

Executive Summary

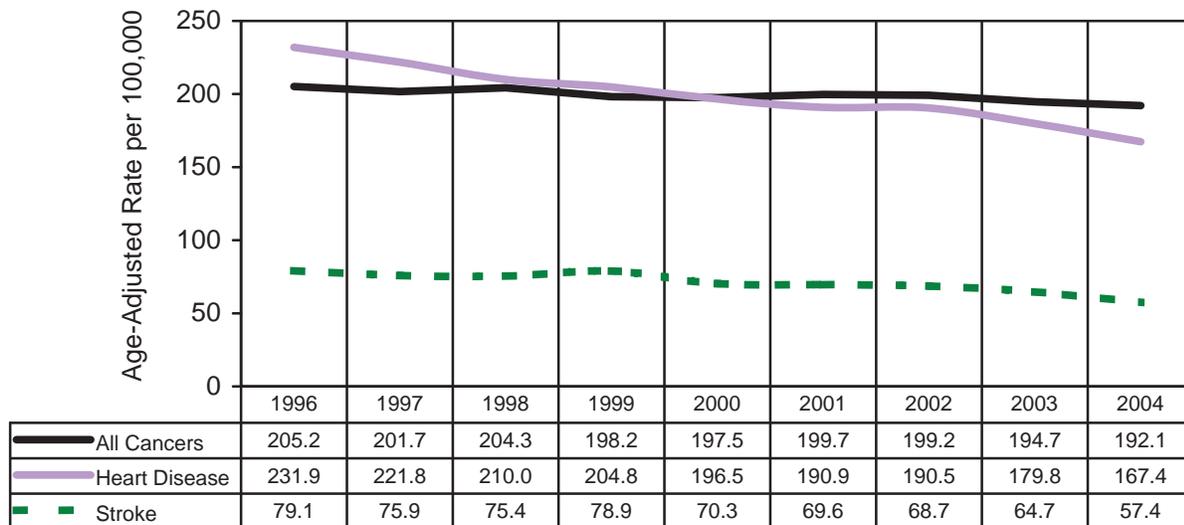
On an average day in 2004, 54 Oregonians were diagnosed with a reportable cancer¹, and 20 Oregonians died from it. Altogether, 19,683 reportable cancers were added to the registry.

In 2001, because of declining deaths from heart disease, cancer became the leading cause of death among Oregonians. For state rankings, see [//apps.nccd.cdc.gov/ucsl/](http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/ucsl/).

The median age at death due to cancer is 74 years compared to a median age at death of 82

for deaths due to heart disease. Nearly twice as many years of potential life lost before age 65 (YPLL) are due to cancer than to heart disease. In Oregon, cancer is the second leading cause of years of potential life lost for men, following unintentional injuries. For Oregon women, cancer is the leading cause of years of potential life lost. Annually, about 22,000 YPLLs in Oregon are attributable to cancer deaths.

**Leading Causes of Death in Oregon,
Fitted Trends, 1996-2004**



¹ Reportable cancers include all cancers that are *in situ* or invasive with the following exceptions: basal and squamous cell carcinoma of the skin (except of the genitalia) and carcinoma *in situ* of the cervix.

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Breast Cancer is the most common reportable malignancy, with 2,671 invasive cases diagnosed in women and 9 in men during 2004. It is the 2nd most common cause of cancer death among Oregon women. Among states with high quality cancer incidence data, Oregon consistently has one of the highest female breast cancer incidence rates (5th among the states in 2003) ([//apps.nccd.cdc.gov/uscs/](http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/uscs/)). However, the mortality rate due to female breast cancer in Oregon is below that seen nationally (ranking 27th in 2004) ([//statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov](http://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov)). The trend in breast cancer incidence nationally and in Oregon is downward.

Prostate Cancer is the 2nd most common reportable malignancy, with 2,576 invasive cases diagnosed in 2004. It is also the 2nd most common cause of cancer death among Oregon men. Among states with high quality cancer incidence data, Oregon men ranked 37th for prostate cancer incidence in 2003.

Lung Cancer is the 3rd most common reportable malignancy, with 2,556 invasive cases diagnosed in 2004. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in Oregon for both men and women. At present, there are no effective early detection tools for lung cancer. Therefore, this malignancy is often diagnosed at an advanced stage, resulting in a poor prognosis. Tobacco use is the single greatest risk factor for lung cancer. In 2004, tobacco use was implicated in 80% of lung cancer deaths. Lung cancer incidence rates among Oregon men are lower than those seen nationally (ranking 40th in 2003). Lung cancer incidence among Oregon women is higher in comparison to other states (ranking 14th in 2003). Decreasing tobacco use in Oregon could significantly lower lung cancer incidence and mortality.

Colorectal Cancer is the 4th most common reportable malignancy, with 1,852 invasive cases diagnosed in 2004. Colorectal cancer is the 2nd most common cause of cancer death among Oregonians. Routine screening can reduce both the incidence and mortality of colorectal cancer through early detection and removal of precancerous polyps.

Melanoma is the 5th most common reportable malignancy with 977 invasive cases diagnosed in 2004¹. Oregon has one of the higher melanoma incidence rates in the nation (ranking 8th in 2003), and a higher melanoma mortality rate than the national average (ranking 9th in 2004). Sun avoidance, particularly during childhood, is the best protective measure against developing melanomas.

Bladder Cancer is the 6th most common invasive malignancy with 874 invasive cases diagnosed in 2004. Smoking is the greatest risk factor for bladder cancer. Exposure to chemicals in the workplace can also increase the risk for bladder cancer if safety measures are not taken. Workers at highest risk are rubber, leather, textiles, and paint products workers as well as hairdressers, machinists, printers, and truck drivers. Although there are no recommendations for routine screening tests, blood in the urine is an early sign of bladder cancer. Having the bladder checked by a health care provider at the first sign of blood in the urine can identify bladder cancer in the earliest and most treatable stage.