

Lung Cancer in Texas

Lung cancer is the third most common cancer among Texans. Tobacco use remains the primary risk factor, but radon and air pollution can also contribute to risk. Despite the benefits of early detection, Texas ranks in the nation's bottom tier for lung cancer screening adherence.¹

How Many Texans Are Impacted?



42,851

An estimated 42,851 Texans diagnosed with lung cancer between 1995-2022 were alive as of January 1, 2023.



17,082

An estimated 17,082 Texans will be diagnosed with lung cancer in 2026.



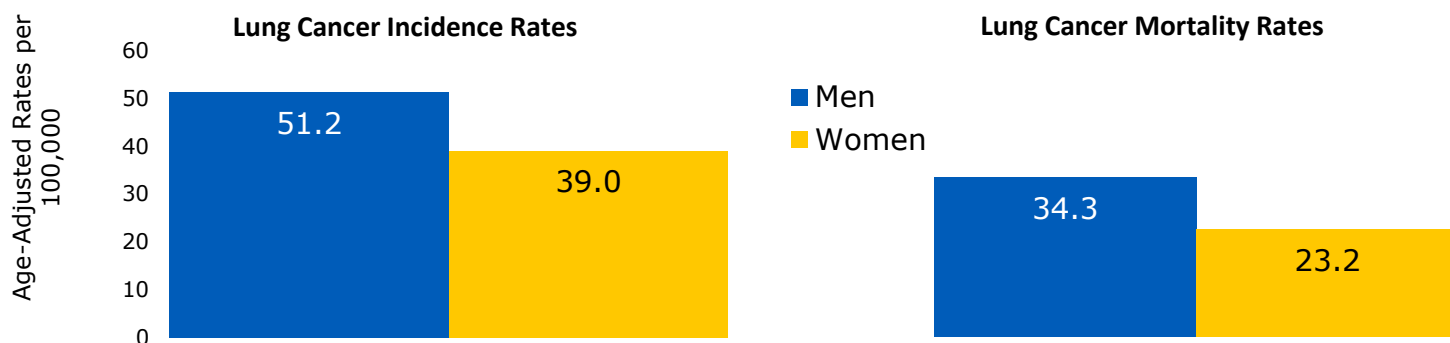
10,464

An estimated 10,464 Texans will die from lung cancer in 2026, making it the leading cause of cancer-related death.

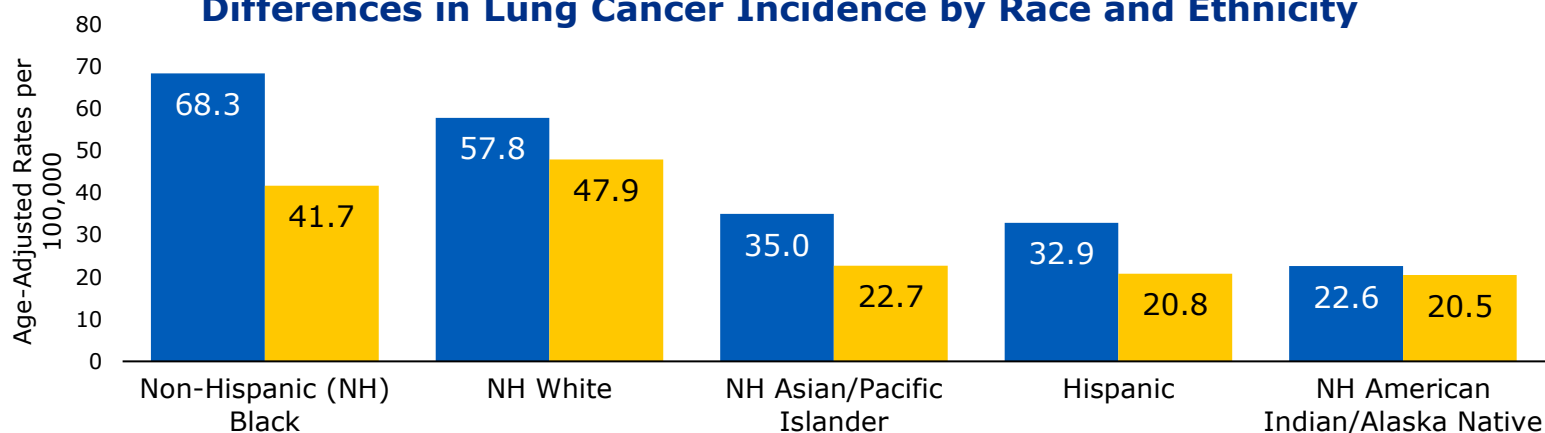
Texas Lung Cancer Statistics at a Glance

- Overall incidence rate: **44.3** cases per 100,000 population
- Overall mortality rate: **28.1** deaths per 100,000
- Lung cancer has the **third lowest** five-year relative survival rate among major cancer types.

