Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States.

Each year in the United States, more than 1.6 million people are diagnosed with cancer, and almost 600,000 die from it, making it the nation’s second leading cause of death. The cost of cancer care continues to rise and is expected to reach almost $174 billion by 2020. Research shows that more than half of cancer deaths could be prevented through healthy choices, screening, and vaccinations.

**CDC’s Response**

CDC’s Division of Cancer Prevention and Control is a leader in efforts to prevent and find cancers early and to improve the health of cancer survivors. The division works with other federal agencies to collect data on notifiable cancer cases in the United States and with national organizations and state and local health agencies to help Americans lower their cancer risk by increasing the use of effective cancer prevention strategies and screening tests.

Since 1991, the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program has served more than 5.4 million women and found 66,000 invasive breast cancers and 208,000 precancerous cervical lesions.