

Appalachian cancer trends

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

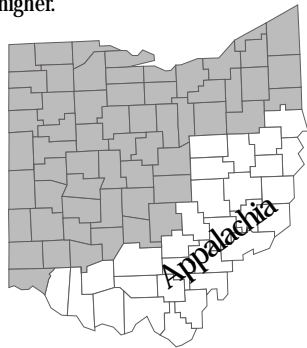
Cervical cancer
New case rates are
49 percent higher;
death rates are
43 percent higher.

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