



**Indiana
Department
of
Health**

Chronicle of Indiana Cancer Control

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Spotlight

Lung Cancer

Lung cancer is not a single disease. It is a group of cancers that originate in the lung and associated tissues. Lung cancers are divided into three major types: small cell lung cancer (SCLC), non-small lung cancer (NSCLC) and lung carcinoid tumors. Lung cancer accounts for more deaths than any other cancer in men and women. While smoking is the number one cause of lung cancer, exposure to radon gas is estimated to be the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States.¹ In Indiana, during 2020, 4,590 residents were diagnosed with invasive lung cancer and 3,158 people died as a result of this disease. [Table 1].²

Table 1. Burden of Invasive Lung Cancer* - Indiana, 2016-2020*

	Average number of cases per year	Rate per 100,000 people	Number of cases	Rate per 100,000 people
	(2016-2020)	(2016-2020)	(2020)	(2020)
Indiana Incidence	5,502	66.1	4,590	52.4
Indiana Deaths	3,612	43.6	3,158	36.7

Source: Indiana State Cancer Registry

*Age-adjusted to the US 2000 Standard Population

Prevention and Screening

To lower your risk of lung cancer, be smoke free and try to eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke. For dependence and treatment resources, visit [QuitNowIndiana](#) or call 1-800-Quit-Now. For radon exposure concerns, people should have their home tested and treated (if necessary) for radon. Radon information for homeowners can be found on the [IDOH website](#).

The United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends annual screening for lung cancer with low dose computed tomography in adults aged 50 to 80 years who have a 20-pack-per-year smoking history and currently smoke, or who have quit within the past 15 years. Screening should be discontinued once a person has not smoked for 15 years, or develops a health problem that substantially limits life expectancy or the ability or willingness to have curative lung surgery.³

National Lung Cancer Screening Day

Both nationally and in Indiana, Nov. 9 is National Lung Cancer Screening Day! This day allows screening centers nationwide to open their doors on a Saturday so that individuals who are unable to take time off from work during the week can access lung screening.

- Learn how to calculate pack years [here!](#)
- Learn more about low dose CT lung cancer screening [here](#).
- Click [here](#) to see who is participating in Indiana!



The Great American Smokeout (GASO)

The American Cancer Society hosts The Great American Smokeout on Nov. 21. This annual event is to encourage people to quit smoking and promote the benefits of a tobacco-free life. Visit www.cancer.org to learn more.

Resources

1. American Cancer Society. *Cancer Facts and Figures 2024*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2024. <https://www.cancer.org/research/cancer-facts-statistics/all-cancer-facts-figures/2024-cancer-facts-figures.html>
2. Indiana State Cancer Registry
3. USPTFS. <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/lung-cancer-screening>

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Indiana Department of Health

2 North Meridian Street • Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 • 317-233-1325 • health.in.gov

