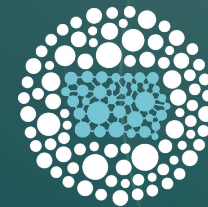


Reducing the Burden of Cancer in Iowa:

A Comprehensive Approach



Iowa Cancer
Consortium

www.canceriowa.org

Today's Presentation

1. Quick Facts
2. Iowa's Cancer Data
3. Iowa Cancer Consortium
4. Iowa Cancer Plan/Evidence-based Interventions
5. What's being done to address cancer in Iowa?
6. Get Involved
7. Q&A



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Cancer in Iowa

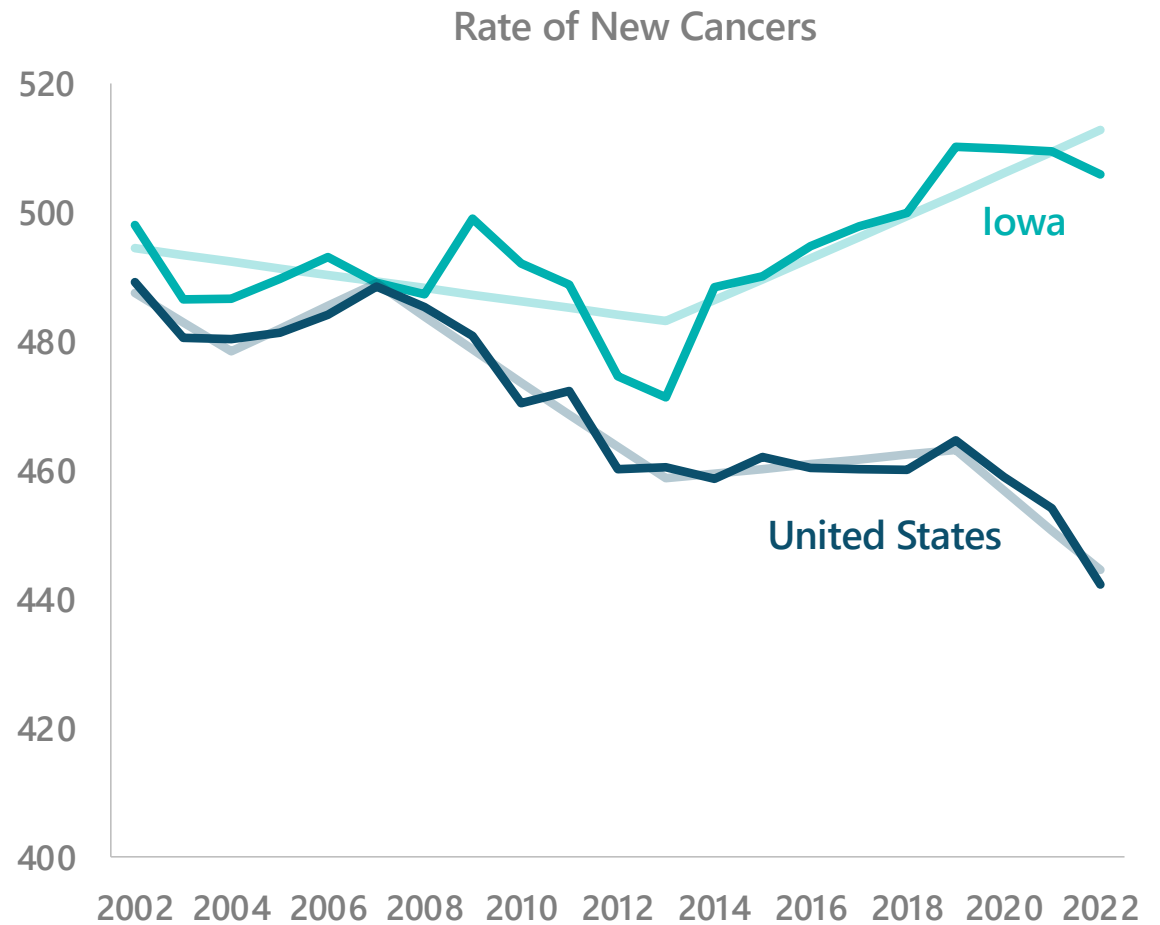
- An estimated 21,700 new, invasive cancers will be diagnosed among Iowans in 2026.
- An estimated 6,400 Iowans will die from cancer in 2026.
- The number of cancer survivors is increasing, with an estimated 175,290 survivors currently living in Iowa.



Source: Iowa Cancer Registry, 2026

Iowa has the **#2** highest rate of **new cancers** in the U.S.

