

# Leading Causes of Death, 2006

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 of cancer are many types of cancer, each with its own risk factors, treatments, and preventive measures. National mortality statistics can be found at the CDC's website: [www.cdc.gov/nchs/deaths.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/deaths.htm). Washington State data are available through the Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics: [www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/CHS-data/death/dea\\_vd.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/CHS-data/death/dea_vd.htm)

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The leading causes of death among Spokane County residents in 2006 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, 2006

Rank	Cause of Death	Number of Deaths	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
1	Cancer	864	23.2	23.2
2	Heart Disease	751	20.2	43.4
3	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	256	6.9	50.3
4	Unintentional Injury	235	6.3	56.6
5	Stroke	210	5.6	62.3
6	Alzheimer's Disease	182	4.9	67.2
7	Diabetes	158	4.2	71.4
8	Influenza and Pneumonia	84	2.3	73.7
9	Suicide	70	1.9	75.6
10	Atherosclerosis	63	1.7	77.3
	All Other Causes	791	22.7	100.0

## Number of Deaths by Age Group, Top 3 Leading Causes Spokane County, 2002-2006

Age Group	Cause of Death	Number of Deaths	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
< 1 year*	Perinatal Conditions	76	43.7	43.7
	Congenital Malformations	40	23.0	66.7
	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	27	15.5	82.2
	All Other Causes	31	17.8	100.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
1-14 years	Unintentional Injuries	19	37.3	37.3
	Cancer	7	13.7	51.0
	Homicide	6	11.8	62.7
	All Other Causes	19	37.3	100.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
15-24 years	Unintentional Injuries	83	37.2	37.2
	Intent self-harm (suicide)	53	23.8	61.0
	Assault (homicide)	24	10.8	71.7
	All other causes	63	28.3	100.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
25-44 years	Unintentional Injuries	240	28.4	28.4
	Cancer	119	14.1	42.5
	Suicide	108	12.8	55.3
	All other causes	377	44.7	100.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
45-64 years	Cancer	1,017	32.3	32.3
	Heart Disease	602	19.1	51.5
	Unintentional Injuries	272	8.6	60.1
	All other causes	1,254	39.9	100.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,145</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
65+ years	Heart Disease	3,555	25.5	25.5
	Cancer	3,045	21.8	47.3
	Stroke	1,123	8.0	55.3
	All other causes	6,245	44.7	100.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,968</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

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