

# Opportunities to Leverage Navigation and Other Evidence-Based Strategies to Increase Lung Cancer Screening in Appalachia

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## BACKGROUND

The Rural Appalachian Lung Cancer Screening Initiative is led by the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC), the Appalachian Community Cancer Alliance (The Alliance), and patient advocacy partners. This multi-year initiative, recognized by the Cancer Moonshot<sup>SM</sup>, seeks to improve lung cancer screening rates by identifying and addressing social and structural barriers that prevent rural Appalachian residents from accessing screening. This region is markedly rural and characterized by generational poverty and a lack of key resources including access to health care. The Alliance is focused on interdisciplinary, patient-centered approaches to cancer care delivery from prevention through survivorship. Optimizing lung cancer screening is one of its key priorities.

### APPALACHIA

13 states | 423 counties | 3 federally recognized tribal communities

## METHODS

- Convened an expert Task Force and patient advocacy partners to guide research parameters.
- A targeted scan was conducted in 2022 to gather epidemiologic data and identify current best practices for screening at the community (ie, health care system) and societal level which could be applied to rural areas.

## CONCLUSIONS

The collective insights from research provide guidance around strategies that can be considered to optimize guideline-concordant lung cancer screening, increase patient retention, and contribute to early detection of suspicious lung nodules. *Supporting the use of navigation services will be a critical component to increase the rate of lung cancer screening.*

The next phase of the initiative includes work with health care sites in identified rural Appalachian communities in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Virginia to understand additional programmatic needs and to help implement enhanced screening programs.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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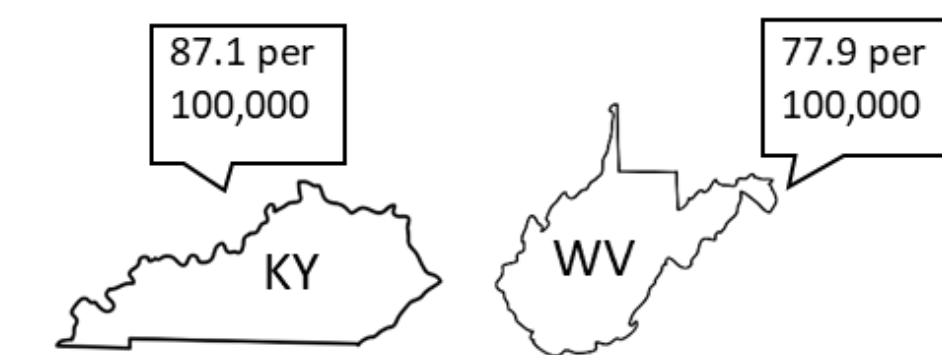


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## RESULTS



Kentucky has the highest lung cancer incidence and mortality rates, and WV has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest incidence rate in the US.<sup>1</sup>

### Evidence Based Strategies

Increase Screening	Increase Retention	Nodule Management Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify provider champions</li><li>• Own administrative aspects after referral</li><li>• Create cohesion across multidisciplinary teams</li><li>• Standardize CT ordering processes</li><li>• <b>Utilize navigators</b></li><li>• Mobile screening</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Address access barriers</li><li>• <b>Provide navigation</b></li><li>• Centralize follow-up</li><li>• Automate patient reminder calls</li><li>• Focus outreach to people with lower adherence rates</li></ul>	Lung nodule management programs specialize in risk assessment, evaluation, early diagnosis, and treatment of lung nodules.

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR RESEARCH

ACCC is well positioned to disseminate best practices and learnings from this initiative to its membership and engage additional sites in Appalachia to enhance their screening program. Potential tactics include:

- Use and evaluation of ACCC's Lung Cancer Screening Implementation Change Package
- Leverage partnerships to develop culturally-appropriate messaging for lung cancer screening
- Peer-to-peer learning exchange through an in-person Outcomes Summit

<sup>1</sup>National Cancer Institute. State Cancer Profiles. Accessed October 4, 2022. <https://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/risk/index.php>