



The American Lung Association State of Lung Cancer 2021 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. The report finds that **Utah has the nation's lowest** lung cancer rate while **Kentucky has the highest at almost 2.4 times** the incidence rate of Utah. 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 **23.7%**, ranging from **28.8% in Connecticut** to **18.4% in Alabama**.



Early Diagnosis The stage at which someone is diagnosed with lung cancer varies significantly by state. Nationally, only **24% of cases nationally** are diagnosed at an early stage when the five-year survival rate is much higher (**60.0%**) The early diagnosis rate was **highest for Massachusetts (30.3%)** and **lowest for Hawaii (19.0%)**.



Screening Greater uptake of lung cancer screening among those at high risk will have a positive impact on early detection and survival. The screening rate was **highest in Massachusetts (17.8%)** and **lowest in Wyoming and California (1.0%)**.



Surgical Treatment Lung cancer can often be treated with surgery if it is diagnosed at an early stage and has not spread. **Nationally, 20.7%** of cases underwent surgery, ranging from **30.9% in Massachusetts** to **13.1% in New Mexico**.



Lack of Treatment There are multiple reasons why patients may not receive treatment after diagnosis. Some of these reasons may be unavoidable, but no one should go untreated because of lack of provider or patient knowledge, stigma associated with lung cancer, fatalism after diagnosis, or cost of treatment. **Nationally, 21.1%** of cases receive no treatment, ranging from **North Dakota (13.8%)** to **Arizona (32.5%)**.



Medicaid Coverage of Screening Fee-for-service state Medicaid programs are one of the only healthcare payers not required to cover lung cancer screening. **40** Medicaid fee-for-service programs cover lung cancer screening, **7** programs do not provide coverage, and **3** states did not have information available on their coverage policy.