CancerStats Key Facts

lung cancer and smoking

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Cancer Research UK's new 'CancerStats – Key Facts' series provides accessible, top line statistics and facts on cancer. The charity's Statistical Information Team also produces evidence-based reports, charts and tabulations. All of this information can be accessed on our CancerStats website: http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats/ or by emailing stats.team@cancer.org.uk.

How common is lung cancer?

- Lung cancer is the second most common cancer diagnosed in the UK.
- Each year more than 38,000 people are diagnosed with lung cancer in the UK, that's more than 100 people every day.
- Lung cancer is the second most common cancer in men after prostate cancer, with more than 22,000 new cases diagnosed each year.
- More than 16,000 women are diagnosed with lung cancer in the UK every year, making it the third most common cancer in women after breast and bowel cancer.
- More than 8 in 10 lung cancer cases occur in people aged 60 and over.
- Rates of lung cancer in Scotland are among the highest in the world, reflecting their history of high smoking prevalence.
- In the 1950s, for every lung cancer case diagnosed in women in the UK, there were 6 in men. That ratio is now 5 cases in women for every 7 in men.
- Lung cancer incidence rates in men peaked in the late 1970s and since then have decreased by more than 40%. This reflects the decline in smoking rates in men after World War II.
- Lung cancer rates among women increased slowly until the late 1980s and have since levelled off. The difference in lung cancer trends in men and women reflect variations in past smoking behaviour.
- Lung cancer is the most common cancer in the world with 1.3 million people diagnosed in 2002.
- Worldwide, the highest rates of lung cancer in men are in Central and Eastern Europe and Northern America, and for women in Northern America.
- The lowest lung cancer rates in the world for men and women are in Northern, Western and Middle African countries and South Central Asia; but this will change if the current trends in the uptake of smoking persist in countries like China.

How many people survive lung cancer?

- Lung cancer survival rates are higher the earlier the cancer is diagnosed.
- More than two-thirds of lung cancers are diagnosed at a late stage and so survival rates for these patients are lower.
- Overall, only 7% of lung cancer patients survive for at least five years after diagnosis.

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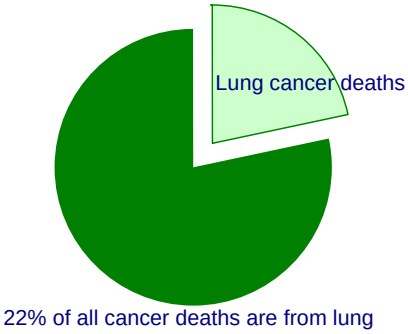
How many people die from lung cancer?

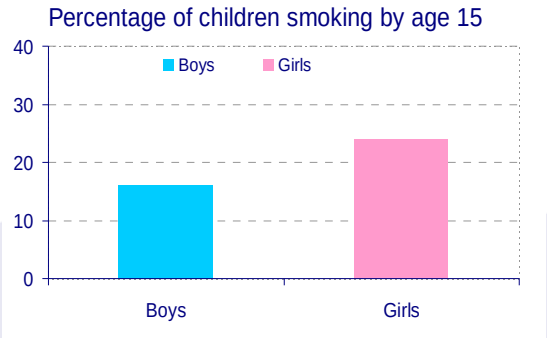
- Lung cancer is the most common cause of cancer death in the UK, accounting for more than 1 in 5 deaths.
- Each year in the UK, more than 34,000 people die from lung cancer, that's around 90 every day.
- Three-quarters of people who die from lung cancer are aged 65 or over.



22% of all cancer deaths are from lung cancer

What causes lung cancer?

- The link between tobacco and cancer was established more than 50 years ago.
- Smoking causes almost 90% of lung cancer deaths.



- In the UK, more than 1 in 5 adults smoke cigarettes, that's around 11 million people.
- Less than 1% of 11 and 12 year olds in England are smokers, but this rises to 20% by age 15.
- Stopping smoking before middle age avoids most of the risk of smoking-related lung cancer.
- Living with someone who smokes, or exposure to second-hand smoke at work, increases risk of lung cancer in non-smokers by about a quarter.
- It is estimated that in the UK, around 12,000 deaths each year are attributable to environmental tobacco smoke.
- Radon is a naturally occurring gas that increases risk of lung cancer, especially among smokers.
- A small proportion of lung cancer cases are caused by heavy exposure to industrial carcinogens and air pollutants, including diesel exhaust, asbestos, non-ferrous metals, silica, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides.

Lung cancer - UK	Males	Females	Persons
Number of new cases (2005)	22,259	16,339	38,598
Rate per 100,000 population*	61.3	36.8	47.4
Number of deaths (2006)	19,600	14,550	34,150
Rate per 100,000 population*	52.3	31.3	40.4
One-year survival rate (patients diagnosed 2000-2001** in England and Wales)	25%	26%	-
Five-year survival rate (patients diagnosed 2000-2001** in England and Wales)	7%	7%	-

**age-standardised to the European population*
*** period estimates*