Differences in Lung Cancer Incidence and Mortality in Texas by Sex, 2019-2023



Differences in Lung Cancer Incidence by Race and Ethnicity



For the purposes of this report, lung cancer is defined as cancers of the lung and bronchus.

¹ Source: American Lung Association (2025). State of Lung Cancer. Retrieved from lung.org/research/state-of-lung-cancer/states/texas

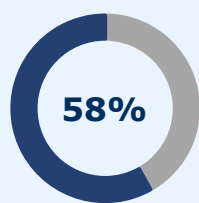


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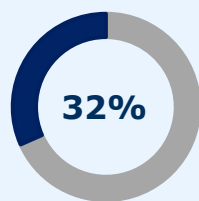
dshs.texas.gov/tcr

Five-Year Relative Survival for Lung Cancer by Stage at Diagnosis*



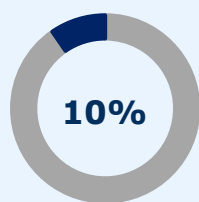
Localized Stage

Localized cancer is limited to the place where it started, with no sign it has spread. The five-year relative survival rate for Texans diagnosed with localized lung cancer is **58%**. About **22%** of lung cancers are diagnosed at this stage.



Regional Stage

Regional cancer has spread beyond the original (primary) tumor to nearby tissues, organs, or lymph nodes. The five-year relative survival rate for Texans diagnosed with lung cancer at this stage is **32%**. Over **21%** of these cancers are diagnosed at the regional stage.



Distant Stage

Distant cancer (distant metastasis) has spread to distant organs or lymph nodes. The five-year relative survival rate for Texans diagnosed with lung cancer at this stage is only **10%**. Over **49%** of lung cancers are diagnosed at the distant stage.



71% of lung cancers are diagnosed at a regional or distant stage.

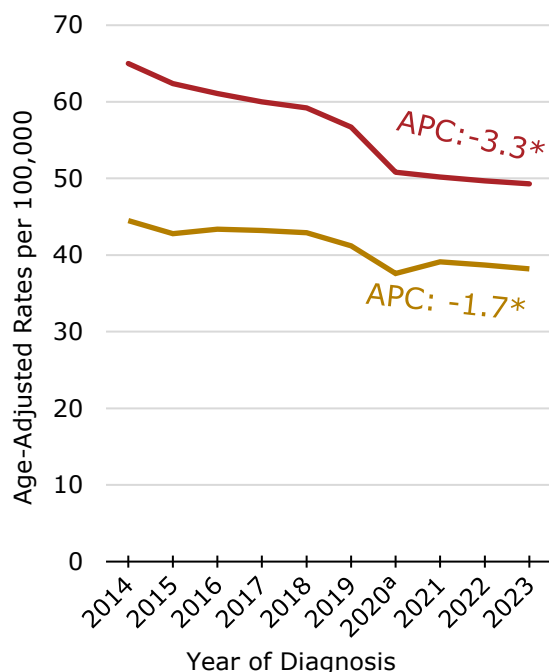
How to improve early detection?

Increased low-dose Computed Tomography (CT) screening may improve early detection and survival.

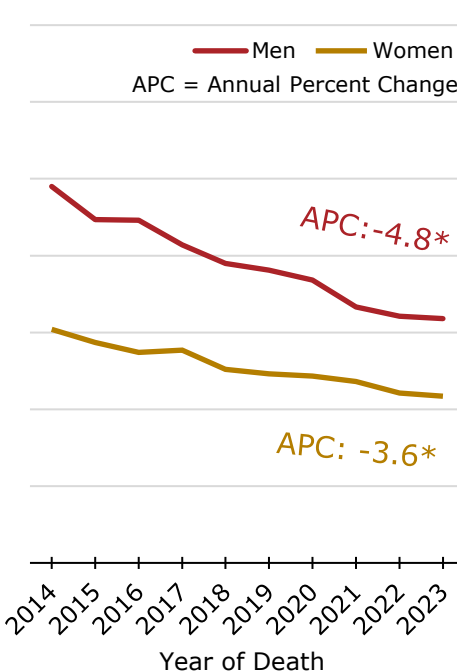
*Based on individuals diagnosed with cancer between 2016-2022 and followed through December 31, 2023. For seven percent of lung cancers, there is not enough information to determine a stage at diagnosis.

Lung Cancer Incidence and Mortality Trends, 2014-2023

Incidence Rate Trends^a



Mortality Rate Trends



- From 2014-2023, lung cancer incidence rates fell by 3.3% per year for men and 1.7% per year for women.
- Lung cancer mortality rates fell by 4.8% per year for men and 3.6% per year for women.
- Mortality rates fell faster than incidence rates, reflecting continued progress in lung cancer prevention, screening, and treatment.

