

American Lung Association: Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in Wisconsin, yet survey reveals most Americans are not concerned about getting the disease

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MILWAUKEE (August 1, 2022) - Here in Wisconsin and across the nation, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths. However, survey data released today on World Lung Cancer Day by the American Lung Association's [LUNG FORCE](#) initiative show that only 40% of Americans are concerned that they might get lung cancer. The data also show only about one in five people have talked to their doctor about their risk for the disease. The 2022 Lung Health Barometer is a national survey that examines awareness, attitudes and beliefs about lung cancer.

"One of the most impactful things we can do in Wisconsin is to raise awareness about lifesaving lung cancer screening. Currently, only 10% of Wisconsin residents at high risk for lung cancer have received a low-dose CT scan lung cancer screening," said Molly Collins, advocacy director at the Lung Association. "Lung cancer screening is key to early diagnosis, and early diagnosis saves lives."

In Wisconsin, it is estimated that 4,500 people will be diagnosed with lung cancer in 2022, and 2,500 people will die from the disease. But there is hope. The lung cancer survival rate has risen substantially, and awareness of this deadly disease has steadily increased. Greater awareness of lung cancer is key to securing research funding, encouraging lung cancer screening, reducing stigma around the disease, and ultimately, saving lives.

While awareness for lung cancer screening is still low, the United States has made significant progress to increase eligibility. Last year, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force expanded the guidelines for screening to include individuals ages 50 to 80 years who have a 20 pack-year smoking history and currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years. This nearly doubled the number of individuals eligible for screening and has the potential to save significantly more lives than previous guidelines. Learn more about lung cancer screening at [SavedbytheScan.org](https://www.savedbythescan.org).

The 2022 Lung Health Barometer surveyed 4,000 Americans nationwide about lung cancer. Key findings show that:

- Only about one in four respondents (26%) were aware that the lung cancer survival rate increased by over 30% in the past ten years.
- 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.
- Only 29% of Americans know that lung cancer is the leading cancer killer in the U.S.
- Nearly 70% of respondents were not familiar with the availability of lung cancer screening for early detection of the disease.

See more Lung Health Barometer survey results [here](#).

This is the seventh year of the Lung Health Barometer, which is conducted by the Lung Association's LUNG FORCE initiative. LUNG FORCE unites those impacted by lung cancer and their caregivers across the country to stand together against lung cancer.

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About the American Lung Association

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. The work of the American Lung Association is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to champion clean air for all; to improve the quality of life for those with lung disease and their families; and to create a tobacco-free future. For more information about the American Lung Association, which has a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator and is a Gold-Level GuideStar Member, or to support the work it does, call 1-800-LUNGUSA (1-800-586-4872) or visit: [Lung.org](https://www.lung.org).

About LUNG FORCE

The American Lung Association's LUNG FORCE initiative those impacted by lung cancer and their caregivers across the country to stand together against lung cancer. Increased awareness about lung cancer, more education on lifesaving screening and more research funding are critical to fuel lifesaving breakthroughs. Through education, advocacy and research, LUNG FORCE works to provide hope to all those impacted by the disease and save more lives. Find out more at [LUNGFORCE.org](https://www.lungforce.org).