

Quick Global Cancer Facts

- Cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide: it accounted for 7.9 million deaths (around 13 percent of all deaths) in 2007.
- Lung, stomach, liver, colon and breast cancer cause the most cancer deaths each year globally.
- The most frequent types of cancer differ between men and women.
- About 30 percent of cancer deaths can be prevented.
- Tobacco use is the single most important risk factor for cancer.
- Cancer arises from a change in one single cell. The change may be started by external agents and inherited genetic factors.
- About 72 percent of all cancer deaths in 2007 occurred in low- and middle-income countries.

Source: World Health Organization