

Cancer in Global Perspective

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**Cancer is a Critical
Public Health Issue**

Cancer Deaths Worldwide

Year 2000: Cancer killed more than

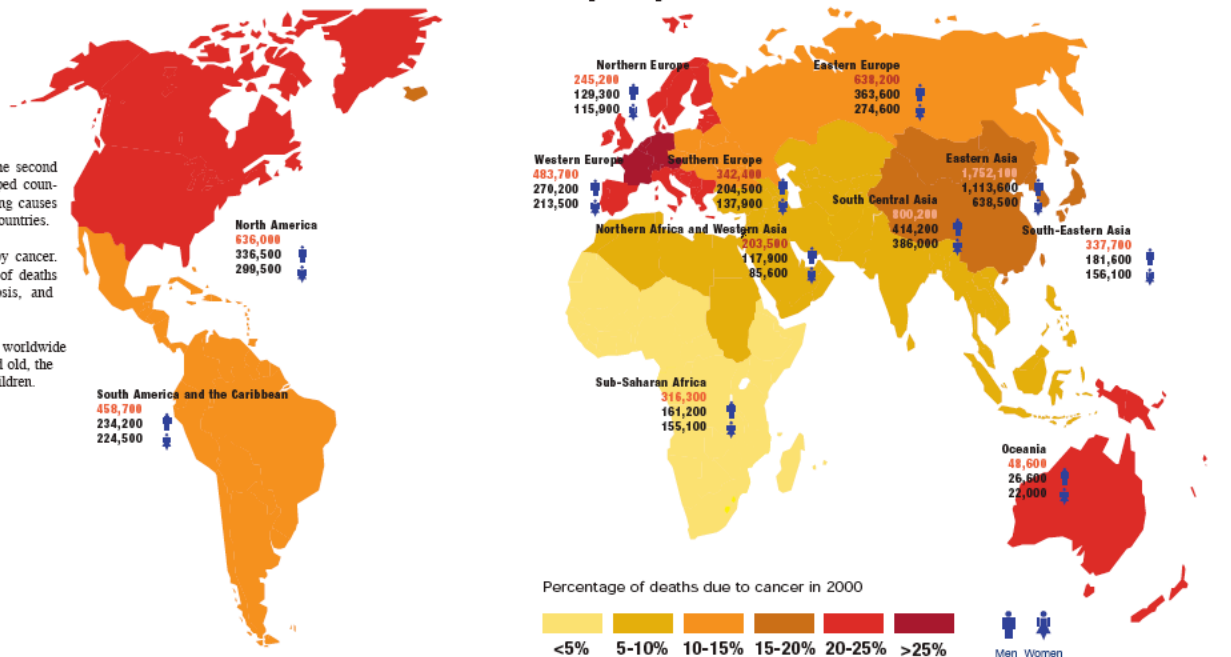
6.2 million people around the world

Cancer deaths

Cancer knows no borders. It is the second leading cause of death in developed countries and is among the three leading causes of death for adults in developing countries.

12.6% of all deaths are caused by cancer. That's more than the percentage of deaths caused by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria put together.

Cancer is a public health problem worldwide. It affects all people: the young and old, the rich and poor, men, women, and children.



Globocan 2000 IARC, WHO 2003

Childhood Cancer

- In developed world, 70% of children are now cured of cancer
- In developing world, at least 80% of children with cancer die, most without treatment

Future Cancer Crisis?

