



04.02.2016 - Each year, WHO and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) support the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) to promote ways to ease the global burden of cancer.

World Cancer Day aims to unite everyone in the fight against cancer in the hope of saving millions of preventable deaths each year by raising awareness about the disease, and pressing governments and individuals across the world to take action.

World Cancer Day has special impetus this year thanks to the recent adoption of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), which aims to usher in a life of dignity for all people.

About one third of cancers can be prevented by avoiding exposure to common risk factors, such as tobacco smoke. In addition, a significant proportion of cancers can be cured by surgery, radiotherapy or chemotherapy, especially if they are detected early.

Cancer is the uncontrolled growth and spread of cells. It can affect almost any part of the body.

The growths often invade surrounding tissue and can metastasize to distant sites.

- Currently, 8.2 million people die from cancer worldwide every year, out of which, 4 million people die prematurely (aged 30 to 69 years)
- Lung, stomach, liver, colon and breast cancer cause the most cancer deaths each year
- **About 30% of cancer deaths are due to the five leading behavioral and dietary risks: high body mass index, low fruit and vegetable intake, lack of physical activity, tobacco use, alcohol use**
- 25% of all deaths in the EU are caused by cancer
- About 70% of all cancer deaths in 2008 occurred in low- and middle-income countries
- Deaths from cancer worldwide are projected to continue rising, with an estimated 13.1 million

Support [#WorldCancerDay](#) on social media with [#WeCanICan](#) .

UNRIC's Related Links:

- [World Cancer Day 2016](#)
- [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
- [Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [Eurostat: World Cancer Day](#)

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