Iowa's rate is **14% higher** than the U.S. rate

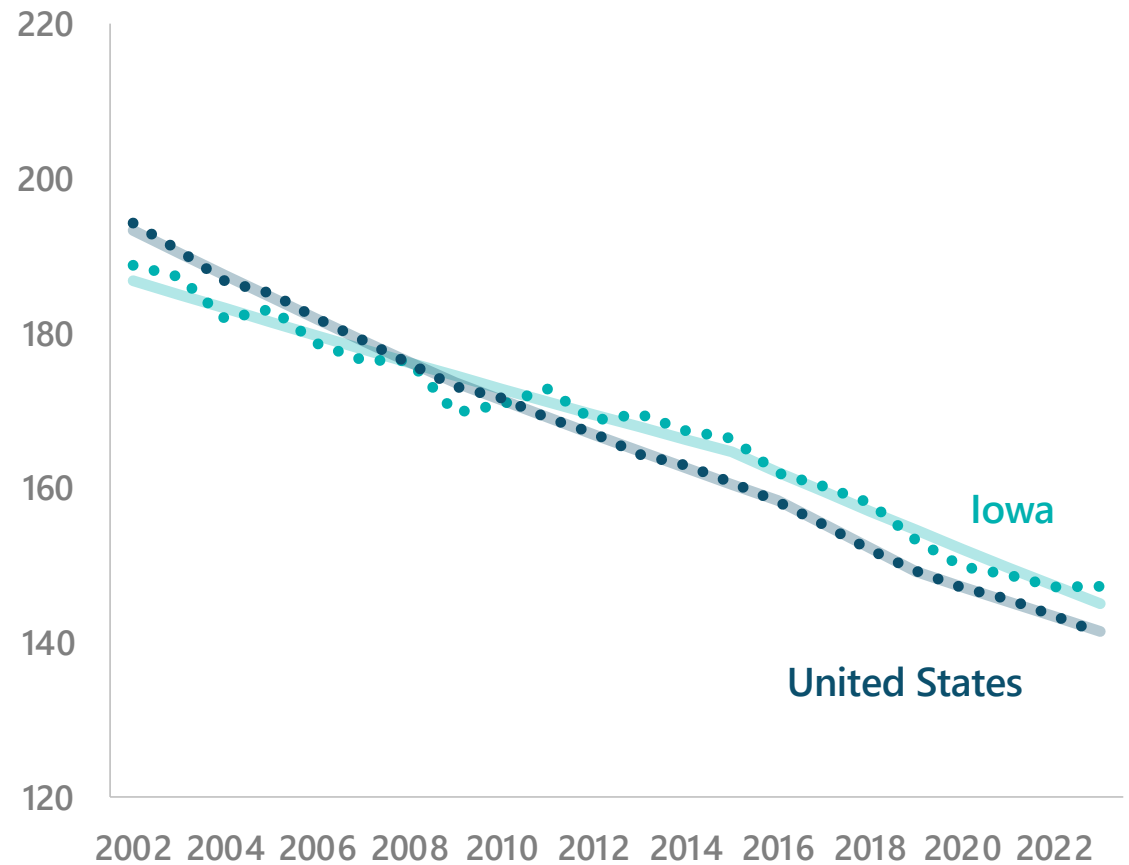


2020 data not included

Iowa has the **#23** highest rate of **cancer deaths** in the U.S.

Iowa's rate is **3% higher** than the U.S. rate

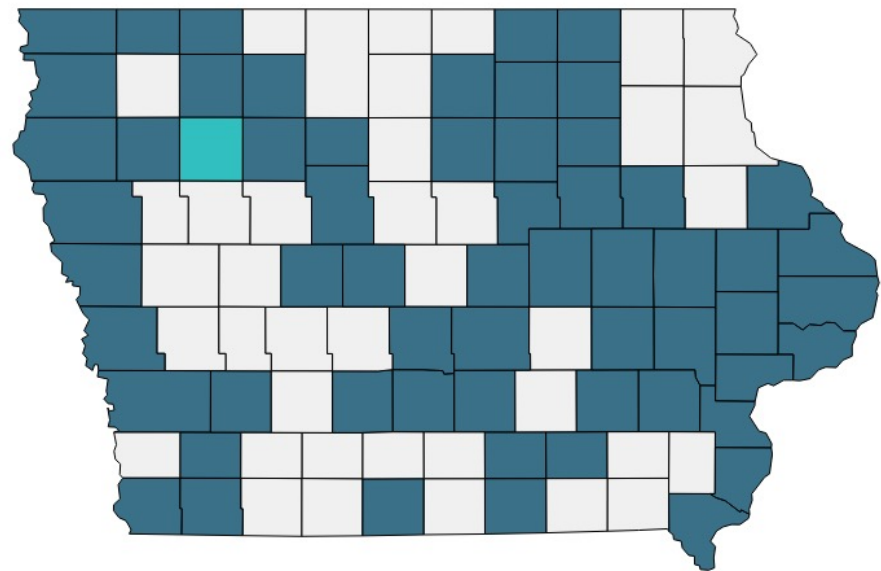
Rate of Cancer Deaths



Over half of Iowa's counties have a higher incidence rate than the U.S.

59 Counties with rate **OVER** the national average

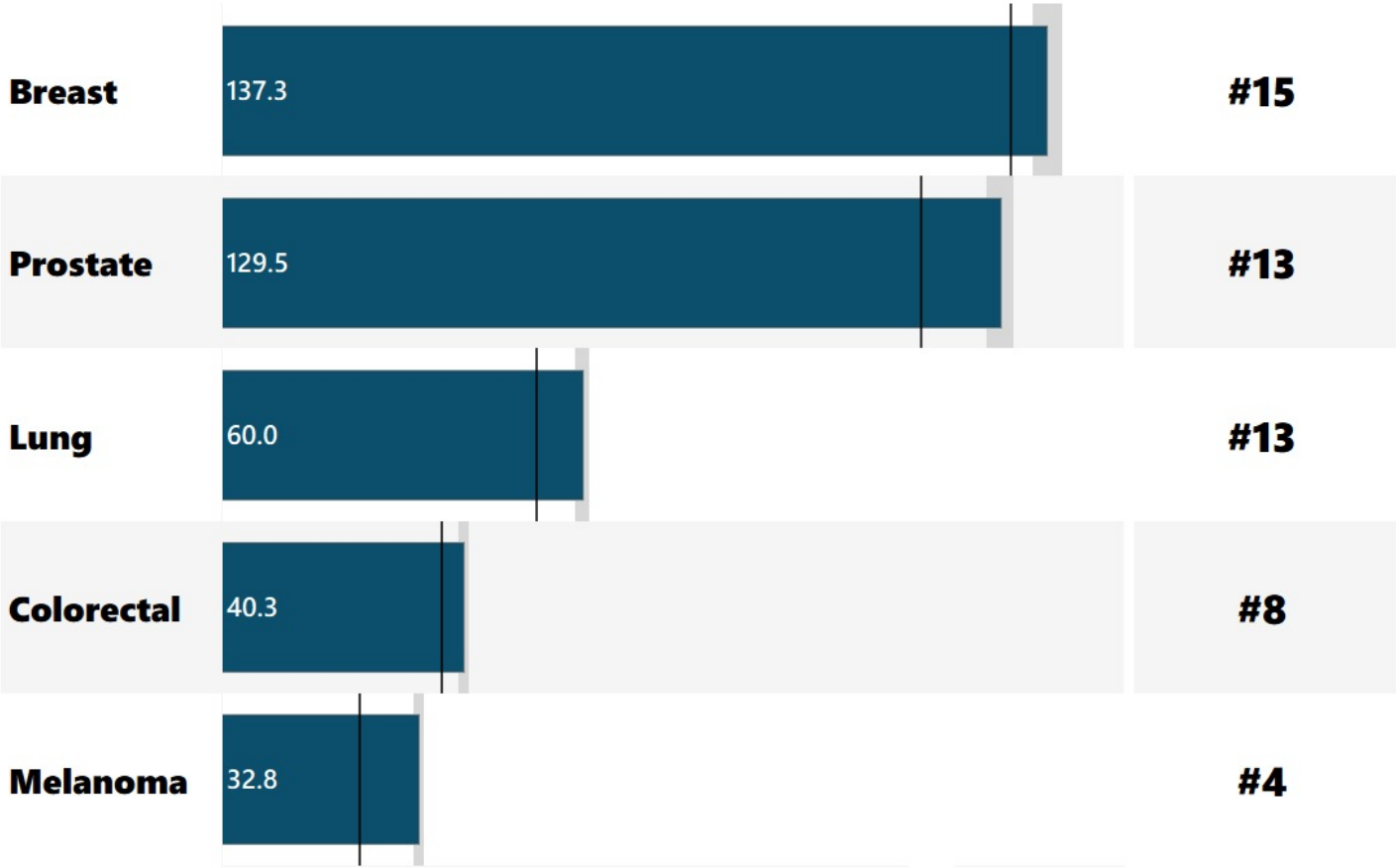
1 County with rate **BELOW** the national average



