

Lung Cancer

Facts:

- #1 cancer killer in U.S among men and women
- Approximately 172,000 people will get lung cancer in 2003, approx. 157,000 will die (American Cancer Society estimates)
- Cigarette smoking causes about 82% of these deaths
- Smoking is responsible for more than 300,000 deaths each year in U.S (CDCP)
- Tobacco is responsible for nearly 5 million deaths worldwide each year (WHO)

Anti-smoking measures proposed or existing include:

- restricting tobacco advertising
- raising tobacco taxes
- more explicit health warnings on tobacco packages
- laws banning smoking in workplaces, restaurants, public buildings

Effectiveness of programs:

Research suggests efforts to prevent smoking are having a positive effect. Since communities first installed control/prevention programs, findings show reduced and falling rates of lung cancer death rates in adults aged 30-39. Monitoring trends in young adults is important, people who get lung cancer at early ages (generally more susceptible) provide early indication of benefits of control policies.

Death rates have decreased in most states with strong tobacco control programs, but have increased in states with low tobacco control efforts

High tobacco control efforts = low lung cancer death rates

- AZ and CA (strong anti-tobacco programs) had low lung cancer death rates
- MS, AR, KY (weak anti-tobacco programs) had high rates

Death rate dropped between two time periods measured in states with control programs:

- CA's rate fell almost 19%, OR fell 28%
- KY rose more than 34% (state with weakest program), MS rose 29%

States with strong anti-tobacco programs had fewer current smokers, more people who had quit in between ages 30-39

Source: Cancer Causes and Control, 14 (6): 579-585, August 2003

Lung cancer trends in young adults: an early indicator of progress in tobacco control (United States)