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RESPIRATORY HEALTH ASSOCIATION℠
of Metropolitan Chicago

Catch Your Breath.®

Women & Lung Cancer

- One in 17 women will develop lung cancer in her lifetime. More than 80,000 American women are affected by lung cancer each year, and more than 70,000 die from it each year. It is the leading cancer killer of women in the U.S.[1]

- Lung cancer incidence rates have been significantly declining among men, while increasing among women. In the past 30 years, the lung cancer incidence rate has decreased by 9% for men, while increasing 143% in females[2].

- Sixty five percent of those that die from lung cancer due to secondhand smoke are women[3].

- The five year survival rate for lung cancer is 15 percent compared to an 88 percent survival rate for breast cancer.[1]

- In 1987, the deaths from lung cancer surpassed deaths from breast cancer,[1] yet 80% U.S. women mistakenly believe that breast cancer is the leading cancer killer among women[4].

- Research indicates that women who smoke have a higher risk of lung cancer than men who smoke of the same age and same history of smoking[5].

- Despite the higher mortality rates, lung cancer research is under funded, compared to other cancer sites. In 2005, approximately $1,825 was spent on research per lung cancer death, compared with $23,474 per breast cancer death, $14,369 per prostate cancer death and $5,216 per colon cancer death[6].

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1 American Cancer Society. *Cancer Facts and Figures 2006.*
2 Ries LAG, Eisner MP, Kosary CL, Hankey BF, Miller BA, Clegg L, Mrriotto A, Feuer EJ, Edwards BK (eds.) SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2002. National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD, http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2002.
3 California Environmental Protection Agency. *Proposed Identification of Environmental Tobacco Smoke as a Toxic Air Contaminant.* California Air Resources Board, Office of Environmental Health hazard Assessment, 2005.
4 American Legacy Foundation. "Women and Lung Cancer Survey"
5 International Early Lung Cancer Action Program Investigators. *Journal of the American Medical Association* 2006; 296: 180-184.
6 Lung Cancer Alliance. *2005 Report Card on Lung Cancer.*

Chicago's Lung Health Leader Since 1906

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Catch Your Breath®: A Women & Lung Health Initiative