



Smoking & Tobacco Use

Tobacco-Related Mortality

Overall mortality among both male and female smokers in the United States is about three times higher than that among similar people who never smoked.¹

The major causes of excess mortality among smokers are diseases that are related to smoking, including cancer and respiratory and vascular disease.^{1,2,3,4}

Smokeless tobacco is a known cause of cancer. 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).⁵

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States.^{1,3}

Cigarettes and Death

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

- More than 480,000 deaths annually (including deaths from secondhand smoke)
- 278,544 deaths annually among men (including deaths from secondhand smoke)
- 201,773 deaths annually among women (including deaths from secondhand smoke)

Cigarette smoking causes premature death:

- Life expectancy for smokers is at least 10 years shorter than for nonsmokers.^{1,2}
- Quitting smoking before the age of 40 reduces the risk of dying from smoking-related disease by about 90%.²

Secondhand Smoke and Death

Exposure to secondhand smoke causes an estimated 41,000 deaths each year among adults in the United States:¹

- Secondhand smoke causes 7,333 annual deaths from lung cancer.¹
- Secondhand smoke causes 33,951 annual deaths from heart disease.¹

Increased Risk for Death Among Men

- Men who smoke increase their risk of dying from bronchitis and emphysema by 17 times; from cancer of the trachea, lung, and bronchus by more than 23 times.¹
- Smoking increases the risk of dying from coronary heart disease among middle-aged men by almost four times.¹

Increased Risk for Death Among Women

- Women who smoke increase their risk of dying from bronchitis and emphysema by 12 times; from cancer of the trachea, lung, and bronchus by more than 12 times.¹
- Between 1960 and 1990, deaths from lung cancer among women increased by more than 500%.⁷
- In 1987, lung cancer surpassed breast cancer to become the leading cause of cancer death among U.S. women.⁸
- In 2000, 67,600 women died from lung cancer.⁸
- During 2010–2014, almost 282,000 women (56,359 women each year) will die from lung cancer.¹
- Smoking increases the risk of dying from coronary heart disease among middle-aged women by almost five times.¹





Death from Specific Diseases

The following table lists the estimated number of smokers aged 35 years and older who die each year from smoking-related diseases.¹

ANNUAL CIGARETTE SMOKING-RELATED MORTALITY IN THE UNITED STATES, 2005–2009

Disease	Male	Female	Total
CANCER			
Lung cancer	74,300	53,400	127,700
Other cancers ^a	26,000	10,000	36,000
Subtotal: Cancer	100,300	63,400	163,700
CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES AND METABOLIC DISEASES			
Coronary heart disease	61,800	37,500	99,300
Other heart disease ^b	13,400	12,100	25,500
Cerebrovascular disease	8,200	7,100	15,300
Other vascular disease ^c	6,000	5,500	11,500
Diabetes mellitus	6,200	2,800	9,000
Subtotal: Cardiovascular and Metabolic	95,600	65,000	160,000
RESPIRATORY DISEASES			
Pneumonia, influenza, tuberculosis	7,800	4,700	12,500
COPD ^d	50,400	50,200	100,600
Subtotal: Respiratory	58,200	54,900	113,100
Total: Cancer, Cardiovascular, Metabolic, Respiratory	254,100	183,300	437,400
PERINATAL CONDITIONS			
Prenatal conditions	346	267	613
Sudden infant death syndrome	236	164	400
Total: Perinatal	582	431	1,013

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