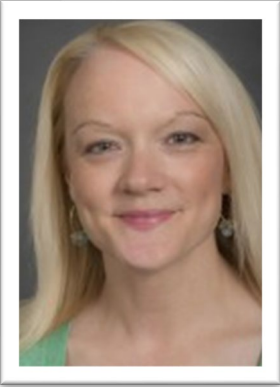


Cancer in Chickasaw County

Mary Charlton, PhD & Amanda Kahl, MPH

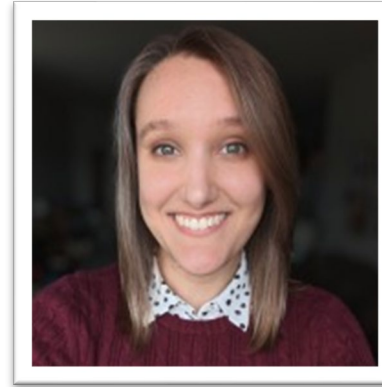
February 20, 2025

Who we are



Mary Charlton, PhD

- Professor, University of Iowa College of Public Health
- Director, Iowa Cancer Registry
- President, Iowa Cancer Consortium
- Co-Leader of the Cancer Epidemiology & Population Science Program, Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Research: Rural/ Urban differences in cancer prevention, screening, & quality of care



Amanda Kahl, MPH

- Epidemiologist & Data analyst, Iowa Cancer Registry
- Studies:
 - Associations between viral infections & cancer
 - Rural-urban differences in treatment and quality of cancer care
 - Cancer Registry data quality

99 Counties Project Team



Iowa Cancer
Consortium

www.canceriowa.org



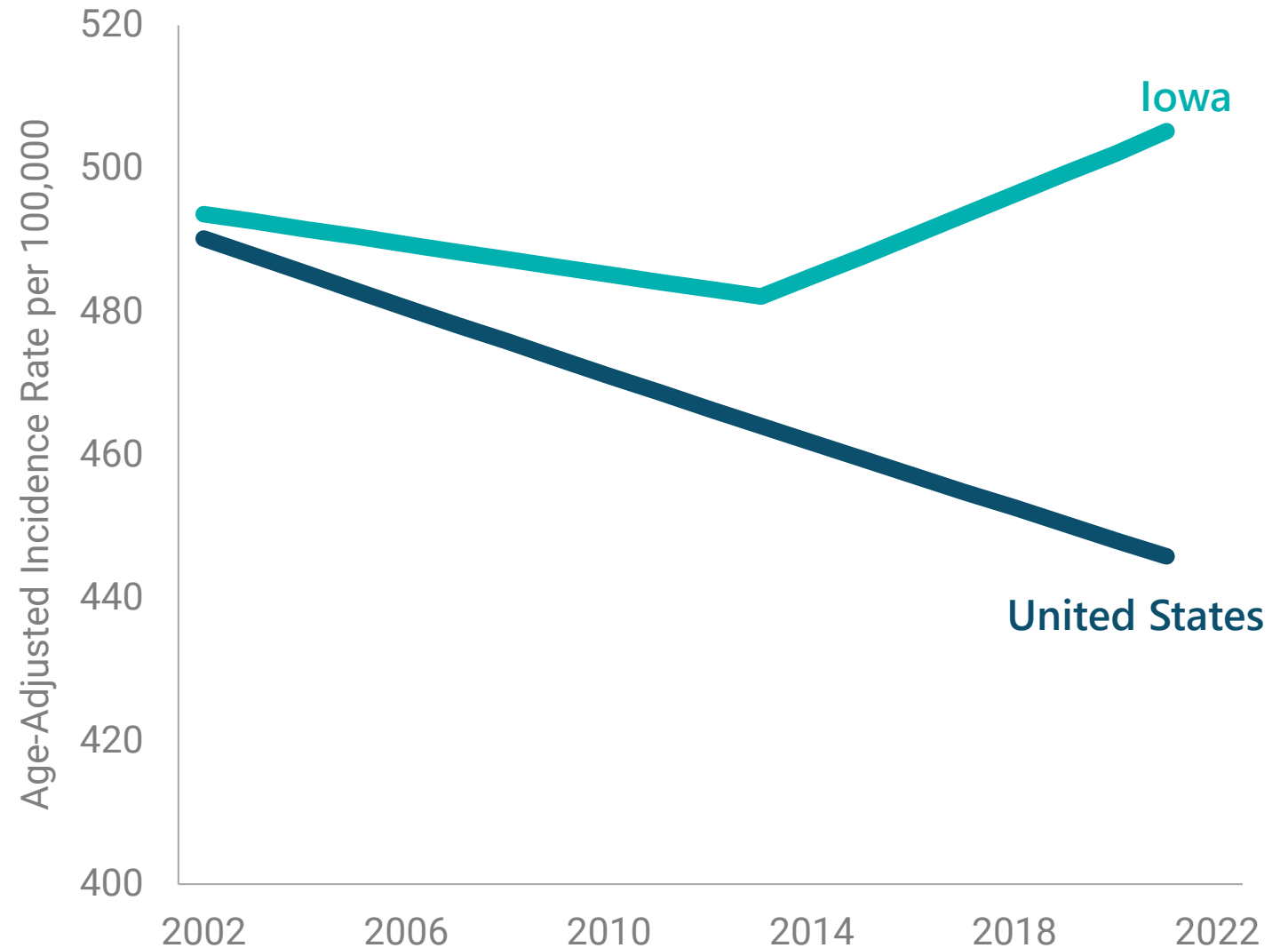
IOWA
HEALTH CARE

Holden Comprehensive
Cancer Center

IOWA™ | Health and
Human Services

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

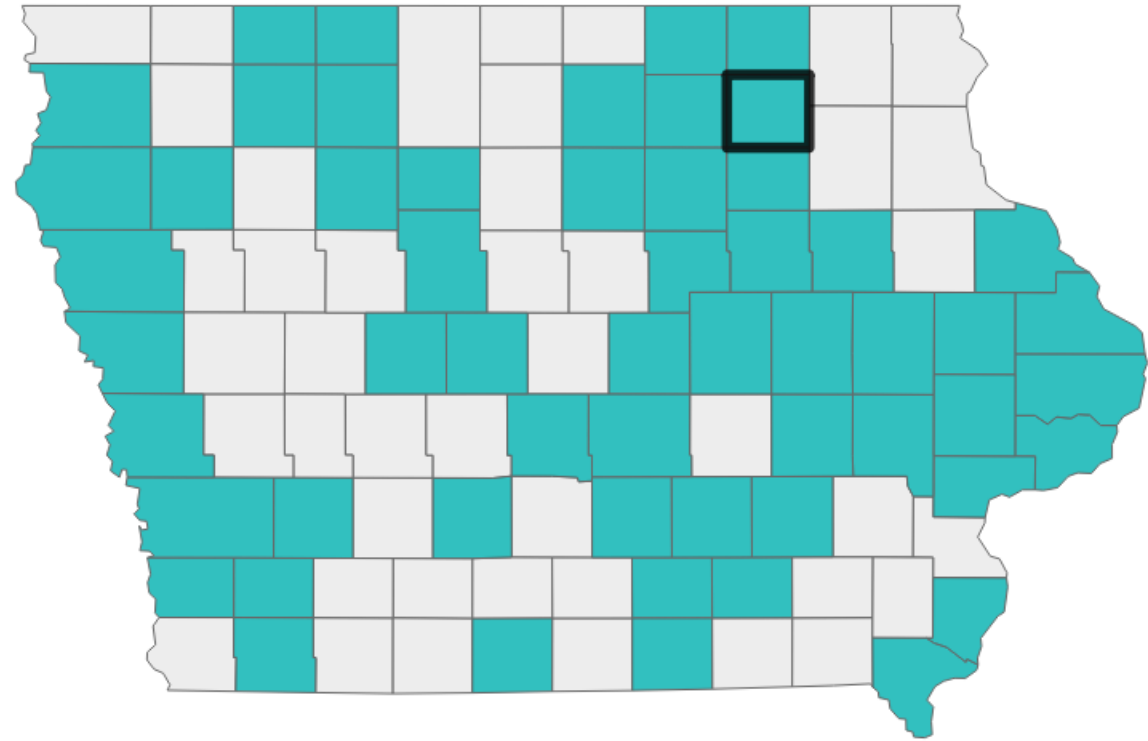
Iowa's rate is rising while the rest of the country improves



