



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People. Saving Money through Prevention.

Tobacco-Related Mortality

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Overview

- More deaths are caused each year by tobacco use than by all deaths from human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, suicides, and murders combined.^{1,2}
- Smoking cigarettes, pipes, or cigars increases the risk of dying from cancers of the lung, esophagus, larynx, and oral cavity.^{3,4}
- Smokeless tobacco is a known cause of human cancer.⁵ In addition, the nicotine in smokeless tobacco may increase the risk for sudden death from a condition where the heart does not beat properly (ventricular arrhythmias) and, as a result, the heart pumps little or no blood to the body's organs.⁵

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States.³

Cigarettes and Death

Cigarette smoking causes about 1 of every 5 deaths in the United States each year.^{1,6} Cigarette smoking is estimated to cause the following:¹

- 443,000 deaths annually (including deaths from secondhand smoke)
- 49,400 deaths per year from secondhand smoke exposure
- 269,655 deaths annually among men

- 173,940 deaths annually among women

Cigarette use causes premature death:

- On average, adults who smoke cigarettes die 14 years earlier than nonsmokers.⁷
- Based on current cigarette smoking patterns, an estimated 25 million Americans who are alive today will die prematurely from smoking-related illnesses, including 5 million people younger than 18 years of age.⁸

Secondhand Smoke and Death

Exposure to secondhand smoke—sometimes called environmental tobacco smoke—causes nearly 50,000 deaths each year among adults in the United States:¹

- Secondhand smoke causes 3,400 annual deaths from **lung cancer**.¹
- Secondhand smoke causes 46,000 annual deaths from **heart disease**.^{1,9,10}

Increased Risk for Death Among Men

- Men who smoke increase their risk of dying from bronchitis by nearly 10 times, from emphysema by nearly 10 times, and from lung cancer by more than 22 times.^{3,11}
- Smoking triples middle-aged men's risk of dying from heart disease.¹¹

Increased Risk for Death Among Women

- Women who smoke increase their risk of dying from bronchitis by more than 10 times, from emphysema by more than 10 times, and from lung cancer by nearly 12 times.^{3,11}
- Between 1960 and 1990, deaths from lung cancer among women increased by more than 500%.¹²
- Smoking triples middle-aged women's risk of dying from heart disease.¹¹

Death from Specific Diseases

Tobacco use causes disease and death. Each year, smoking causes thousands of deaths from numerous diseases. The following table lists the estimated number of smokers who die each year from smoking-related diseases.¹

Annual Cigarette Smoking-Related Mortality in the United States*



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Disease	Male	Female	Total
Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer)			
Lip, Oral Cavity, Pharynx	3,749	1,144	4,893
Esophagus	6,961	1,631	8,592
Stomach	1,900	584	2,484
Pancreas	3,147	3,536	6,683
Larynx	2,446	563	3,009
Trachea, Lung, Bronchus	78,680	46,842	125,522
Cervix Uteri	0	447	447
Kidney and Renal Pelvis	2,827	216	3,043
Urinary Bladder	3,907	1,076	4,983
Acute Myeloid Leukemia	855	337	1,192
Subtotal	104,472	56,376	160,848
Cardiovascular Diseases			
Ischemic Heart Disease	50,884	29,121	80,005
Other Heart Disease	12,994	8,060	21,004
Cerebrovascular Disease	7,896	8,026	15,922
Atherosclerosis	1,282	611	1,893
Aortic Aneurysm	5,628	2,791	8,419

Other Arterial Disease	505	749	1,254
Subtotal	79,139	49,358	128,497
Respiratory Diseases			
Pneumonia, Influenza	6,042	4,381	10,423
Bronchitis, Emphysema	7,536	6,391	13,927
Chronic Airway Obstruction	40,217	38,771	78,988
Subtotal	53,795	49,543	103,338
Grand Total	237,406	155,277	392,683
*In this table, deaths due to secondhand smoke and fire burn are not included.			

Source: CDC, Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Years of Potential Life Lost, and Productivity Losses—United States, 2000–2004

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For Further Information

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