

clatsop county cultural landscape 2022

Researcher Resource: A description about this region of interest meant to help guide design choices for proposed cancer prevention and control projects and/or clinical trial research implementation.



Photo: Julia Hesse

cancer*

(*incidence rates are age-adjusted 5-year average case counts per 100,000 residents)

→ lung and bronchus cancer

In 2021, Clatsop reported the 3rd highest overall incidence rate (66.9 cases) as well as the 2nd highest incidence rate of males with (74.6 cases). The mortality rate for males (43.7 deaths) and females (37.2 deaths) is consistently higher in Clatsop compared to Oregon.

→ oropharyngeal cancer

- 2nd highest incidence rate for both sexes (15.9 cases) in the state.
- Males in Clatsop hold the 3rd highest incidence rate (22.9 cases) in the state.

→ non-hodgkins lymphoma

4th highest incidence rate for both sexes (23.2 cases) in the state.

→ incidence and mortality

- Since 2018, the incidence rate for all cancer types combined has decreased across Oregon as a whole, but Clatsop county reported an increase in new cancer diagnoses (2018 cases: 430.5 vs. 2021 cases: 497).
- Since 2018, mortality rates for all disease sites have fallen throughout all Oregon counties, although Clatsop is not seeing as large of a decrease (170.5 v. 175.8 deaths) as the state (153.7 v. 167.3 deaths).
- New cases of Uterine cancer are rising across Oregon (29.2 cases); the highest incidence rate is found in Clatsop (36.6 cases).
- Clatsop's Hispanic population is experiencing the 8th highest incidence rate of all cancers (399.8 cases) in the state.

→ cancer prevention behaviors and modifiable risk factors

- Clatsop is behind the state in the three most common cancer screening activities; mammography, pap smears and colorectal cancer screening.
- Completion of HPV vaccination for 13-17 year olds lags behind the state: 1 dose = 68%, up-to-date doses = 46% (statewide data: 1 dose = 72.7%, up-to-date doses = 54.7%).
- All tobacco use (cigarettes, vapes, smokeless) remains high in Clatsop, especially with men (43% vs. Oregon = 25.5%). Cigarette use for women = 19.1%, for men = 27.9%.
- Men in Clatsop (41.4%) reported higher rates of high blood pressure compared to the rest of the state (26.7%) and women in Clatsop (15.4%).
- Clatsop residents (25.6%) were less likely to report a "healthy weight" than the rest of the state (35.7%).

National Cancer Institute (2021) State Cancer Profiles: Death Rates Table. National Vital Statistics System, 2014-2018. <http://www.statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/deathrates/index.php> (Accessed January 2021).

National Program of Cancer Registries SEER*Stat Database (2001-2017). United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (based on the 2019 submission). <http://www.statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/incidencerates/index.php> (Accessed January 2021).

Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System County Combined dataset, 2014 –2017. Oregon Health Authority. Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section. Accessed October 2021.

economic

- Clatsop has the highest rate of an unhoused population (17.4%) of any Oregon county. (As of 2017: <https://www.oregon.gov/OHA/PH/ABOUT/Documents/Indicators/homeless-county.pdf>)
- Indoor places for unhoused persons are very limited. Warming shelters in north and south county are available based on temperature, but Clatsop lacks no- or low-barrier shelters.
- **Lack of housing for people in any economic situation. Low wages are not keeping up with the high cost of housing. Large employers lose applicants due to limited housing availability.**
- Tourism is the main economic driver locally. Seasonal business cycles are tough on families and "gig" jobs are not adequate for sustainable financial security.

promotional avenues

Community radio -- Local paper -- Billboards (there is no local TV station)

Social media: NextDoor and Facebook groups add networking and sharing possibilities.

social

- Seniors (65+) are 22.3% of Clatsop’s population; those 50+ make up 44% of residents.
- Significant numbers of seniors are rural and isolated; senior and recreation centers' operations were impacted by COVID closures (Cannon Beach, Seaside, Astoria, Warrenton).
- **Clatsop has a “rural attitude,” independent mindset, a mistrust of outsiders telling them what to do.**
- Strong family values and parents do not want anyone else to make health decisions for their children.
- **There are few indoor social outlets for non-drinkers or families, limited indoor places for youth to spend time without needing money or being around alcohol; the pandemic has made this worse.**
- Clatsop has a longtime culture of heavy alcohol use (often intergenerational), problem gambling, and other addictive behaviors; many social activities revolve around alcohol, plus, there is now a high density of breweries and cannabis stores. Few affordable substance treatment options exist.

Census Bureau (2022). Age and Sex, 2020 ACS 5-year Estimates Subject Tables. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Age%20and%20Sex&g=0500000US41007&tid=ACST5Y2020.S0101>.

covid impact: “just hanging on by my fingernails”

- Board of County Commissioners and City Councils support the public health pandemic response; the Public Health department has received renewed respect and recognition during the pandemic.
- Post-COVID culture shift; "them" vs. "us", those who have and those who do not drove people to stop taking part in Service Clubs. “Unifying” events have been cancelled, impacting the whole county.
- Clatsop’s collective sense of caring for children diminished during COVID (Child Welfare/ schools unable to "see" harm at school).

diversity, equity, inclusion and justice

- Astoria Mayor participates in equity conversations with community leaders, however there does not seem to be representation or advocacy for or by local Native American populations. COVID outbreaks in seafood processing plants revealed blatant racism by community leaders.
- **Despite an increasing Hispanic influence and presence in the workforce, there are language barriers and little language support for non-English speakers. Many elected officials appear to have little awareness of the Hispanic community's size, how strong they are as a group and culture, as well as how they contribute to the region.**
- Poor cell reception, lack of broadband access, internet speed/reliability, and limited carriers contribute to educational and workforce disparities; impacts access to healthcare, behavioral health, and virtual learning.
- Limited access to transportation; limited bus schedule that does not work well for most people.

political

- Clatsop does not have a track record of investing in social services. Lack of childcare and houselessness are important issues. Public officials often do not understand local food system challenges as they relate to community health, food security, or community resilience.
- **School and hospital districts are strong, influential, and progressive. Long-term Clatsop residents, those in timber, fishing, and social service industries are more conservative than other residents or workforces.**
- Historically, Clatsop has been a progressive-leaning county but has become increasingly polarized in the past few years. Political divisions lead to challenges for reaching consensus and taking action.
- The incorporated cities in Clatsop all function independently and do not necessarily communicate and/or align well (five separate school districts, police departments, etc.).

environmental

- Global Warming is the theme of the 2022 Clatsop County Place Matters conference.
- **Wave energy is not currently a local effort.**
- Local government has yet to invest in e-vehicles and charging stations.
- Logging is a major local industry. Environmental impacts of logging include water degradation as well as use of pesticides and herbicides on timber land.

Thank you, researcher, for taking the time to orient yourself to Clatsop County via this locally-developed Cultural Landscape. Data collected in response to the development of this document was offered by community leaders in the region and specifically those who volunteered to participate on a subcommittee of Clatsop CHART (Community Health Advocacy + Resource Team). This regionally-specific Cultural Landscape is the first step along the *Research in Oregon Communities' Review System* supported by OHSU's Community Outreach, Research and Engagement team.

The community advisory committee supporting this process is a subcommittee of CHART.

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