



2022 Lung Health Barometer Media Summary

Lung Cancer is the Leading Cause of Cancer Deaths



Although there has been a dramatic 33% improvement in the lung cancer survival rate over the past decade,¹ **more work needs to be done.**

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S., and despite its undeniable impact on our nation, the disease often remains in the shadows. It is estimated that over 235,000 Americans will be diagnosed this year with lung cancer. While there are many misconceptions about lung cancer, the fact is that anyone can get it and no one deserves it. Every day, lung cancer takes the lives of more than 360 of our friends, neighbors and loved ones.

Despite the progress made in the efforts to defeat this disease, a new national survey revealed that **only 1 in 4 respondents** were aware that the lung cancer survival rate increased by over 30% in the past 10 years.

The **2022 Lung Health Barometer** is a new, nationally representative survey conducted by the American Lung Association that examined the awareness, attitudes and beliefs of 4,000 Americans about lung cancer.

The American Lung Association’s LUNG FORCE initiative unites those impacted by lung cancer and their caregivers across the country to stand together against lung cancer. We remain steadfast in our mission of saving lives by improving lung health through education, advocacy, and research, and our efforts are paying off: **more people are surviving lung cancer than ever before.**

This is due to both the lifesaving potential of lung cancer screening and support of advancements in research, which hold the promise for better treatment options.

Greater awareness of lung cancer is key to marshaling research funding, encouraging lung cancer screening, and reducing the stigma around this disease.

Stigma Harms Patient Outcomes

Awareness of the fact that lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S. is low, and unfortunately the disease often lacks the resources, support and public empathy afforded to other diseases. This gap is likely attributable to the strong, pervasive stigma associated with lung cancer – a stigma that is harmful to the health and lives of patients who are already facing a tough diagnosis.

Driving More Awareness



29% of Americans know that lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S.



Nearly 70% of respondents were not familiar with the availability of lung cancer screening for early detection.

Furthermore, the survey revealed that **73% of adults have not spoken with their doctor about their risk for lung cancer and only 40% are concerned they might get the disease.**

Too few adults understand that lung cancer is among the cancers most likely to affect women (10%) and men (35%).

A strategic imperative of the American Lung Association is to defeat lung cancer, and to do so, we need an approach that engages a variety of tactics and stakeholders to address the disease, its risk factors, public policy efforts and public health protections, awareness of lung cancer screening and more.

Screening Offers Potential to Save Lives

Early detection and treatment of lung cancer translate to higher survival rates. Nationally, only 24% of cases are diagnosed at an early stage when the five-year survival rate is much higher (60%). Lung cancer screening is the key to early detection of the disease.

Approximately 14.2 million Americans qualify as high risk for lung cancer and are recommended for screening. In March 2021, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force updated the lung cancer screening eligibility guidelines, lowering the age for eligibility to 50 (from 55) and the pack years smoked to 20 (from 30). These new guidelines doubled the number of women and Black Americans eligible for screening.



New lung cancer screening guidelines! Should you be screened?

- Between 50 and 80 years old
- Have a 20 pack-year smoking history
- Current smoker or quit within the last 15 years

Despite this tremendous potential to save lives, only about 5% of those eligible have been screened. Raising awareness about this relatively new cancer screening technique is critical to saving lives.

The Lung Association's "Saved By The Scan" campaign, in partnership with the Ad Council, has helped over 750,000 Americans learn if they are at high risk for lung cancer through a simple eligibility quiz. More than 26% of quiz respondents were found to be eligible for lung cancer screening. In May of 2022, the Lung Association launched "A Hope Story," the latest creative for this lifesaving campaign.

Increased Research Funding Fuels New Breakthroughs

Research provides hope and saves lives. This is especially true when it comes to lung cancer research. Lung cancer research can help develop better treatments, increasing the survival and quality of life for patients. It is critical to prevent lung cancer when possible and diagnose the disease as early as possible.

Since 2016, more than 45 new therapies were approved by the FDA to treat lung cancer – giving life and hope to those with lung cancer.

Through **LUNG FORCE**, the American Lung Association has funded over \$22M in lung cancer research. Lung Association researchers worldwide have been responsible for important scientific contributions to the field.

¹ U.S. National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute: SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2018