

# Leading Causes of Death, 2007

introduction

Spokane Regional Health District evaluates death records to track mortality trends among county residents. The leading causes of death, as presented here, parallel 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. Similar to state and national trends, these two causes of death accounted for nearly half of all deaths. Leading causes of death vary by age. Perinatal conditions, which make survival difficult, are the leading cause of death for infants. 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, 2007

Rank	Cause of Death	Number of Deaths	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
1	Cancer	905	23.8	23.8
2	Heart disease	862	22.6	46.4
3	Unintentional injury	253	6.6	53.0
4	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	230	6.0	59.0
5	Stroke	224	5.9	64.9
6	Alzheimer's disease	191	5.0	69.9
7	Diabetes	128	3.4	73.3
8	Suicide	76	2.0	75.3
9	Influenza and Pneumonia	71	1.9	77.2
10	Atherosclerosis	53	1.4	78.6
	All Other Causes	813	21.4	100.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,806</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

## Leading Causes of Deaths by Age Group

Spokane County, 2003-2007

Age Group	Cause of Death	Number of Deaths	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
<1 year*	Perinatal conditions	61	39.1	39.1
	Congenital malformations	39	25.0	64.1
	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	27	17.3	81.4
	All other causes	29	18.6	100.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
1-14 years	Unintentional injuries	23	39.0	39.0
	Cancer	6	10.2	49.2
	Birth defects	5	8.5	57.7
	Homicide	5	8.5	66.2
	All other causes	20	33.9	100.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
15-24 years	Unintentional injuries	91	41.5	41.5
	Suicide	53	24.2	65.7
	Homicide	17	7.8	73.5
	All other causes	58	26.5	100.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
25-44 years	Unintentional injuries	244	29.9	29.9
	Cancer	115	14.1	44.0
	Suicide	105	12.9	56.9
	All other causes	352	43.1	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>100.0</b>		
45-64 years	Cancer	1,048	32.3	32.3
	Heart disease	609	18.8	51.1
	Unintentional injuries	320	9.8	60.9
	All other causes	1,269	39.1	100.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,246</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
65+ years	Heart disease	3,478	24.8	24.8
	Cancer	3,115	22.2	47.0
	Stroke	1,073	7.7	54.7
	All other causes	6,349	45.3	100.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,015</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

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