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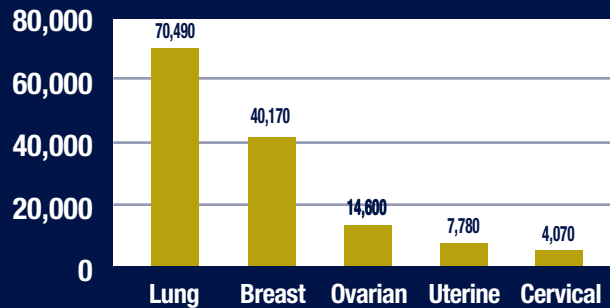
202-463-2080
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Out of the Shadows: Women and Lung Cancer

Lung cancer kills more women than any other cancer—nearly 200 women each day. Most die within a year of diagnosis. Yet lung cancer remains the “hidden” women’s cancer—little known and rarely discussed. It is the least funded cancer in terms of research dollars per death of all the major cancers, and one of the only cancer where patients are routinely blamed as responsible for their condition. ⁽ⁱ⁾

Estimated Cancer Deaths in 2009

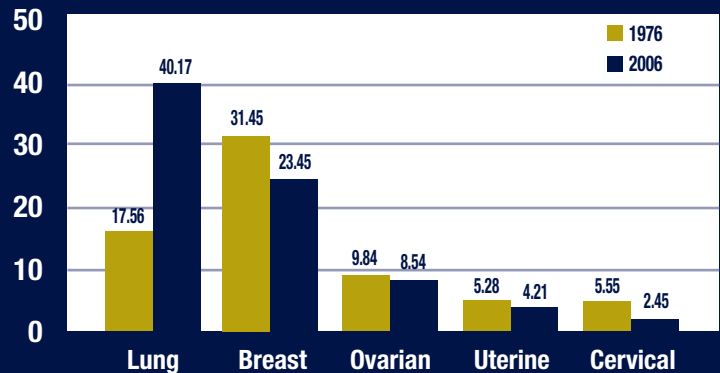


Lung cancer overtook breast cancer as the leading cause of cancer death among women in the United States in 1987 and now claims the lives of more women each year than breast, ovarian and cervical cancers combined.

Source: http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2006/

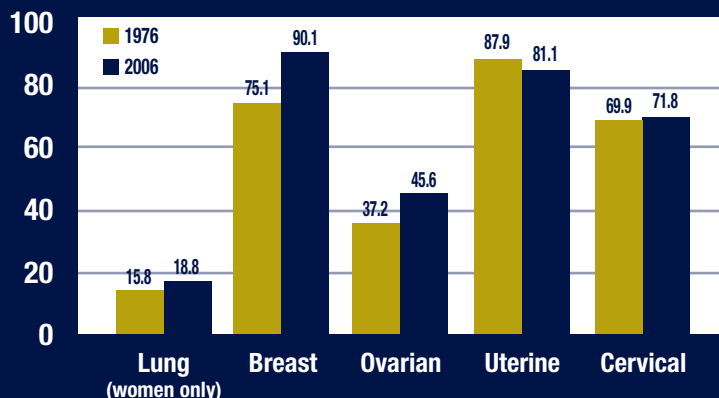
Cancer Mortality Rates in Women (per 100,000)

Without a doubt, lung cancer is a major health problem for women in the USA, not only owing to its high incidence rate but, more alarming, the high mortality rate. ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾



Source: http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2006/

Overall Five Year Survival Rate



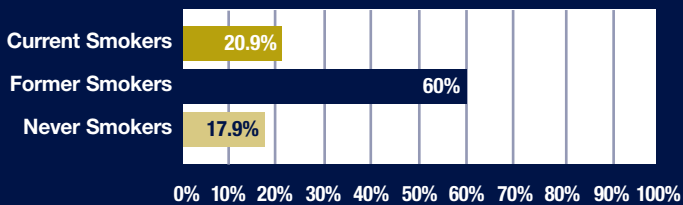
The overall five year survival rate for women with lung cancer remains well below those of other women’s cancers.

Source: http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2006/

NO MORE EXCUSES. **NO MORE LUNG CANCER.**

Out of the Shadows: Women and Lung Cancer

Profile of New Lung Cancer Cases



Source: Cigarette Smoking Among Adults — United States, 2006, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, November 9, 2007/56(44): 1157-1161, Table 2.

The link between lung cancer and smoking is indisputable, but it should not hinder a comprehensive plan of action to reduce mortality. According to a national survey in 2006, over 60% of lung cancer patients had already quit smoking, 20.9% were current smokers and 17.9% had never smoked.

Women, Lung Cancer and Smoking

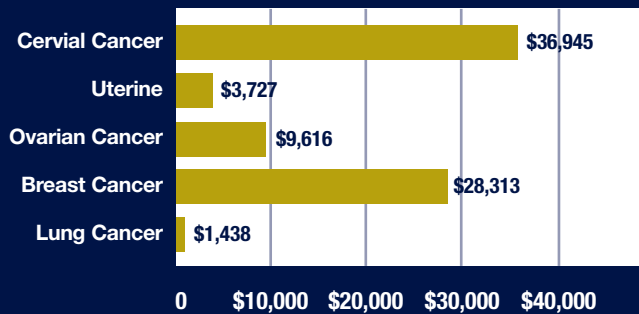
Women with lung cancer have been consistently shown to (1) have smoked less on average (31 vs. 52 pack years), (2) be younger, (3) be 2 to 3 times more likely to have never smoked, and (4) get adenocarcinoma more often than their male counterparts. (iii)

Over 25,000 women who have never smoked will be diagnosed with lung cancer this year.

More Research Urgently Needed

- The biology of lung cancer is different in women
- Mutations in certain genetic oncogenes are more common in women
- Non-smoking women have more growth factor receptors
- DNA repair capacity is lower in women than men
- Hormone replacement therapy may increase lung cancer risk in women
- Women respond to treatment differently than men

2009 Research Funding Levels (\$ per death)



Sources: <http://report.nih.gov/rcdc/categories>
<http://cdmrp.army.mil/>
<http://www.cdc.gov/fmo/topic/Budget%20Information/index.html>

Sources:

- (i) "Out of the Shadows: Women and Lung Cancer", prepared by the Mary Horrigan Connors Center for Women's Health and Gender Biology, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, April, 2010
- (ii) *Lung Cancer in Women: The Differences in Epidemiology, Biology and Treatment Outcomes*, Maria Patricia Rivera MD Expert Review of Respiratory Medicine;3(6):627-634; 12/22/2009

(iii) *Gender Differences in Lung Cancer: Have we really come a long way, baby?* Jemi Olak, MD, Yolanda Colson, MD, Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, 2004; 128:346-351

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Lung Cancer Alliance (LCA) is the only national non-profit dedicated exclusively to patient support and advocacy for those living with or at risk for lung cancer. Our programs are made possible by the generous support from people like you. Please consider giving back so that others may continue to receive these free services. LCA is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law.

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