CANCER AWARENESS IN ILLINOIS

LUNG CANCER

NOVEMBER 2024

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death and the third most common cancer in the state. In Illinois, in 2021, there were 9,167 new cases of lung cancer, including 4,530 males and 4,637 females. The incidence rate for lung cancer was 51.8 per 100,000 females and 61.6 per 100,000 males. In Illinois, in 2021, 5,440 people died from lung cancer, including 2,797 males and 2,643 females (U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations, 2024).

The risk factors for lung cancer are:

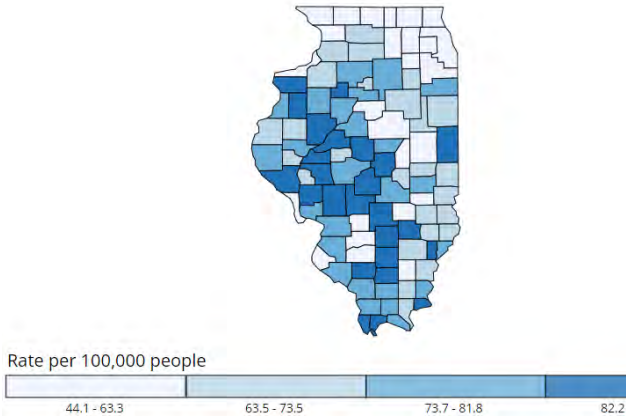
- Smoking
- Breathing in secondhand smoke from another person's cigarette, pipe, or cigar.
- Radon exposure (a naturally occurring gas from rocks and dirt that can get trapped in houses and buildings).
- Workplace exposure to other substances, such as asbestos, arsenic, diesel exhaust, and some forms of silica and chromium.
- A personal or family history of lung cancer.
- Previous radiation therapy to the chest.

SCREENING GUIDELINES

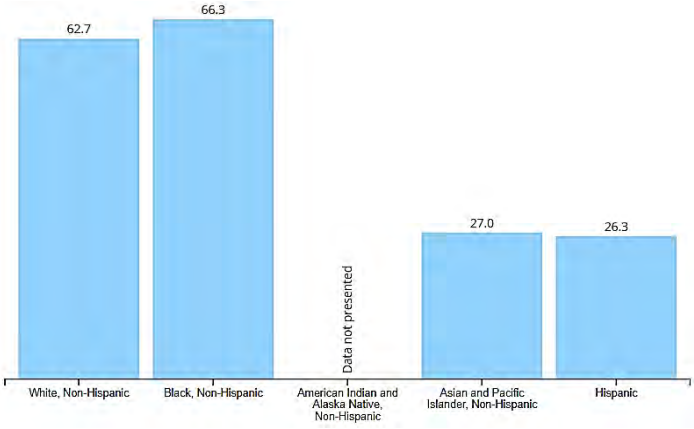
Screening can help detect lung cancer early when treatment works best. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends annual screening in adults aged 50 to 80 who have a 20-pack-year smoking history and currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years.

INCIDENCE RATES

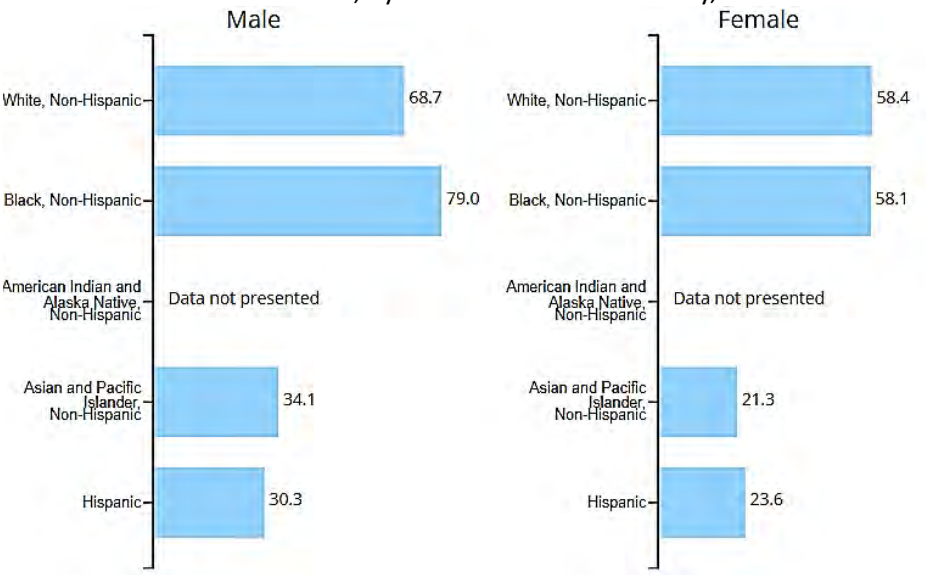
Rate of lung cancer incidence by Illinois county, all ages, all races, and ethnicities, 2017-2021.