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

56 Counties with rates **OVER** the national average

0 Counties below the national average



■ Above National rates
■ No significant difference

About the Project

Goal: to enhance **community engagement** & **education** around cancer prevention and control across all of Iowa's 99 counties.



Present county-specific cancer data



Listen



Provide Resources



Recommend actions

**“Statistics are people
with the tears wiped away”**

Dr. Irving Selikoff

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

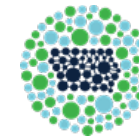
- Track environmental health-related diseases
- Assist local boards of health

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 Cancer Consortium

Advocate, collaborate, plan



Iowa Cancer Action Network

Advocate for better policies

ACS Iowa

Help with cancer treatment and recovery



Iowa's only NCI Designated Cancer Center

Health Care, research, education



Data, research, education

UI Research Centers



CHEEC
Center for Health Effects of
Environmental Contamination



Federal Funding for Cancer Control

- The Iowa Cancer Registry is funded in part with Federal funds from the **National Cancer Institute (National Institutes of Health)**, Department of Health and Human Services, under Contract No. HHSN261201800012I
- The Cancer in Iowa: 99 Counties Project is specifically funded by Federal funds from the **National Cancer Institute** through grant award: 5R01CA254628-04S2, and through National Cancer Institute funds provided to the University of Iowa Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center (P30CA086862)
- The Iowa Cancer Consortium acknowledges the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** for its funding support under cooperative agreement NU58DP007103 awarded to the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS).

The contents of this presentation are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC or the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute.

Iowa Cancer Registry Goals



Assemble & report data on new cancers, cancer deaths, & survival



Respond to **data requests** from organizations & individuals



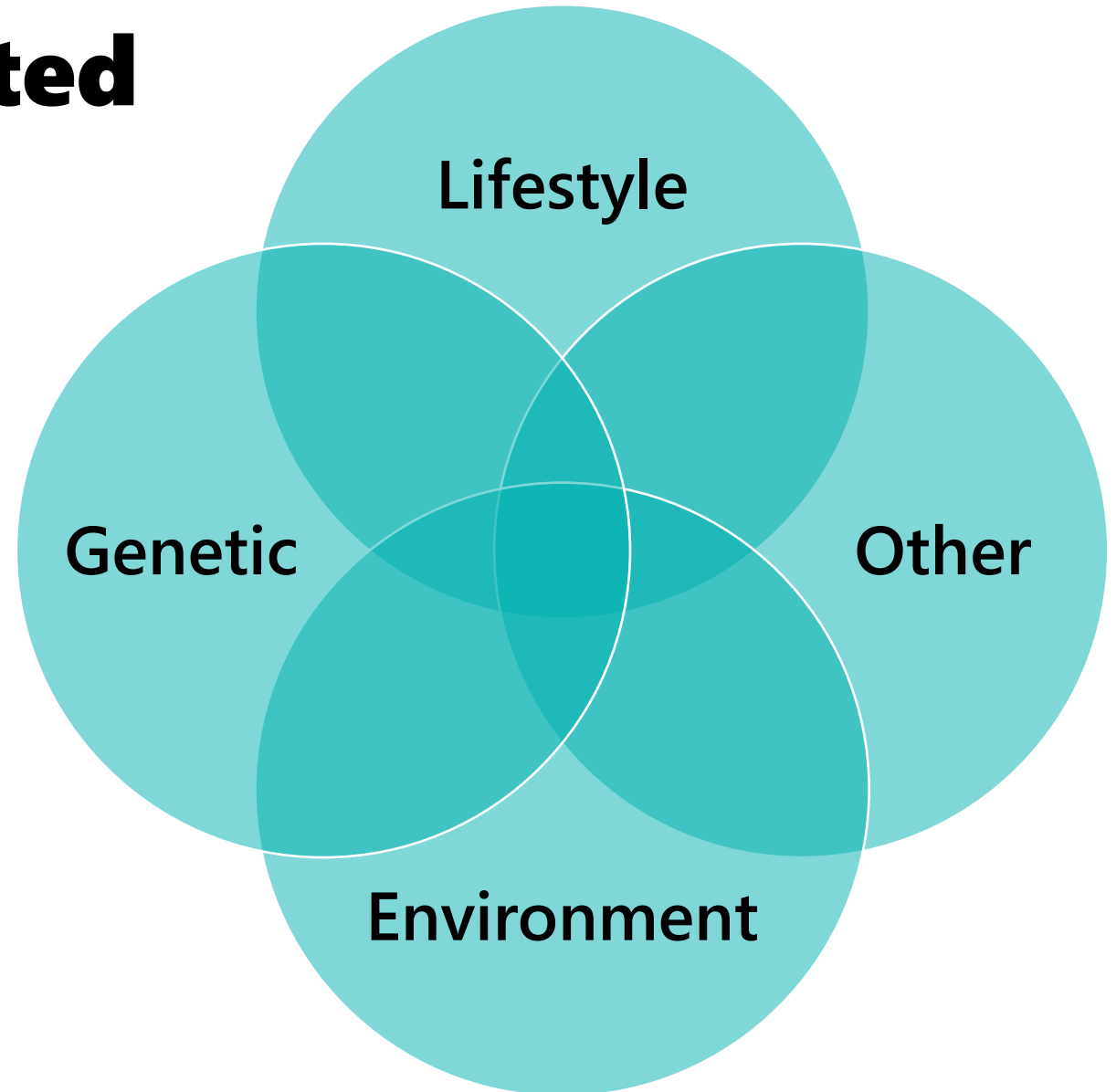
Support studies for cancer prevention, research, & education