- Above National Average
- Below National Average
- Similar to National Average

2018-2022 Incidence

Top 5 Cancers in Iowa



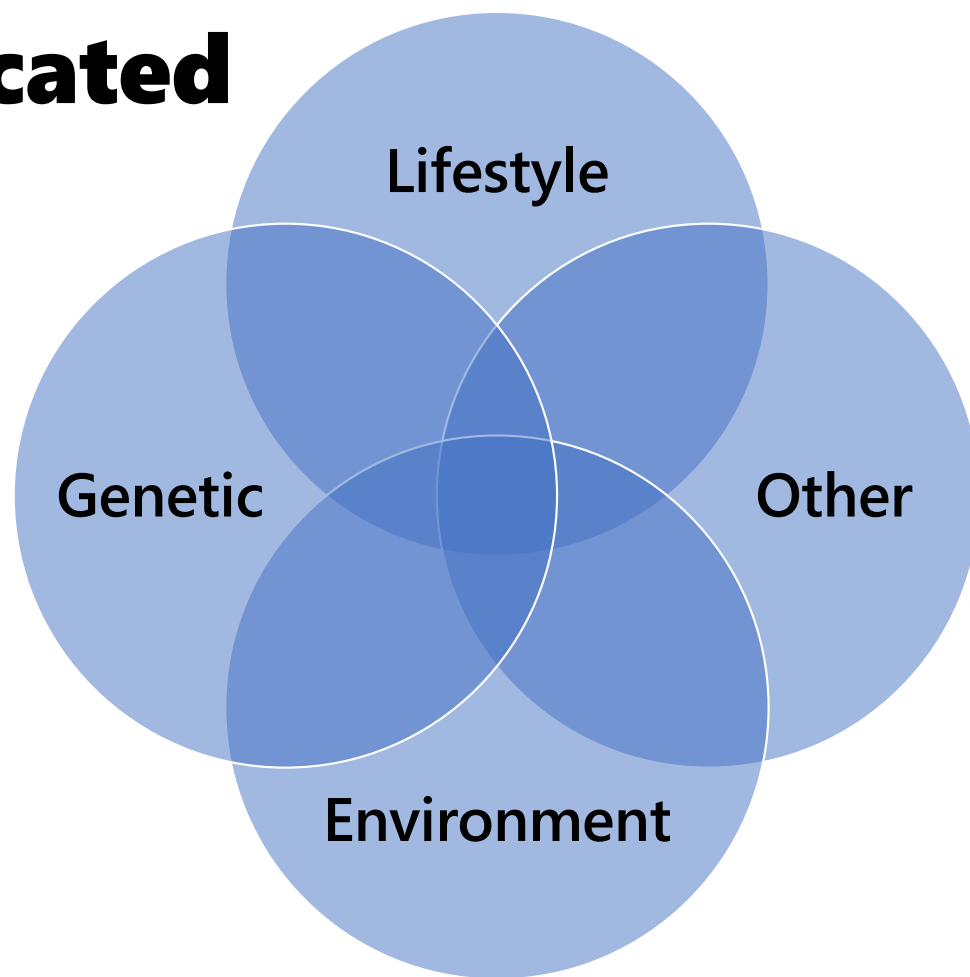
Age-Adjusted Incidence Rate per 100,000 (2018-2022)

Rank compared to other states, where #1 is highest in the U.S.



