Limiting carcinogenic exposures in the environment and in the workplace provides an opportunity to reduce the cancer burden, particularly for workers with unacceptably high exposures.

**ENVIRONMENTAL & OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES**

Outdoor air pollution causes between 6 and 8 million premature deaths from lung cancer and other diseases each year. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified outdoor air pollution and the particulate matter in outdoor air pollution as known human carcinogens. Outdoor air pollution levels are particularly high in rapidly growing cities in low- and middle-income countries. Diesel exhaust, also classified as a lung carcinogen by IARC, contributes to outdoor air pollution and is also an occupational lung carcinogen.

Indoor air pollution from use of solid fuel (e.g., wood, other biomass, and coal) is estimated to cause about 3.8 million deaths, including about 185,000 lung cancer deaths, each year in low- and middle-income countries. Globally, the number of people cooking with solid fuels has declined, but populations in less-developed countries continue to be exposed to high levels of household air pollution.

Indoor smoke emissions from coal or charcoal have been found in parts of China, Bangladesh, and some countries in Central and South America. Some predominantly occupational exposures, such as asbestos and arsenic, may also occur in the general population, albeit at lower levels.

**OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES**

Numerous substances are known to cause cancer in workers. Due to the intensity and/or duration of these exposures, the cancer burden can be relatively high among those workers exposed.

Exposure to radon is probably the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and Europe. Radon gas forms from the radioactive decay of uranium, found at differing concentrations in soil and rock throughout the world. While the general population is exposed primarily from radon gas entering homes from the soil, exposure to high levels of radon can also occur when the gas is trapped in underground mines.

Populations consuming high levels of arsenic in drinking water have been found in parts of China, Bangladesh, and some countries in Central and South America. Some predominantly occupational exposures, such as asbestos and arsinite, are known to cause lung cancer, and asbestos accounts for less than one-third of occupational cancers globally.

Exposure to indoor air pollution from use of solid fuel (e.g., wood, other biomass, and coal) is estimated to cause about 3.8 million deaths, including about 185,000 lung cancer deaths, each year in low- and middle-income countries.

Indoor air pollution is a major cause of lung cancer in the United States and Europe. Radon gas forms from the radioactive decay of uranium, found at differing concentrations in soil and rock throughout the world. While the general population is exposed primarily from radon gas entering homes from the soil, exposure to high levels of radon can also occur when the gas is trapped in underground mines.

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