

DISEASES: WHAT WE KNOW VS. WHAT SOME THINK

LUNG CANCER AND COPD:



Majority of COPD and lung cancer is caused by tobacco smoke; however, many people who have quit smoking or have never smoked develop these diseases. Radon or occupational factors can result in lung cancer. Radon - a colourless odourless

gas - is the leading cause of lung cancer for those who do not smoke. Because public awareness of the harms associated with smoking is high and the knowledge about nicotine addiction is low, many people with lung cancer and COPD say they feel blamed for their disease.

As you will see in this report, this blame has direct effects on the diagnosis and feelings of isolation.

ASTHMA:

A reported 2.4 million Canadians are living with asthma. Asthma is a serious chronic lung disease mainly represented by inflammation of the airways in the lungs. It is often accompanied by wheezing, tightness in the chest and/or coughing - aspects that vary over time. Though there is no cure for asthma, with proper treatment, people living with asthma can lead normal and active lives. Despite its prevalence, asthma still struggles with a number of misconceptions and stigma surrounding it.

In earlier research conducted by the Lung Association, we found that many people living with asthma do not have their disease under control and do not take it seriously. This resulted in missed school, work, and other activities. Four in 10 (40%) Canadians with asthma believe a barrier towards improving asthma care is the perceived seriousness of asthma . The findings identified barriers to proper asthma control, including perceptions about the seriousness of asthma, as well as behavioural and financial considerations. ⁱⁱ

Our survey complemented these results.

