

# Appalachian cancer trends

All cancer  
New case rates run  
2 percent higher than  
non-Appalachian  
parts of Ohio; death  
rates run 4 percent  
higher.

Cervical cancer  
New case rates are  
49 percent higher;  
death rates are  
43 percent higher.

Lung cancer  
New case rates are  
11 percent higher;  
death rates are  
9 percent higher.

Colon cancer  
New case rates are  
15 percent higher;  
death rates are  
14 percent higher.

Breast cancer  
New case rates are  
8 percent lower;  
death rates are  
2 percent lower.

Prostate cancer  
New case rates are  
8 percent lower;  
death rates are  
17 percent lower.



## Why cancer runs high in Appalachia

High tobacco use rates: 31.2 percent of adults in Ohio's Appalachian counties say they smoke, compared to 26.5 percent in non-Appalachian counties. Meanwhile, 7 percent of adults use chewing tobacco, compared to 2.6 percent elsewhere in Ohio.

Fewer get screening tests: 68.4 percent of women got mammograms in the past two years versus 78.4 percent elsewhere in Ohio; 29.7 percent got colon cancer exams (sigmoidoscopies) in past five years compared to 36.0 percent elsewhere in Ohio.

High poverty rates: National studies indicate that cancer survival rates run 10-15 percent lower

among poor Americans. Nine of Ohio's Appalachian counties are "economically distressed," according to federal standards.

High fat diets and low activity: Past studies have reported higher-than-average obesity rates and lower-than-average exercise rates in Appalachian areas.

Older, rural populations: Cancer is more likely to occur among older people, and rural people are less likely than urban people to see doctors for regular check-ups and screening tests. About two-thirds of Ohio's Appalachian counties are considered rural.

Source: American Cancer Society