Background on Cancer

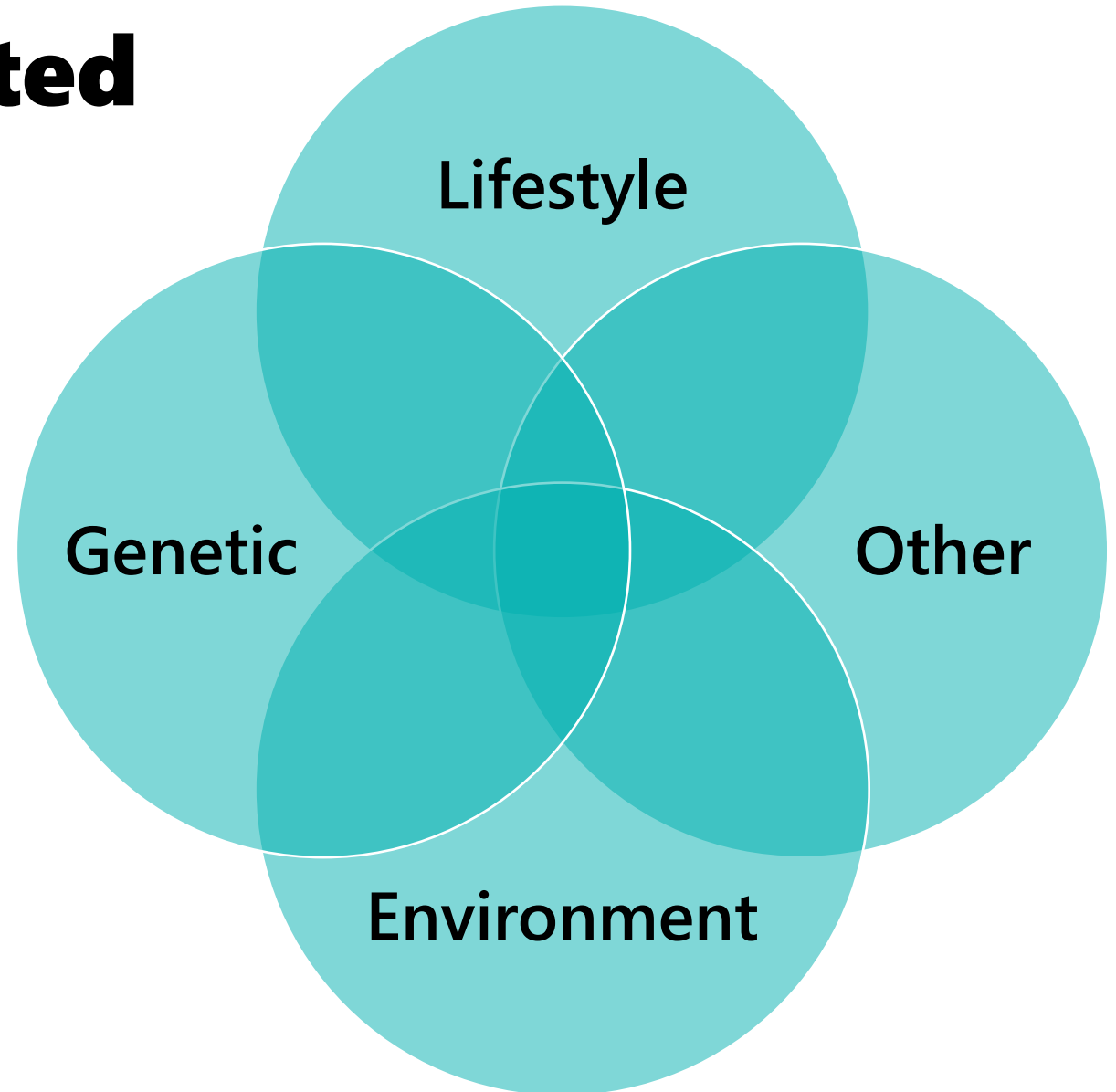
Cancer is Complicated

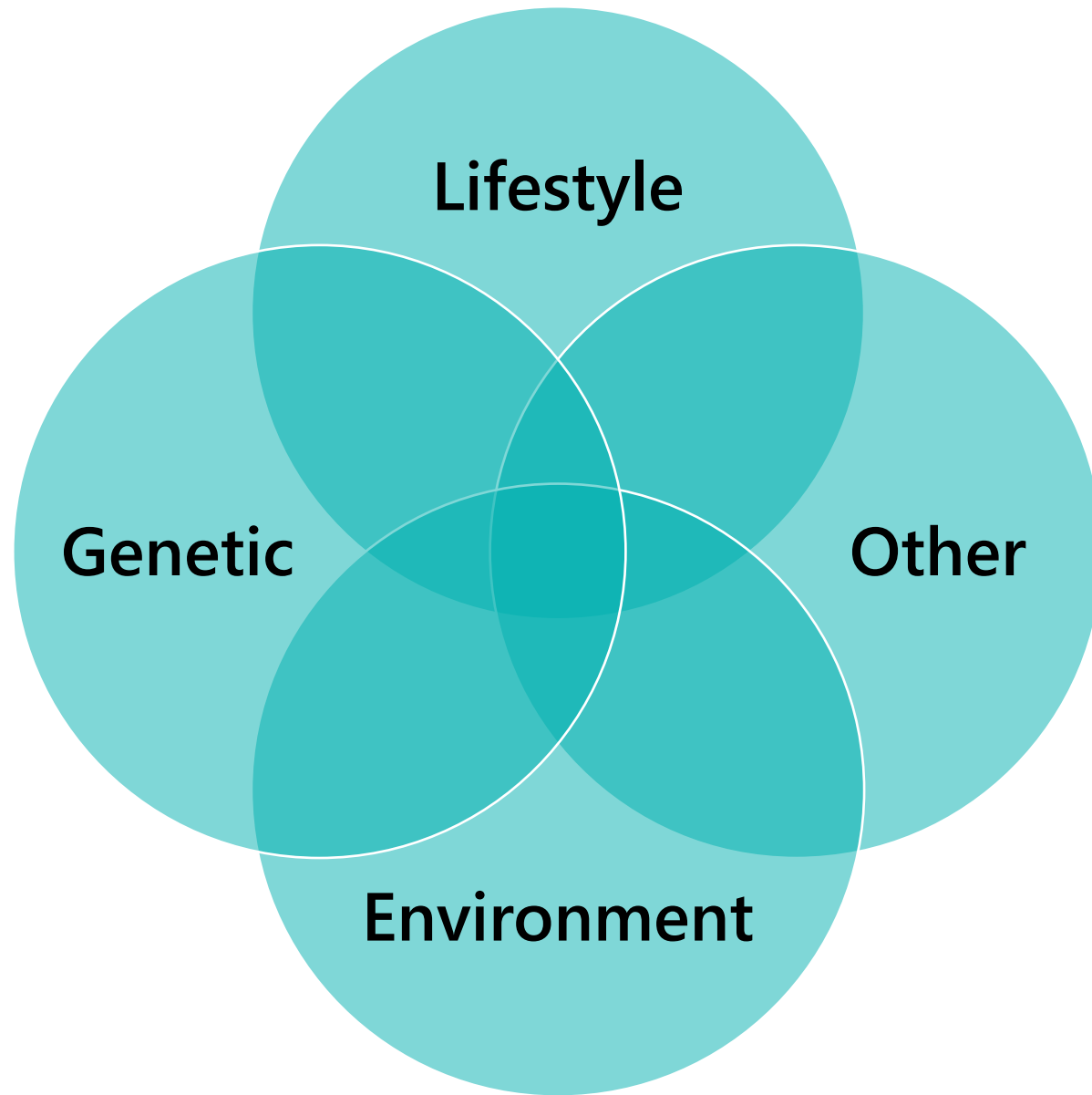
There is no one cause of cancer; it is a combination of different **genetic, lifestyle, environmental,** and **structural** risk factors that change the function of cells



