



WOMEN’S LUNG HEALTH BAROMETER: MEDIA SUMMARY

The State of Lung Cancer in Women

Despite sobering statistics, lung cancer remains a silent epidemic. The disease has the horrible distinction of both impacting a tremendous number of people (more than 71,000 American women estimated to lose their lives this year alone) and bringing with it a distressingly low five-year survival rate of only 18 percent, among the lowest of all cancers.

While there are many misconceptions about this disease, the fact is that anyone can get lung cancer. Every hour, 18 of our friends, neighbors and loved ones lose their battle with lung cancer. The alarming statistics make it clear that we must do more to address this critical public health issue for all.

Women’s Lung Health Barometer: 2nd Annual Report

As the number one cancer killer of women, lung cancer kills almost twice as many women as any other cancer. Yet, according to the American Lung Association’s **2nd Annual Women’s Lung Health Barometer** — a survey of over 1,000 American adult women that measures women’s awareness, knowledge and perceptions about lung cancer — this disease is not even on women’s radar. In fact, when asked to identify cancers that affect women, **only 1 percent of women cited lung cancer on a top-of-mind basis.**

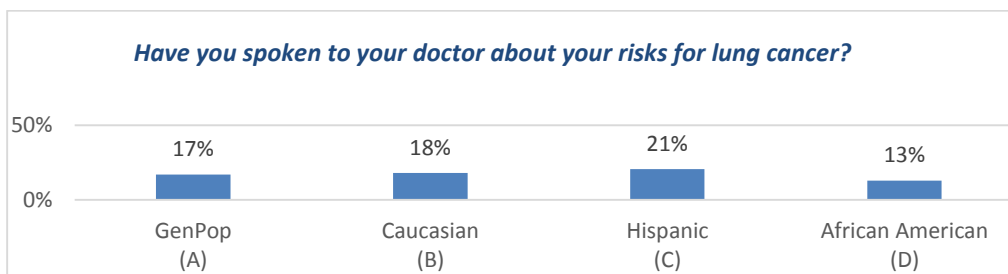
Lung cancer diagnoses have more than doubled among all women in the past 35 years, but only 35 percent of women are aware of this fact, including only 29 percent of African American women and 36 percent of Hispanic women.

Risk Factor Awareness on the Rise, Yet High Risk Women’s Awareness Still Dangerously Low

The Barometer revealed a 10 percent increase in awareness since 2014 of risk factors, such as radon gas and air pollution, exposure to secondhand smoke, and family history. Yet women at high risk still do not understand their lung cancer risks and many have not spoken with a doctor. Right now in the United States, there are approximately 3.5 million women at high risk. To determine if someone is high risk, take our quiz at: lungcancerscreeningsaveslives.org.

Here are the facts,

- Two-thirds of women at high risk for lung cancer say breast cancer is more of a concern. And only a quarter have spoken to their doctor about their lung cancer risks.
- Only a quarter of all women (26% African American women vs. 25% Hispanic women) are aware that lung cancer kills more people than breast, colon and pancreatic cancers combined.





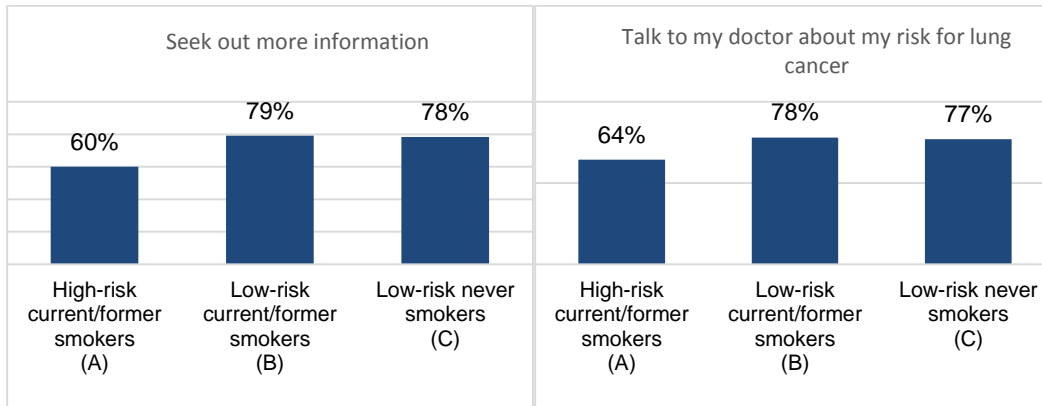
More Lung Cancer Research Funding is Needed to Make a Difference

The Barometer revealed that almost all women, especially African American and Hispanic women, believe it is important for policy makers to increase funding for lung cancer research. More novel treatment options (including precision medicine and immunotherapy) and early detection methods are needed to help the more than 100,000 women who will be diagnosed with lung cancer this year alone. For all women, early detection methods are needed. Only 17 percent of lung cancer cases among women are diagnosed early, when the survival rate is much higher.

Women are Ready To Take Action and Share Their Voices

When women learn the truth about lung cancer — especially the shocking mortality facts — they are more likely to take action to address lung cancer. The Barometer found that, regardless of their risk level for lung cancer, 4 out of 5 women say that once they know the basics, they are likely to seek out even more information (78%) and tell their friends (77%). While fewer than one in five women (13% African-American women vs. 21% Hispanic women) had spoken to a doctor about their risk for lung cancer, after learning more about the disease 77 percent (80% African American women vs. 81% Hispanic women) say they are likely to talk to their doctor now.

How likely are you to take the following actions to address lung cancer?



Our nation must increase its commitment to cancer research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Lung cancer research must be made a greater priority in our nation’s cancer research agenda. The American Lung Association advocates for a significant increase in NIH’s research budget, and is calling for NIH’s lung cancer research investment to increase from \$254 million to \$300 million by 2020. Research priorities should include better ways to detect lung cancer at an earlier, treatable stage, and improved treatments for all stages of lung cancer.

We are at the precipice of change in the fight against lung cancer and our determination to win this fight has never been stronger. LUNG FORCE is helping to advance this cause and show that the collective strength of many sharing their voice can make a measurable difference in this lifesaving fight to defeat lung cancer.