Lung cancer is the most common cancer in Nevada and kills more Nevadans than any other cancer. In 2009, there were 1,683 new lung cancer cases and 1,320 lung cancer deaths in Nevada. Male Nevada residents accounted for 832 new cases and 697 deaths, while female Nevada residents accounted for 851 new cases and 623 deaths.

Lung cancers are cancers that originate in the lungs. However, other types of cancers may spread to the lungs. These are called secondary lung cancers because they originated elsewhere.¹

Lung cancers usually do not manifest symptoms until the cancer is already advanced. Common symptoms are persistent coughing, chest pain, shortness of breath, wheezing, coughing up blood, fatigue, and unexplained weight loss.¹

Although lung cancer is most commonly associated with external factors, genetic factors can also contribute to lung cancer. Risk factors for lung cancer include: smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke; environmental carcinogens around the home or work (radon gas, asbestos, uranium, arsenic, and certain petroleum and gasoline products); and genetic predisposition (a family history of lung cancer).¹
Nevada’s lung cancer rates are decreasing. From 2000 to 2009, the overall age-adjusted lung cancer incidence rate dropped by 23.0% and the overall age-adjusted lung cancer mortality rate dropped by 15.2%. However, lung cancer rates are not going down for all groups.

Non-Hispanic Whites and non-Hispanic Blacks had the greatest drop in lung cancer incidence and mortality from 2000 to 2009, but still have higher rates than Nevada’s Asians and Hispanics. Cancer related deaths rates among Asians and Hispanics, while still lower than those of other race/ethnic groups, increased from 2000 to 2009.

For additional resources regarding lung cancer or help locating lung cancer services near you, contact a local office of the American Lung Association (ALA):

- Reno Office: 10615 Double R Blvd Reno, NV 89521 (775) 829-LUNG
- Las Vegas Office: 3552 W Cheyenne Ave Ste 130 North Las Vegas, NV 89032 (702) 431-6333
- www.lungnevada.org/

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. ALA fights lung disease in all its forms, with special emphasis on asthma, tobacco control, and environmental health.

Requests for additional information can be made to:
Kyra Morgan, Biostatistician II, Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology, Nevada Central Cancer Registry
kmorgan@health.nv.gov | (775) 684-5965

Technical Notes:
- Data are from the Nevada Central Cancer Registry.
- The International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (ICD-O) Codes are used to code site (topography) and histology of neoplasms, usually obtained from a pathology report.
- Following the criteria of the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR), only invasive cases are included in this report.
- Due to small counts, other race/ethnic groups are not reported because they don’t meet standards for statistical reliability or confidentiality.

2. CA Cancer J Clin 2012; 00:000-00. ©2012 American Cancer Society. [accessed 2012 Jan 20].