

Lung cancer deaths ages 0 to 74 years (2015 to 2019, MLHD)

Lung cancer is the 2nd leading cause of death in people 0 to 74 years

Lung cancer deaths are **not** considered potentially avoidable as current treatment and care cannot prevent death

There are on average 56 lung cancer deaths per year
33 of those are in MALES
23 in FEMALES

Average age of lung cancer death is 64 years for those under 75yrs
65 for males and 64 for females

59% of lung cancer deaths 0-74 yrs are in MALES

Lung cancer is the leading cause of death in females under 75 yrs and 2nd leading cause of death in males

What is Lung Cancer?

Lung cancer begins when abnormal cells grow and multiply in an uncontrolled way in the lungs. Cancer that starts in the lungs is known as primary lung cancer. It can spread to the lymph nodes, brain, adrenal glands, liver and bones.

The causes of lung cancer are not fully understood, and some people develop lung cancer without having any known risk factors. The factors listed below are known to increase the risk of developing the disease. Having these risk factors does not mean you will develop lung cancer.

Death from lung cancer is not considered potentially avoidable through individualised care and/or treatable through existing primary or hospital care. Although lung cancer deaths may be reduced through population health interventions (e.g. anti-smoking campaigns), there are few options for reducing mortality after the condition has developed. Therefore, deaths from lung cancer are not considered potentially avoidable.

Tobacco smoking

In Australia, about 90% of lung cancer cases in men and 65% in women are estimated to be a result of smoking tobacco. The earlier a person starts smoking, the longer they smoke and the more cigarettes they smoke, the higher the risk of developing lung cancer. However, about 1 in 5 people (21%) who are diagnosed with lung cancer have never been smokers.

Second-hand smoking

Breathing in other people's tobacco smoke (passive or second-hand smoke) can cause lung cancer. Living with a smoker increases a non-smoker's risk by up to 30%.

Exposure to asbestos

People who are exposed to asbestos are more likely to develop lung cancer or pleural mesothelioma. Although the use of asbestos in building materials has been banned across Australia since 2004, there is still asbestos in some older buildings and fences.

Exposure to other elements

People exposed to radioactive gas (radon), such as uranium miners, have an increased risk of lung cancer. Air pollution is another risk factor. Contact with the processing of arsenic, cadmium, steel and nickel, and exposure to diesel in the workplace may also be risk factors.

Family history

You may be at a higher risk if a family member has been diagnosed with lung cancer.

Personal history

Having another lung disease (e.g. lung fibrosis, chronic bronchitis, pulmonary tuberculosis, emphysema) or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) may increase the risk of lung tumours.

Older age

Lung cancer is most commonly diagnosed in people over the age of 60 years, although it can occur in younger people.

Who gets lung cancer?

Each year, about 12,200 Australians are diagnosed with lung cancer. The average age at diagnosis is 72. It is the fifth most common cancer in Australia, accounting for 9% of all cancers diagnosed. More men than women develop lung cancer.

Source:

www.cancercouncil.com.au/lung-cancer/