

2010 Annual Report

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Lung Cancer Rates Drop in the West

In a recent Associated Press article, the West is leading a national decline in the rate of new lung cancer cases, with states like California and Nevada accounting for much of the improvement, particularly among women. Smoking rates in the West have long been lower; roughly 90 percent of lung cancer cases are attributed to smoking.

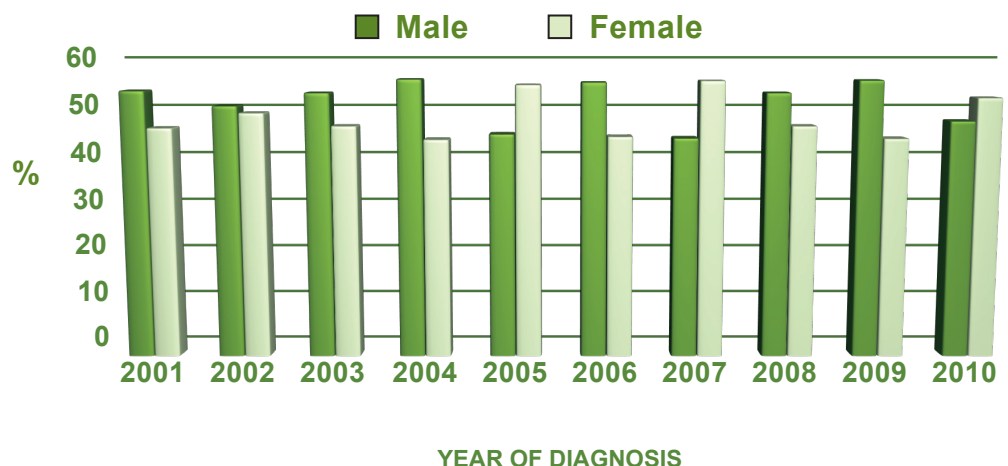
Lung cancer rates for men have been declining for years, but the drop among women is much more recent. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently reported that lung cancer rates for women nationally decreased about 2% from 2006 to 2008, the last year studied. But the rate for women in select Western states fell about 4% in the same period.

Declines among men were similar, including a 4% decline in the West and about a 3% drop nationally. Dr. Tim McAfee, Director of the CDC's Office on Smoking and Health reported that over the past 20 years, lung cancer overtook breast cancer and became the number one cancer killer of women.

Female lung cancer rates did not decline in every state, but six states saw significant drops—California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Texas and Florida. That was enough to pull down the national rate, even though female cancer incidence rose slightly in 14 states. The rate of new lung cancer cases among males dropped in 35 states.

The article goes on to say that lung cancer was something of a medical rarity 100 years ago, but is now one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in the United States and is the form of cancer that kills most people. The CDC report didn't capture all 50 states. Six were left out because the authors were not able to say what was going on with lung cancer rates in those states for the earlier years of the analysis. Five of those states are in the South, where smoking rates and cancer rates tend to be high.

Data from the Blue Mountain Oncology Program (BMOP) shows a 6% decline in newly diagnosed lung cancer cases between 2009 (231 cases) and 2010 (218 cases). For diagnosis year 2010, 52.3% of cases were women and 47.7% were men. In 2009, 44.2% of cases were women and 55.8% were men. The graph below depicts the percentage of newly diagnosed lung cancer cases by year of diagnosis and sex for the last ten years.



2010 Frequency by Site, Sex & AJCC Stage

PRIMARY SITE	#	%	SEX OF PATIENT		AJCC STAGE					
			MALE	FEMALE	0	I	II	III	IV	UNK*
Buccal Cavity & Pharynx	41	2.4	28	13	0	8	10	5	17	1
Esophagus	21	1.3	19	2	0	0	5	6	8	2
Stomach	20	1.2	15	5	0	4	4	3	6	3
Small Intestine	6	0.4	5	1	0	0	1	1	3	1
Colorectum	183	10.9	95	88	7	40	47	54	31	4
Anus, Anal canal, Anorectum	15	0.9	4	11	4	2	3	3	1	2
Liver	20	1.2	14	6	0	7	3	3	4	3
Gallbladder & Biliary Tract	14	0.8	4	10	0	0	2	2	6	4
Pancreas	36	2.2	21	15	0	4	5	4	21	2
Retroperitoneum, Peritoneum & other Digestive Organs	7	0.4	2	5	0	0	0	2	0	5
Nasal Cavity & Sinuses	1	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Larynx	11	0.7	9	2	0	5	0	2	4	0
Lung & Bronchus	216	12.9	103	113	0	20	23	49	120	4
Trachea, Pleura & Other Respiratory System	1	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bones & Joints	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Soft Tissue	6	0.4	4	2	0	2	1	2	0	1
Melanoma of Skin*	79	4.7	44	35	27	35	3	5	5	4
OtherSkin (excluding basal & squamous cell)	4	0.2	2	2	0	2	1	0	1	0
Breast	335	20	1	334	54	135	92	38	12	4
Cervix, Invasive	8	0.5	0	8	0	4	1	2	1	0
Corpus Uteri	35	2.1	0	35	0	20	2	7	2	4
Ovary	19	1.1	0	19	0	5	2	6	4	2
Other Female Genital Sites	8	0.5	0	8	4	1	0	3	0	0
Prostate	160	9.6	160	0	0	21	118	12	7	2
Testis	12	0.7	12	0	0	6	3	2	0	1
Other Male Genital Sites	3	0.2	3	0	1	1	17	1	0	0
Urinary Bladder	114	6.8	93	21	58	24	3	4	7	4
Kidney, Renal Pelvis & Ureter	35	2.1	23	12	0	20	0	3	7	2
Other Urinary Organs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eye	1	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Brain & Other Nervous System	27	1.6	12	15	0	0	5	0	0	27
Thyroid	45	2.7	18	27	0	32	0	4	2	2
Other Endocrine System	3	0.2	1	2	0	0	20	0	0	3
Lymph Nodes (includes extranodal sites of lymphoma)	79	4.7	43	36	0	21	0	16	18	4
Blood System (Leukemia & other hematopoietic diseases)	50	2.7	27	23	0	0	3	0	0	50
Other Ill-Defined & Unknown Primary	61	3.6	36	25	0	1		1	5	51
BMRTR 2010 Cases	1,676	100%	801	875	155	420	374	241	292	194
BMRTR Total %			48%	52%	9%	25%	22%	14%	17%	12%