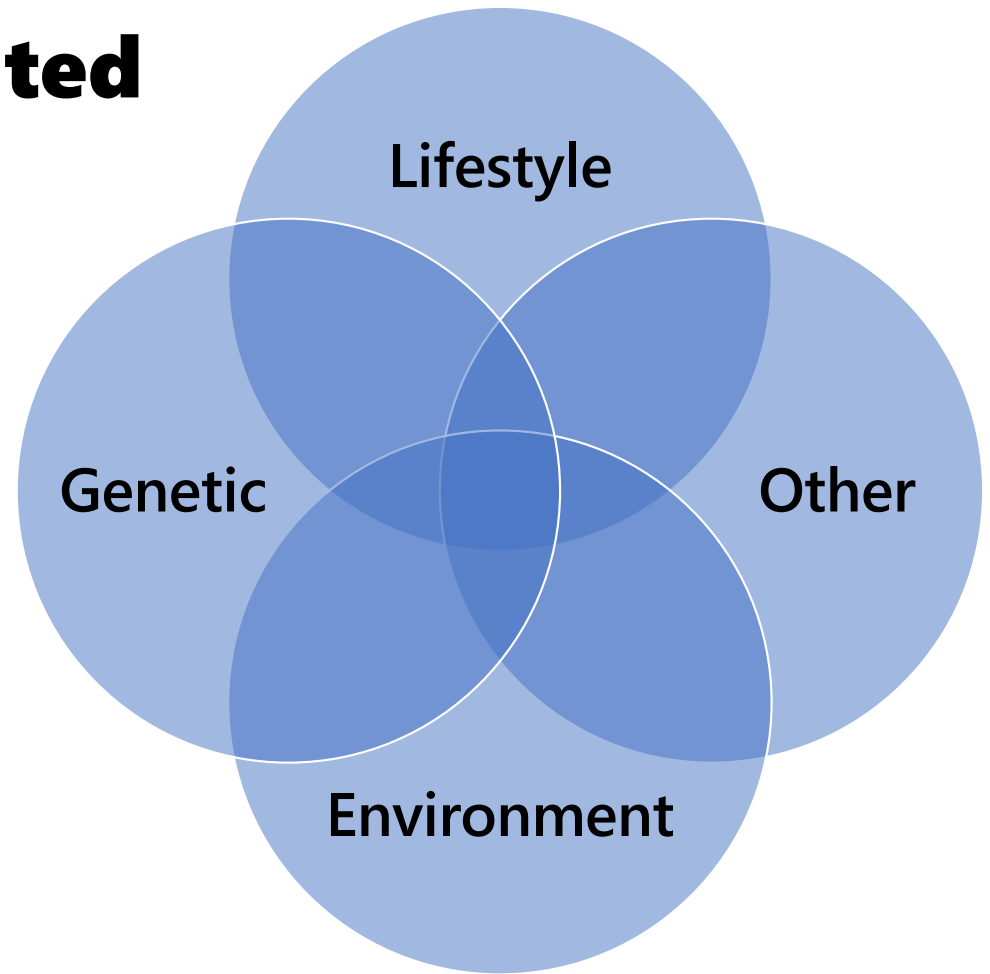
Cancer is Complicated

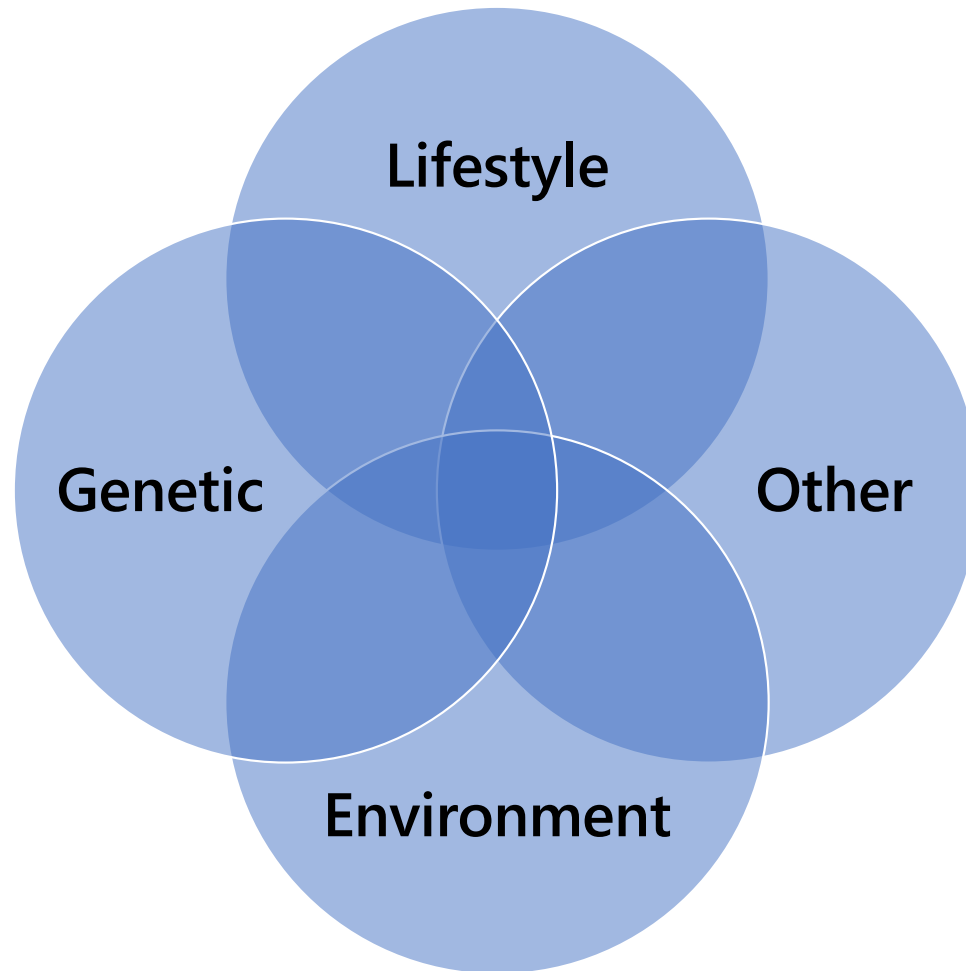
There is no one cause of cancer; it is a combination of different **genetic, lifestyle,** and **environmental** risk factors that change the function of cells



