

Do women who smoke like men die like men?

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Smoking still kills more men than women, because men started smoking substantial numbers of cigarettes long before women did.

But, because so many men have now quit, male death rates from smoking are decreasing in many European countries where female death rates from smoking are still increasing.

Taking men and women together, smoking causes about 0.7 million deaths per year in the 27 countries of the present European Union, including 0.3 million deaths per year before age 70 (more than one of five of all deaths before age 70). Those killed by tobacco before age 70 lose, on average, about 23 years of life (and those killed by tobacco at older ages lose, on average, about 8 years).

Sir Richard Peto, professor of medical statistics at the University of Oxford, UK, said "In Western [Europe](#) tobacco causes more premature deaths than anything else does, and among both men and women about a quarter of those who smoke throughout adult life will be killed by [tobacco](#) before they are old, unless they can manage to stop smoking."

Note: Estimates of the mortality from [smoking](#) in each separate developed country can be found on www.deathsfromsmoking.net (click on "Country", and then under the country's name choose either "pdf" or "ppt").

Source: European Society of Cardiology ([news](#) : [web](#))

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