

## **Trends and patterns of cancer mortality in Kazakhstan in comparison with some selected European countries from 1986 to 2008**

### **Abstract**

Cancer is the third leading cause of premature death in Kazakhstan. Every year more than thirty thousand Kazakhstani people are diagnosed with cancer. This master thesis tries to provide base for the cancer control programmes in Kazakhstan. It also analyses the changes of the mortality level and distribution by the most important groups of tumours for men and women. The most common types of cancer are lung, skin, breast and stomach. These four cancers combined account for over 44% of new cases of cancer. Lung cancer is the most common cancer in men accounting for nearly a quarter of cancer cases in men. Breast cancer is by far the most common cancer in women accounting for 20%. Cancer remains mainly a disease of older Kazakhstanis. The largest proportion of cancer deaths for both men and women were from lung cancer mainly caused by smoking. Deaths from cancers of the lung, stomach, breast and esophagus together accounted for almost a half (46%) of all cancer deaths. With an estimated ASMR 225.5 for males and 122.0 for females in 2008, cancer remains an important public health problem in Kazakhstan. The international comparison illustrates the differences in cancer mortality in Kazakhstan within the some selected European countries. A considerable part of the thesis deals with the cancer prevention programmes, which seem to be more developed in the European Union. The incidence of lung cancer, and several other forms of cancer, could be reduced by improved tobacco control and healthy lifestyle.

**Key Words:** cancer, mortality, causes of death, prevention, comparison, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, the European Union