

TOBACCO-ATTRIBUTABLE MORTALITY

Quick Facts

- An estimated three million people die from tobacco-related diseases worldwide each year.¹
- Researchers estimate that the global death rate will rise to 10 million per year within 30 to 40 years.²
- Tobacco causes one in four deaths in developed countries, one in eight deaths in developing countries, and one in six deaths worldwide.³
- Smoking is the leading cause of preventable illness, disability and death in Canada.⁴
- An estimated 47,581 Canadians died in 1998 from tobacco-related diseases, an increase of 24% (9,224 deaths) since 1989.⁵
- It was estimated that approximately 3,400 Albertans die each year from tobacco-related diseases.⁶
- Smoking kills more people in this country than AIDS, motor vehicle collisions, murder, suicide and illicit drug use combined.⁴
- Half of all regular smokers will eventually be killed by their habit, and most of these deaths are premature.²
- In 2003, lung cancer continues to be the leading cause of cancer death amongst Canadian men and women.^{7,8,9}

- Researchers estimate that, on average, smokers lose about 15 years of their lives.¹⁰
- Potential years of life lost (PYLL) in Canada because of smoking are estimated at 500,000 each year, with 35,000 of these in Alberta.¹¹
- Between 1988 and 1997, fires caused by smokers' materials led to 870 deaths in Canada and 88 deaths in Alberta.¹²
- From 1997 to 2001, there were 2,310 fires caused by smokers' materials in Alberta, resulting in 284 injuries, 40 deaths and an estimated \$46 million in property damage.¹³
- Smokers can reduce their risk of premature death by quitting.^{14, 15, 16, 17}
- On average, people who quit smoking before the age of 50 cut their risk of premature death by half.¹⁴