Rate of new cancers in Illinois, by race and ethnicity, 2017-2021.



Rate of new cancers in Illinois, by sex and race and ethnicity, 2017-2021

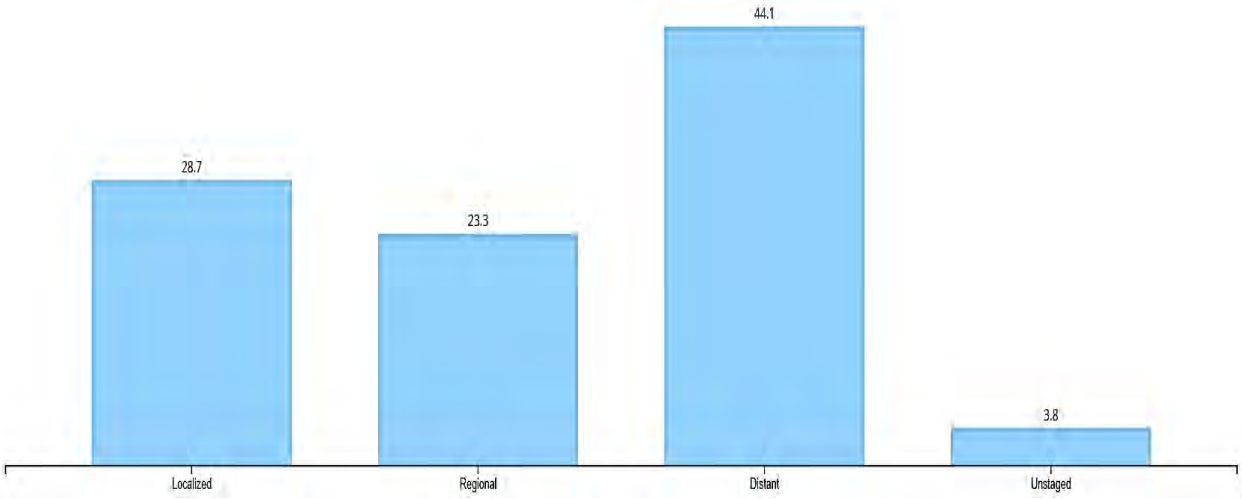


Source - U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations Tool, based on 2022 submission data (1999-2021): U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Cancer Institute; https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dataviz, released in June 2024.

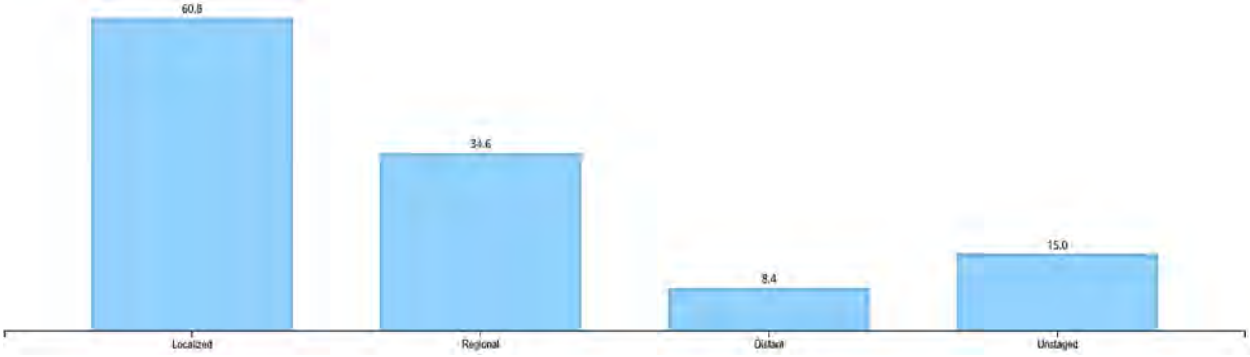
LATE-STAGE DIAGNOSIS

The following chart shows the distribution of new lung cancer diagnoses by stage and five-year survival percentage by stage. Late stage is defined as regional or distant stage diagnoses. The summary stage characterizes invasive cancers as localized, regional, or distant. Localized cancer is confined to the primary site, regional cancer has spread directly beyond the primary site (regional extension) or to regional lymph nodes, and distant cancer has spread to other organs (distant extension) or remote lymph nodes (U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations, 2024). Some cancers are unstaged or the stage is unknown or unspecified.

Stage distribution (%) of new lung cancer cases, all ages, all races and ethnicities, Illinois, 2017-2021.



Five-year relative survival (%) by stage of lung cancer cases, all ages, all races and ethnicities, Illinois, 2017-2021.

