Analysis of Cancer Deaths (FY 14)	35
Table:	18	Analysis of Cancer Deaths (FY 06 - FY 14)	35
Table:	19	Comparison Leading Causes of Death National, State of CT and CT DDS	37
Table:	20	Mortality Case Review Summary	39
Table:	21	Cases Referred to IMRB	39

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Overview of DDS Population

Appendix B: DDS Consumers by Residential Setting
DDS Population by Age

Appendix C: Percentage Population by Age Ranges
Level of Intellectual Disability

Appendix D: Age Category and Residence
Consumers by Program Type

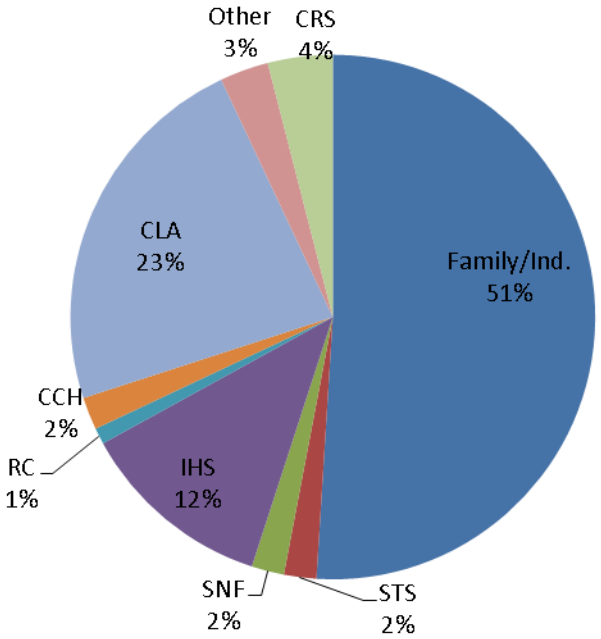
APPENDIX A

Overview of DDS Population

Intellectual Disability is a developmental disability that is present in about 1% of the Connecticut population. In order for a person to be eligible for DDS services they must have significant deficits in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior, both before the age of 18 yrs. As of June 30, 2014 **16,274** individuals with intellectual disability were being supported by the department.

Overview of DDS Population

Percentage by Setting



Over half of the people served by CT DDS live at home with their family. Almost one third receive support services provided in community living arrangements (CLAs), community companion homes (CCH), regional centers (RC) and a campus program, Southbury Training School (STS). Approximately 16% of the DDS population receive individualized home supports (IHS) or continuous residential supports (CRS). The remainder (5%) of the people are supported by other state or local government and/or private entities including licensed nursing facilities (SNF), the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the CT Department of Children and Families, the CT Department of Corrections and residential schools.

APPENDIX B

DDS CONSUMERS BY RESIDENTIAL SETTING
FY 2013 - FY 2014

	2014	2014	2013	2013	2013-2014
Type of Support	# of Consumers	Percent	# of Consumers	Percent	% Change
Family	7,706	48%	8,156	50%	-6%
CLA (Group Home)	3,742	23%	3,755	24%	-0.3%
IHS, CRS	3,231	20%	2,419	15%	25%
Training School	335	2%	361	2%	-7%
Other	311	2%	377	3%	-17%
Community Companion Home (CCH)	388	2%	390	3%	-0.5%
SNF	375	2%	388	2%	3%
Regional Center (RC)	186	1%	191	1%	-3%
TOTAL	**16,274**	**100%**	**16,037**	**100%**	

DDS Resident Population by Age
2009 - 2014

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Children (0-19)	3,308	3,226	3,281	3,322	3,456	3,576
Adults (20 - over)	12,966	12,811	12,577	12,318	12,039	11,814
TOTAL ALL AGES	**16,274**	**16,037**	**15,858**	**15,640**	**15,495**	**15,390**

