

RURAL APPALACHIAN LUNG CANCER SCREENING INITIATIVE

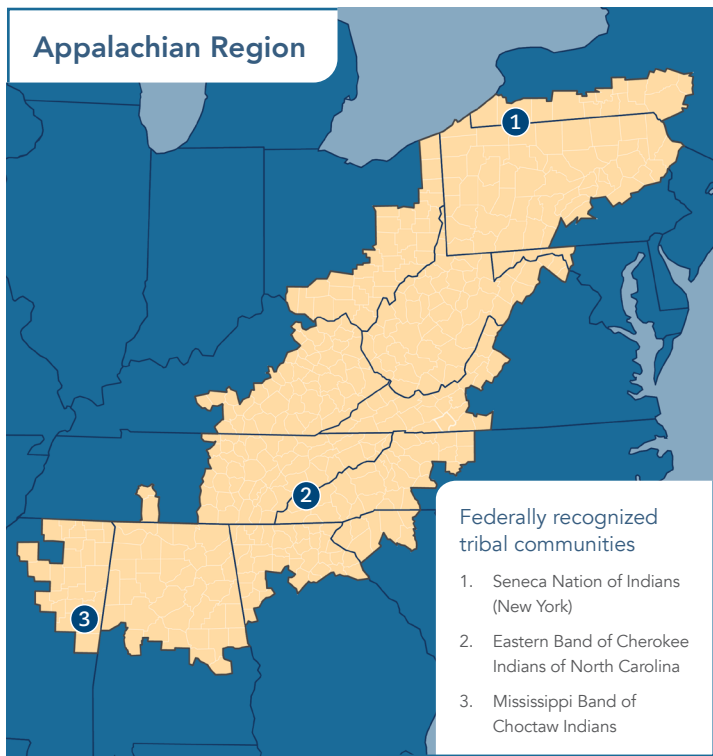
Appalachia encompasses 423 counties and spans 13 states, including all of West Virginia and parts of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, and three federally recognized tribal communities.

This region is markedly rural and characterized by generational poverty and a lack of key resources including access to healthcare.

13 states **423** counties **3** federally recognized tribal communities

20% of residents live in poverty

The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) along with six state oncology societies in Appalachia have created the Appalachian Community Cancer Alliance (the Alliance) to identify and address disparities in equitable access to cancer care; introduce patient-centric approaches to implementing guideline-concordant cancer screening; implement patient-centered communication strategies; and enhance quality of life and cancer survivorship for patients, especially in rural Appalachia.



The Alliance is focused on interdisciplinary, patient-centered approaches to cancer care delivery from prevention through survivorship, with an emphasis on enhanced quality-of-life.

Optimizing lung cancer screening is one of the key initiatives.

LUNG CANCER BY THE NUMBERS

In the Appalachian areas of Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia, the rates of lung incidence and mortality are higher than anywhere else in the United States.

Incidence

87.1 per 100,000 people Kentucky has the highest incidence rate nationally.

77.9 per 100,000 people West Virginia has the second highest incidence rate.

Tennessee and Mississippi are tied for third with rates of **72.9** and **72.8** respectively per 100,000 people.

Mortality

54.7 per 100,000 people Kentucky has the highest mortality rate in the nation.

West Virginia and Mississippi are close for second with rates of **49.7** and **49.5** per 100,000 people.

LUNG CANCER SCREENING RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2021, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force updated its lung cancer screening recommendation, which made more high-risk individuals eligible for screening. People who are at high-risk should be screened on a yearly basis.

PROMISING PRACTICES

The evidence-based strategies below can be considered to optimize guideline-concordant lung cancer screening, increase patient retention, and contribute to early detection of suspicious lung nodules.

Increase Screening

Public outreach strategies include:

- Partner with local leaders and community members
- Host events at local venues, health fairs
- Tailor resources to cultural needs
- Conduct small and mass media screening campaigns
- Build websites for self-referral, web-presence, social media
- Share hopeful messaging, testimonials from people in the community who participate in screening



Healthcare system strategies include:

- Identify champions
- Assume all administrative aspects after referral
- Communicate and collaborate across multidisciplinary teams
- Simplify and standardize CT ordering forms and processes
- Utilize navigators to reduce barriers, educate, and conduct at-risk community outreach
- Offer mobile screening



Increase Retention

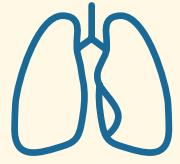
Strategies include:

- Address barriers to access
- Provide navigation
- Centralize follow-up
- Automate reminder telephone calls for patients
- Perform additional focused outreach to people with lower rates of adherence



Nodule Management Programs

Lung nodule management programs specialize in risk assessment, evaluation, early diagnosis, and treatment of lung nodules.



POLICY OPPORTUNITIES

- Expand Medicaid coverage of lung cancer screening.
- Improve policies around quality of lung cancer screening through federal mandates.
- Advocate for greater funding for related research and equitable service access.



To stay up-to-date on Alliance activities or become involved with the **Rural Appalachian Lung Cancer Screening Initiative**, sign-up at acc-cancer.org/acc.

In partnership with:



This project is supported by:



Association of Community Cancer Centers

The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) is the leading education and advocacy organization for the cancer care community. For more information, visit acc-cancer.org.

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