Lung (Lung & Bronchus) Cancer in Nebraska

Nebraska Lung Cancer Quick Facts:
- Between 2011 and 2015, 6,258 Nebraska residents were diagnosed with lung cancer, while 4,464 Nebraskans died from it.
- The rate at which lung cancer occurs (incidence) and the rate at which people die from it (mortality) increase sharply after age 55 and peak at ages 75-84 (Figure 1).
- Lung cancer incidence and mortality in Nebraska and the US began to trend downward during the past decade (Figures 2 & 3).
- Lung cancer incidence and mortality rates in Nebraska were consistently lower than national rates during the past decade (Figures 2 & 3).
Between 2011 and 2015, the majority (50%) of lung cancer cases in Nebraska were diagnosed at a distant stage of disease (Figure 4).

Stage of disease at diagnosis strongly affects the prognosis for lung cancer patients. The most recent national data show that the 5-year relative survival rate for lung cancers diagnosed at a local stage is 55% compared to only 4% for distant cases.

Lung Cancer Risk Factors and Screening

Cigarette smoking accounts for 80-90% of all lung cancer deaths. Other risk factors for lung cancer include exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke and exposure to radon and asbestos.

According to data collected by the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System in 2016, 17.0% of Nebraska adults were current smokers.

The US Preventive Services Task Force recommends annual screening for lung cancer with low-dose computed tomography in adults 55 to 80 years of age who have a 30 pack-year smoking history, are in good health, and currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years. A “pack-year” is defined as smoking an average of 1 pack of cigarettes per day for 1 year. For example, a person could have a 30 pack-year history by smoking 1 pack a day for 30 years or 2 packs a day for 15 years.

For more information on how to quit smoking, visit the Tobacco Free Nebraska webpage at http://dhhs.ne.gov/tfn; or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW for free access to counseling and support services.

About the Nebraska Cancer Registry

- **Purpose**: to document new cases of cancer among Nebraska residents; analyze geographic patterns and long-term trends; provide statistical and other information about cancer in Nebraska in response to specific requests; and plan and evaluate cancer control programs.
- **Funding**: funded by a portion of the Nebraska cigarette tax and also by a grant from CDC.
- **Data Sources**: hospitals, pathology laboratories, outpatient therapy sites, physician offices, death certificates, and cancer registries in other states.
- **Data Quality**: the NCR has been awarded gold standard certificate of data quality for 21 consecutive years (1995-2015) by the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries in recognition of the accuracy and completeness of the data.

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To learn more about the Nebraska Cancer Registry, or to view additional fact sheets and reports, visit: http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/ced_cancer_data.aspx.