By **2020**, cancer could kill

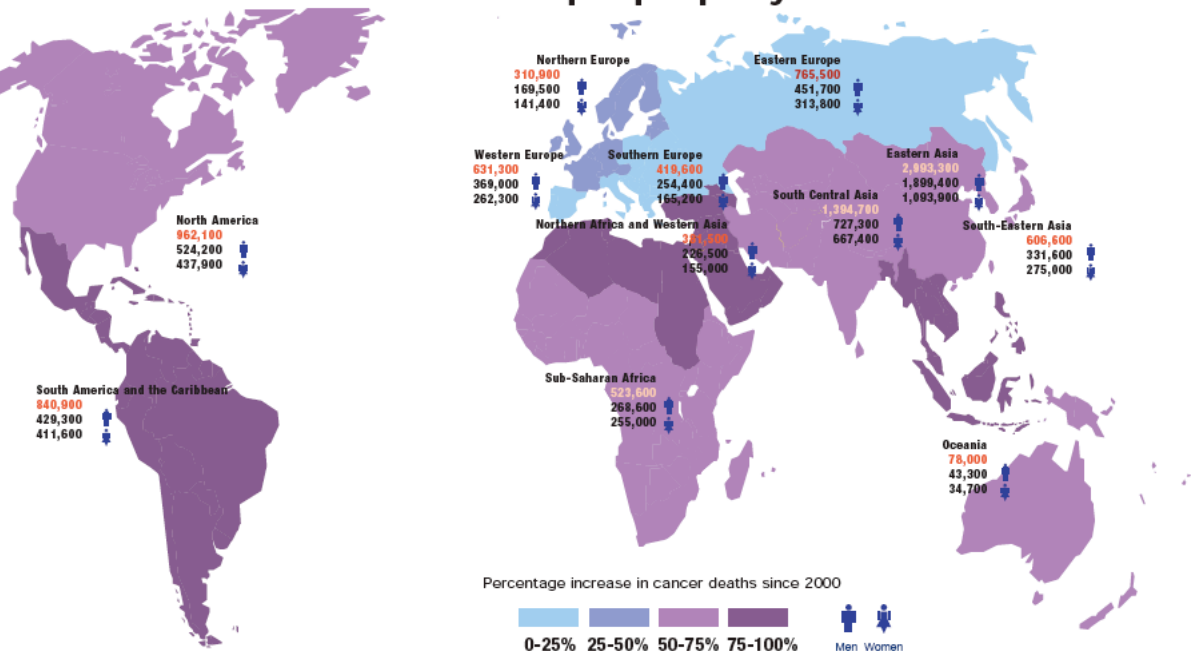
10 million

people per year unless we act

Trends

The biggest rates of increase are in developing and newly industrialized countries.

The relative increase is smallest in some Western countries where populations are rejecting tobacco and adopting healthier lifestyles.

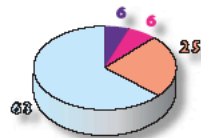


Causes of Cancer

43% of cancer deaths
are due to **tobacco**,
diet and **infection**.

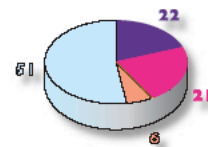
Sub-Saharan Africa

Total: **37%**



Europe (Northern, Southern and Western)

Total: **49%**



■ tobacco ■ diet ■ infection ■ other

From a global perspective, there is strong justification for focusing cancer prevention activities on these three main cancer-causing factors.

Key Issues of Global Ethics

- Access to treatment
- Clinical trials
- Tobacco control
- Biotechnology: Umbilical Cord
Blood Stem Cells

Clinical Trials

- Outsourced to developing countries to lower costs & possibly reduce oversight
- Need for patient protections
- Declaration of Helsinki (1964) upholds right of participants in research studies to continuing health care
- World Medical Association currently reviewing DH

Global Clinical Trials

- Clinical trials have become a worldwide business.
- Example

CenterWatch
Clinical Trials Listing Service™

The Information Source
for the
Clinical Trials Industry



CenterWatch
Bookstore



Tell A Friend
About CW



CW
WORLD

Access To Treatment

- Need for affordable medicines
- Understanding international trade agreements & patent laws
 - World Trade Organization & Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
 - Doha Declaration: public health priorities

Who owns my polio vaccine? The people! Could you patent the sun?

Jonas Salk

Drug Prices

- Pharma claims on drug pricing to support R&D unfounded
 - Research shows more spent on drug marketing
 - Common Cause, Families USA, Merrill Goozner
- Case of Glivec: unique cancer therapy-unique global price
- Internet became window on patient assistance program
- Lesson: drug donation programs not the answer

WHO Model List of Essential Medicines

- Need to include drugs for cancer therapy in priority list
- Price is factor for inclusion: drugs to treat cancer excluded
- Issue starting to be discussed in international childhood cancer field
- Learn from HIV/AIDS community

Pharma influences

- Awareness: relation to price of drugs
- Physicians & other health professionals
- Patient groups
- Ethical dilemmas

Tobacco Control

- Use of tobacco is single greatest cause of human mortality worldwide
- Tobacco smoking is chief known cause of global cancer deaths

WHO World Cancer Report, pp. 22-23.

