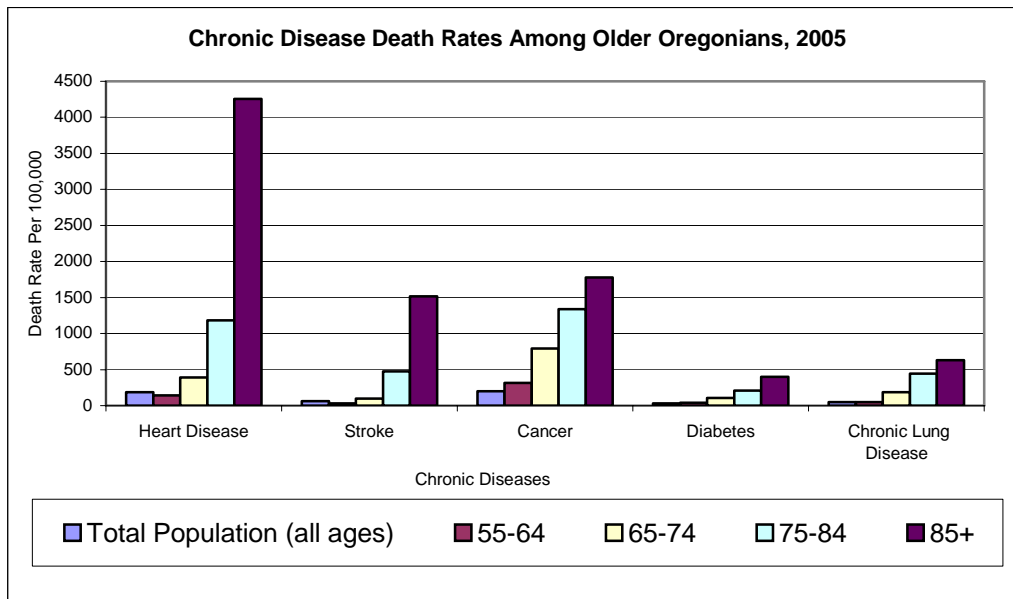


## Health and Elderly Oregonians



### Are older Oregonians at higher risk for chronic diseases?

Yes. The likelihood of developing or dying of many conditions such as cancer, heart disease, stroke, and diabetes, increases with age.

### What are proven methods to screen for cancer in older Oregonians?

- Screening for breast cancer and colon cancer in the elderly has been proven to decrease deaths from these diseases and, in the case of colon cancer, can prevent the disease in the first place.
- Only 1 in 2 Oregonians 50 years or older has had recommended colon cancer screening with endoscopy in the past 5 years.

### What other health issues affect older Oregonians?

- Falls represent a significant mortality risk among the elderly and the risk increases with age; a person age 85 years or older is 23 times more likely to die from a fall than someone 65 to 74 years old.
- There are over 5,500 hospitalizations due to falls each year among persons 65 years of age and over—that represents 66 percent of all fall-related hospitalizations in the state and makes falls the most frequent cause of injury hospitalization.
- The highest suicide rates in the state are among men 85 years of age and older; men in this age group are 10 times more likely to die of suicide than women of the same age group.

#### For more information contact:

Department of Human Services, [Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Program](#)  
(971) 673-0984