

# ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS

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## What is Esophageal Cancer?

The esophagus is a long, muscular tube that connects the stomach to the throat. Esophageal cancer starts in the inside lining of the esophagus and spreads outward through the other layers as it grows. There are 2 main types of esophageal cancer:

- Squamous cell carcinoma—This type of esophageal cancer starts in squamous cells that line the esophagus. It usually starts in the upper and middle part of the esophagus.
- Adenocarcinoma—This type begins in the glandular tissue in the lower part of the esophagus where the esophagus and the stomach come together.

## Key Statistics

The American Cancer Society's estimates for esophageal cancer in the United States for 2021 are:

- About 19,260 new esophageal cancer cases diagnosed (15,310 in men and 3,950 in women)
- About 15,530 deaths from esophageal cancer (12,410 in men and 3,120 in women)

## ESOPHAGEAL CANCER BY THE NUMBERS



In the United States, **1** person dies of esophageal cancer every **36** minutes

**3 to 4** times more common in men than in women



**600%** increase in diagnoses in past **35** years

**17,650** new cases and **16,080** US deaths estimated to occur in 2019

All information courtesy of American Cancer Society; Esophageal Cancer Action Network; Mayo Clinic; National Cancer Institute