

Lung Cancer Incidence

Figure 11a: Age Standardized Lung Cancer Incidence Rate¹, by Income², Males, Toronto, 1999 - 2003 Combined

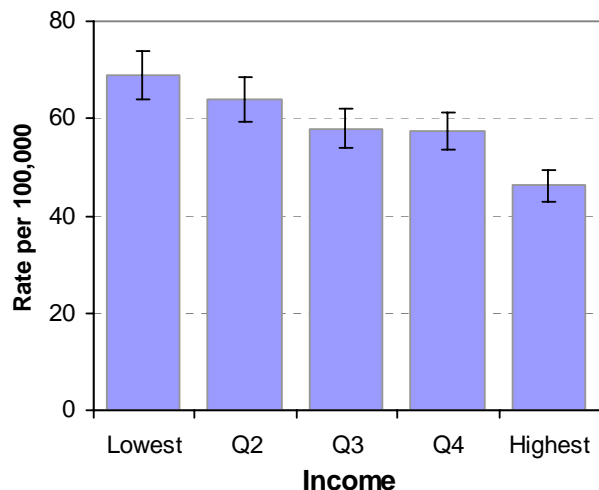
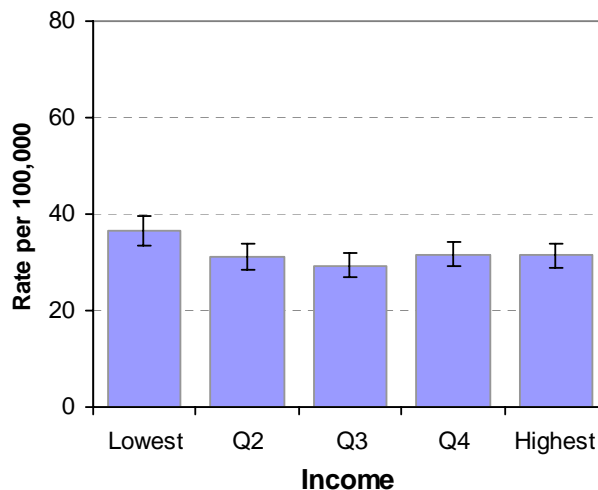


Figure 11b: Age Standardized Lung Cancer Incidence Rate¹, by Income², Females, Toronto, 1999 - 2003 Combined



¹ Age standardized to the 1991 Canadian population. Rate is per 100,000 population per year.

² Income is the population quintile by proportion of the population below the LICO in census tracts.

Error bars (I) denote 95% confidence intervals.

Source: Cancer Care Ontario, Ontario Cancer Registry, 1999-2003, August 2008.

Lung cancer is among the most common form of cancers in Canada and Toronto and the leading cause of cancer deaths. At least 80% of new lung cancer cases among women and 90% among men are attributable to cigarette smoking²⁹ and thus are preventable. The overall age standardized lung cancer rate was 59 per 100,000 per year for males and 33 per 100,000 per year among females in Toronto.

There was a gradient in lung cancer incidence rates for males but not for females across income quintiles in Toronto. Males in the lowest income quintile (Q1) had a rate significantly higher than income quintiles 3, 4, and 5. The highest lung cancer incidence rate for males (69 per 100,000) was in the lowest income quintile with a step-wise decrease in rates to 46 per 100,000. For females, the lowest income quintile had the highest rate (36 per 100,000), however quintile 3 had the lowest rate (29 per 100,000).

The absolute difference in lung cancer incidence rates was 23 per 100,000 for males in the lowest income quintile compared to the highest income quintile. The difference for females was 5 per 100,000. In relative terms, the lung cancer incidence rate in quintile 1 compared to quintile 5 was 1.5 times higher for males and 1.2 times higher for females.

If all males had the lung cancer incidence of the highest income quintile (Q5), there would be 150 or 20% fewer new cases of lung cancer per year in Toronto.

Across all quintiles for both males and females, the lung cancer incidence rates in Toronto were lower than the overall rate for the rest of Ontario.