

these wounds, but it does admit to the dignity and profundity of death and reverence for the deceased. We have a long way to go in understanding death as part of life, but our advance in rituals in dealing with cremated remains is a big step indeed. ■

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Cremation Predictions for 2010 & 2025

The Cremation Association of North America (CANA) has been projecting cremation data for many years by first using 10-year and then 5-year comparison periods in order to improve the consistency and accuracy of the projections. The death counts come from the Federal National Center for Health Services statistics.

CANA projections for 2010 and 2025 have an upper limit of 65%.

For this reason, some states' cremation percentages are listed as 65+% (see page 10). If the average percentage increase from 1996 to 2000 were compounded from 2010 through 2025, the percent cremated in all states would exceed 65% and, in some cases, even exceed 100%. It is the belief of CANA's statisticians that in these cases, states will conform to historical trends. Historically, once a state reaches a cremation rate greater than 65%, there is little if any increase in future years. Except for Japan and India, whose cultures practice cremation as a religious custom, no country has cremated more than 76% of its deceased citizenry.

The Canadian province of British Columbia reported a cremation rate of 74% in 1999, the highest percentage of any province or state to date. ■

Cremation Data and Predictions:

Top Ten States by Number of Cremations

2000

State in Rank Order	Number of Cremations
1. California	108,617
2. Florida	72,477 (estimated)
3. New York	31,998
4. Pennsylvania	25,511 (estimated)
5. Washington	24,731 (estimated)
6. Michigan	24,202 (estimated)
7. Arizona	22,299
8. Texas	21,859 (estimated)
9. Ohio	21,248 (estimated)
10. New Jersey	18,802


1999

State in Rank Order	Number of Cremations
1. California	103,938
2. Florida	73,068
3. New York	31,383
4. Pennsylvania	25,500
5. Washington	24,661
6. Michigan	24,465
7. Texas	22,290
8. Arizona	21,296
9. Illinois	20,876

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Cremation Data and Predictions:

State Data

Preliminary Statistics for the year 2000 in the USA With Projected Cremation Percentages for 2010 & 2025

	Number of Cremations 2000	Number of Deaths 2000	2000 %	Projected 2010 %	Projected 2025 %
New England States					
CT	7,903	30,812	25.65%	38.81%	46.85%
ME	5,416	12,283	44.09%	65+%	65+%
MA	12,779	53,338	23.96%	39.18%	49.00%
NH	4,446	9,621	46.21%	65+%	65+%
RI	2,651	10,142	26.14%	21.63%	19.84%
VT	1,987	4,976	39.93%	59.10%	65+%
Middle Atlantic States					
NJ	18,802	78,625	23.91%	41.70%	53.59%
NY	31,998	168,473	18.99%	26.63%	31.05%
PA	25,511	133,250	19.15%	29.97%	36.74%
East North Central States					
IL	16,920	112,122	15.06%	17.97%	19.97%
IN	7,199	55,708	12.29%	12.63%	31.05%
MI	24,202	87,511	27.66%	28.60%	47.27%
OH	21,248	112,007	18.97%	19.70%	34.62%
WI	11,335	47,423	23.90%	25.05%	50.76%
West North Central States					
IA	4,548	27,727	16.40%	37.12%	53.81%
KS	4,216	24,798	17.00%	33.01%	44.62%
MN	11,464	37,780	30.34%	65+%	65+%
MO	8,776	56,650	15.49%	65+%	65+%
NE	2,692	15,525	17.34%	37.01%	52.25%
ND	765	6,280	12.18%	56.43%	65+%
SD	1,080	7,228	14.94%	65+%	65+%
South Atlantic States					
DE	1,520	6,731	22.58%	39.32%	33.02%
DC	1,683	7,151	23.54%	53.78%	65+%
FL	72,477	164,335	44.10%	55.14%	61.04%
GA	8,568	62,993	13.60%	27.67%	38.22%
MD	9,208	43,816	21.02%	38.51%	50.71%

	Number of Cremations 2000	Number of Deaths 2000	2000 %	Projected 2010 %	Projected 2025 %
South Atlantic States (continued)					
NC	9,939	70,544	14.09%	19.63%	22.82%
SC	5,164	36,170	14.28%	39.70%	63.20%
VA	9,340	56,967	16.40%	38.24%	56.19%
WV	1,221	21,054	5.80%	6.64%	7.06%
East South Central States					
AL	2,334	45,432	5.14%	65+%	65+%
KY	3,118	38,899	8.02%	21.36%	33.34%
MS	1,287	28,901	4.45%	5.84%	6.60%
TN	1,744	56,755	3.07%	5.95%	5.95%
West South Central States					
AK	3,344	28,823	11.60%	16.87%	20.00%
LA	3,531	40,761	8.66%	13.52%	16.55%
OK	4,669	34,306	13.61%	65+%	65+%
TX	21,859	146,619	14.91%	25.82%	33.14%
Mountain States					
AZ	22,299	41,466	53.78%	65+%	65+%
CO	12,639	27,696	45.63%	61.05%	65+%
ID	3,710	9,355	39.66%	65+%	65+%
MT	4,058	8,042	50.46%	65+%	65+%
NV	9,447	16,081	58.75%	65+%	65+%
NM	4,839	13,372	39.19%	51.48%	60.43%
UT	2,071	12,073	17.15%	30.70%	29.99%
WY	1,030	3,746	27.50%	65+%	65+%
Pacific States					
AK	1,508	2,859	52.75%	65+%	65+%
CA	108,617	249,250	43.58%	48.30%	50.62%
HI	5,093	8,512	59.83%	65+%	65+%
OR	16,106	30,109	53.49%	65+%	65+%
WA	24,731	44,744	55.27%	65+%	65+%

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