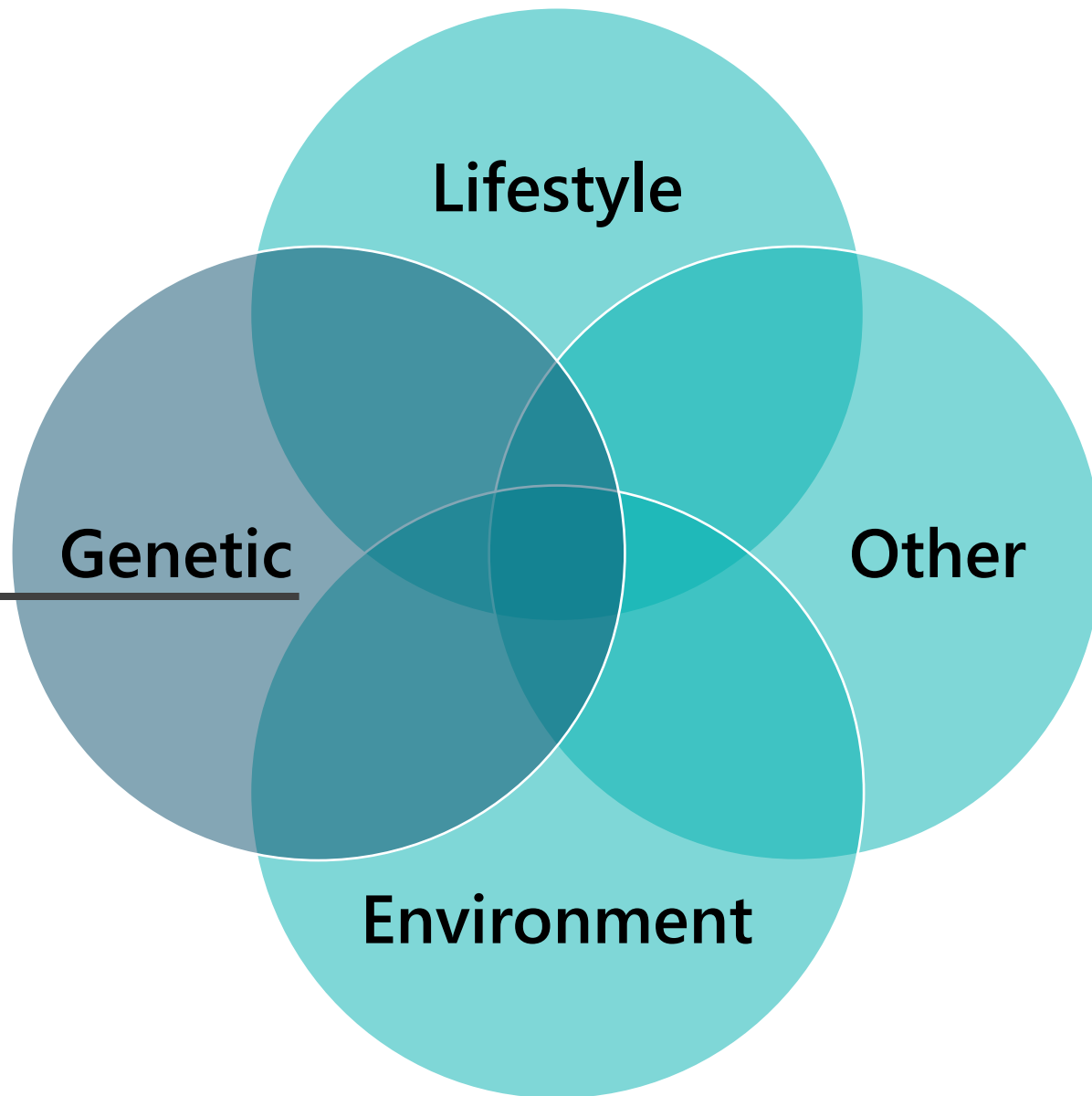
Cancer is Complicated

Risk factors are things that increase your chances of getting cancer

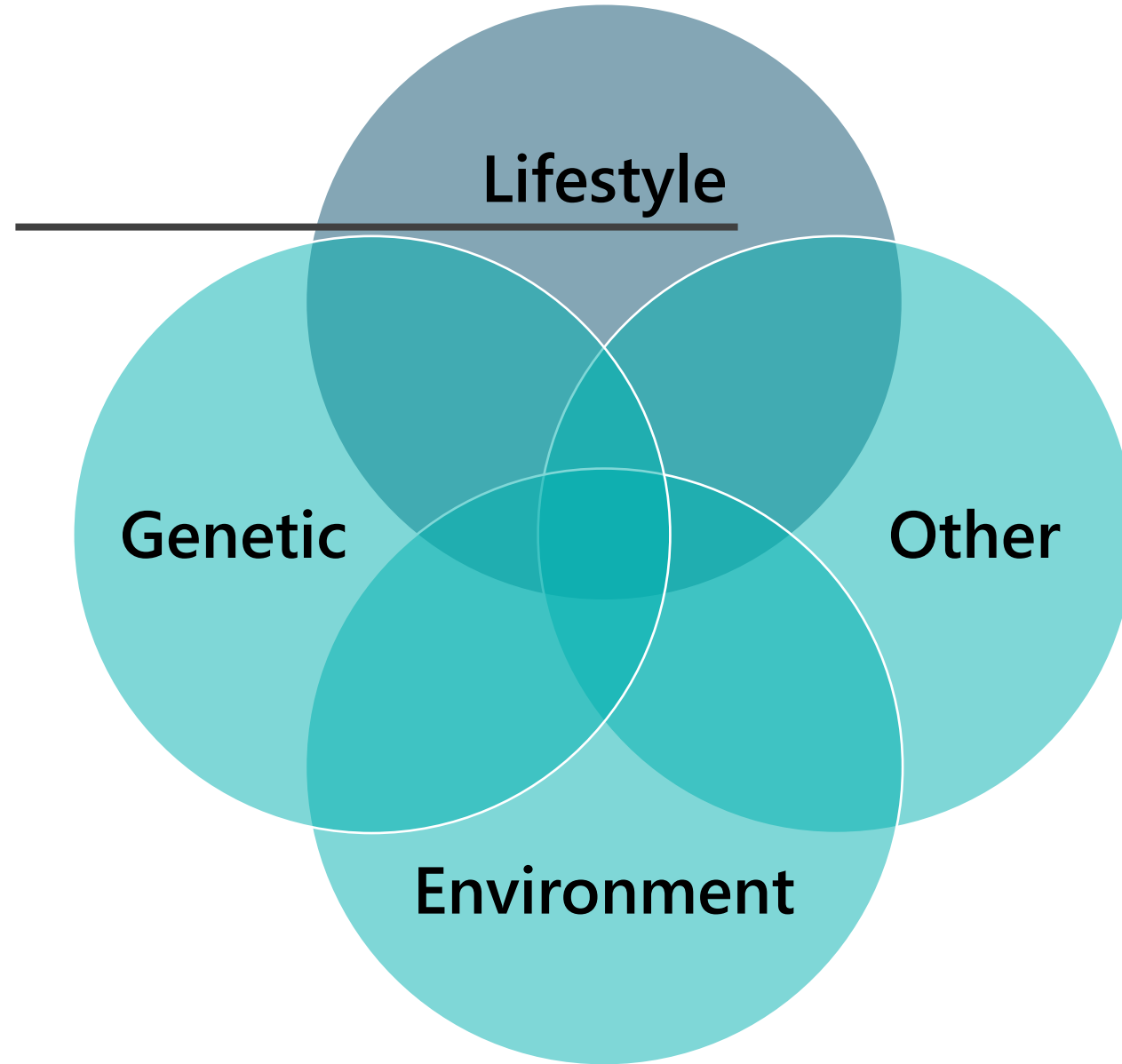


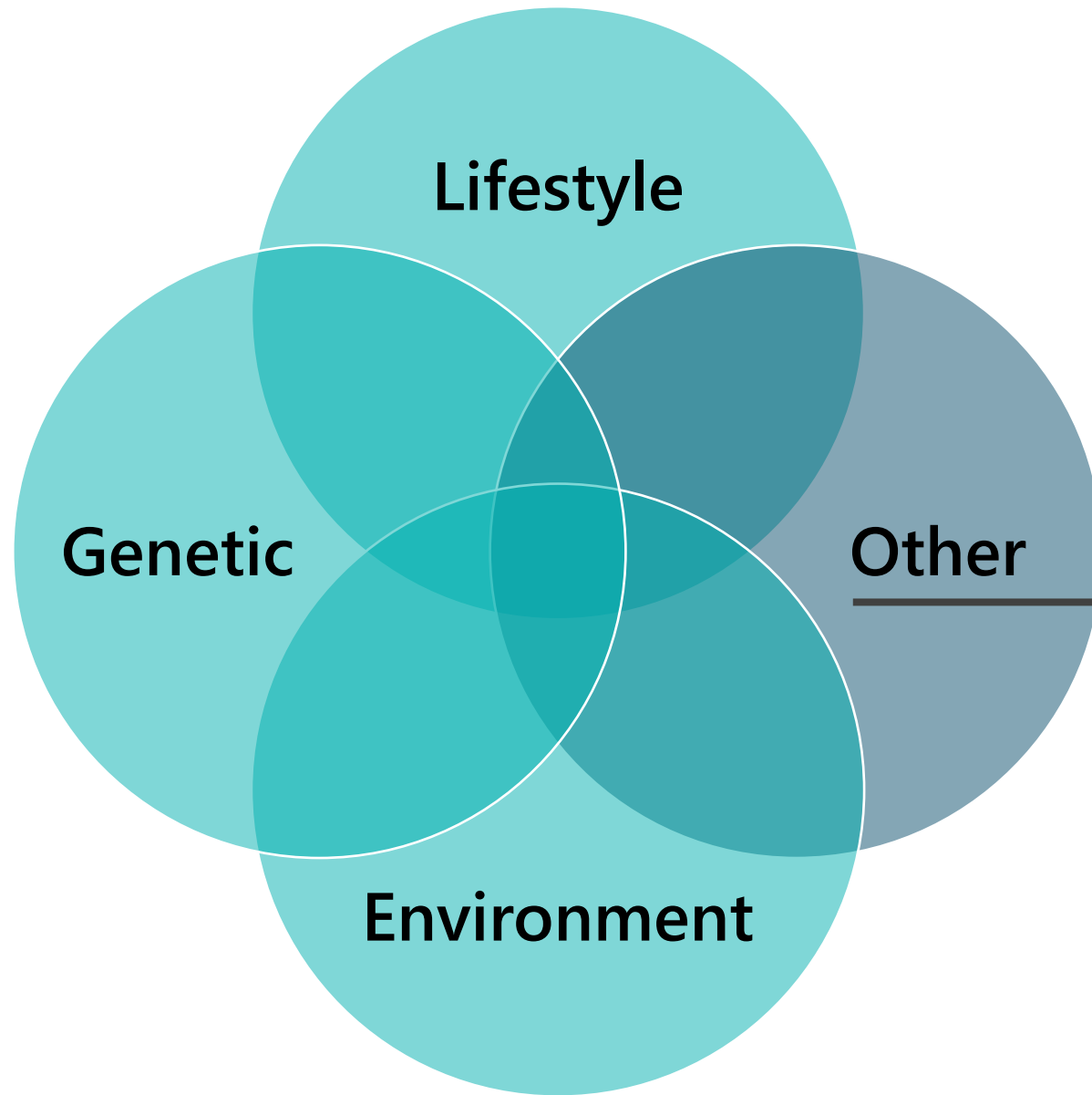


- Family history of cancer
- Random mutations

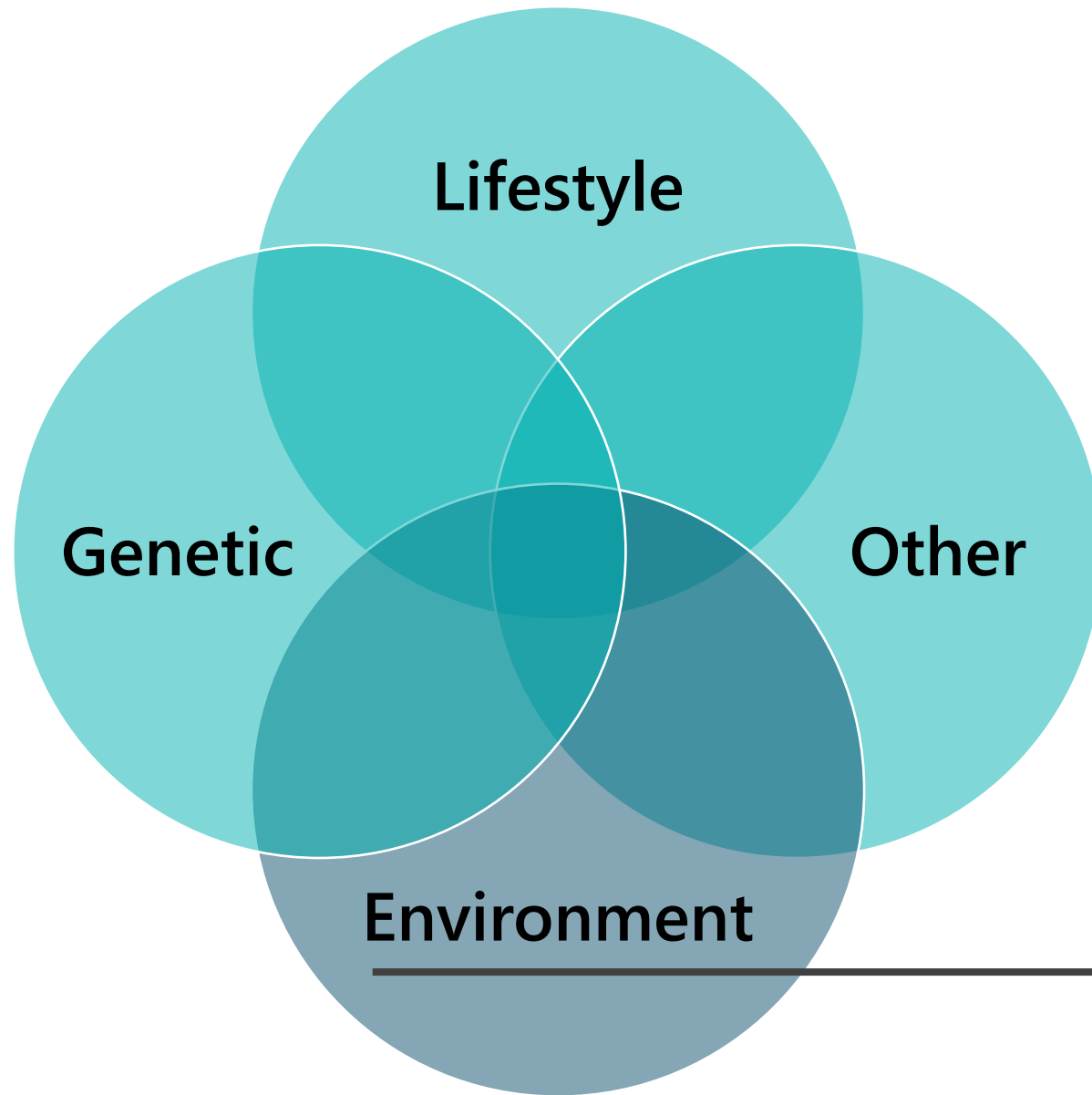


- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Unhealthy diet
- Not being physically active
- Sunburns





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



- Exposure to chemicals
- Radiation

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

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
- To reduce your risk, **avoid risk factors** whenever possible
- 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.



