

Lung Cancer Awareness

In the United States, lung cancer is the second most common cancer in both men and women.¹ About 1 in 5 cancer deaths are attributed to lung cancer, making it the leading cause of cancer deaths.¹ Each year, the American Cancer Society estimates the lung cancer rates in the United States. In 2025, it has been estimated that there will be a total of 226,650 new cases of lung cancer, and about 124,730 deaths due to lung cancer.¹ This indicates a slight decrease in rates when compared to the 2024 statistics.

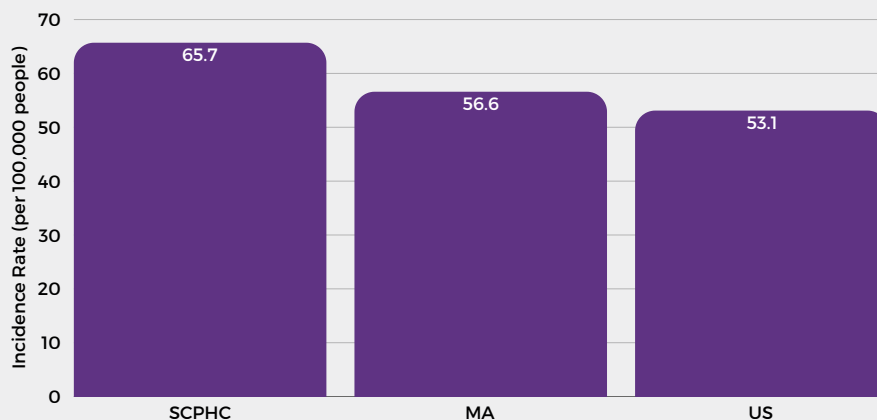
Most individuals diagnosed with lung cancer are over the age of 65.¹ But there are still many younger individuals with lung cancer, and this is dependent on their risk factors. The leading risk factor for lung cancer is smoking, as it accounts for nearly 80-90% of lung cancer deaths.⁴ The chemicals in tobacco cause long-lasting damage to the lungs, and the longer you smoke, the more damage there is.³

Even if you do not smoke, you can still be at risk for developing lung cancer. Secondhand smoke increases your risk of developing lung cancer by 20-30%.³ Inhaling the toxic chemicals can cause damage to your lungs, along with other organs in your body.³ Quitting smoking will not only provide positive changes to your body but will help those around you that are affected by secondhand smoke.

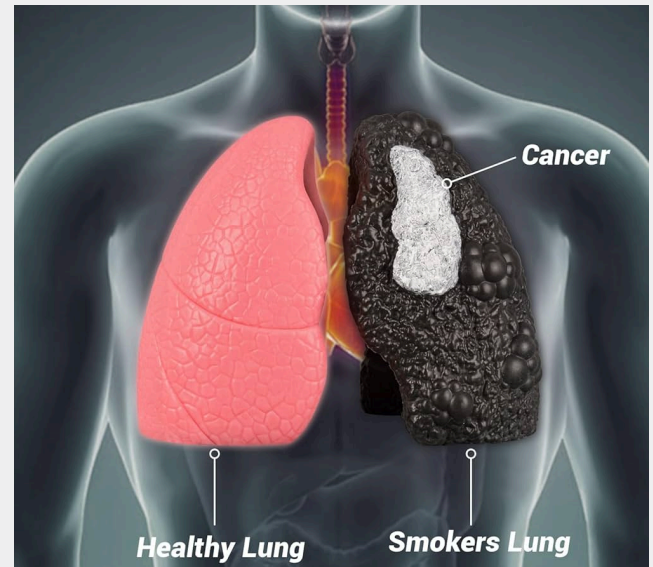
17.3%

of adults in the SCPHC
are current smokers

Lung Cancer Incidence Rate (per 100,000) from 2017-2021



Above is a graph displaying cancer incidence rates per 100,000 people for the cities of Fall River, Seekonk, Somerset, and Swansea. Along with Massachusetts and the United States as a whole.



This is an example of a normal healthy lung versus a smoker's lung. A healthy lung will be pink and have no inflammation. Whereas a smoker's lung will be inflamed, scarred, and will have a black/gray color.

Important Terms:

- **Incidence** is about **new cases** of a disease in a certain time, like how many people just got the flu this week
- **Prevalence** is about the **total number of cases** (new and old) of a disease that exist at one time

Visit The American Cancer Society website for more information on lung cancer and ways to quit smoking



¹The American Cancer Society. (2025, January 16). *Lung cancer statistics: How common is lung cancer?* <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/lung-cancer/about/key-statistics.html>

²The American Cancer Society. (2024, January 29). *Lung Cancer Risk Factors: Smoking & lung cancer.* <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/lung-cancer/causes-risks-prevention/risk-factors.html>

³The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2025, January 31). *Health Problems Caused by Secondhand Smoke.* <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/secondhand-smoke/health.html>

⁴The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2025, February 13). *Lung Cancer Risk Factors.* <https://www.cdc.gov/lung-cancer/risk-factors/index.html>