



European Commission



Lung cancer burden in EU-27

Lung cancer is the uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells in one or both lungs. These abnormal cells do not carry out the functions of normal lung cells, and they form tumours as they grow. These tumours interfere with the lungs' function of providing oxygen to the body via the blood. Lung cancer is one of the cancers caused by tobacco smoking, and second-hand smoke exposure increases lung cancer risk in never smokers.

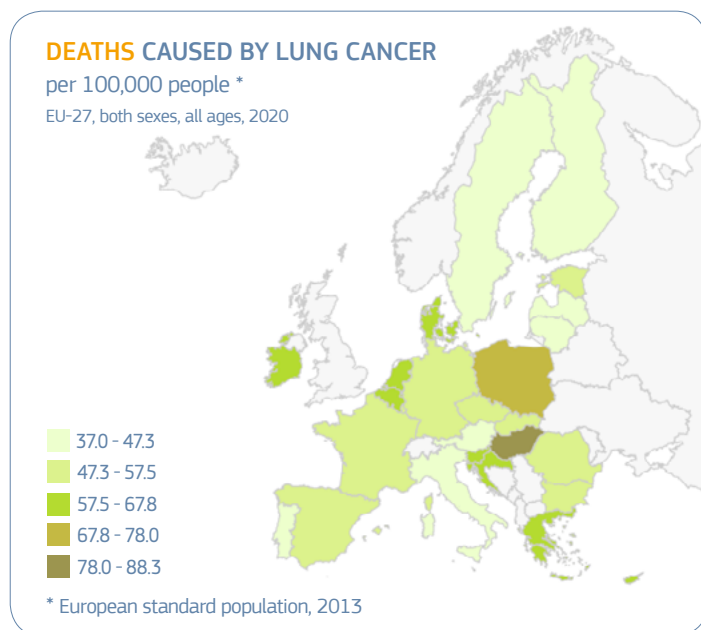
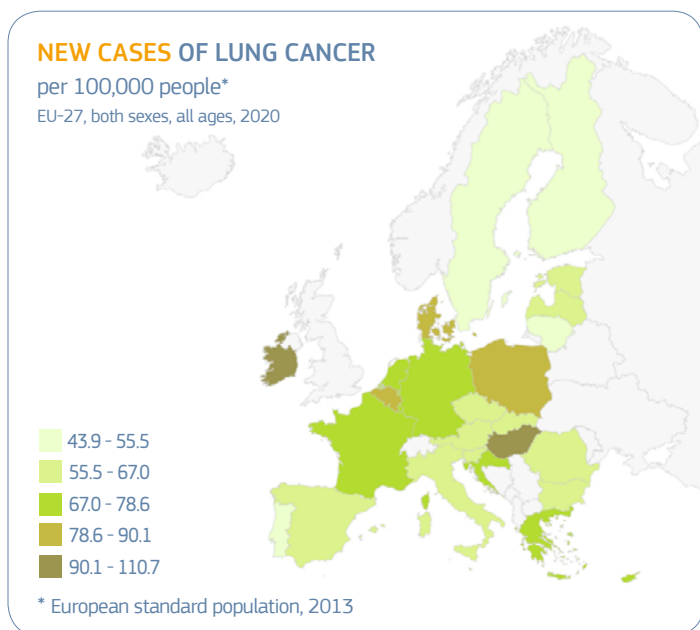
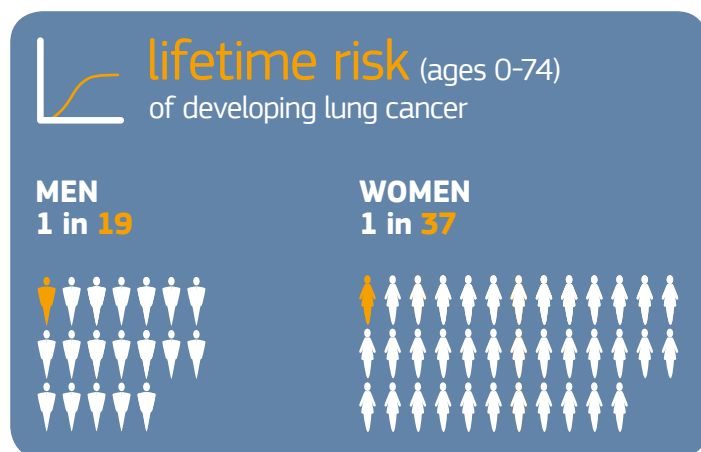
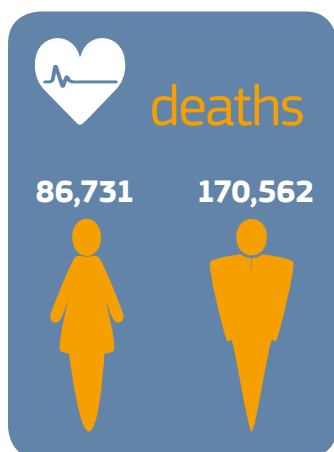
It is estimated that, in EU-27 countries in 2020, lung cancer accounted for 11.9% of all new cancer diagnoses (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers) and 20.4% of all deaths due to cancer. That made it the fourth most frequently occurring cancer (after prostate, breast, and colorectal cancers) and the leading cause of cancer death.