Key Terms

Incidence & Mortality

- Incidence
 - Number of **new cases** of a disease occurring during a specified time period in a population
- Mortality
 - Number of **deaths** from a disease that occur during a specified time period in a population

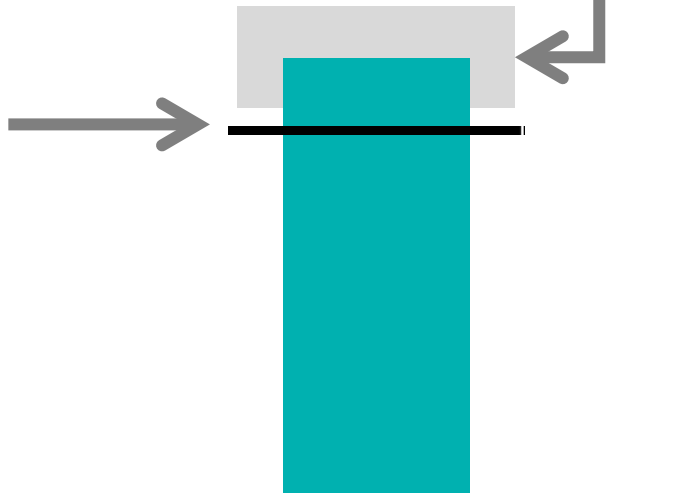
Rates & Counts

- Counts
 - The **number** of new cases diagnosed or deaths from cancer
- Rates
 - Adjusts the counts to give a **# per 100,000 people**
- Age-Adjusted Rates
 - Addresses the question: *If the size and age of the populations were the same, would there be a difference in outcomes?*

How to read the graphs

Unless otherwise stated,
bars graphs are your
county data

Black lines on
bar graphs are
