

PEI Lung Cancer Trends Report Summary

KEY MESSAGES

- The PEI Cancer Registry in collaboration with the Cancer Treatment Centre, Health PEI, and the PEI Chief Public Health Office has produced a statistical report about the state of lung cancer in PEI.
- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in PEI and the second most frequently diagnosed cancer in Island men and women.
- Smoking and exposure to tobacco smoke (secondhand smoke) are the most significant risk factors for lung cancer. Approximately 80-90% of all lung cancers are caused by smoking.
- On average, over 120 people are diagnosed with lung cancer each year in PEI.
- The risk of lung cancer has not changed significantly in women over the last 20 years. However, the risk has been decreasing in PEI men during the same time period which has been attributed to decreasing smoking rates in men.
- Lung cancer is rare in Islanders younger than 50 years. More than half of all lung cancer cases are in Islanders 70 years of age and older.
- Approximately 75% of cases of lung cancer are diagnosed at a late stage (stages III and IV). Finding cancer at an early stage will improve survival.
- Over 100 Islanders a year die from lung cancer.
- 5-year relative survival is highest in the youngest age group (50-59 years old) at 20% and lowest in the oldest age group (80+ years old) at 7%.
- Detecting lung cancer at its earliest stages increases the survival rate. The 5-year relative survival rate for those diagnosed at stage I is 46% while at stage IV is 3%.
- Earlier diagnosis will improve survival while reduction of risk factors is extremely important in preventing the disease.
- Daily smoking rates in PEI are higher than Canada.
- To reduce the risk of lung cancer, it is important to never start smoking and for current smokers to quit. Smoking cessation, even after years of smoking, will still reduce the risk of developing lung cancer.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

- The PEI Lung Cancer Action Group was established and their first priority was to identify ways to arrive at an earlier diagnosis of lung cancer to improve patient outcomes.
- The Ottawa Model for Smoking Cessation (OMSC) has been adopted by Health PEI since 2012, and is used in both acute care and primary care settings. In November 2016, an OMSC-based tobacco cessation and relapse prevention program was implemented at the Prince Edward Island Cancer Treatment Centre.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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