

Improving Early Detection Of Lung Cancer



If lung cancer is caught before it spreads, the likelihood of surviving

5+
YEARS

improves to

63
PERCENT

Early detection and treatment of lung cancer translates into higher survival rates.



Unfortunately, most lung cancer cases are not diagnosed until later stages when treatment is less likely to be curative. Lung cancer screening among high-risk populations (based on age and smoking status) is a critical tool to catch lung cancer earlier. **In addition to smoking, exposure to radon, hazardous chemicals and particulate pollution, as well as genetic factors, increase the risk of lung cancer.** We're also working to improve early diagnosis for people who do not meet the high-risk criteria.

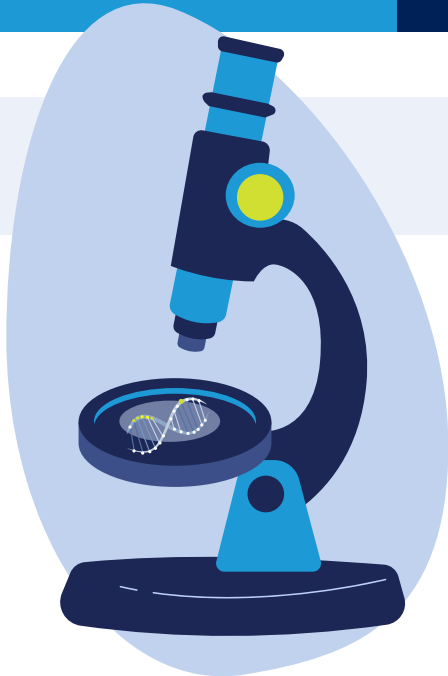
American Lung Association Awards and Studies



Five years ago, the Lung Association created its Lung Cancer Discovery Award program, aimed at improving diagnostic, clinical and treatment methods. The Lung Association recently secured additional funding to support research on genetic factors and other contributors to lung cancer.

Our Lung Health Cohort Study, made possible by a grant from the National, Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, is the first-ever longitudinal lung health study following 4,000 healthy individuals between the ages of 25 and 35. It aims to unlock the mysteries of the development of lung disease to ultimately stop it in its tracks.

Advocacy To Improve Early Detection Of Lung Cancer



We advocate for funding for the National Institutes of Health to support research to improve early detection for lung cancer.

Researchers at the University of Chicago, in collaboration with the National Cancer Institute, are identifying genetic mutations, such as the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) and anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) mutations, which are more common in people with lung cancer who have never smoked.

As part of the President's Cancer Moonshot, the National Cancer Institute is supporting a vanguard study on multi-cancer detection that will evaluate the effectiveness of new blood tests for the detection of one or more cancers.

The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, in partnership with the National Cancer Institute, is supporting research projects to examine causal factors that result in lung cancer disparities.

We advocate for funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct research on lung cancer caused by workplace exposures and support activities that prevent and control environmental exposures like radon.



Using data from the National Program of Cancer Registries, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have explored the demographic and clinical characteristics of patients with lung cancer who have no smoking history.



We support the Increasing Access to Lung Cancer Screening Act, which includes a report to Congress on actions the Federal government could take to improve screening for lung cancer for people not captured by current guidelines.

Through our Healthy Air Campaign, we advocate for strong federal laws and policies to reduce air pollution, which can contribute to the development of lung cancer.

