

# Women's lung cancer incidence rates became equal to men's in Navarra young population



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## Introduction

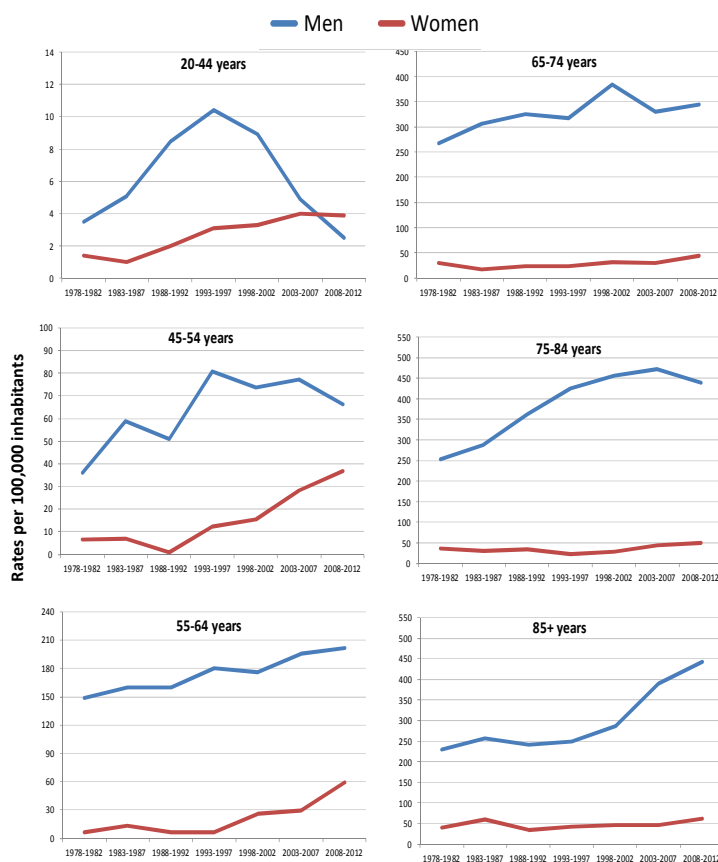
- Lung cancer is considered a sentinel event of the smoking health consequences, as it is the cancer most associated with cigarette smoking.
- In addition to studying the prevalence of smoking among young people, the study of the incidence of lung cancer among young adults can be useful for estimating the future burden of deaths attributable to tobacco and also for assessing the impact of smoking control programs.
- **Aim:** to analyze the recent trends in the incidence of lung cancer by age and sex in Navarra.

## Methods

The incidence rates of lung cancer among men and women in 1998–2012 were analyzed in six age groups. The European standard population was used to calculate the adjusted rates. Incidence rates in 2008–2012 and 1998–2002 were compared. Rates are presented by 100,000 inhabitants.

## Results

### Incidence rates of lung cancer by sex and age group in 1978–2012 in Navarra



- The overall incidence of lung cancer in 2008–2012 was four times higher in men than in women, 74 and 18, respectively.
- In the same period, rates were higher among men than women in all age groups except in the group of 20-44 (2.5 and 3.8 respectively).
- In 2008–2012 the incidence rates of lung cancer increased in all age groups among women compared to 1998–2002.
- The highest absolute and relative increases were observed in the age groups of 45-54 and 55-64, from 15.5 to 36.7 and from 26.1 to 59.0, respectively (increases of 137% and 126%).
- Among men aged 20-44, rates fell from 8.9 to 2.3 (72%) while they increased 55% among those aged  $\geq 85$  years, from 286 in 1998-2002 to 443 in 2008–2012.

## Conclusions

In the population under 45 years of age, differences in the incidence of lung cancer between men and women have narrowed resulting in similar incidence in both sexes. Tobacco prevention policies should be reinforced and should continue to be a priority in the coming years to decrease the health burden caused by the tobacco epidemic.