Shock Tactics to Snuff Out Smoking

- Public health campaigns worldwide focus on the perils of smoking
- Canada targets teens



Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)

- Needs signatures & ratification
- US & Germany have not signed
- Lobby efforts by tobacco companies to undermine treaty
- Sign-on letter to Pres. Bush on FCTC

Umbilical Cord Blood Stem Cells

- Hope or hype?
- Potential of CBSCT for unrelated BMTs
- Public vs. private cord blood banking
- Potential for exploitation

Cord Blood Banking in Peru?

- Expectant parents of child with leukemia request advice
- 3 cord blood “banks” in Lima
- Reality: not CB banks, but branch offices of foreign firms
- Unrelated BMTs not done in Peru, related BMTs quite rare
- So why presence of CB industry?

CB Banking Consumer Concerns

- Need for objective, accurate information
- American Academy of Pediatrics Position
- Who protects mothers, babies, and recipients?
- Politics & profits
- Does the USA need a separate NCBR?

US Cancer Issues Are Global Issues Too

- Cancer disparities are a social justice issue
- Everywhere in the world, cancer disparities mean more suffering & more deaths
- In the USA resources exist; will to make them available is needed!

Cancer Health Disparities

“The unequal burden of disease in our society is not just a scientific and medical challenge. It also represents a moral and ethical dilemma for our Nation”

Making Cancer Health Disparities History,
Report of the Trans-HHS Cancer health disparities
Progress Review Group, March, 2004

Challenge To Cancer Community

- Public & private sector services need to want to develop cultural competency
- Laws & guidelines need to be accompanied by inclusive attitudes
- Examples
- Working towards culturally & linguistically appropriate services

Cancer Care For Noncitizens in the USA

- Different issues for patients residing in or out of the country
- Low-income, uninsured resident noncitizens find very limited help
- Welfare reform & bad economy have greatly reduced public programs and access to them
- Issues of immigration status
- Programs different in every state

Alien Emergency Medicaid Program

- Provisions often misunderstood-not just for undocumented
- Care must be provided for conditions or diseases that threaten life
- Includes treatments that will prevent the state of emergency from recurring
- Cancers requiring therapy by surgery, radiation, and/or chemotherapy may be included

Therapy Options For International Patients?

- Financial, logistical & legal realities
- Cross-cultural psychosocial factors
- Clinical trials?
- Payment plans and fee adjustments?
- Seek remote consults & other sources of medicines
- Caveat on fundraising campaigns
- Therapy in other countries

The good we secure for ourselves is precarious
and uncertain until it is secured for all of us
and incorporated into our common life.

Jane Addams

Who's Who In International Cancer Control

- WHO World Health Organization
- UICC International Union Against Cancer
- Alliance for Global Cancer Control
- National Institutes of Health-USA
- International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research
- World Cancer Research Fund

Key US-based Global Cancer Venues

- National Cancer Institute
 - Office of International Affairs
 - President's Cancer Panel
- NIH Fogarty International Center
- St. Jude CRH International Outreach Program
- Action on Smoking & Health
- American Cancer Society International Program

Who's Who In Pediatric Oncology

- SIOP International Society of Pediatric Oncology
- ICCCCPO International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organizations
- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- NCI Ped-Onc Branch



International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organizations

Founded 1994, Valencia, Spain

Where do we go from here?

- Oncology social workers, individually and in groups, can
 - lay an important role in cancer policy & practice
 - build global collaborations & training opportunities
 - promote culturally & linguistically appropriate services
 - participate in international cancer programs

Power of the Internet

- Computers & the internet serve as tools to help patients worldwide get disease & treatment information, and collaborate for better care.



Photo from: asiaone.com

Grassroots Action Examples

- In WA state, cancer restored as covered under AEMP, March, 2004
- European ICCCPO groups “twin” with developing countries, e.g. Italy-Nicaragua
- JDR: drug price work in Peru & Philippines; contribute content to Spanish childhood cancer website; end-of-life care planning in Brazil; provide English translations for articles & web sites; member of discussion lists

Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

Save The Date

- UICC World Cancer Conference
- 9-13 July 2006
- Washington, D.C.



A lot of people are waiting for Martin Luther King or Mahatma Gandhi to come back—but they are gone. We are it. It is up to us. It is up to you.

Marian Wright Edelman