The IARC Monographs are the authoritative encyclopedia on environmental carcinogens that serves governments to inform their preventive actions.

The IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention are major references for public health interventions and the development of cancer control strategies.

### SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

**IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans**

### VOLUME 83

**Tobacco Smoke and Involuntary Smoking**

### VOLUME 95

**Household Use of Solid Fuels and High-temperature Frying**

### CONTACTS AND USEFUL LINKS

**IARC information:**
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**Direct IARC URLs:**
IARC Monographs website:
http://monographs.iarc.fr/

IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention:

**Other IARC URLs:**
GLOBOCAN website:
http://globocan.iarc.fr/

EPIC website:
http://epic.iarc.fr/

Screening website:
http://screening.iarc.fr/

TP53 mutation database website:
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The IARC Monographs Programme is an international, interdisciplinary approach to carcinogenic hazard identification. The IARC Monographs are a worldwide endeavour that has involved more than 1200 scientists from over 50 countries.

Each Monograph consists of a comprehensive, critical review and summary of the published scientific literature. Since its inception in 1971, over 950 chemicals, complex mixtures, occupational exposures, physical agents, biological agents, personal habits and household exposures have been reviewed.

Every five years an external Advisory Group recommends on future priorities for the IARC Monographs. The latest AG report is available at http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Publications/internrep/08-001.pdf

Approximately 100 of these agents have been identified as carcinogenic (Group 1), and another 300 as probably carcinogenic, or possibly carcinogenic to humans (Groups 2A and 2B). The Monographs have evolved into the World Health Organization’s encyclopaedia on the roles of environmental agents in human cancer causation.

National and international health agencies use the Monographs as a source of scientific information on known or suspected carcinogens and as scientific support for their actions to prevent exposure to these agents.

Funding sources for the IARC Monographs:

• U.S. National Cancer Institute
• U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
• European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

The burden of cancer is rising markedly worldwide, with estimates indicating that by 2050 there will be double the current number of around 12.5 million new cases per year. The majority of this increase is expected in low- and middle-income countries.

The mission of IARC is the global control of cancer, with emphasis on primary and secondary prevention, which is the most effective response to the rising burden of cancer, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, where health services are least able to meet the impending challenge.

The first step in cancer prevention is to identify the causes of human cancer and what works in cancer prevention. In accordance with one of its fundamental missions the Agency prepares and distributes authoritative information on the causes and prevention of cancer throughout the world.

The IARC Monographs are the authoritative reference for cancer causing agents, and the IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention establish what works in primary and secondary cancer prevention.

In this way, the IARC Monographs and the IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention contribute to cancer prevention and the improvement of public health.

In 1995, the IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention were launched to complement the IARC Monographs’ evaluations of carcinogenic hazards with evaluations on the scientific evidence on preventive agents and primary and secondary interventions.

The working procedures and the evaluation scheme of the IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention closely mirror those of the IARC Monographs.

Since the inception of the series, on average one volume per year has been developed, including topics such as:

• Chemo-preventive agents (carotenoids, vitamin A, retinoids);
• Preventive actions (use of sunscreens; weight control and physical activity; consumption of fruits and vegetables);
• Effectiveness of screening for breast and cervical cancer;
• Effectiveness of tobacco control (reversal of risk after quitting smoking; smoke-free policies; tax and price policies).

Future topics of the Handbooks may include evaluations of the effectiveness of screening for breast, colon, prostate or lung cancer, and evaluations of preventive actions and agents, such as weight control and physical activity or vitamin D.

Funding sources for the IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention included:

• Foundation for Promotion of Cancer Research, Japan
• German Federal Ministry of Health
• Ministère de la Santé, de la Jeunesse et des Sports, France
• Institut national du Cancer, France
• Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, through the Alliance for Cervical Cancer Prevention (ACCP)
• World Cancer Research Fund