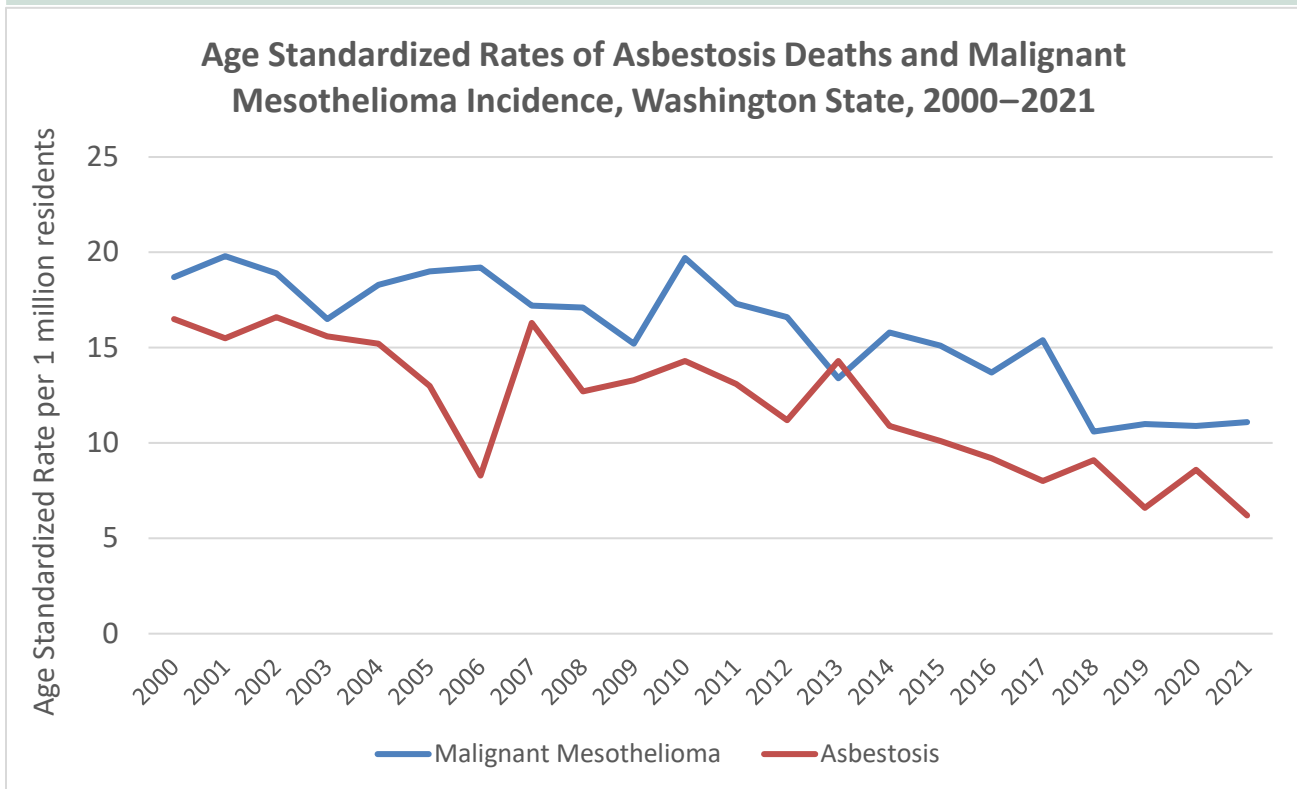


## Declines in Asbestosis Deaths and Mesothelioma Incidence

Washington State, 2000–2021



- Malignant mesothelioma is a rare, usually fatal cancer largely attributable to workplace exposure to asbestos. In Washington, the incidence rates of mesothelioma declined by 43% from 2000–2021.<sup>1</sup>
- Inhalation of asbestos fibers leads to fibrosis of the lung—a disease call asbestosis. Deaths from asbestosis in Washington have declined by 56% from 2000–2021.<sup>2</sup>
- For both asbestosis and mesothelioma, the time between exposure to asbestos and the onset of disease is measured in decades. Past efforts to diminish the use of asbestos and to control workplace exposure to asbestos likely contributed to the decline in these two asbestos-related diseases.
- Current occupational exposure to asbestos occurs to workers involved in the maintenance and remediation, and demolition of asbestos containing buildings, for example construction workers, home renovators, and firefighters among others.

1. Mesothelioma case data from Washington State Cancer Registry; State population estimates from the US Bureau of Census American Community Survey. For methods see CSTE Occupational Health Indicators Guidance Document at [cste.org/group/OHIndicators](http://cste.org/group/OHIndicators), Indicator #12.  
2. Asbestosis deaths counts from Washington Vital Statistics. State population estimates from the US Bureau of Census American Community Survey. For methods see CSTE Occupational Health Indicators Guidance Document at [cste.org/group/OHIndicators](http://cste.org/group/OHIndicators), Indicator #10.

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