

Executive summary

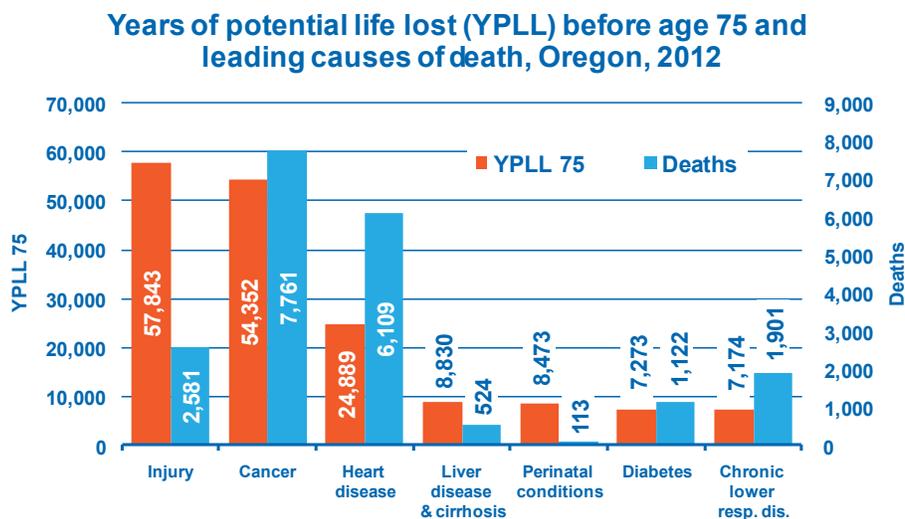
Oregon has a tradition of healthy communities built around abundant natural resources, caring for our neighbors and a spirit of innovation. We are proud that Oregon ranks 12th among U.S. states for overall health (America's Health Rankings, 2014). Yet, we realize that health benefits are not evenly spread across the population, and more must be done to improve the health of all people in Oregon.

Health inequities persist for individuals and communities based on factors such as race, gender, sexual orientation, geographic location, income and education. Without specifically addressing inequitable health outcomes, Oregon will not be successful in achieving its goal of optimal health for everyone.

Leading causes of death and social impact of premature death in Oregon

Because leading causes of death vary by age, mortality rates by underlying cause alone do not reflect the full social impact of premature death. Estimating years of potential life lost (YPLL) is a way of quantifying the cost of early death by measuring the number of years between age at death and a specific standard age. For instance, if the standard is set at 75 years, a death at age 21 results in 54 years of potential life lost.

The graph below compares causes of death by YPLL before age 75 years with the number of deaths.



Source: Oregon Death Certificate Data

State health improvement plan priorities

Based upon feedback from partners and stakeholders, the Oregon Public Health Division began a process to revise the existing state health improvement plan in 2014. During community engagement sessions held from May to August of 2014 across the state, stakeholders and members of many organizations collaborated to review critical health indicators and strategic issues. This revised version of the state health improvement plan identifies seven priority areas for improving health and quality of life in Oregon over the next five years:

- Prevent and reduce tobacco use
- Slow the increase of obesity
- Improve oral health
- Reduce harms associated with alcohol and substance use
- Prevent deaths from suicide
- Improve immunization rates
- Protect the population from communicable diseases

These priorities are based on the leading causes of death in Oregon, areas where Oregon's national ranking is poor or the trend is moving in the wrong direction, or areas that align with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Winnable Battles.¹

This plan outlines the evidence-based strategies that will allow us to meet our goals for each priority area, and defines the measures for how we will track our progress. Each priority area contains interventions that work at the population and health-system level, as well as interventions specifically intended to advance healthy equity. Success will be achieved as a broad set of community and governmental organizations, private industry and other partners work together to implement these strategies.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Winnable Battles; 2015. Available at: www.cdc.gov/winnablebattles.