United States
data



Grey boxes on
bar graphs are
95% Confidence
Intervals.
These are used to
determine if rates are
statistically different
from each other



If a bar graph has a
bar shaded light grey,
it means there is no
significant difference
between that county
and US data

Cancer in Chickasaw County



New Cancers in Chickasaw County

All cancer types, average counts and rates, 2017-2021

Each year, there are about

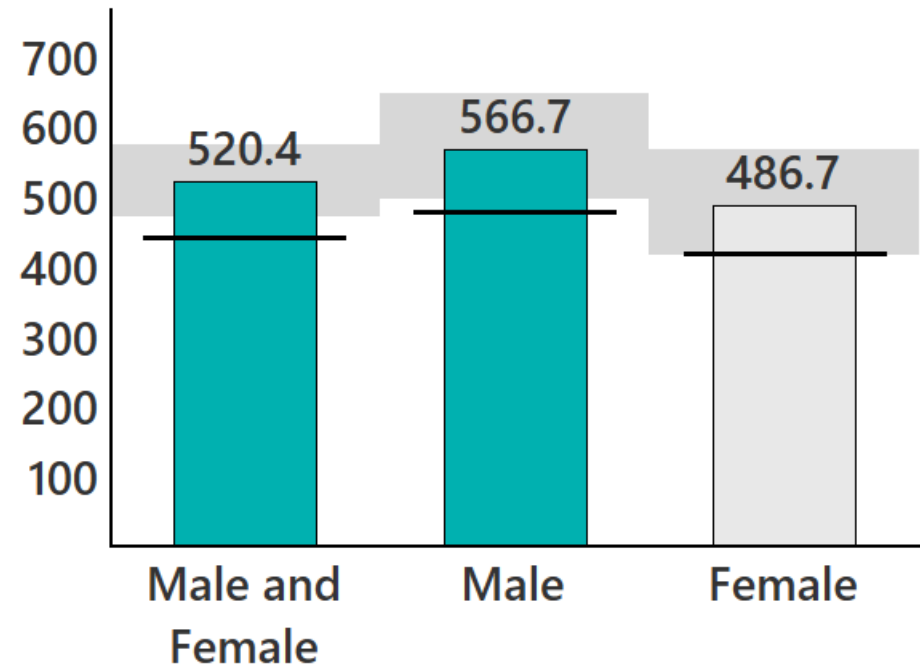
91

new cancers diagnosed in
Chickasaw County

Cancer incidence rates in Chickasaw
County are **higher than the U.S.
average**

Ranks #16 in the state

Cancer incidence rates are typically
higher in men than women



Age-Adjusted rate per 100,000 (2017-2021)