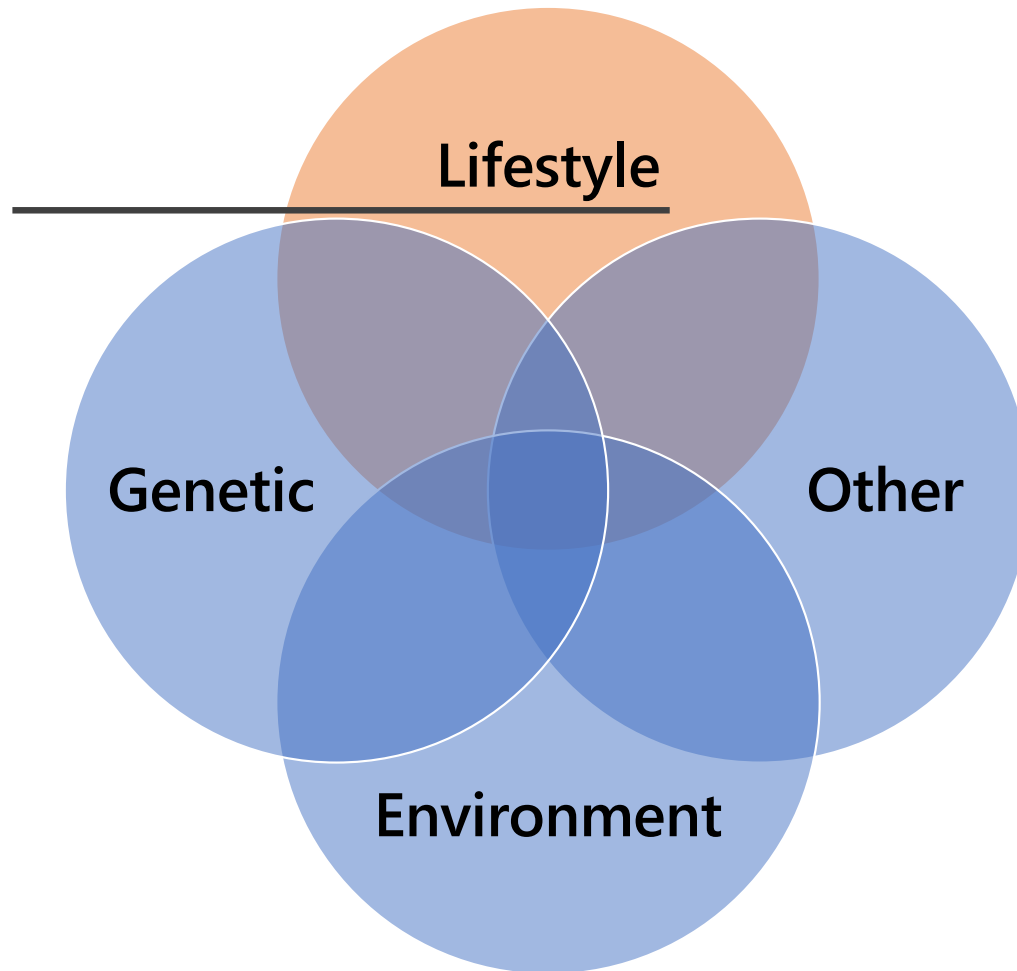
Cancer is Complicated

Risk factors are things that increase your chances of getting cancer

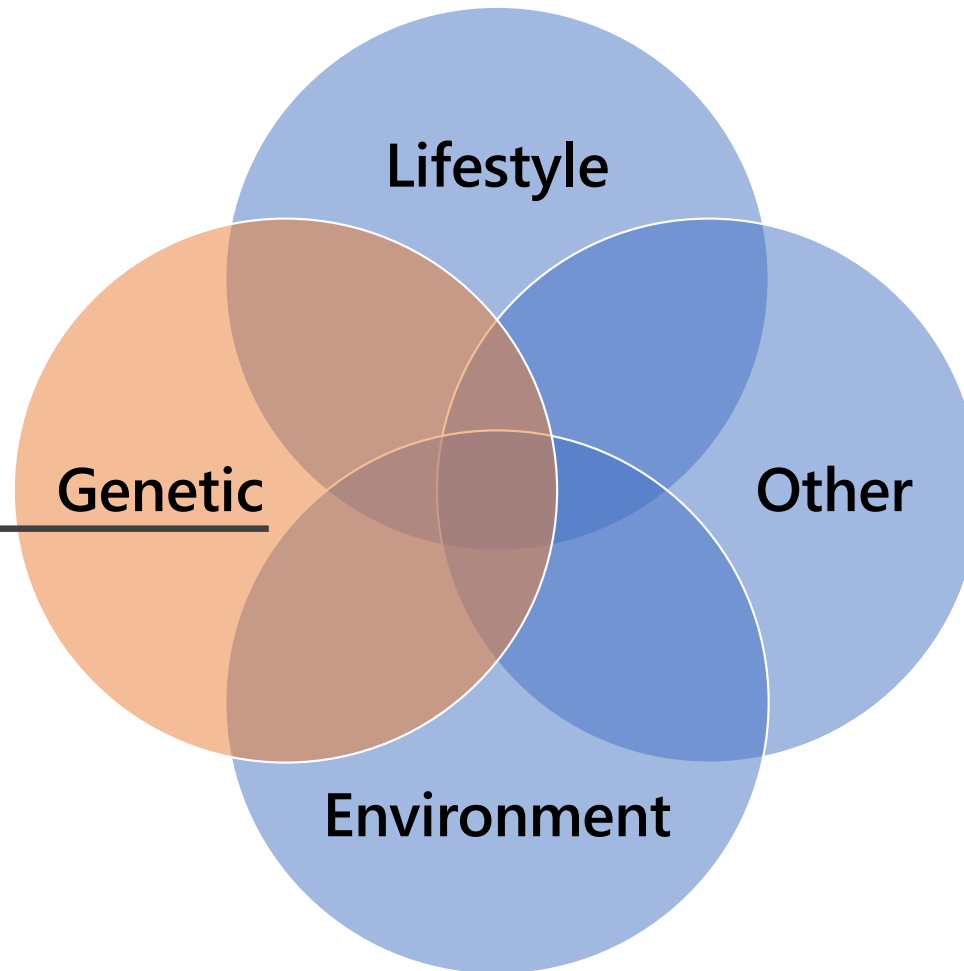


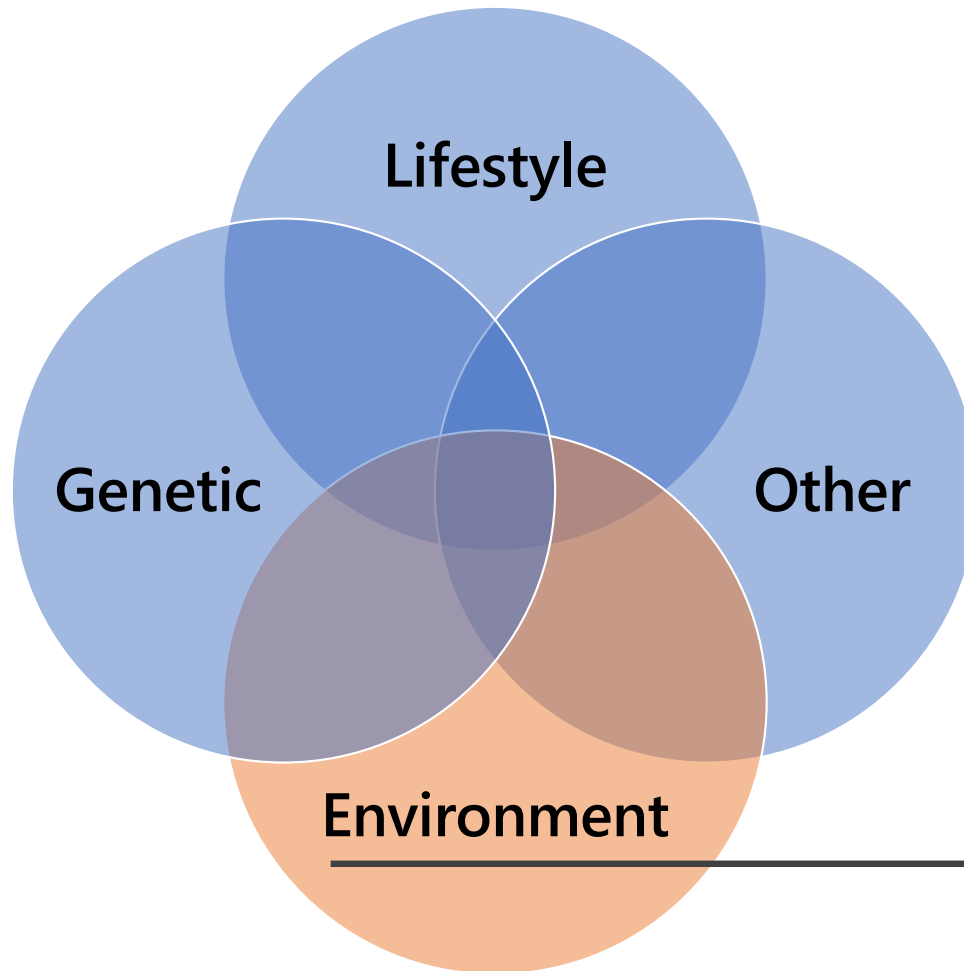


- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Unhealthy diet
- Not being physically active
- Sunburns

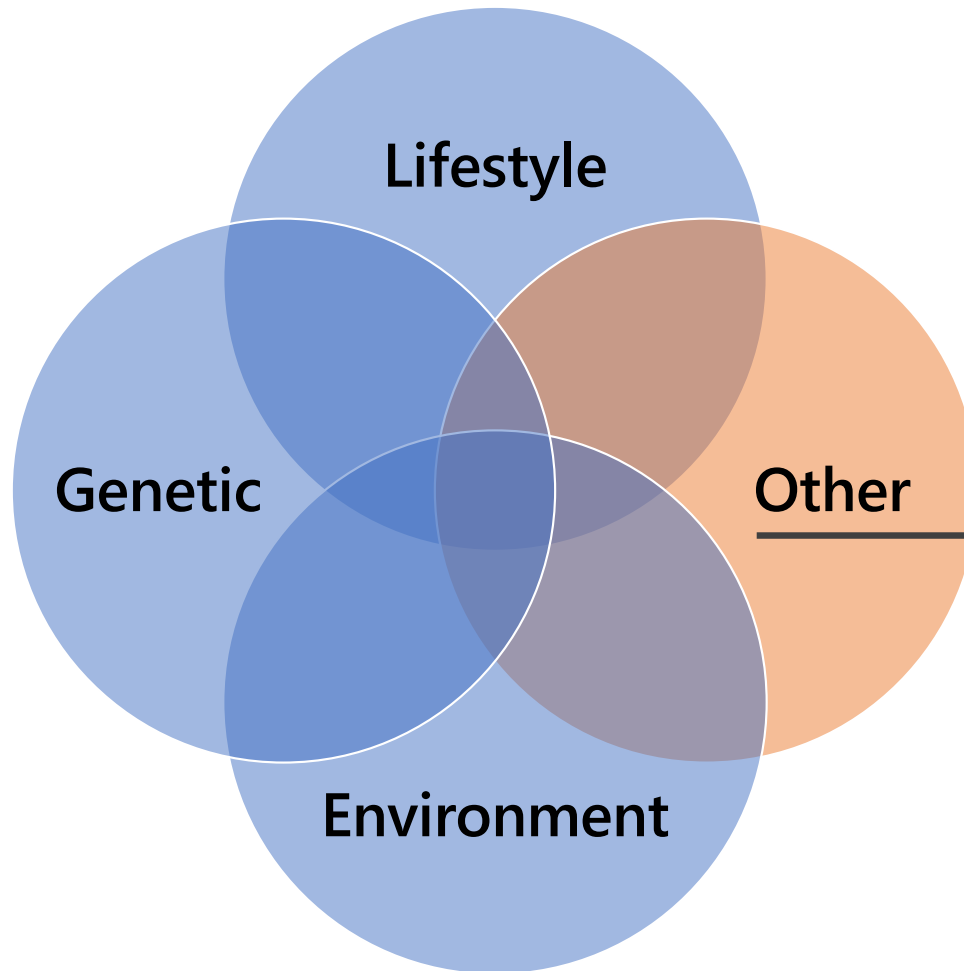


- Family history of cancer
- Random mutations





- Exposure to chemicals
- Radiation



- **Aging**
- **Viruses**
(HPV, Hepatitis B)
- **Medical conditions**
like chronic inflammation

Cancer & the Environment

- Many Iowans understandably have questions about potential links between environmental exposures and cancer
- This is an important area of continued research, and Iowans are right to ask questions and be cautious
- ICR, along with other population-based cancer registries, do not collect data on environmental risk factors, but we do share our data with researchers to support studies of cancer & environmental risk factors

How can you reduce your risk for cancer?

~40% of cancers in the US are attributable to modifiable risk factors (i.e., smoking, alcohol, diet, infections, etc.)



Do not smoke or use any form of tobacco
Make your home smoke-free



Enjoy a healthy diet



Avoid too much sun, use sun protection



Limit alcohol consumption



Be physically active



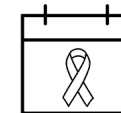
Vaccinate against Hepatitis B and HPV



Reduce indoor and outdoor air pollution (including radon)



Decrease excess body weight



Get the appropriate cancer screenings for you!

Risk Factors

- There can be many years between exposure to risk factors & cancer development, which makes it difficult to prove connections.
 - For example, lung cancer may not occur until 30 years after a person starts smoking
- Today we will focus on things you can do to reduce your cancer risk. These things can be addressed at the state, community, and individual levels.

Quick Facts

- Cancer is a complicated and costly disease that impacts us all.
 - *Addressing it requires we work together.*
- In Iowa, cancer is a *reportable condition* that healthcare providers and laboratories are legally required to report to the health department (c. 1982).
 - *This means we have scientists and communities with decades of publicly available cancer data to assist in identifying trends, research, and potential needs.*
- Our state has high cancer rates, but we also have a statewide coalition and cancer plan to help guide us ...



