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LUNG CANCER FACTS AND STATISTICS

TOBACCO USE, SMOKING AND LUNG CANCER

- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide. Every year, lung cancer causes more than 1.6 million deaths; more than breast, colon and prostate cancers combined.
- Tobacco use is responsible for the death of approximately 7 million people every year globally; more than 6 million deaths result from direct tobacco use and more than 890,000 deaths result from exposure to second-hand smoke.¹
- Globally, cigarette smoking by itself is responsible for over 80 percent of all lung cancer cases.²

LUNG CANCER IN JAPAN

- In **Japan**, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in men, making up approximately 25 percent of all male cancer deaths in 2015.³
- From 1965 to 2014, the rate of smoking among **Japanese men** decreased significantly from 84 percent to 30 percent.⁴ From 1949 to 2010, smoking prevalence among **Japanese women** ranged between 10 and 20 percent with no clear trend.⁵
- Smoking is illegal in **Japan** for those under the age of 20, leading to a later initiation of smoking in Japan relative to many other countries.⁶
- About 15,000 people die annually from diseases related to secondhand smoke in **Japan**.⁷
- From 2010-2015, the tobacco industry donated 105 million Yen (~\$966,000 USD) to members in the **Japanese** party in power, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).⁸
- The **Japanese government** has a 33 percent stake in Japan Tobacco (JT), meaning it receives a significant tax revenue from smokers, contributing to lax regulations on marketing and advertising and weak smoking bans. However, some recent efforts seek to impose stricter regulations.⁹
- On October 1, 2010, the cigarette tax in **Japan** on the average price of a pack of 20 cigarettes increased by 33 percent to 400 Yen (~\$4.75 USD).¹⁰ However, while the World Health Organization recommends that 70 percent of the price of cigarettes is composed of tax,¹¹ Japan was only at 64.4 percent, as of April 2014.¹²
- A **Japanese** “lung cancer smoking paradox” exists in that, despite smoking more, Japanese smokers have a lower incidence of lung cancer than that in many other countries. Theories to explain this phenomenon include the later age of beginning smoking, genetic factors, lifestyle factors or lower levels of cancer-causing ingredients in the cigarettes.¹³

GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT

- Of the World Health Organization's six regions, the **Western Pacific Region** has the greatest number of smokers, the highest rates of adult smoking prevalence and the greatest number of smoking-related deaths for both sexes. Thirteen percent of all deaths are attributable to tobacco in the Region.¹⁴
- Thirty percent of **European** teenagers who are never-smokers said they would start in the next year if their best friend offered them a cigarette, compared to 19 percent worldwide.¹⁵

- **China** is the largest consumer of tobacco in the world with about 301 million current smokers.¹⁶ Approximately half of Chinese men smoke.¹⁷ Experts estimate annual smoking deaths in China will reach nearly 2 million by 2030 and climb to 3 million people by 2050 – more than the population of Chicago.¹⁸
- **If smoking rates in Latin and South America do not decrease, many anticipate lung cancer will emerge as the main cause of death in the region.**¹⁹
- Forty percent of smoking adults in **Poland** claim that introducing smoking bans in public places and worksites would encourage them to try to give up smoking.²⁰

RESEARCH AND PROMISING DEVELOPMENTS

- Funding for lung cancer research is critical due to the disease's prominence and because doctors often find lung cancer in later stages, when it is less treatable. New advances hold great promise for screening, early detection and personalized therapies.
- Lung cancer does not have to be fatal. Groundbreaking new treatments dramatically alter lung cancer survival rates every day.
- New immunotherapies (using the body's own immune cells to attack cancer cells) show great promise for patients with advanced, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).
- Personalized medicine is providing hope to lung cancer patients by utilizing drugs specific to their cancer's tumor.
- Evidence suggests that quitting smoking measurably improves lung cancer patient survival. [Read IASLC's complete 2015 Statement on Tobacco Control and Smoking Cessation.](#)
- Screening with low-dose CT can reduce lung cancer deaths by 20 percent compared to a standard chest X-ray among adults with a 30 pack-a-year smoking history who were current smokers or had quit within 15 years.²¹
- Studies show that health-related warnings on cigarette packages, especially those that use pictures, decrease the number of young people who start smoking and increase the number of tobacco users who quit. A review of studies conducted in countries that implemented this policy shows that pictorial warnings raise awareness of tobacco-related harm and decrease consumption.²²
- Globally, 78 percent of youth aged 13-15 years report regular exposure to some form of tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship. In countries that have already implemented bans on tobacco advertising, there has been an average of 7 percent reduction in tobacco consumption.²³
- Evidence from the World Health Organization showed that implementation of smoke-free policies significantly reduced rates of exposure to secondhand smoke, including in **low-and middle-income countries.**²⁴
- Studies show that e-cigarette use, which is rapidly increasing in popularity, reduces the number of carcinogens and toxins that users are exposed to compared to cigarettes.²⁵
- In the **United Kingdom** between 1975-1977 and 2009-2011, lung cancer incidence rates in women increased by 73 percent while rates in men decreased by 47 percent, reflecting the later peak of smoking rates among women than men.²⁶ This case highlights that continued and expanded efforts to reduce smoking rates are vital to reducing lung cancer rates globally by demonstrating how when smoking prevalence decreases, lung cancer rates subsequently decrease. While smoking reduction will not decrease non-tobacco related lung cancers, it will eliminate the major cause of lung cancer deaths.

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