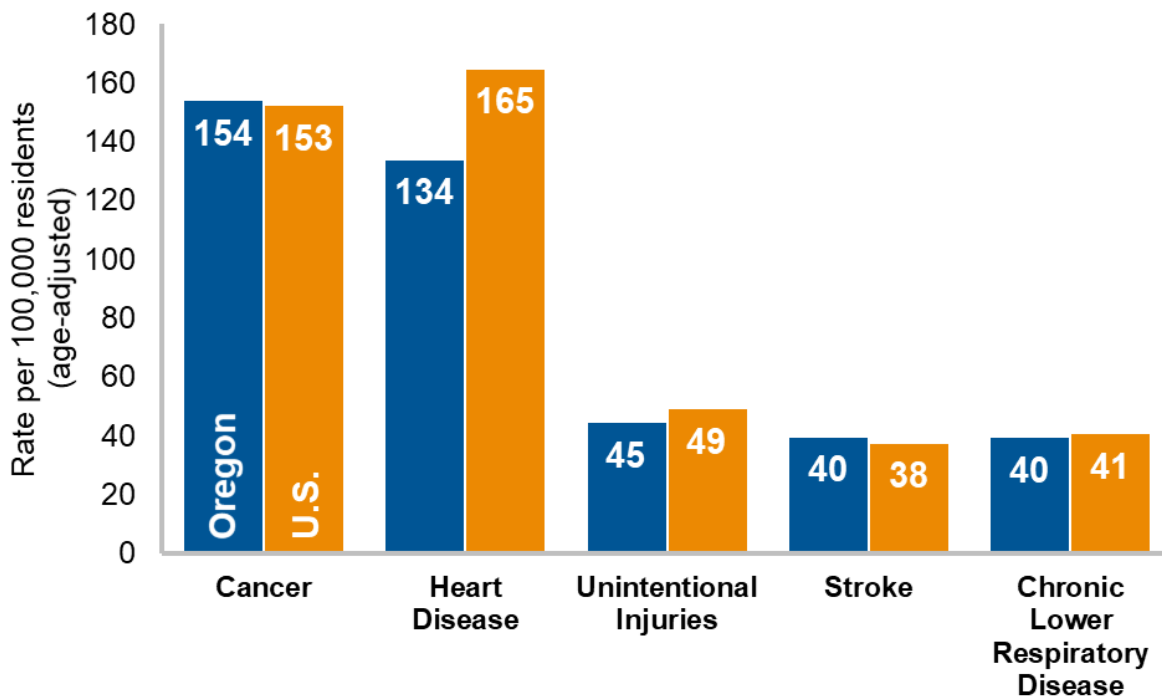


## Prevention and Health Promotion

# Leading causes of death

In 2017, Oregon’s age-adjusted death rate (718 per 100,000 residents) was lower than that of the U.S. as a whole (732 per 100,000). The five leading causes of death in Oregon were cancer, heart disease, unintentional injuries, stroke, and chronic lower respiratory disease. Oregon’s death rate from heart disease is lower than that for the U.S. as a whole (Figure 1).

**FIGURE 1**  
**Leading causes of death, Oregon & U.S., 2017**

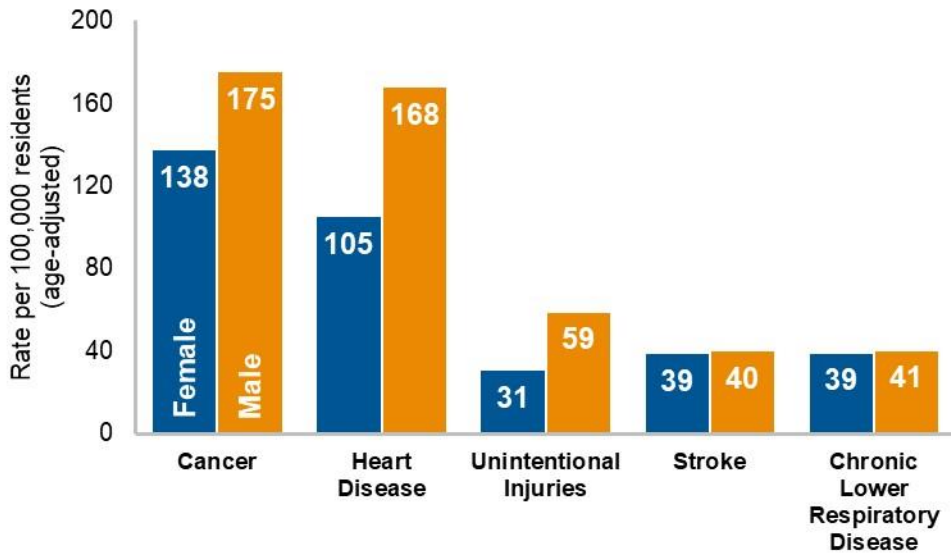


Source: Oregon Death Certificate Data & CDC WONDER (U.S.)