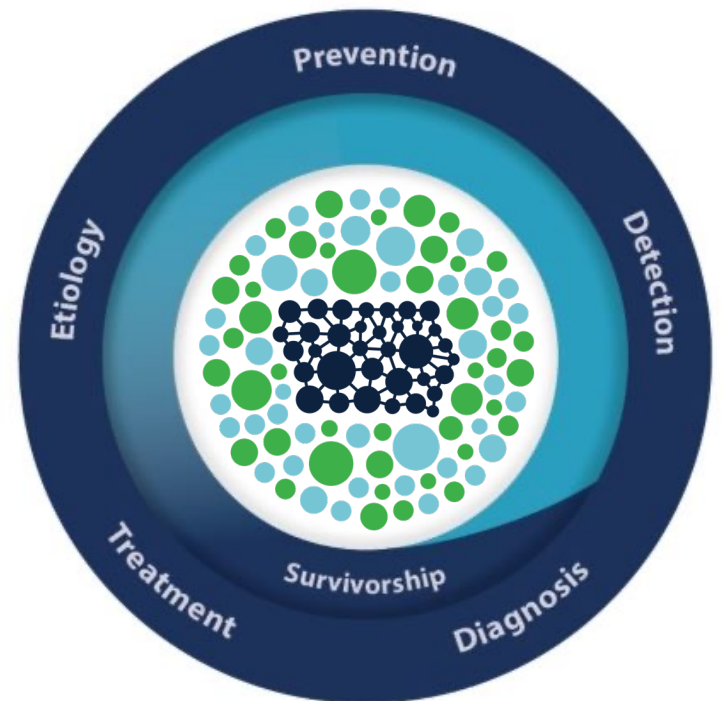
Iowa Cancer
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www.canceriowa.org

Iowa Cancer Consortium

- The Iowa Cancer Consortium is Iowa's statewide comprehensive cancer coalition.
- The Consortium offers its 700+ members and partners access to resources, expertise, and a space for non-competitive collaboration.
- 2023-2027 Iowa Cancer Plan

The Cancer Continuum



National Cancer Institute (NCI)

Cancer Control Partners in Iowa

State Government



Governor

- Implement state laws
- Advance and pursue policies and programs

Iowa Legislature

- Propose and vote on legislation
- Appropriate money to state agencies and programs
- Create and modify Iowa laws



Bureau of Chronic, Congenital and Inherited Conditions

Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

Cancer prevention, screening, survivorship

Care for Yourself
(Breast & Cervical Cancer Program)

Colorectal Cancer Screening Program

Bureau of Environmental Health Services

- Track environmental health-related diseases
- Assist local boards of health

Local (County) Public Health Services/Boards of Health

- Address health priorities and health disparities
- Promote healthy living
- Protect against environmental hazards
- Assure access to health services

Unity Point, MercyOne, Great River, Avera, Mayo, Methodist, Gundersen, Sanford and numerous independent **health systems, hospitals and clinics across Iowa**

Provide cancer prevention, screening, treatment, and survivorship services



Iowa's only NCI Designated Cancer Center

Health Care, research, education



Iowa Cancer Consortium

Advocate, collaborate, plan



STATE HEALTH REGISTRY OF IOWA

Data, support research & education



Iowa Cancer Action Network

Advocate for better policies

ACS Iowa

Help with cancer treatment and recovery

UI Research Centers



CHEEC

Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contamination



environmental health sciences research center

Blueprint for cancer control, the *Iowa Cancer Plan*

Chapters with sections that include priorities, strategies, and specific action steps which may be tailored to many settings to guide cancer control activities.

1. **Health Equity:** identify and eliminate cancer health disparities.
2. **Prevention and Risk Reduction:** whenever possible, prevent cancer from occurring.
3. **Early Detection and Screening:** promote the benefits of screening tests to ensure early diagnosis.
4. **Diagnosis and Cancer-Directed Therapy:** reduce barriers to care, promote evidence-based practices, and encourage participation in clinical trials and other forms of research.
5. **Survivorship and End-of-Life Care:** ensure resources to optimize quality-of-life for cancer survivors and their families.



<https://canceriowa.org/iowa-cancer-plan/>

CHAPTER 2 Prevention and Risk Reduction

OVERVIEW PRIORITY 1 PRIORITY 2 PRIORITY 3 PRIORITY 4

Chapter 2 Overview

SELECT A PRIORITY TO LEARN MORE

- Priority 1** Reduce exposure to tobacco and secondhand smoke.
- Priority 2** Enhance opportunities for Iowans to access nutritious food.
- Priority 3** Decrease alcohol consumption.
- Priority 4** Increase immunization rates for vaccines shown to protect patients from preventable diseases.
- Priority 5** Prevent, diagnose, and treat hepatitis C virus (HCV).
- Priority 6** Reduce exposure to environmental carcinogens.
- Priority 7** Decrease exposure to radon.
- Priority 8** Reduce exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.



CHAPTER 2 Prevention and Risk Reduction

OVERVIEW PRIORITY 1 PRIORITY 2 PRIORITY 3 PRIORITY 4 PRIORITY 5 PRIORITY 6 PRIORITY 7 PRIORITY 8

Priority 1: Reduce exposure to tobacco and secondhand smoke

Note: Within this section, “commercial tobacco” refers to harmful products which are made by tobacco companies. It does not include “traditional tobacco” used by Indigenous groups for ceremonial purposes.

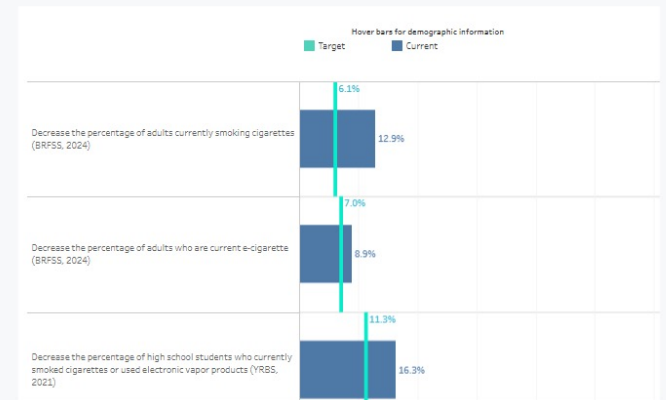
Strategy A: Prevent initiation of tobacco and nicotine use, especially among children and young adults.

