



**DATE:** January 11, 2012

**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**FROM:** John Austin, Board Chair

**SUBJECT:** HEALTH STATUS OF WASHINGTON STATE

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**Background and Summary:**

RCW 43.20.050 outlines the board's powers and duties. One of these duties is to explore ways to improve the health status of the citizenry. The Washington State Department of Health collects and analyzes data about the health of the people in Washington state, and publishes this information in "The Health of Washington State." This publication focuses on topics for which there are proven public health interventions.

As the Board begins to prepare for strategic planning in the coming months, it may be helpful to examine what we know about the health of the people in Washington state. Today, we will hear from Juliet Van Eenwyk, the state epidemiologist for Non-infectious Conditions Epidemiology within the division of Disease Control and Health Statistics. She will share information about the leading causes of death and hospitalizations, and other factors that affect health in Washington state.

**Recommended Board Action:**

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