

## LUNG CANCER FACTS

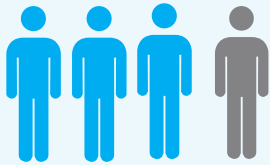
**LUNG CANCER** is the leading cause of cancer death worldwide.<sup>1</sup>

**AN ESTIMATED 226,650 PEOPLE** will be diagnosed with lung cancer in 2025 in the US.<sup>2</sup>

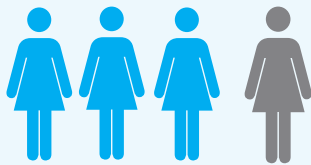
**APPROXIMATELY 124,730 AMERICAN LIVES** are lost annually.<sup>2</sup>

**1 IN 16 PEOPLE** will be diagnosed with lung cancer in their lifetime – 1 in 16 men, and 1 in 17 women.<sup>2</sup>

**LUNG CANCER** kills more than **3 TIMES** as many men as prostate cancer worldwide.<sup>1</sup>



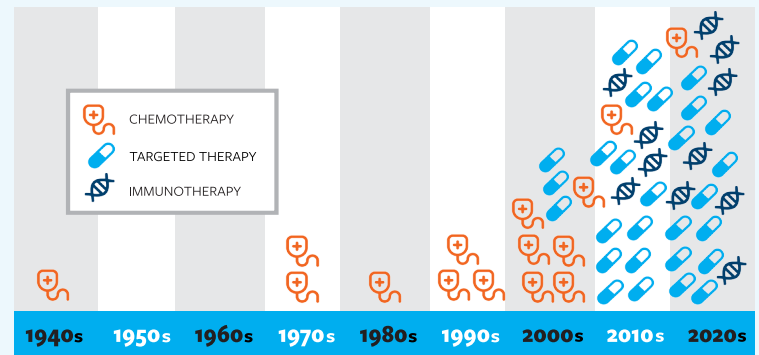
**LUNG CANCER** kills about **3 TIMES** as many women in the U.S. as breast cancer.<sup>1</sup>



**654,620 people in the U.S.** have been diagnosed with lung cancer at some point in their lives.<sup>2</sup>

**THERE IS HOPE.** The number of new lung cancer diagnoses is in steady decline. From 2012-21, incidence has decreased by 3% per year in men and 1.4% per year in women. Mortality rates are declining even faster, which likely reflects advances in treatment and early detection.<sup>2</sup>

*Below: lung cancer treatment approvals over the decades*



## RISK FACTORS

**Smoking** is the leading risk factor for lung cancer and is responsible for **80%** of lung cancer deaths. People who have **never smoked** account for **20%** of lung cancer deaths.

**Exposure to radon gas** is the second leading risk factor of lung cancer.<sup>2</sup>

**Other risk factors include** exposure to:<sup>2</sup>

- secondhand smoke
- diesel exhaust
- asbestos
- certain metals (arsenic, chromium, cadmium)
- radiation
- certain organic chemicals
- air pollution

**Family history and genetic factors** may also play a role in the development of lung cancer.<sup>2</sup>

**People who have never smoked** account for as many as 20% of lung cancer diagnoses. That means as many as 46,000 people who have never smoked could be diagnosed with lung cancer this year in the US.<sup>3</sup>

## SCREENING

Early detection of high-risk lung cancer cases can reduce chance of death by up to 20%. **If you smoke now or have in the past**, ask your doctor if lung cancer screening may be right for you. Approximately 8 million Americans are at high risk for lung cancer and could benefit from a lung cancer screening ...and yet only 16% actually get screened.<sup>4</sup>

## SYMPTOMS

**See your doctor** if you experience any of the following common symptoms of lung cancer:

- B** Blood when you cough or spit
- R** Recurring respiratory infections
- E** Enduring cough that is new or different
- A** Ache or pain in shoulder, back or chest
- T** Trouble breathing
- H** Hoarseness or wheezing
- E** Exhaustion, weakness or loss of appetite

**Other symptoms may include:**

- swelling in the neck and face
- difficulty swallowing
- weight loss

1. International Agency for Research on Cancer. GLOBOCAN Lung Cancer Facts Sheet. Retrieved from: [gco.iarc.fr/today/data/fact-sheets-cancers](http://gco.iarc.fr/today/data/fact-sheets-cancers)

2. American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2025. Atlanta; American Cancer Society: 2025.

3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Lung cancer among people who never smoked, July 2023. [www.cdc.gov/cancer/lung/nonsmokers/](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/lung/nonsmokers/)

4. American Lung Association. State of Lung Cancer 2024.

5. National Institute of Health. Estimates of Funding for Various Research, Condition, and Disease Categories (RCDC), 2025.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### GET INVOLVED

**Join an event.** LCRF brings the lung cancer community together through Free to Breathe Walks and other events nationwide: [LCRF.org/events](https://www.lcrf.org/events).

**Start your own fundraiser.** Design your own fundraiser, create a fundraising page to honor a loved one, or start your own lung cancer event through our DIY program: [LCRF.org/yourway](https://www.lcrf.org/yourway)

**Share patient resources.** Help patients with lung cancer make confident decisions about their care by distributing our free resources at local hospitals and clinics: [LCRF.org/resources](https://www.lcrf.org/resources)

Start making an impact today. Contact [info@lcrf.org](mailto:info@lcrf.org) for details.



### RESEARCH CLOSES THE FUNDING GAP





**Lung cancer claims about as many lives each year** than breast, pancreatic, and prostate cancer combined.

But, these three cancers receive an average of **3x MORE RESEARCH FUNDING** per life lost than lung cancer.<sup>2</sup>





Research means better treatment options and increased survival.

**DONATE to support lung cancer research at [LCRF.org/donate](https://www.lcrf.org/donate)**

ESTIMATED U.S. FEDERAL FUNDING  
PER CANCER DEATH, 2025<sup>1</sup>

prostate		\$10,763
breast		\$22,727
pancreatic		\$6,714
lung		\$5,042

ESTIMATED ANNUAL CANCER  
DEATHS, 2025<sup>2</sup>

prostate 	35,770
breast 	42,680
lung 	124,730
pancreatic 	51,980

### REDUCE YOUR RISK OF LUNG CANCER

If you smoke, get the help you need to quit. You can get help from state quitlines and other programs. Visit [becomeanex.org](https://www.becomeanex.org) or [smokefree.gov](https://www.smokefree.gov), or call (800) 784-8669 [(800) QUIT-NOW].

Reduce exposure to radon. If you live in an area with high levels of radon, consider having your house tested for radon exposure and, if needed, take steps to reduce radon levels. More information is available at [epa.gov/radon](https://www.epa.gov/radon).

### ABOUT THE LUNG CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Lung Cancer Research Foundation® (LCRF) is the leading nonprofit organization focused on funding innovative, high-reward research with the potential to extend survival and improve quality of life for people with lung cancer. LCRF's mission is to improve lung cancer outcomes by funding research for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure of lung cancer.

To date, LCRF has funded 428 research grants, totaling nearly \$48 million, the highest amount provided by a nonprofit organization dedicated to funding lung cancer research. In addition to funding lung cancer research, the organization offers awareness and educational programs and brings the lung cancer community together through Free to Breathe Walks and other events nationwide. For more information, visit [LCRF.org](https://www.lcrf.org).