Action Steps:

- Increase the percentage of middle and high school youth receiving information to discourage tobacco/nicotine products and encourage use of cessation programs.
- Promote free trainings for retailers regarding Iowa’s tobacco sales law to increase compliance and reduce buying attempts ([source](#)).
- Educate the general public (parents, teachers, students, local leaders) on the dangers of cigarettes, commercial tobacco products, and e-cigarettes ([source](#)).
- Increase the cigarette tax.
- Support policies that tax all tobacco/nicotine products at the same rate ([source](#)).
- Increase policies to restrict youth access and use of cigarettes, other commercial tobacco products, and e-cigarettes.
- Maintain the comprehensive statewide tobacco control program and restore funding to the CDC recommended levels (\$30.1 million for Iowa).
- Eliminate the sale of all flavored tobacco/nicotine products.
- Educate the public on chewing tobacco risk and providers on asking about chewing tobacco.

Data Targets

Note about youth health data: Created in 2019, the Iowa Youth Assessment Program originally administered three surveys related to student health (Iowa Youth Risk Behavior Survey [YRBS], Iowa Youth Survey [IYS], and School Health Profiles). Together these surveys provided necessary data for state and community members and partners to make data-driven funding, policy and program decisions. Iowa will no longer participate in the YRBS and School Health Profiles and will instead participate in the IYS (beginning 2024). Data are used at the school, county, state, and national levels to inform policy and funding, to develop program strategy, and for surveillance and research purposes.



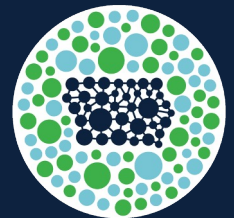
Navigation icons: back, forward, search, etc.

Share

Virtual Workgroups

**New! Environment and
Cancer Taskforce**

- Cancer Screening & Early Detection
- Health Equity
- HPV (*with Iowa Immunizes*)
- Policy
- Radon
- Research & Clinical Trials
- Rural Cancer Control
- Quality of Life



**What's happening to address
the cancer burden in Iowa?**

Healthy Hometowns/Rural Health Transformation


- Rural Health Transformation Program-component of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act
 - \$10 billion/year (2026-2030)
 - 50% allocated equally across states
 - 50% allocated based upon rurality, state's rural health system, and other factors
- Iowa's FY2026 Award Amount: \$209,040,064

Healthy Hometowns



Hometown Connections

- Centers of Excellence
- Best and Brightest School-Based Health Hubs




Combat Cancer: Prevent and Treat

- Increased Screening Access
- U of Iowa Cancer Analyses
- Cancer Hubs
- Radon Testing and Mitigation




Communities of Care

- Co-Location Projects
- Coordinated Service Provision
- Chronic Disease Prevention
- Teledentistry Equipment



Health Information Exchange

- Vendor Contract
- Provider Expansion
- RHT Initiative Connections



EMS Community Care Mobile

- ImageTrend QI Dashboards
- OB and Neonatal Transport
- Mobile Integrated Health Assessment

Combat Cancer: Prevent and Treat

Cancer Health Hub Technical Assistance Provider

- Partnership building, agreement negotiation, payment model development, business planning
- Assessing needs, personalized technical assistance to providers, drafting legal agreements, stakeholder engagement
- Help rural facilities navigate grant application process

Cancer Screenings and Prevention

- Radon testing (30,000/yr), home mitigation (500/yr), professional certification
- FIT testing and colonoscopies, dermatoscopes
- Appointment scheduling and screening test ordering via tablets in libraries and pharmacies

University of Iowa Cancer Partnership

- Research and assessment
- I-CAN Expansion
- County Cluster Intensive Cancer Prevention and Control

Environment-related Resources



Cancer Clusters

If you are concerned about cancer excess in your area, please email the Iowa Cancer Registry at ICR-CancerConcerns@uiowa.edu

Iowa Private Well Grants Program, Iowa HHS

Iowa's [Private Well Grants Program](#) (PWG) provides free water testing to all private well owners and users for specific analytes.



Agricultural Health Study

The aim of this study is to understand how agricultural, lifestyle, and genetic factors affect the health of farming populations. Linked with Iowa Cancer Registry data to study risk of developing cancer among pesticide applicators. aghealth.nih.gov

Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contamination (CHEEC)

CHEEC supports and conducts research to identify, measure and study adverse health outcomes related to exposure to environmental toxins. cheec.uiowa.edu



Environmental Exposures & Health Risks Fact Sheets

Environmental Health Sciences Research Center created fact sheets with information on cancer and non-cancer health risks for selected environmental exposures. <https://ehsrc.public-health.uiowa.edu/communityengagement/resources-information/>

Center for Energy & Environmental Education's (CEEE), Environmental Health Program

Raises awareness about the link between harmful chemicals and their impacts to both people and climate. ceee.uni.edu



Other initiatives in Iowa

Cancer and Environmental Risk Factors in Iowa



The Harkin Institute



The Harkin Institute and the Iowa Environmental Council have embarked on an initiative that explores the relationship between environmental risk factors and cancer rates in Iowa.

The initiative included a review of existing research on environmental risk factors and a statewide campaign to listen to, understand, and amplify Iowans' own lived experiences with cancer.

www.iaenvironment.org/our-work/cancer-and-environmental-risk-factors-in-iowa/

IOWA
HEALTH CARE

Holden Comprehensive
Cancer Center

Expert Panel

UI Holden Cancer Center is bringing renowned national and international cancer experts together to investigate Iowa's cancer rates.

IOWA
Health and
Human Services

IOWA

College of Public Health

Cancer Drivers in Iowa

Governor Reynolds and the legislature passed Senate File 647, which created a collaborative project with Iowa Health and Human Services and the University of Iowa College of Public Health to examine the factors behind the rise in cancer rates in Iowa.

<https://iphprp.org/cancer-drivers-in-iowa/>

[Interim Findings Report](#)

Stay Connected...

- Sign up for emails and learn more: canceriowa.org
- Find us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn
- Attend the Iowa Cancer Summit and other events: canceriowa.org/events
- Join the Iowa Cancer Consortium: canceriowa.org/membership/



Iowa Cancer
Consortium

Thank You!

Any questions?

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