

Leading Causes of Death, 2005

introduction

Spokane Regional Health District evaluates death records to track mortality trends among county residents. The leading causes of death, as presented here, parallels that of the National Center for Health Statistics, housed in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Each cause of death represents a group of distinct diagnoses. For example, within the category cancer are many types of cancer, each with its own risk factors, treatments, and preventive measures. Current analyses of national mortality statistics can be found at the CDC's website: www.cdc.gov/nchs/hvs.htm. The Washington State data are available through the Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics: www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPH/CHS/CHS-data/death/dea_ud.htm.

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The leading causes of death among Spokane County residents in 2005 were cancer and heart disease. Similarly to state and national trends, these two causes of death accounted for nearly half of all deaths. Leading causes of death vary by age. In infants, the leading cause of death is due to conditions present at birth that make survival difficult. Younger age groups are more likely to die from either intentional or unintentional injury than are older age groups. Among older age groups, leading causes of death are more likely related to physical health issues, such as heart disease.

Top 10 Leading Causes of Death, Spokane County, 2005

Rank	Cause of Death	Number of Deaths	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
1	Cancer	818	22.5	22.5
2	Heart Disease	801	22.0	44.5
3	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	275	7.6	52.1
4	Stroke	238	6.5	58.6
5	Unintentional Injuries	213	5.9	64.5
6	Alzheimer's Disease	174	4.8	69.3
7	Diabetes	125	3.4	72.7
8	Influenza and Pneumonia	86	2.4	75.1
9	Suicide	63	1.7	76.8
10	Hypertension	52	1.4	78.2
	All Other Causes	792	21.8	100.0
	TOTAL	3,691	100.0	

Number of Deaths by Age Group, Top 3 Leading Causes Spokane County, 2001-2005

Age Group	Cause of Death	Number of Deaths	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
<1 year*	Perinatal Conditions	73	41.0	41.0
	Congenital Malformations	49	27.5	68.5
	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	27	15.2	83.7
	All Other Causes	29	16.3	100.0
	TOTAL	178	100.0	
1-14 years	Unintentional Injuries	19	34.6	34.6
	Cancer	9	16.4	50.9
	Homicide	7	12.7	63.6
	All Other Causes	20	36.4	100.0
TOTAL	55	100.0		
15-24 years	Accidents and external causes	81	38.0	38.0
	Intent self-harm (suicide)	45	21.1	59.2
	Assault (homicide)	24	11.3	70.4
	All other causes	63	29.6	100.0
TOTAL	213	100.0		
25-44 years	Unintentional Injuries	230	27.4	27.4
	Cancer	119	14.2	41.5
	Suicide	112	13.3	54.8
	All other causes	380	45.2	100.0
TOTAL	841	100.0		
45-64 years	Cancer	999	33.0	33.0
	Heart Disease	589	19.5	52.4
	Unintentional Injuries	239	7.9	60.3
	All other causes	1,202	39.7	100.0
TOTAL	3,029	100.0		
65+ years	Heart Disease	3,709	26.4	26.4
	Cancer	3,082	21.9	48.3
	Stroke	1,223	8.7	57.0
	All other causes	6,048	43.0	100.0
TOTAL	14,062	100.0		

**The NCHS uses a separate leading cause of death list for infants than for other age groups.