

Leading Causes of Death

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 web site: cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/deaths.htm. Washington state data is available through the Washington State Department of Health, doh.wa.gov/DataandStatisticalReports.aspx.

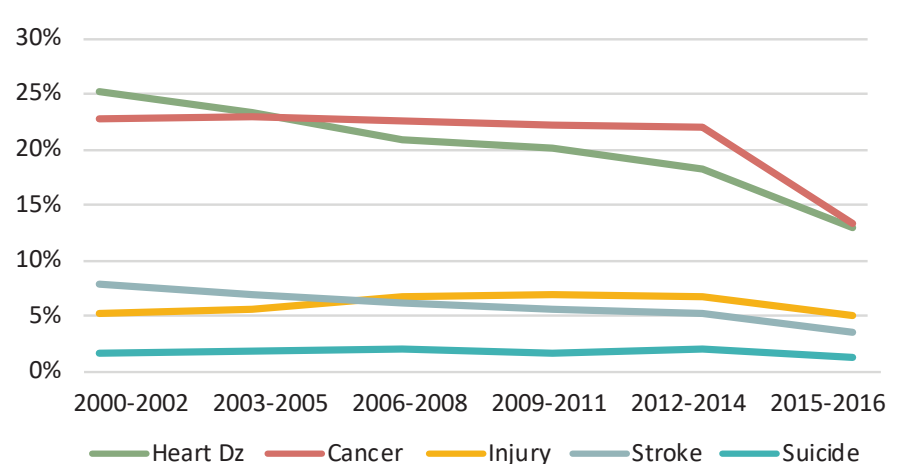
The leading causes of death among Spokane County residents in 2016 were cancer and heart disease.

The proportion of deaths from these two causes of death has decreased since 2000 to a low of 39.3% in 2013. These two causes of deaths were also the leading cause of death nationally (44.9% in 2016) and in Washington State (42.9% in 2016). Leading causes of death vary by age. Perinatal conditions, which make survival difficult, such as a preterm birth, respiratory distress, or feeding problems 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 chronic physical health conditions, such as heart disease.

Top 10 Leading Causes of Death, Spokane County 2014

Rank	Cause of Death	Number of Deaths	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
1	Cancer	1,003	22.2%	22.2%
2	Heart Disease	789	17.4%	39.6%
3	Unintentional Injury	348	7.7%	47.3%
4	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	288	6.4%	53.7%
5	Alzheimer's Disease	287	6.3%	60.0%
6	Stroke	232	5.1%	65.1%
7	Diabetes	153	3.4%	68.5%
8	Suicide	90	2.0%	70.5%
9	Chronic Liver Disease/Cirrhosis	79	1.7%	72.3%
10	Infections/Parasite Disease	64	1.4%	73.7%
	All Other Causes	1,191	26.3%	100.0%
	TOTAL	4,524	100.0%	

Select Causes of Death Over Time, Spokane County
Rolling average percent of deaths



Leading Causes of Death by Age Group, Spokane County, 2012-2016

Age Group	Cause of Death	Number of Deaths	Percent of Total	Cumulative Percent
< 1 year	Perinatal Conditions	69	42.6%	42.6%
	Birth Defects	44	27.5%	69.8%
	Sudden Unexpected Infant Death	27	16.7%	86.4%
	Unintentional Injuries	7	4.3%	90.7%
	All Other Causes	15	9.3%	100.0%
	TOTAL		162	100.0%
1-14 years	Unintentional Injuries	14	20.9%	20.9%
	Cancer	11	16.4%	37.3%
	Birth Defects	6	9.0%	46.3%
	Illness	5	7.5%	53.7%
	Homicide	5	7.5%	61.2%
	All Other Causes	26	38.8%	100.0%
	TOTAL		67	100.0%
15-24 years	Unintentional Injuries	94	42.7%	42.7%
	Suicide	54	24.5%	67.3%
	Cancer	13	5.9%	73.2%
	Homicide	10	4.5%	77.7%
	All Other Causes	49	22.3%	100.0%
	TOTAL		220	100.0%
25-44 years	Unintentional Injuries	218	24.8%	24.4%
	Suicide	161	18.3%	43.1%
	Cancer	105	11.9%	55.1%
	Heart Disease	72	8.2%	63.3%
	All Other Causes	323	36.7%	100.0%
	TOTAL		879	100.0%
45-64 years	Cancer	1,262	29.5%	29.5%
	Heart Disease	628	14.7%	44.2%
	Unintentional Injuries	378	8.8%	53.0%
	Chronic Liver Disease/Cirrhosis	252	5.9%	58.9%
	All Other Causes	1,759	41.1%	100.0%
	TOTAL		4,279	100.0%
65+ years	Cancer	3,366	21.0%	21.0%
	Heart Disease	3,193	19.9%	40.8%
	Alzheimer's Disease	1,315	8.2%	49.0%
	Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	1,198	7.5%	56.5%
	All Other Conditions	6,988	43.5%	100.0%
	TOTAL		16,060	100.0%

Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics



Spokane Regional Health District, Data Center

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