Cancer deaths in Chickasaw County

All cancer types, average counts and rates, 2018-2022

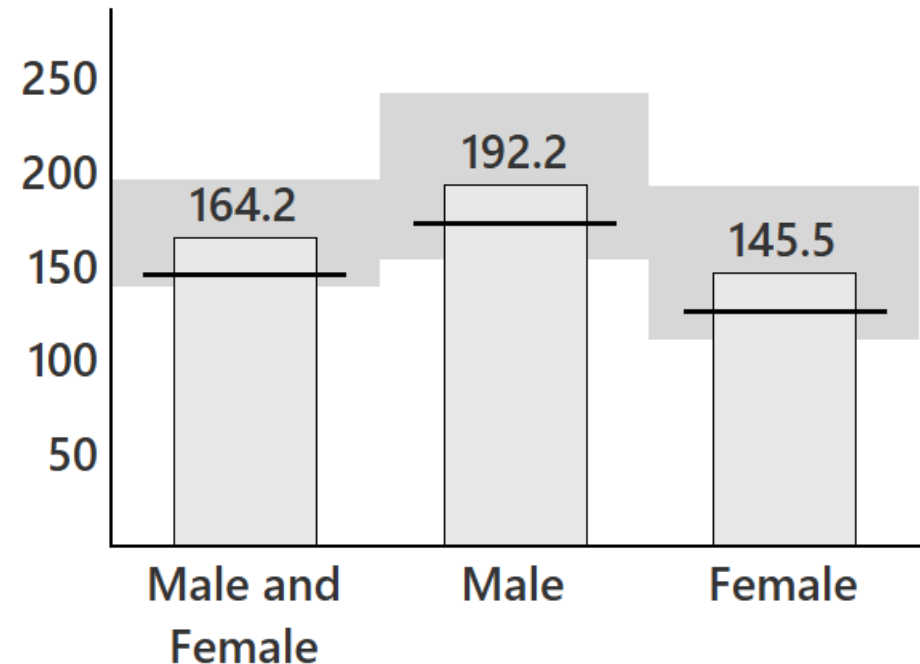
Each year, there are about

30

cancer deaths in
Chickasaw County

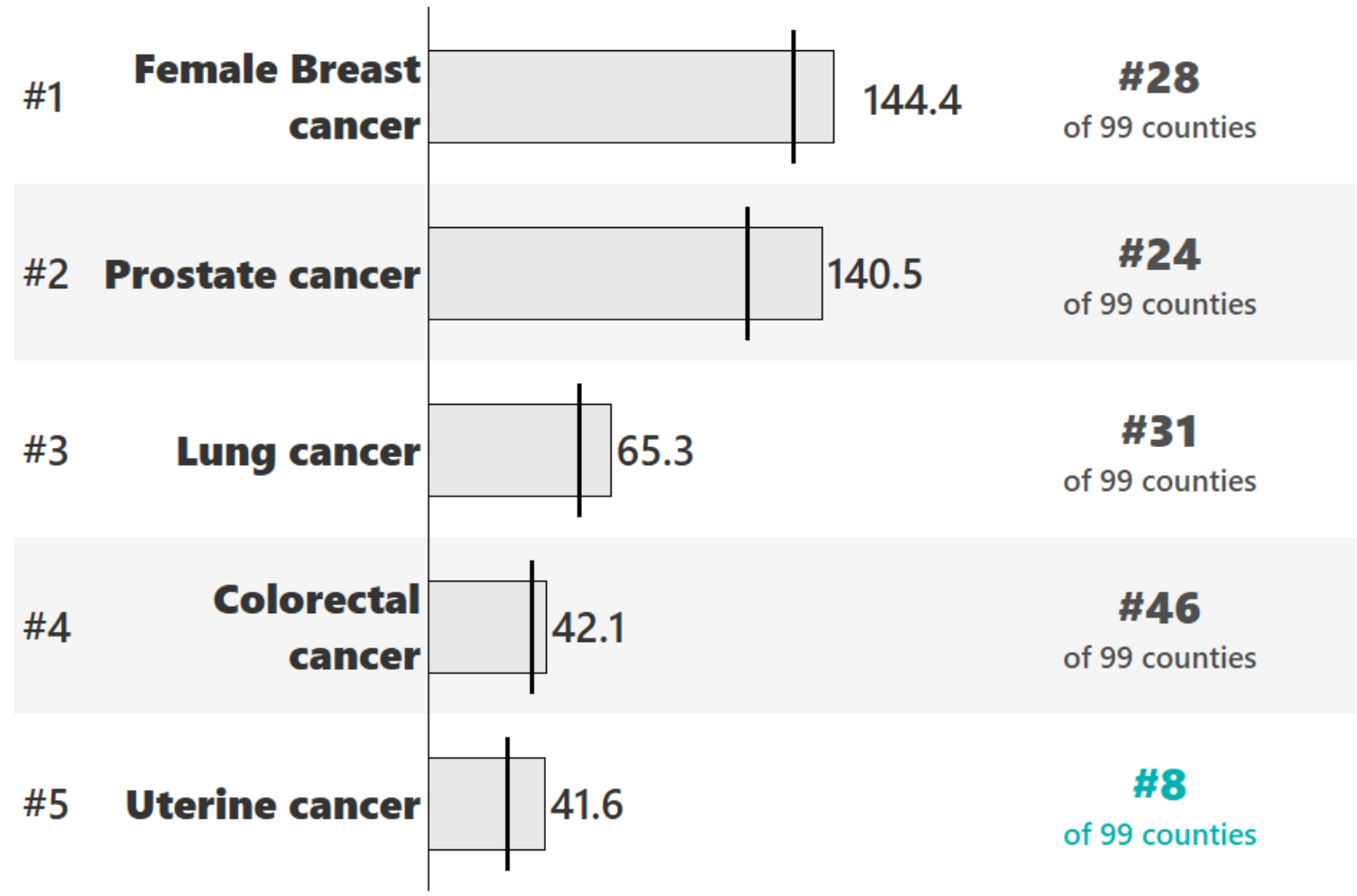
Cancer mortality rates in Chickasaw County are **not different from the U.S. average**

Cancer mortality rates are typically higher in men than women



Age-Adjusted rate per 100,000 (2018-2022)

