

STATE OF LUNG CANCER

The American Lung Association State of Lung Cancer 2019 shows how the toll of lung cancer varies by state using key lung cancer indicators.



New Cases On average, the higher prevalence of smoking, the more lung cancer cases in a state. **Utah has the nation's lowest** lung cancer rates while **Kentucky and West Virginia have the highest**, which parallels the smoking rates in those states. Greater targeted and national tobacco control and prevention efforts and radon testing and mitigation are needed to reduce lung cancer incidence.



Survival The survival rate of lung cancer varies by state. Lung cancer has one of the lowest five-year survival rates among leading cancers because it is often not caught until a late stage when it is less likely to be curable. The five-year lung cancer survival rate was **21.7 percent nationally**, ranging from **26.4 percent in Connecticut** to **16.8 in Alabama**.



Early Diagnosis The stage at which someone is diagnosed with lung cancer varies significantly by state. People diagnosed in early stages are five times more likely to survive. Unfortunately, only **21.5 percent of cases nationally** are diagnosed at an early stage when survival is much higher. The early diagnosis rate was **highest for Wyoming at 28.1 percent** and **lowest for Alaska at 16.6 percent**.



Screening Greater uptake of lung cancer screening among those at high risk will have a positive impact on early detection and survival. Screening rates among those at high risk were **4.2 percent nationally**, ranging from **12.3 percent in Massachusetts** to **0.5 percent in Nevada**.



Surgical Treatments Lung cancer is more likely to be curable if the tumor can be removed through surgery, and surgery is more likely to be an option if the diagnosis is made at an early stage before the cancer has widely spread. **Nationally, 20.6 percent** of cases underwent surgery as part of the first course of treatment, ranging from **30.5 percent in Massachusetts** to **13.5 percent in New Mexico**.



Lack of Treatment Some lung cancer patients will not receive any form of treatment for legitimate medical or personal reasons, but the wide gap in lack of treatment rates between states suggests additional factors may contribute, like stigma, fatalism and access issues. The percent of patients who receive no form of treatment is **15.4 percent nationally**, ranging from **8.0 percent in North Dakota** to **30.4 percent in Arizona**.



Medicaid Coverage of Screening Medicaid beneficiaries are disproportionately affected by lung cancer, yet standard Medicaid programs are one of the only healthcare payers not required to cover lung cancer screening. As of January 2019, 31 state Medicaid fee-for-service programs covered lung cancer screening for those at high risk.