

Did you know?



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Some vital cancer statistics for women....

Smoking may be on the decline for women; however statistics show that lung cancer is now the leading cause of death from cancer in women.

Statistics from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare¹ have revealed that lung cancer is on the rise. For women, lung cancer overtook breast cancer in 2005 to become for the first time, the biggest cancer killer of women.

There are over 700,000 Australian women who smoke, with the highest rates in the age group 25-34 years (27%). In 2005, there were an estimated 3,435 new cases of cancer and 2,518 deaths in women from cancer that can be attributed to smoking. This represents over 7.7% of new cases and nearly 14.7% of cancer deaths.

The table below shows the percentage of cancers caused by smoking:

Women (%)	77	66	51	46	40	36	21	19	19	11
Cancer type	Lung	Larynx	Mouth and pharynx	Oesophagus	Vulva	Bladder	Kidney-parenchyma	Cervix	Pancreas	Stomach

Source: www.cancerCouncil.com.au²

In recent years, the diagnosis of cancer does not mean an immediate death sentence with many people living a long and productive life after treatment. In fact, findings published on cancer survival showed there was a significant increase in all-cancer relative survival between diagnoses made in 1982-1986 and those made in 1998-2004. For women, the 5-year relative survival increased from 53% to 64%³. But it is necessary to ensure that an individual has adequate resources to meet their medical expenses and other ongoing costs of recuperation.

A risk protection package including term, trauma, total and permanent disability insurance and income protection may cost as little as a cup of coffee per day⁴. This is a small price to pay for the financial security of a woman and her family.

Summary

The statistics show that lung cancer is now the leading cause of death for women, overtaking breast cancer. With this in mind prevention is always better than cure. The importance of ensuring women have sufficient cover will help create peace of mind for themselves and their family.

Important information

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¹ and ³ AIHW - Cancer in Australia Overview 2008

² Scollo, M. and M. Winstanley, Editors, Tobacco in Australia: facts and issues, Melbourne: Quit Victoria, 2008

⁴ Assumes cost of coffee \$3 per day