

Quantifying the Need

CANCER FACT SHEET



Cancer Frequency Facts

- The National Cancer Institute estimates that approximately 10.5 million Americans with a history of cancer were alive in January 2003.¹
- About 1,444,920 new cancer cases are expected to be diagnosed in 2007.¹
- In 2007, 559,650 Americans were expected to die of cancer, more than 1,500 people per day.¹
- Cancer is the second most common cause of death in the U.S., exceeded only by heart disease.¹
- In the U.S. cancer accounts for 1 of 4 deaths.¹
- The National Institutes of Health estimate over all costs for cancer in 2006 at \$206.3 billion.¹

Selected Cancer Facts

- Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women: it is estimated that in 2007 there were 178,480 new invasive cases as well as an estimated 62,030 in situ cases. An additional estimated 2,030 cases were diagnosed in men last year. An estimated 40,910 people (40,460 women and 450 men) died last year. Breast cancer ranks second among cancer deaths in women (after lung cancer).¹
- An estimated 213,380 new cases of lung cancer were diagnosed in 2007 (totaling about 15% of cancer diagnoses). Lung cancer claims the most lives for both women and men (approximately 160,390 in 2007) accounting for about 29% of all cancer deaths.¹
- Approximately 22,430 cases of ovarian cancer were diagnosed in the US in 2007. It claimed an estimated 15,280 deaths last year (more than any other cancer of the female reproductive system).¹
- Pancreatic cancer is estimated to have yielded 37,170 new diagnoses in 2007 as well as 33,370 deaths.¹
- Approximately 218,890 new cases of prostate cancer were diagnosed in 2007; the most frequently diagnosed cancer in men as well as the leading cause of cancer death in men yielding an estimated 27,050 deaths last year.¹
- Skin cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among both men and women with over 1 million cases of basal cell of squamous cell cancers are diagnosed annually. While it is the most commonly diagnosed cancer, most forms are highly curable killing approximately 10,850 people in 2007. Of those 10,850 who die of skin cancers approximately 8,110 deaths are due to melanoma, them most serious form of skin cancer with an estimated 59,940 diagnoses in 2007.¹

Personal Risk Facts

- Any one can develop cancer, but most (77%) of all cancers are diagnosed in people 55 and older.¹
- In the US, men have slightly less than a 1 in 2 lifetime risk of developing cancer; for women, the risk is a little more than 1 in 3.¹
- Environmental factors account for an estimated 75%-80% of cancer cases and deaths in the US.¹
- Some cancers are related to infectious agents (hepatitis B virus (HBV), human papillomavirus (HPV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), helicobacter pylori (H. pylori), etc.) and can be prevented through behavioral changes, vaccines, or antibiotics.¹
- The risk of developing lung cancer is about 23 times higher in male smokers and 13 times higher in female smokers compared to lifelong non-smokers.²
- Smoking is associated with increased risk of at least 15 types of cancer including lip, oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, lung, esophagus, uterine cervix, kidney, stomach, and more.¹
- The risk of cancer of the cheek and gums may increase nearly 50-fold among long-term snuff users.³
- Each year, about 3,000 nonsmoking adults die of lung cancer as a result of secondhand smoke.⁴
- Sunburns during childhood and intense intermittent sun exposure increase the risk of melanoma and other skin cancers later in life.⁵⁻⁷
- Adult men were more likely to get sunburns than women, as were adults with higher versus lower education attainment.⁹

Cancer Prevention Facts

- Most cancers do not result from inherited genes but from damage to genes during one's lifetime.¹
- The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2007 about 168,000 cancer deaths are expected to be caused by tobacco use (about 30%).¹
- About one-third of the 559,650 cancer deaths expected to have occurred in 2007 are related to overweight or obesity, physical inactivity, or obesity.¹

- 1 "Cancer Facts & Figures 2007," American Cancer Society, 2007
- 2 "The Health consequences of Smoking – A report of the Surgeon General" US Department of Health and Human Services, 2004
- 3 "The Health Consequences of Smokeless Tobacco: A Report of the Advisory Committee to the Surgeon General" US Department of Health and Human Services, 1986
- 4 Annual Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Years of Potential Life Lost, and Productivity Losses, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1997-2001
- 5 Gallagher RP, McLean DI, Yang CP. Suntan, sunburn, pigmentation features, of acquired melanocytic nevi in children. Similarities to melanoma: The Vancouver model. Arch Dermatol, 1990
- 6 Weinstock MA, Colditz GA, Willett CA, Stampfer MJ. Nonfamilial cutaneous melanoma incidence in women associated with sun exposure before 20 years of age. Pediatrics, 1989
- 7 Gallagher RP, Hill GB, Bajdik MD, Heenan PJ. Does intermittent sun exposure cause basal cell carcinoma? A case-control study in Western Australia. Int J Cancer, 1995
- 8 "Cancer Prevention & Early Detection Facts & Figures 2007" The American Cancer Society Table 3A, 2007



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