Death rates vary by sex and age. In 2017, death rates for Oregon men were higher than for women among each of the five leading causes of death (Figure 2). By age group, the leading causes of death are: certain conditions originating in the perinatal period among infants; unintentional injuries among people aged 1–44 years; cancer for people aged 45–84 years; and heart disease for people ≥85 years of age.

FIGURE 2

**Leading causes of death by sex, Oregon, 2017**

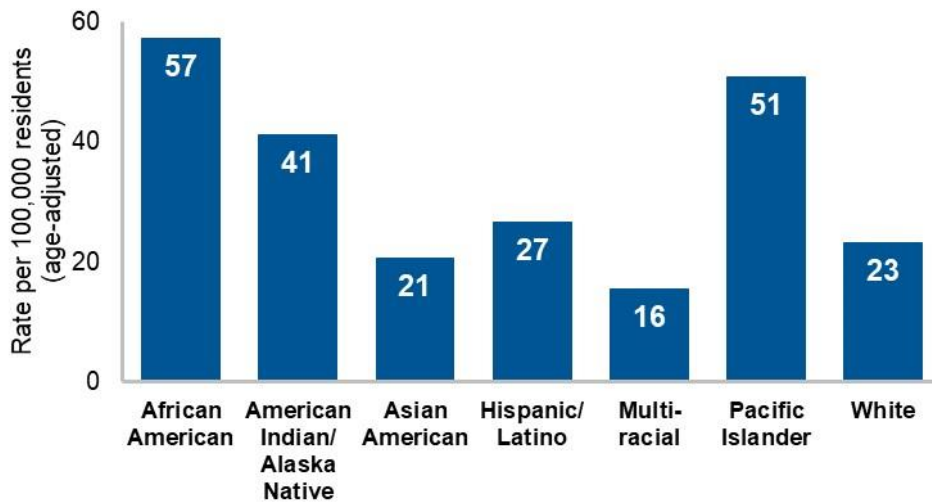


Source: Oregon Death Certificate Data

The top five leading causes of death among the racial and ethnic groups are very similar. However, American Indians, African Americans and Pacific Islanders are more than 2 times more likely to die from diabetes than whites (Figure 3).

FIGURE 3

**Diabetes deaths by race/ethnicity, Oregon, 2011–2017 average**



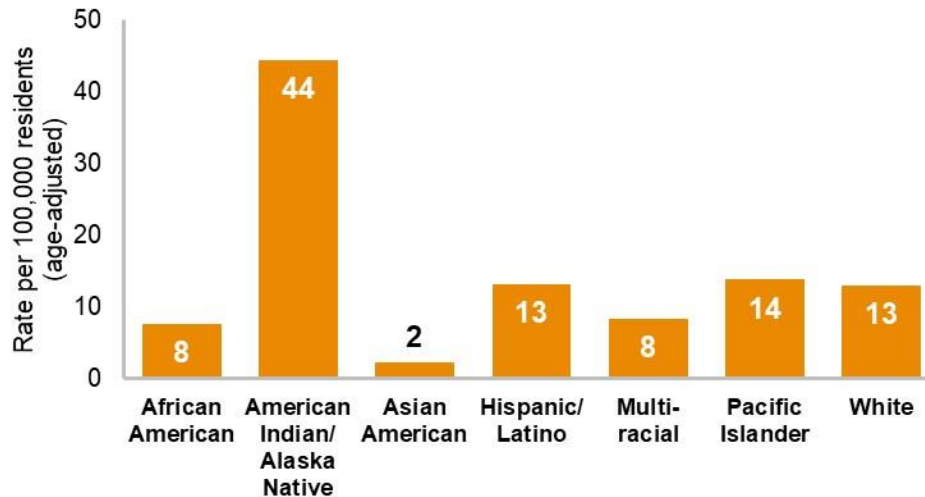
Notes: All other groups exclude Hispanic ethnicity

Source: Oregon Death Certificate Data

American Indians have a much higher death rate from chronic liver disease than any other group (Figure 4).

FIGURE 4

### Chronic liver disease deaths by race/ethnicity, Oregon, 2011–2017 average



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

Over the last two decades, Oregon death rates from cancer, heart disease and stroke have been decreasing. Death rates are influenced by the prevalence of health-risk behaviors, diseases and injuries, and the adequacy of medical care to treat diseases and injuries.

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

**About the Data:** Data sources are CDC WONDER (U.S. data) and Oregon Death Certificate Data. Data are based on the underlying cause of death listed on the death certificate. All rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. population. Population estimate data for rate calculations is from the National Center for Health Statistics.

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[Oregon State Health Profile](#)

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