

## Lung Cancer and Smoking

### NATIONAL PREVALENCE AND TRENDS

#### Lung Cancer Prevalence

- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States, and cigarette smoking causes most cases of lung cancer. <sup>1</sup>
- There were nearly 170,000 cases of lung and bronchus cancer in 2001. Nearly 89,000 of these were in women and 90,700 in men. <sup>2</sup>
- In 2002, nearly 158,000 deaths from lung and bronchus cancer were reported, 67,500 in women and 90,200 in men. <sup>3</sup>
- It is estimated that there were nearly 174,000 new cases of lung and bronchus cancer (93,000 in men and nearly 81,000 in women) in 2004, and that 160,440 Americans died of the disease. <sup>2</sup>
- In 2000, the 5-year survival rate for lung and bronchus cancer was 15.2% (13.6% among men and 17.2% among women). <sup>2</sup>
- Lung cancer accounts for 28% of all cancer deaths in the United States. <sup>1</sup>
- Smoking is by far the overwhelming cause of lung cancer, accounting for nearly 90 percent of lung cancer cases. Other possible causes include radon, asbestos, and pollution. <sup>4</sup>
- Rates of lung cancer are highest in blue collar professions. The highest rates were reported by workers employed in the "transportation/moving" profession (40%), and lowest in "professional specialties" (15%). Other professions with high lung cancer rates include handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, laborers, machine operators, assemblers, inspectors, and precision craft and repair workers. <sup>5</sup>
- Lung cancer death rates are highest among blacks. Rates for whites are second highest, while rates for Hispanics and Asian/Pacific Islanders are similarly lower. <sup>2</sup>

#### Financial Impact

- Lung cancer treatment expenditures in 1998 were \$4.9 billion, comprising 12.1% of all cancer treatment expenditures. <sup>6</sup>
- Treatments for lung cancer are not as successful as those for other cancers. Lung cancer accounts for 12.5% of all cancer cases, but causes 28% of cancer deaths. <sup>7</sup>
- The average Medicare payment per individual in the first year following diagnosis of lung cancer was \$20,340, making it one of the costliest diseases to treat. <sup>5</sup>
- In 2003, \$296 million were spent on lung cancer research. It is estimated that \$312 million were spent in 2004 and \$321 million are projected to have been spent in 2005. In contrast, \$693 million were spent on breast cancer research in 2003, with a projected expenditure of \$736 million and \$768 million in 2004 and 2005, respectively. Colo-rectal cancer research accounted for \$295 million in 2003 and is estimated to have required \$306 million in 2004 and \$314 million in 2005. <sup>8</sup>

## Historical Information

- Rates of lung and bronchus cancer decreased by 0.2% in women and 2.3% in men from 1992 to 2001. Death rates increased over the same period in women by 0.6% but decreased in men by 1.9%.<sup>2</sup>
- Since 1950, lung cancer mortality rates for U.S. women have increased an estimated 600%. In 1950, lung cancer accounted for only 3% of all cancer deaths among women; however, by 2000, it accounted for an estimated 25% of all cancer deaths.<sup>9</sup>
- In 1987, lung cancer surpassed breast cancer to become the leading cause of cancer death among U.S. women. In 2000, about 27,000 more women died from lung cancer (67,600) than they did from breast cancer (40,800).<sup>10</sup>

## SMOKING AND LUNG CANCER

- In the U.S., nearly 125,000 people die each year from lung, trachea, and bronchus cancers caused by smoking.<sup>10</sup>
- About 90% of lung cancer deaths among women who continue to smoke are due to tobacco use.<sup>10</sup>
- An estimated 79,000 men and 44,800 women die from smoking-attributable lung, trachea, and bronchus cancers each year.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2000, lung cancer affected an estimated 46,000 current smokers and 138,000 former smokers.<sup>2</sup>
- The risk for lung cancer increases for both current and former smokers compared with never smokers, and declines for former smokers with increasing duration of abstinence.<sup>13</sup>
- Ten years after quitting smoking, a former smoker's risk of ever dying from lung cancer is 30 to 50 percent of that of a current smoker's.<sup>14</sup>

## SECONDHAND SMOKE AND LUNG CANCER

- Secondhand smoke causes lung cancer in non-smokers.<sup>15</sup>
- An estimated 1,130 men and 1,930 women die annually of lung cancer due to secondhand smoke exposure.<sup>13</sup>

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