

# What You Should Know About LUNG CANCER

Lung cancer is the second most common non-skin cancer among American men and women, after prostate cancer in men and breast cancer in women. It is also the leading killer, causing more deaths than colorectal, breast and prostate cancers combined. Early diagnosis and advances in treatment mean more people can expect to beat the disease.



Lung cancer represents about **13%** of all new cancer cases.

About **224,390** new cases of lung cancer will be diagnosed. 



About

**117,920**

will be in men.



About

**106,470**

will be in women.

The **lifetime risk** of developing lung cancer is about:



**1 in 13**  
for men



**1 in 16**  
for women



▶ These numbers **include both** smokers and non-smokers.

▶ The risk is much **higher for smokers** and lower for non-smokers.

## RISK FACTORS

### SMOKING

Smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer. It causes about **9 out of 10 cases** of lung cancer in men and about 8 out of 10 cases of lung cancer in women.

### SECONDHAND SMOKE

People who **inhale secondhand smoke** are **exposed** to the same cancer-causing agents as smokers.



### AGE

About **2 of 3** lung cancers are diagnosed in people over age 65. The average age at diagnosis is 70.



### FAMILY HISTORY

People with a relative who has or had lung cancer may be **twice as likely** to develop the disease.



### EXPOSURE TO RADON GAS

Radon is a colorless, scentless radioactive gas found in some houses. **Radon exposure is a leading cause of lung cancer.**



### EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS OR OTHER POLLUTANTS

**Carcinogenic chemicals in the workplace** increase lung cancer risk, especially if you smoke.



### DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS

**Taking beta carotene supplements** increases lung cancer risk, especially in smokers who smoke one or more packs a day.

For more information, visit [www.cancercenter.com/lung-cancer/](http://www.cancercenter.com/lung-cancer/)

#### SOURCES

cancercenter.com, cancer.gov, cancer.org, lung.org