



## **Lung Cancer in Canada**

Lung cancer, the number one cancer killer in Canada, will take the lives of more than 20,000 Canadians this year—yet it remains largely overlooked and misunderstood. Here are some essential facts about the state of lung cancer in Canada:

- One in every 12 Canadians will develop lung cancer during his or her lifetime.<sup>6</sup>
- Lung cancer is more common in Canadian men than women: one in 11 men develops lung cancer over a lifetime and one in 13 dies from it, while one in 15 women develops lung cancer and one in 17 dies from it.<sup>3</sup>
- For both men and women, lung cancer is the second most common cancer diagnosis, constituting 14 percent of all cancer cases.<sup>1</sup>
- Lung cancer is the number one cancer killer among both men and women: it is responsible for more than one quarter (27%) of all cancer deaths.<sup>1</sup>
- Every year, lung cancer takes more lives than breast, colorectal, and prostate cancer combined.<sup>1</sup>
- This year, an estimated 25,600 Canadians will be diagnosed with lung cancer and 20,100 will die of it. That means that every day an average of 70 Canadians are diagnosed with lung cancer and 55 die of it.<sup>1</sup>
- While lung cancer incidence and mortality rates have been declining for Canadian men for the past 30 years, they have steadily risen in Canadian women over this same time period.<sup>1</sup>
- The five-year survival rate for Canadians with lung cancer lags far behind that of other major cancers (Lung cancer: 15%, Breast cancer: 88%, Prostate cancer: 95%, Colorectal cancer: 63%, Leukemia: 54%).<sup>3</sup>
- 10 to 15 percent of people with lung cancer never smoked.<sup>2</sup>
- Nonsmoking women are more likely to be diagnosed with lung cancer than nonsmoking men.<sup>4</sup>
- Though lung cancer accounts for more than a quarter of all cancer deaths, the disease only receives 7 percent of cancer-specific research funding and less than 1 percent of cancer donations.<sup>5</sup>

## References:

- <sup>1</sup> Canadian Cancer Society's Steering Committee on Cancer Statistics. *Canadian Cancer Statistics 2012*. Toronto, ON: Canadian Cancer Society; 2012.
- <sup>2</sup> Lobchuk (2012). "Lung Cancer and Stigma." Report Card on Cancer in Canada, 2011-12.
- <sup>3</sup> Canadian Cancer Society's Steering Committee on Cancer Statistics. *Canadian Cancer Statistics 2011*. Toronto, ON: Canadian Cancer Society; 2011.
- <sup>4</sup> Subramanian and Govindan (2007). "Lung Cancer in Never Smokers: A Review." *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.
- <sup>5</sup> *The Globe and Mail* (2011). "More Research Funding Needed to Quell Lung Cancer Mortality Rates." [http://www.lungcancercanada.ca/resources/site1/general/news/Lung\\_Cancer\\_Nov.%2015.11.pdf](http://www.lungcancercanada.ca/resources/site1/general/news/Lung_Cancer_Nov.%2015.11.pdf) Accessed August 2012.
- <sup>6</sup> Lung Cancer Canada. Available at: <http://www.lungcancercanada.ca/Lung-Cancer.aspx> Accessed on October 29, 2012.