

# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

## Pottstown: a safe place to live

Last week we reported comprehensive crime statistics for Pottstown going back more than 20 years. In almost all categories, Pottstown is more crime-free now than in past decades.

In a nation of 335 million people, however, there's always violence somewhere to fill the airways, internet and print media, leading people to think their world is a lot more dangerous than it is.



Commentary by  
Thomas Hylton

Each year, the Pennsylvania Department of Health publishes 200 pages of statistics about births and deaths — from disease, suicides, and accidents.

Overwhelmingly, Pottstown residents die of natural causes, mostly heart disease and cancer.

In the category of unnatural deaths, suicides are far more common than homicides.

By far the leading cause of accidental death is drug overdoses. Last year, drug overdose deaths reached their highest point ever in America, with more than 100,000 deaths nationwide.

Because our first responders carry naloxone, Pottstonians are more likely to survive an overdose than people living out in the sticks.

If you don't have a drug problem, the most dangerous thing most people do is drive a car. Traffic deaths rose 9 percent last year in Pennsylvania.

In Pottstown, no matter the emergency, Good Will Ambulance can transport anyone to Pottstown Hospital in a hurry.

Death rates overall have increased because of Covid. Because the pandemic arrived after the most recent publication of Vital Statistics, however, none are included in the chart at right.

But we know more than 1 million Americans have died of Covid,

including 2,331 Montgomery County residents.

Since the pandemic arrived, Covid has become the third most common cause of death after heart disease and cancer.

Regardless of the health issue, it's mighty convenient to have a hospital and a complex of doctors' offices clustered in one location at the east end of Pottstown.

### Pottstown mortality, 2019 PA Department of Health

Heart	55
Cancer	57
Stroke	16
Chronic lower respiratory	8
Non-transport accident (includes overdoses)	23
Motor vehicle accident	4
Alzheimer's	3
Diabetes	9
Influenza	6
Nephritis related	11
Blood poisoning	5
Liver related	4
Parkinson's	1
Suicide	10
Homicide	3
Other natural causes	65



**A HOSPITAL and top-notch Emergency Medical Services — Good Will Ambulance — make Pottstown a very safe place to live.**