



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary

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Join the Great American Smokeout

Lung Cancer Is Still Wisconsin's Leading Cancer Killer

State health officials are encouraging smokers to join the 33rd Great American Smokeout on Thursday, November 20th. Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women in Wisconsin as more people die from lung cancer than from breast, prostate and colorectal cancers combined.

“The best way to fight lung cancer is to prevent people from picking up the habit and encourage current tobacco users to quit,” said Secretary Karen Timberlake. “Lung cancer kills thousands of people each year in Wisconsin and yet it’s one of the most preventable cancers. Help is out there if you’re ready to quit.”

If you want help to quit smoking, call the Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line at:

1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669)
En español: 1-877-2NO-FUME (266-3863)

According to the American Cancer Society, an average of 1,564 men and 1,152 women die each year in Wisconsin from lung cancer. With many cancers, early detection is essential to successful treatment. However, there is no standard screen for lung cancer, so contact your physician if you are a smoker.

A chest x-ray, analysis of cells contained in sputum and fiber optic examination of the bronchial passages have all shown limited effectiveness in detecting lung cancer early. The Department’s *Wisconsin Cancer Incidence and Mortality, 2000-2004* report shows that only 20 percent of lung cancer cases were diagnosed at an early stage.

Lung cancer is also disproportionately found among certain racial groups. African Americans and American Indians have higher cancer incidence rates (104 and 90, per 100,000, respectively) than the general population in Wisconsin (65 per 100,000).

“I urge everyone in Wisconsin to become aware of the risks for lung cancer and to learn about the resources available to them through their health care provider, the American Cancer Society, or their local health department,” Timberlake said. “With improved education, lung cancer can be prevented, and fewer people will have to suffer from this horrible disease.”

For more information about Wisconsin Tobacco Control and Prevention efforts, go to <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/tobacco>

For cancer reports and statistics, go to <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/wcrs/pubs.htm>

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