



Canadian Cancer Society
Société canadienne du cancer

Lung Cancer

The facts

- An estimated 25,300 Canadians will be diagnosed with lung cancer in 2011 and 20,600 will die from the disease.
- Smoking causes approximately 85% of lung cancers.
- In females, lung cancer incidence and death rates have increased since 1979 and continue to do so. Smoking rates among women began to decline slightly only in the mid-1980s, therefore, declining lung cancer rates have yet to become apparent.
- Among men, incidence and death rates for lung cancer began to level off in the mid-1980s and have been declining ever since.

What we're doing

The Canadian Cancer Society works across Canada to ensure that no one is alone in the fight against cancer. As Canada's leader in the fight against cancer, we:

- fund leading-edge tobacco control and lung cancer research
- encourage Canadians to not start smoking and support people who want to quit through our toll-free *Smokers' Helpline*
- advocate at all levels of government for tobacco control legislation, including encouraging municipalities in Ontario to create smoke-free places on patios, parks and playgrounds
- provide information and support to people living with lung cancer, their families and caregivers

Lung cancer research

The Canadian Cancer Society invested \$3.5 million last year to outsmart lung cancer, including:

- a study to identify lifestyle behaviours and dietary influences that are involved in lung cancer risk
- a large-scale project to identify the genes that may make people susceptible to developing lung cancer
- a clinical study of the accuracy and usefulness of a laser technology to detect the early signs of lung cancer

The impact of our research

Canadian Cancer Society-funded researchers continue to discover ways to reduce cancer incidence and mortality and enhance the quality of life for Canadians living with and beyond cancer. Here are some recent Society-funded lung cancer research achievements:

- Results from a clinical trial found that chemotherapy following surgery for patients with early-stage non-small cell lung cancer increased the five-year survival rate by 15% and reduced the rate of cancer recurrence among patients.
- Researchers identified a set of genes that can predict whether patients with early-stage non-small cell lung cancer will benefit from chemotherapy after surgery to prevent disease recurrence, allowing treatment to be tailored according to whether the patient would benefit.

The Canadian Cancer Society empowers, informs, and supports Canadians with cancer. Visit www.cancer.ca or call 1 888 939-3333.

