

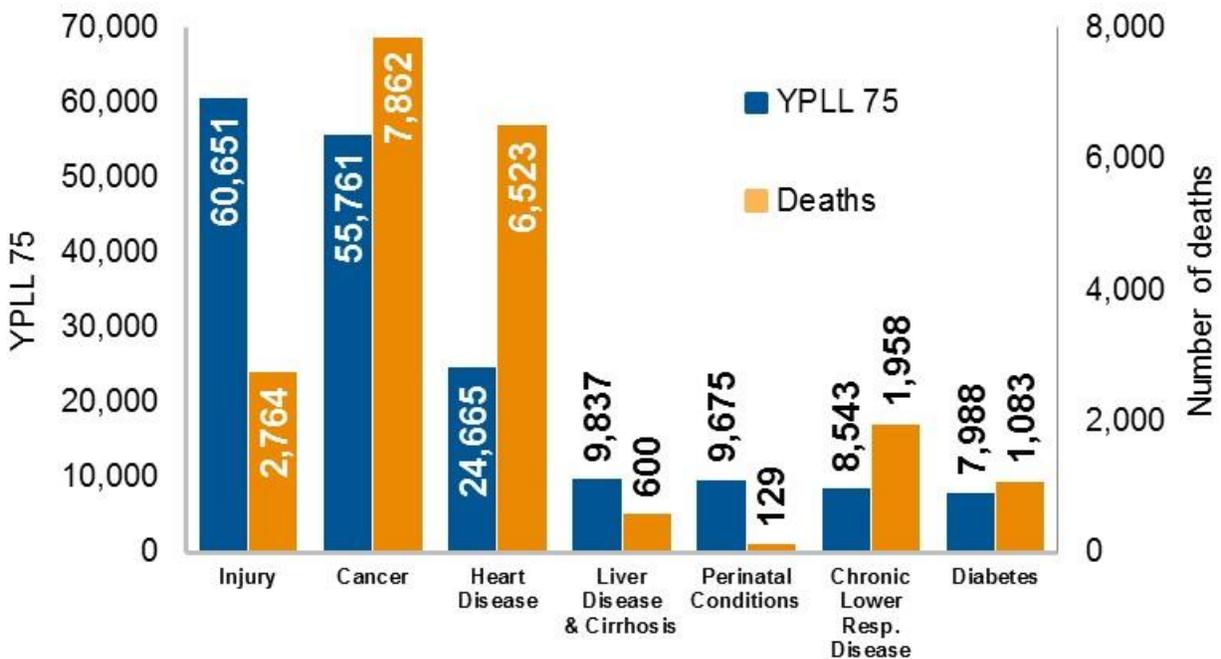
## Causes of Death

# Premature death

Because leading causes of death vary by age, mortality rates by cause alone do not reflect the full societal impact of premature death. Estimating years of potential life lost (YPLL) is a way of quantifying the cost of early death by measuring the number of years between age at death and a standard age such as 75 years.

FIGURE 1

**Leading causes of years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 75, Oregon, 2014**



Source: Oregon Death Certificate Data

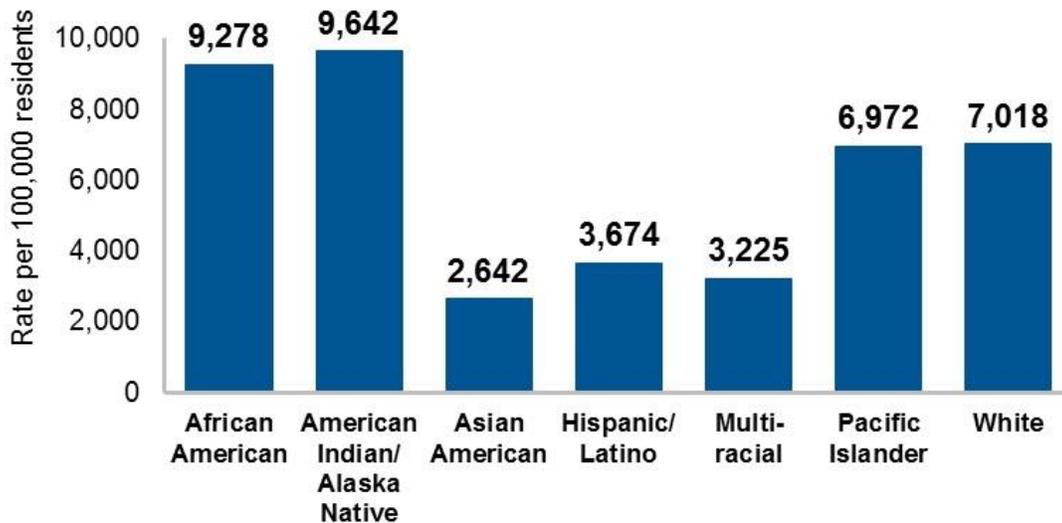
During 2014, 241,933 years of potential life were lost before age 75 years among Oregon residents. The average potential years of life lost were 57% higher for deaths among males than among females (147,747 vs. 94,186).

Injury (both unintentional and intentional combined) ranks third among causes of death, but first among causes of YPLL. While injuries accounted for 8.1% of all Oregon resident deaths in 2014, they accounted for 25.1% of total YPLL (Figure 1).

Among racial/ethnic groups, the YPLL rate for American Indians and African Americans is 37% and 32% higher than whites, respectively. The rates for the Hispanic, multiple-race and Asian populations are 48%, 54% and 62% lower, respectively, when compared to the white population (Figure 2).

FIGURE 2

**Years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 75 by race/ethnicity, Oregon, 2012–2014 average**



Notes: All other groups exclude Hispanic ethnicity  
 Source: Oregon Death Certificate Data

**Additional Resources:** [Oregon Vital Statistics Annual Report Vol. 2](#)

**About the Data:** Data source is Oregon Death Certificate Data. Data are based on the underlying cause of death listed on Oregon death certificate. Years of potential life lost for each Oregon death is calculated by subtracting the age at death from 75 years. For example, a person who dies at age 20 years would contribute 55 years to total YPLL, whereas a person who dies at age 80 would contribute nothing to YPLL.

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[Oregon State Health Profile](#)

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