Source: ECIS – European Cancer Information System

<https://ecis.jrc.ec.europa.eu>, accessed 15/01/2021

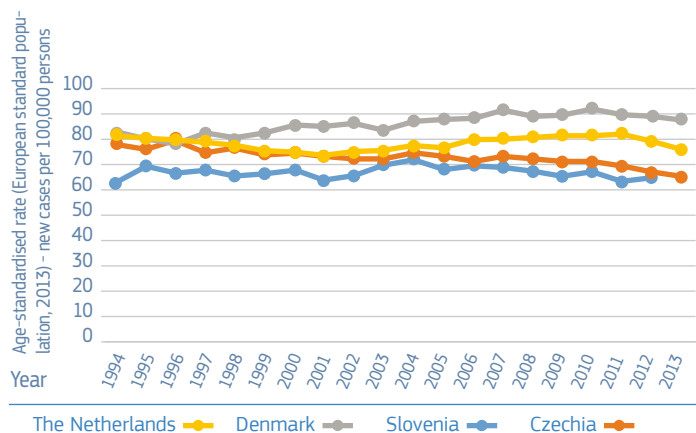
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2020 new cases (incidence) and deaths (mortality) estimates

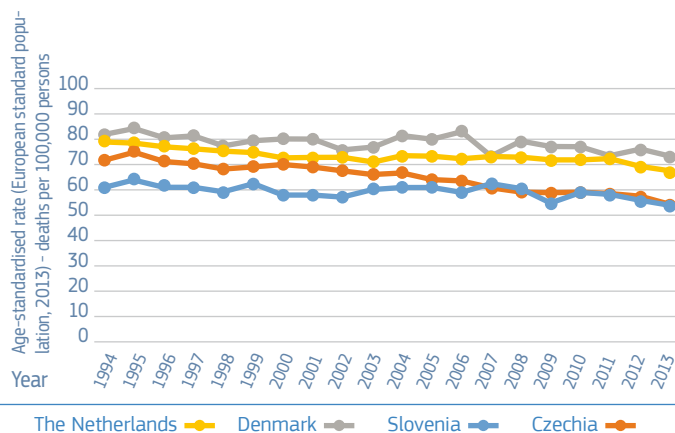


TEMPORAL TRENDS IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

NEW CASES OF LUNG CANCER – all ages, per 100,000 persons



DEATHS CAUSED BY LUNG CANCER – all ages, per 100,000 persons

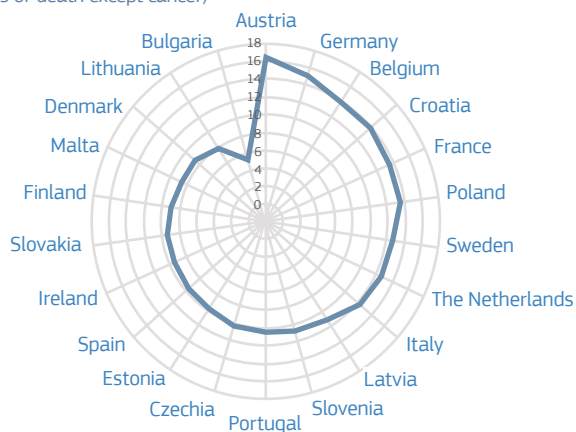


The examples (one from each European region: Central and Eastern, Northern, Southern, Western) are selected from available incidence and mortality time series of at least 20 years, from the ECIS web application archive (<https://ecis.jrc.ec.europa.eu>), complemented with the official mortality statistics from EUROSTAT for Slovenia.

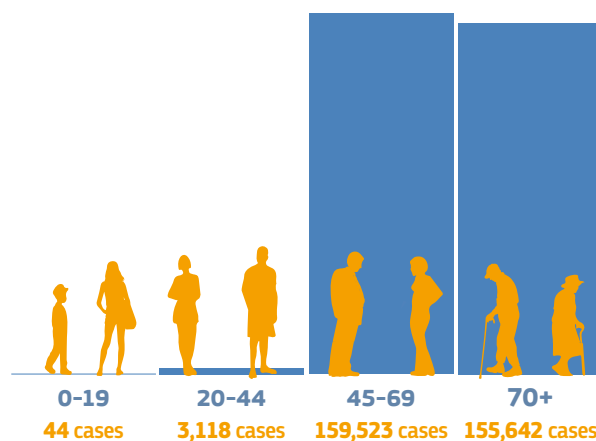
LUNG CANCER SURVIVAL

Ages >15, cancers diagnosed in 2000-2007

Percentage of people who survived at least 5 years after diagnosis (in absence of other causes of death except cancer)



ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTION OF NEW CASES OF LUNG CANCER IN 2020 – BY AGE GROUP



HIGHLIGHTS

- Lung cancer is the second most diagnosed cancer in men, after prostate cancer, and the third one in women, after breast and colorectal cancers. It is the first cause of cancer death in men and the second one in women, after breast cancer.
- Estimated lung cancer incidence and mortality rates in 2020 vary two-fold across EU-27.
- Lung cancer incidence and mortality rates have tended to decrease in many EU countries, particularly among men. These trends can mainly be attributed to declining per capita cigarette consumption resulting from smoking prevention activities.
- The five-year survival of lung cancer patients diagnosed in 2000-2007 is highest in Western and lowest in some countries of Eastern Europe. This in part reflects variations in cancer management and treatment.

Grateful acknowledgement is given to the European cancer registries as the data source for the indicators reported in the **European Cancer Information System (ECIS)**.

This factsheet is part of a series that reports information from ECIS for all cancer sites.

For details, or to find other cancer factsheets, please visit: <https://ecis.jrc.ec.europa.eu> or scan this QR code:



<https://cancer-code-europe.iarc.fr>



In collaboration with IARC, IACR, and EUROCORE