

Cancer and Tobacco

FACT SHEET



National Facts and Trends

- Lung cancer rates are declining significantly among U.S. men. Among U.S. women, the rate is approaching a plateau after a long period of increase.¹ In Maine, the new female cases of lung cancer are continuing to increase and are now nearly equal to the rate of new cases of lung cancer in men nationally.²
- Since 1987, more women have died each year from lung cancer than from breast cancer.¹
- Survival of lung cancer remains poor with only 15%–20% surviving all stages (at diagnosis) of lung cancer, combined. Cigarette smoking causes most cases of lung cancer.³
- In addition to lung cancer, 30% of all other cancers are related to smoking.³
- Leukoplakia (a lesion or lesioned area), which can lead to oral cancer, occurs in more than half of all tobacco users in the first three years of use. Of smokeless tobacco users, 60%–70% have oral lesions.⁴

Maine Facts and Trends

- The rates of all new cases of cancer (averaged for years 2000–2004) are 608.3 per 100,000 for men and 454.2 per 100,000 for females.²
- The rate of new cases of lung cancer (incidence) is 81 cases per 100,000 for the Maine population.²
- The rates of new cases of lung cancer (incidence) by gender are 102 for men and 65 for women (per 100,000).²
- Overall cancer mortality rates (averaged for years 2000–2004) by gender are 255.6 for men and 175.6 for women.^{5,2}
- The mortality rate for lung cancer 2000–2004 is 62 per 100,000 for the Maine population.^{5,2}
- The mortality rate for lung cancer by gender is 80 for males and 49 for females per 100,000.^{5,2}
- Estimated/projected all new cancer cases for 2007 in Maine is 8,340 cases.¹
- Estimated/projected deaths from all cancers for 2007 in Maine is 3,190.¹
- The death rate among women from lung cancer is double that of breast cancer.⁶

The Story Behind the Facts: Why Is this Information Important

- Cigarette smoking is by far the most important risk for lung cancer. Risk increases with quantity of cigarette consumption and years of smoking duration.¹
- New evidence shows a causal relationship between smoking and a number of cancers, including cancers of the cervix, kidneys, pancreas and stomach, and acute myeloid leukemia. This is in addition to the cancers previously linked to smoking.³
- It is probable that, although smoking does not cause prostate cancer, it contributes to mortality.³
- Cigarette smoking is a major cause of cancers of the oral cavity in the U.S. and worldwide. People who smoke pipes or cigars experience a risk for oral cancer similar to that of the cigarette smoker.
- Cigarette smoking and alcohol usually act synergistically to increase the risk of oral cavity cancers.³
- All forms of tobacco use cause cancers of the oral cavity and pharynx (the section of the digestive tract from the oral cavity to the larynx, where it becomes continuous with the esophagus) but not of the salivary glands.³

References:

¹ American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures, 2007.

² Maine Cancer Registry.

³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking: a Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2004.

⁴ Bolinder, G et al. "Smokeless Tobacco Use and Increased Cardiovascular Mortality among Swedish Construction Workers." *AJPH*, Mar 1994; 84 (3): 399-404.

⁵ Mortality calculated using SEERStat. Data provided by NCHS (www.cdc.gov/nchs/).

⁶ Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics.



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