



Statistics Courtesy of the Lung Cancer Alliance

Nearly one in every three cancer deaths is due to lung cancer.

Lung cancer kills:

- **An average of 440 people a day, one every three minutes.**
- **More than breast, prostate, colon, kidney, melanoma and liver cancers combined.**
- **Three times as many men as prostate cancer and twice as many women as breast cancer.**
- **More women than breast, cervical and ovarian cancers combined.**

Non-smokers and former smokers now account for more than 60 percent of new lung cancer cases, a fact that the public is just starting to become aware of.

50 percent of new cases in former smokers:

Tong L, Spitz MR, Fueger JJ, et al: "Lung Carcinoma in Former Smokers." Cancer 78:1004-10, 1996.

Warner EE, Mulshine JL, "Lung Cancer Screening With Spiral CT: Toward a Working Strategy." Oncology (Williston Park). 2004 May; 18(5):564-75, discussion 578, 583-4, 587.

10 percent to 15 percent of never smokers:

Jemal A, Chu KC, Tarone RE: Recent trends in lung cancer mortality in the United States. J Natl Cancer Inst 93:277-283, 2001.

Peto R, Chen ZM, Boreham J: "Tobacco—The Growing Epidemic." Nat Med 5:15-17, 1999.

Smith RA, Glynn TJ: "Epidemiology of Lung Cancer." Radiol Clin North Am 38:453-470, 2000.

Between 20,000 to 25,000 people a year—who never smoked—are dying of lung cancer.

Downplaying or ignoring these facts and consistently describing lung cancer as a "preventable" disease:

- **It helps perpetuate the stigmatization of all lung cancer patients whether they smoked or not.**

- **It distorts the scope of the epidemic which cannot be stopped by tobacco cessation alone.**
- **It “justifies” the underfunding of research on lung cancer.**

Lung cancer has a five-year survival rate of 15 percent. Also, three-fourths of new lung cancer cases are diagnosed at lethal stages.

By contrast, breast cancer has a five-year survival rate of 87 percent, and 61 percent of new cases are diagnosed at an early localized stage. Prostate cancer has a five-year survival rate of 99 percent and 91 percent of new cases are diagnosed at an early localized stage. (SEER statistics)

Late stage diagnoses cost more than early stage.

“Outcomes Research in Lung Cancer,” Craig C. Earle, MD, Journal of the National Cancer Institute Monographs No. 33, 2004.

It is not cheaper to let lung cancer patients die.

“Economic Burden of Lung Cancer and the Associated Costs of Treatment Failure in the United States,” Lucie Kutikova, et al, ELSEVIER, Lung Cancer (2005) 50, 143-154.

Better approaches to routinely finding earlier, curable disease is the most promising way forward at this time.

The I-ELCAP program has refined one approach over the past 13 years using low-dose spiral CT scans and has demonstrated the efficacy of screening in high-risk populations.

For more information from the Lung Cancer Alliance, please visit:

<http://www.lungcanceralliance.org/>