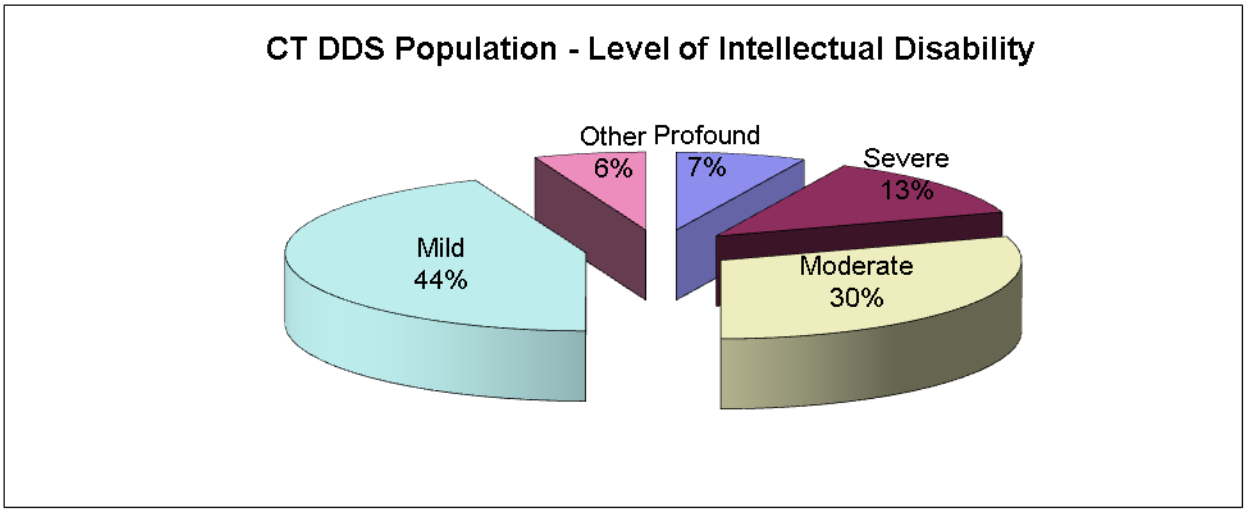
Adults (55 - over)	**3,345**	**3,214**	**3,121**	**3,019**	**2,893**	**2,779**
Adults (65 - over)	**1,359**	**1,307**	**1,243**	**1,156**	**1,105**	**1,050**

APPENDIX C

Percent Population by Age Ranges

FY 2014

AGE RANGE	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
Age 0-19	3,308	20.3%
Age 20-29	3,748	23%
Age 30-39	2,395	14.7%
Age 40-49	2,183	13.4%
Age 50-59	2,409	14.8%
Age 60-69	1,493	9.2%
Age 70-79	544	3.3%
Age 80+	194	1.2%
TOTAL	**16,274**	**100%**



APPENDIX D

AGE CATEGORY AND RESIDENCE
FY 2014

Restype	Children (0-19)	Adults (20-64)	Older Adults (65+)	TOTALS
CLA (Group Home)	86	3,097	559	3,742
CRS (Continuous Residential Suports)	17	583	32	632
CCH (Community Companion Home)	5	320	63	388
Family Home/Independent Living	2,620	4,917	169	7,706
IHS (Individualized Home Suports)	458	2,010	131	2,599
RC (Regional Center)	1	176	9	186
SNF (Skilled Nursing Facility)	1	166	208	375
STS (Southbury Training School)	0	173	162	335
Other	120	165	26	311
TOTAL	**3,308**	**11,607**	**1,359**	**16,274**
PERCENT	**20%**	**71%**	**9%**	**100%**

Consumers Age 19 - 64 Years
By Program Type

CLA	83%
CRS	92%
CCH	82%
Family/Independent	64%
IHS	77%
RC	95%
SNF	44%
STS	52%

Consumers over the Age of 65
By Program Type

CLA	15%
CRS	5%
CCH	16%
Family/Independent	2%
IHS	5%
RC	5%
SNF	55%
STS	48%