Trend lines represent the modeled rates and are labeled with the Annual Percent Change (APC).

^a 2020 excluded from incidence trends.

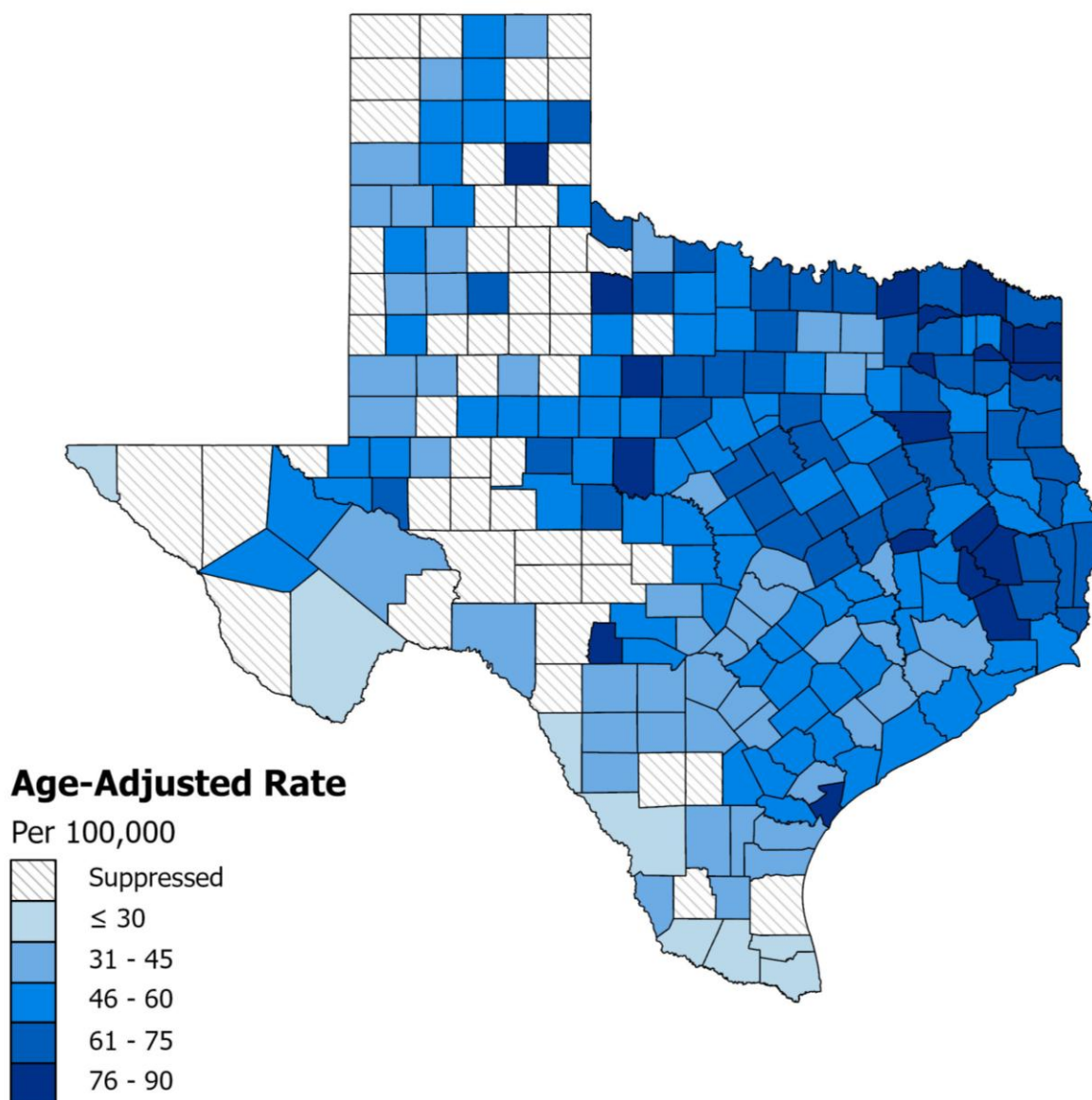
* Indicates a statistically significant change in rates.



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Age-Adjusted Invasive Lung Cancer Incidence Rates by County, 2019-2023



The map above shows age-adjusted lung cancer incidence rates per 100,000 across Texas counties. The overall lung cancer incidence rate in Texas is **44.3 cases per 100,000 people**. Rates are highest in Polk County (90.0 cases per 100,000). *Counties with less than 16 reported cases are suppressed from view.*

Data Sources:

- Texas Cancer Registry SEER*Stat Database, 1995-2023 Incidence, Texas statewide, 2025 Submission, cutoff 09/19/2025, created January 2026.
- Texas Cancer Registry SEER*Stat Database, Provisional 1990-2023 Mortality, Texas statewide. Texas Department of State Health Services, Cancer Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, created January 2026.