

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of 246 DWDA patients who died after ingesting a lethal dose of medication, by year, Oregon, 1998-2005.

Characteristics	2005 (N = 38)*	1998-2004 (N= 208)*	Total (N = 246)*
Sex			
Male (%)	23 (61)	108 (52)	131 (53)
Female (%)	15 (39)	100 (48)	115 (47)
Age			
18-44 (%)	1 (3)	9 (4)	10 (4)
45-64 (%)	11 (29)	60 (29)	71 (29)
65-84 (%)	21 (55)	123 (59)	144 (59)
85+ (%)	5 (13)	16 (8)	21 (9)
Median years (Range)	70 (42-90)	69 (25-94)	69 (25-94)
Race			
White (%)	36 (95)	203 (98)	239 (97)
Asian (%)	1 (3)	5 (2)	6 (2)
Native American (%)	1 (3)	0	1 (<1)
Marital status			
Married (%)	20 (53)	90 (43)	110 (45)
Widowed (%)	8 (21)	47 (23)	55 (22)
Divorced (%)	8 (21)	56 (27)	64 (26)
Never married (%)	2 (5)	15 (7)	17 (7)
Education			
Less than high school (%)	3 (8)	18 (9)	21 (9)
High school graduate (%)	9 (24)	62 (30)	71 (29)
Some college (%)	12 (32)	40 (19)	52 (21)
Baccalaureate or higher (%)	14 (37)	88 (42)	102 (41)
Residence			
Metro counties (%)**	12 (32)	83 (40)	95 (39)
Coastal counties (%)***	2 (5)	17 (8)	19 (8)
Other W. counties (%)	21 (55)	96 (46)	117 (48)
E. of the Cascades (%)	3 (8)	12 (6)	15 (6)
Underlying illness			
Malignant neoplasms (%)	32 (84)	164 (79)	196 (80)
Lung and bronchus (%)	8 (21)	40 (19)	48 (20)
Breast (%)	4 (11)	19 (9)	23 (9)
Pancreas (%)	2 (5)	18 (9)	20 (8)
Colon (%)	4 (11)	12 (6)	16 (7)
Other (%)	14 (37)	75 (36)	89 (36)

Characteristics (Cont'd)	2005 (N=38)*	1998-2004 (N=208)*	Total (N=246)*
Underlying Illness (Cont'd)			
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (%)	4 (11)	16 (8)	20 (8)
Chronic lower respiratory disease (%)	1 (3)	10 (5)	11 (4)
HIV/AIDS (%)	0	5 (2)	5 (2)
Illnesses listed below (%) [#]	1 (3)	13 (6)	14 (6)

* Unknowns are excluded when calculating percentages.

** Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties.

*** Excluding Douglas and Lane counties.

Includes amyloidosis of the kidney, aortic stenosis, congestive heart failure, diabetes mellitus with renal complications, digestive organ neoplasm of unknown behavior, emphysema, hepatitis C, myelodysplastic syndrome, pulmonary disease with fibrosis, scleroderma, and Shy-Drager syndrome.