
OREGON HOSPITAL QUALITY INDICATOR PROJECT, 2004

HEART ATTACK

What is Heart Attack?*

A **heart attack** (myocardial infarction, or MI) occurs when **one or more of the coronary arteries are blocked**. The coronary arteries supply the heart with oxygen-rich blood. A blockage usually occurs when plaque inside the coronary artery breaks open and a blood clot forms around it. The plaque and blood clot obstruct blood flow to the heart muscle cells, depriving them of oxygen and other nutrients. Without blood supply, the heart muscle cells die. If a large area of the heart is damaged by a heart attack, it can cause sudden death. Heart attack **requires immediate treatment** to restore blood flow.

See Healthwise for additional information on [heart attack](#).

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What do these indicators mean?

Volume. In contrast with some of the surgical procedures included in this report, volume is not reported for conditions. Please refer to the background information for more information on volume indicators.

Death Rate. The heart attack death rate is the **percent of patients admitted for heart attack who died in the hospital**. Patients who were transferred from another hospital are excluded from this calculation. However, some patients are sicker or more difficult to treat, and some hospitals admit more of these complex patients than others. Each hospital's death rate is adjusted to help account for differences in these factors, but keep in mind that the adjustment is not perfect. The **adjusted death rate** is presented in the displays that follow.

The average death rate for heart attack in the United States was 10.3% in 2002. In Oregon, the death rate was 9.8% in 2004. This report uses the statewide average as the reference rate.

Margin of Error

Gray lines are displayed with each hospital rate. These lines represent the amount of random variation or "noise" in the data. If the gray line crosses the state average, the hospital rate is "within the margin of error" and therefore **not** statistically different than the state average for this procedure. The margin of error is wider for hospitals with fewer heart attack patients.

What do the symbols mean?

The symbols on this chart tell you which differences are large enough to be considered "statistically significant," or outside the "margin of error". Statistical differences are based on the margin of errors described above.

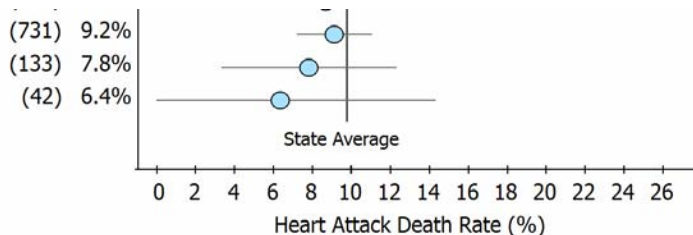
- If a hospital's rate is significantly **lower** than the state average, it gets a plus symbol ⊕
- If a hospital's rate is significantly **higher** than the state average, it gets a cross symbol ⊗
- If a hospital's rate is statistically **neither higher nor lower** than the state average (within the margin of error), **no symbol** is shown.

Other Data and Information

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services sponsors an information source on the web, [Hospital Compare](#). On this website, you will see how often hospitals provide some of the recommended care for a heart attack, heart failure, or pneumonia. You can search by state, county, city, or zip code at the Hospital Compare website.

Heart Attack Death Rate Oregon, 2004

Providence St. Vincent Medical Center
Tuality Healthcare
 Willamette Falls Hospital



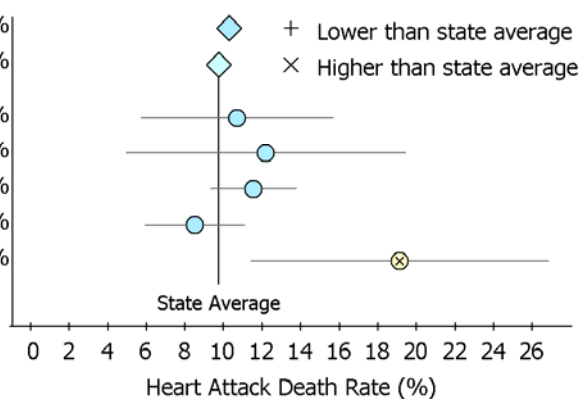
*National rate is for 2002

Underline indicates that hospital-submitted comments are available. Click on hospital name to access comments. Number of cases in parentheses. Hospitals not shown had fewer than 30 cases in the reporting year. Gray lines represent the margin of error (based on 95% confidence intervals)

Valley

(Benton, Lane, Linn, Marion, Polk Counties)

Entity	Cases	Rate (%)
U.S.*		10.3%
Statewide	(4780)	9.8%
Good Samaritan Regional Med Ctr (Corvallis)	(107)	10.7%
McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center	(51)	12.2%
<u>Sacred Heart Medical Center</u>	(536)	11.6%
Salem Hospital	(394)	8.5%
Silverton Hospital	(45)	19.1%



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Heart Attack Death Rate Oregon, 2004



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