The Alliance focuses 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incidence</th>
<th>Mortality</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky has the highest incidence rate nationally.</td>
<td>Kentucky has the highest mortality rate in the nation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia has the second highest incidence rate.</td>
<td>West Virginia and Mississippi are close for second with rates of 49.7 and 49.5 per 100,000 people.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tennessee and Mississippi are tied for third with rates of 72.9 and 72.8 respectively per 100,000 people.
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 accc-cancer.org/acca.

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