Causes of Death

Leading causes of death

In 2011, Oregon’s age-adjusted death rate (722.8 per 100,000 residents) was lower than that of the U.S. as a whole (741.3 per 100,000). The five leading causes of death in Oregon were cancer, heart disease, chronic lower respiratory disease, stroke, and unintentional injuries. Oregon’s death rates from chronic lower respiratory diseases and cerebrovascular diseases were higher than that for the U.S. as a whole; the Oregon heart disease death rate was significantly lower. 2011 is the most recent year for which final U.S. data are available.

Death rates vary by sex and age. Among the five leading causes of death in 2012, death rates for Oregon men were higher than for women for cancer, heart disease, and unintentional injuries. By age group, the leading causes of death are: perinatal conditions among infants; unintentional injuries among people aged 1–44 years; cancer for people aged 45–84 years; and heart disease for people ≥85 years of age.
Over the last two decades, Oregon death rates from cancer, heart disease and stroke have been decreasing. Death rates are influenced by the prevalence of health-risk behaviors, diseases and injuries, and the adequacy of medical care to treat diseases and injuries.


About the Data: Data sources are CDC WONDER (2011 U.S. and Oregon data) and Oregon Death Certificate Data (2012 Oregon data). 2011 is the most recent year for which final US data are available. Data are based on the underlying cause of death listed on Oregon death certificate. All rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. population. Population estimate data for 2012 rate calculations is from the National Center for Health Statistics.

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Date Updated: July 9, 2014

Oregon State Health Profile