

## Executive Summary

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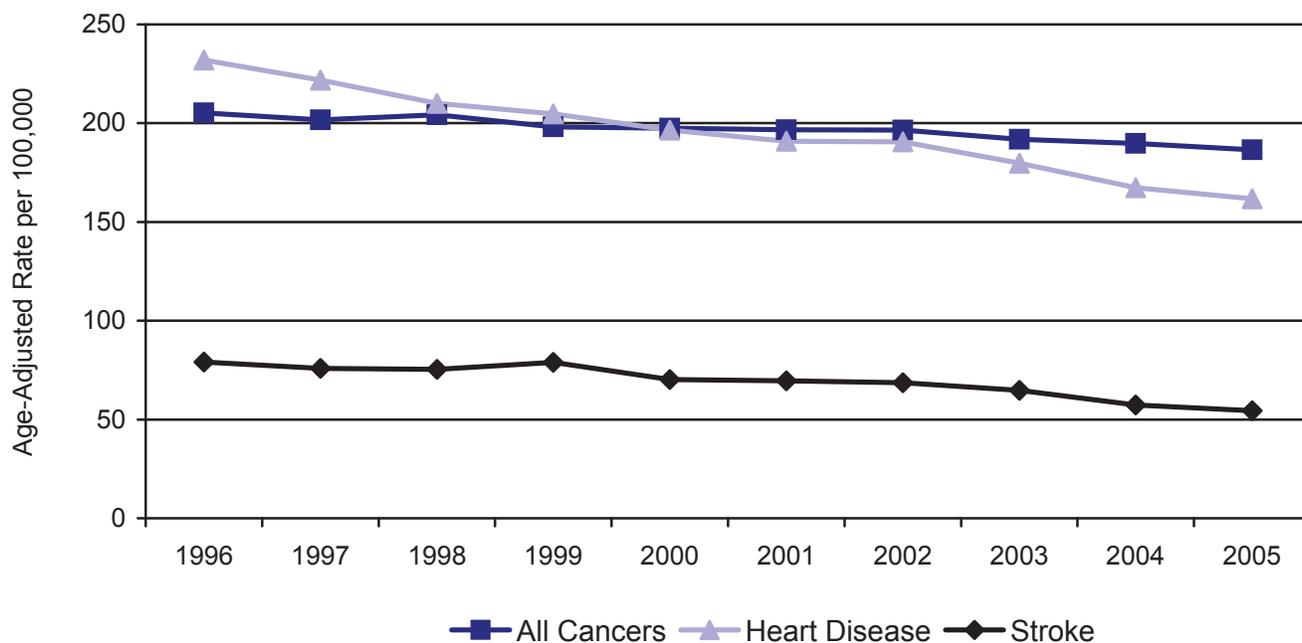
On an average day in 2005, 54 Oregonians were diagnosed with a reportable cancer, and 20 Oregonians died from it. Altogether, 19,788 reportable cancers were diagnosed in 2005 and added to the registry.

Cancer is the leading cause of death among Oregonians. For state rankings, see <http://www.statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/index.html>.

The median age at death due to cancer is 71 years compared to a median age at death of

82 for deaths due to heart disease. 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. Cancer leads to twice as many years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65 compared with heart disease. In Oregon, cancer is the second leading cause of YPLL for men, following unintentional injuries. For Oregon women, cancer is the leading cause of YPLL. Annually, about 23,000 YPLLs in Oregon are attributable to cancer deaths.

**Leading Causes of Death in Oregon,  
Age-Adjusted Rates, 1996-2005**



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**Breast Cancer** is the most common reportable malignancy, with 2,685 invasive cases diagnosed in women and 22 in men during 2005. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 and was 2<sup>nd</sup> among the states in 2004. However, the mortality rate due to female breast cancer in Oregon is below that seen nationally, ranking 27<sup>th</sup> in 2004. The trend in breast cancer mortality nationally and in Oregon has been downward since the mid-1980s.

**Prostate Cancer** is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most common reportable malignancy (2,581 invasive cases diagnosed in 2005) and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most common cause of cancer death among Oregon men. Among states with high quality cancer incidence data, Oregon ranked 29<sup>th</sup> for prostate cancer incidence in 2004.

**Lung Cancer** is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most common reportable malignancy, with 2,594 invasive cases diagnosed in 2005. It is also 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 2005, according to death certificate data, tobacco use was implicated in 81% of lung cancer deaths. Lung cancer incidence rates among Oregon men are lower than those seen nationally (ranking 30<sup>th</sup> in 2004). Lung cancer incidence among Oregon women is higher in comparison to other states (ranking 12<sup>th</sup> in 2004). Decreasing tobacco use in Oregon could significantly lower lung cancer incidence and mortality.

**Colorectal Cancer** is the 4<sup>th</sup> most common reportable malignancy, with 1,776 invasive cases diagnosed in 2005. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Oregon has a favorable ranking among the states, 38<sup>th</sup> in incidence in 2004 and 39<sup>th</sup> in mortality.

**Melanoma** is the 5<sup>th</sup> most common reportable malignancy with 1,029 invasive cases diagnosed in 2005. Oregon has one of the higher melanoma incidence rates in the nation (ranking 4<sup>th</sup> in 2004), and a higher melanoma mortality rate than the national average (ranking 9<sup>th</sup> in 2004). Sun avoidance, particularly during childhood, is perhaps the best protective strategy to prevent melanoma.

**Bladder Cancer** is the 6<sup>th</sup> most common invasive malignancy with 926 cases diagnosed in 2005. Oregon's incidence ranked 15<sup>th</sup> among the states 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.