

## **Statistics of Oral Cancer in Sri Lanka**

According to the latest statistics in the year of 2008, a total of 16,511 newly diagnosed cancer patients (Crude incidence rate 81.6/100,000 population) were reported to the government cancer treatment centers. Cancers in the breast, oral cavity, oesophagus, cervix, lungs, thyroid, colon & rectum, lymphoma, ovary and leukaemia are among the ten most common cancers in Sri Lanka in the years 2001- 2008. According to the National Cancer Registry 2008, oral pharyngeal cancer was 12.8 % of all reported cancers in Sri Lanka and carrying highest mortality rate among different types of cancers (3 deaths per day)

National cancer control programme (NCCP) has targeted to reduce the burden of oral cancer by 15% by the end of 2020 mainly through the primary prevention and early detection of oral cancer. According to the recent study conducted in the Sabaragamuwa province of Sri Lanka has shown very low awareness on risk factors and early signs of oral cancer: 77% of the population unaware about oral pre cancers and 76% were not aware of any of the dangers inherent in the frequent use of areca nut.