In 1990 there were 2,148,000 deaths in the United States. Of these, 400,000 deaths could be traced to tobacco use, diet and activity patterns accounted for 300,000 deaths, alcohol use accounted for 100,000 deaths, microbial agents (bacteria and viruses) 90,000 deaths, toxic agents 60,000 deaths, firearms 35,000 deaths, sexual behaviors 30,000 deaths, motor vehicles 25,000 deaths, and illegal drug use 20,000 deaths (McGinnis & Goege, 1993, p. 2207).