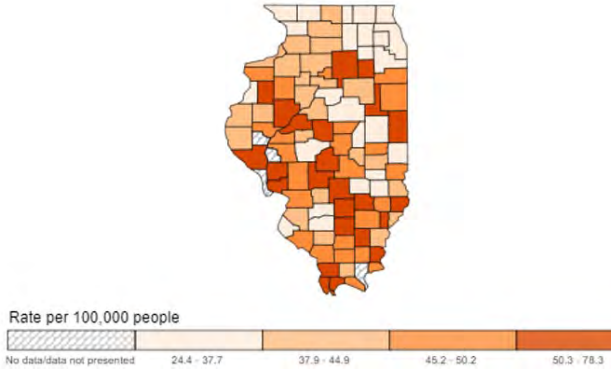


Top 10 counties with the highest percentage of late-stage lung cancer diagnoses compared to the Illinois rate.

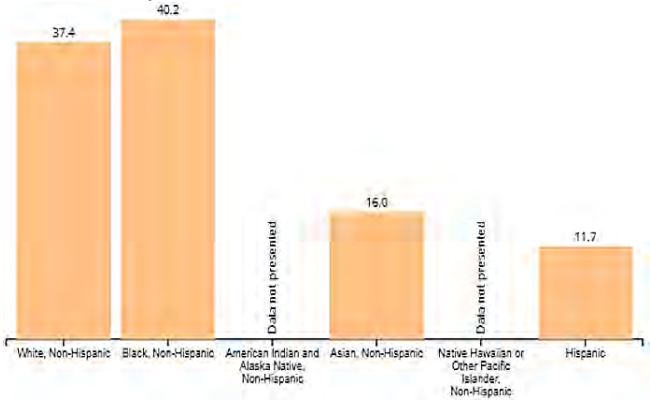
County	Percentage (%) of late-stage diagnosis
1. Scott	80.8
2. Hardin	80.0
3. Pike	79.3
4. Calhoun	78.3
5. Edgar	76.6
6. Stephenson	76.3
7. Menard	73.5
8. Jersey	72.5
9. Grundy	71.8
10. Schuyler	71.7
Illinois	66.1

MORTALITY RATES

Rate of lung cancer mortality by Illinois county, for all ages, races, and ethnicities, 2018-2022.



Rate of new lung cancer deaths in Illinois, by race and ethnicity, 2018-2022.



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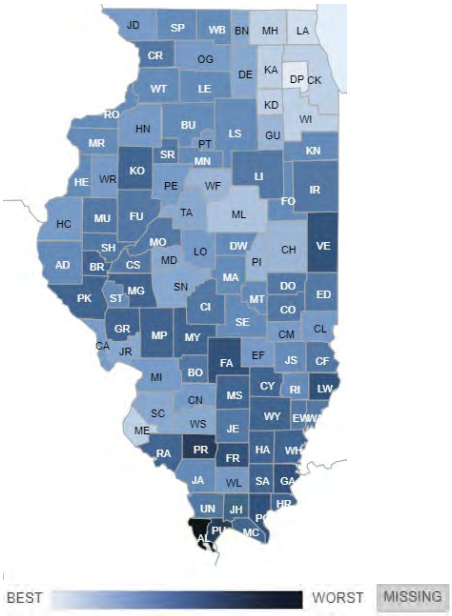
GROUPS AT HIGHEST RISK

Black non-Hispanic people are more likely to be diagnosed with lung cancer compared to other races and ethnicities. There is a higher mortality rate among Black non-Hispanic individuals as well. Lung cancer incidence rates tend to be associated with smoking status. Smoking status can lead to a higher chance of lung cancer.

In Illinois, 13% of adults are current cigarette smokers. This ranged from 11% to 24% of adults across counties in the state.



Source – https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/illinois?year=2024

SUGGESTED POLICY, SYSTEM, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE STRATEGIES

- Deliver tobacco cessation advice and motivational messages via text or video message.
- Implement systems that help health professionals support patient tobacco cessation, often with referrals, self-help pamphlets, and pharmacotherapy.
- Use websites, computer programs, and other electronic means to provide information, strategies, or behavioral support to tobacco users who want to quit, sometimes with counseling or pharmacotherapy.
- Use broad media-based efforts to educate large groups of current and potential tobacco users about the dangers of tobacco use.

CLINICAL TRIALS

Clinical trials are research studies conducted for doctors to find new ways to improve treatments and the quality of life for people with certain diseases. Researchers design cancer clinical trials to test new ways to treat cancer, find and diagnose cancer, prevent cancer, and manage cancer symptoms and side effects from its treatment.

- National Cancer Institute: https://ccr.cancer.gov/clinical-trials/all?query=lung+cancer
- National Library of Medicine: https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=Lung%20Cancer

RESOURCES

- American Cancer Society: https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/lung-cancer.html
- Mayo Clinic: https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/lung-cancer/symptoms-causes/syc-20374620
- National Cancer Institute: https://www.cancer.gov/types/lung

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- CDC: https://www.train.org/cdctrain/search?type=course&query=lung%20cancer
- Medscape CME and Education: https://www.medscape.org/
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network: https://education.nccn.org/course-catalog-list?f%5B0%5D=field_course_category%3A16

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