

# LUNG CANCER FACTS: MILITARY MEN & WOMEN



“LUNG CANCER IS AN URGENT PRIORITY AMONG VETERANS. NOT ONLY IS THE INCIDENCE HIGHER, BUT THE SURVIVAL IS LOWER THAN IN CIVILIAN POPULATIONS.” (i)

## SMOKING

- 32% of active duty personnel vs. 20% of civilians (ii)
- Prevalence of smoking 50% higher in those who have been deployed (ii)
- Cigarettes free in K and C rations until 1976 and still sold at reduced prices
- Damaged cells can take decades to develop into lung cancer (iii)

## EXPOSURE

- Agent Orange, radon, asbestos, beryllium, chromium, diesel exhaust, pesticides, pollutants and particulate matter from burn pits, oil well fires, destruction of chemical weapons (iv)
- Lung cancer deemed service-connected for in theatre Vietnam veterans
- 2010 President’s Cancer Advisory Panel links 20 agents to lung cancer (v)
- Higher rates of lung cancer in Gulf War veterans in 2010 study and 2014 update (vi, vii)

**SCREENING WITH CT SCANS BEFORE SYMPTOMS BECOME EVIDENT IS THE ONLY PROVEN METHOD TO DETECT LUNG CANCER AT ITS EARLIEST AND MOST TREATABLE STAGE. TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR.**

(i) Campling BG, Hwang WT, Zhang J, et al. A Population-based Study of Lung Carcinoma in Pennsylvania: Comparison of Veterans Administration and Civilian Populations. *Cancer*. 2005; 104(4)

(ii) IOM (Institute of Medicine). 2009. *Combating Tobacco Use in Military and Veteran Populations*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press

(iii) Spatial and temporal diversity in genomic instability processes defines lung cancer evolution Elza C. de Bruin, PhD et al, *Science* 10 October 2014

(iv) US Department of Veterans Affairs, Public Health: Gulf War Exposures, <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/sources/index.asp>

(v) Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk, President’s Cancer Panel, Annual Report: [http://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/pcp/annualReports/pcp08-09rpt/PCP\\_Report\\_08-09\\_508.pdf](http://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/pcp/annualReports/pcp08-09rpt/PCP_Report_08-09_508.pdf)

(vi) Investigating the Risk of Cancer in 1990–1991 US Gulf War Veterans, Young et al, *Ann Epidemiol* 2010;20:265–272, <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1202&context=publichealthresources>

(vii) Gulf War Illness and the Health of Gulf War Veterans: Research Update and Recommendations, 2009–2013, Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses, <http://www.bu.edu/sph/files/2014/04/RAC2014.pdf>

## SNAPSHOT OF PEOPLE WITH LUNG CANCER (VII)

17.9%  
NEVER  
SMOKED

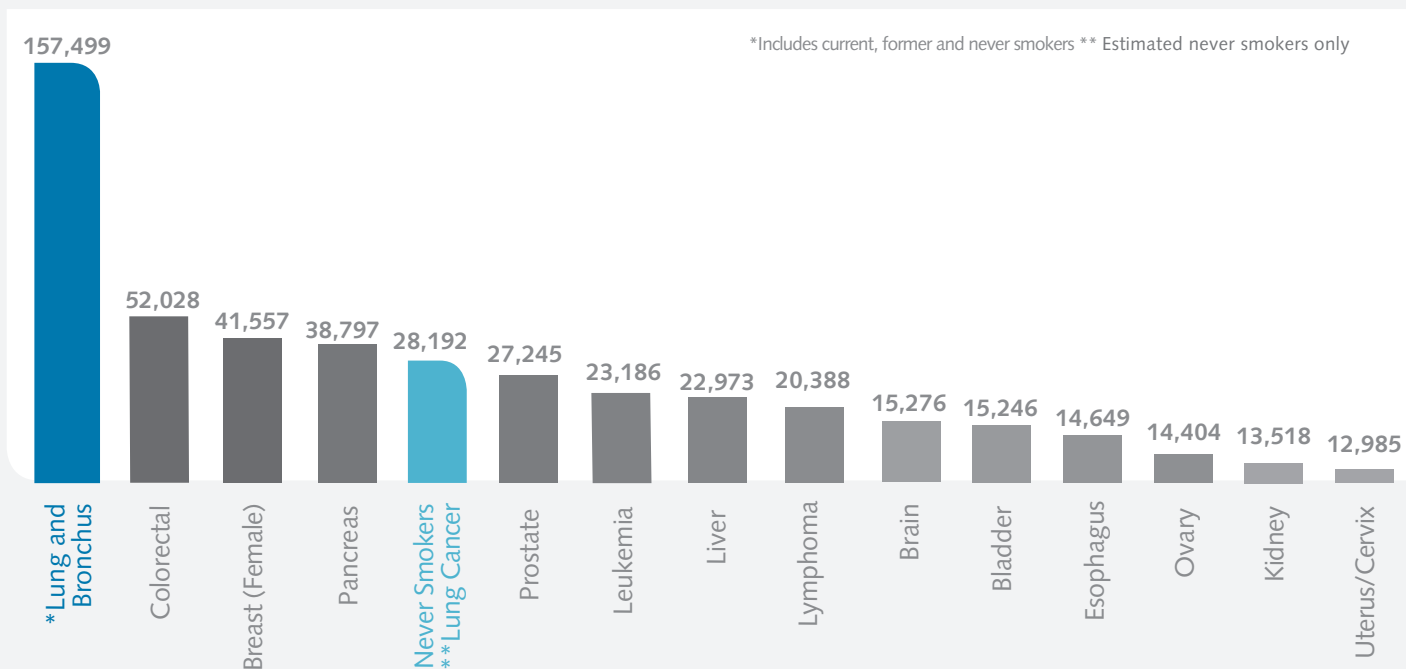
60%  
FORMER  
SMOKERS

20.9%  
CURRENT  
SMOKERS

# LUNG CANCER FACTS



## LUNG CANCER IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF CANCER DEATH (VI)



(vi) Centers for Disease Control and Detection: Deaths: National Vital Statistics Reports, Final Data for 2012. NVSR Volume 63, Number 9. 85 pp. (PHS) 2014 -1120, [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr63/nvsr63\\_09.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr63/nvsr63_09.pdf)

(vii) Prevalence Survey, Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, "Cigarette Smoking Among Adults -United States, 2006", November 9,2007/56(44): 1157-1161, Table 2