Top cancers in Chickasaw County



Age-Adjusted rate per 100k, 2017-2021

Rank compared to other counties, where #1 is highest #99 is lowest

#1 | Female Breast cancer

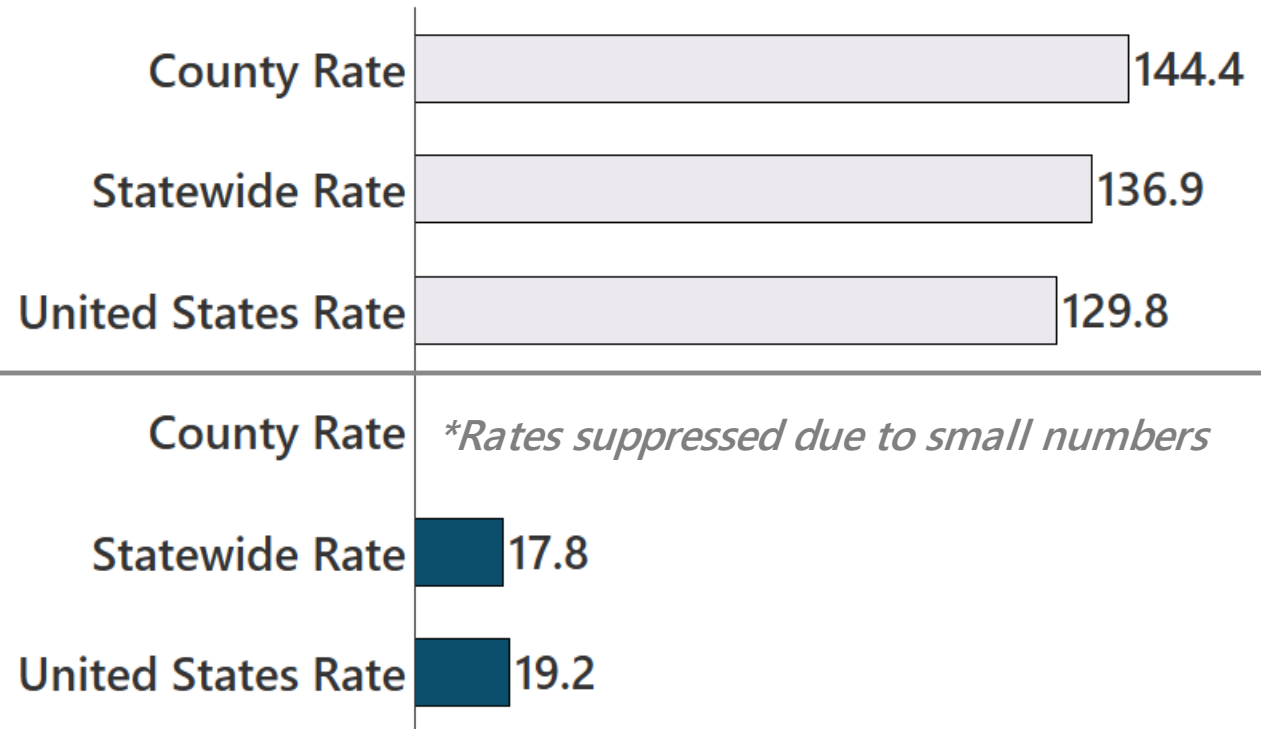
Each year in Chickasaw County,
there are about...

11

New Cases per year

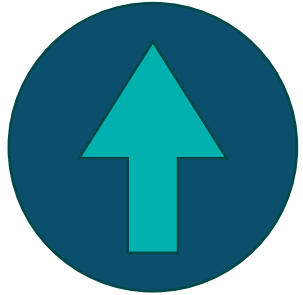
<6

Deaths per year

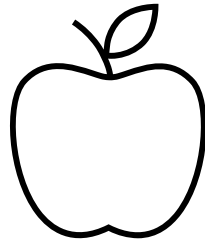


Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000
Incidence (2017-2021); Mortality (2018-2022)

What can you do to prevent breast cancer?

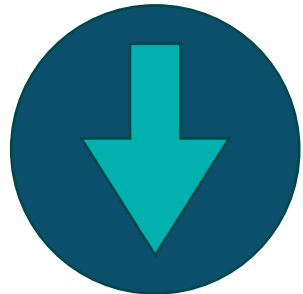


Physical
Activity



Healthy
Foods

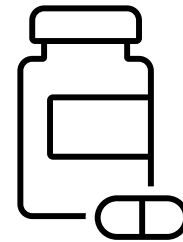
**+ Get
Screened!**



Alcohol



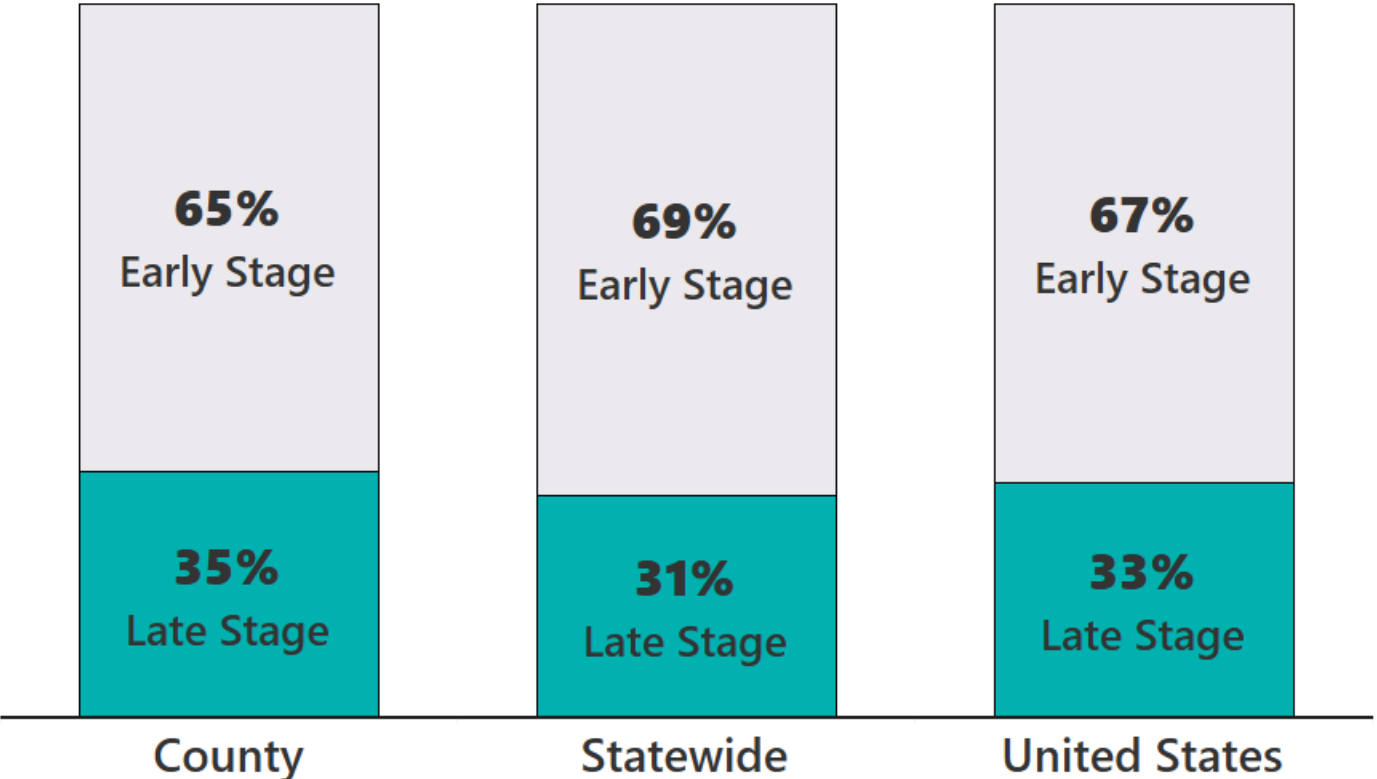
Excess Body
Weight



Taking
Hormones

#1 | Female Breast cancer Stage at Diagnosis

Early stage = Easier to treat, Higher survival rates



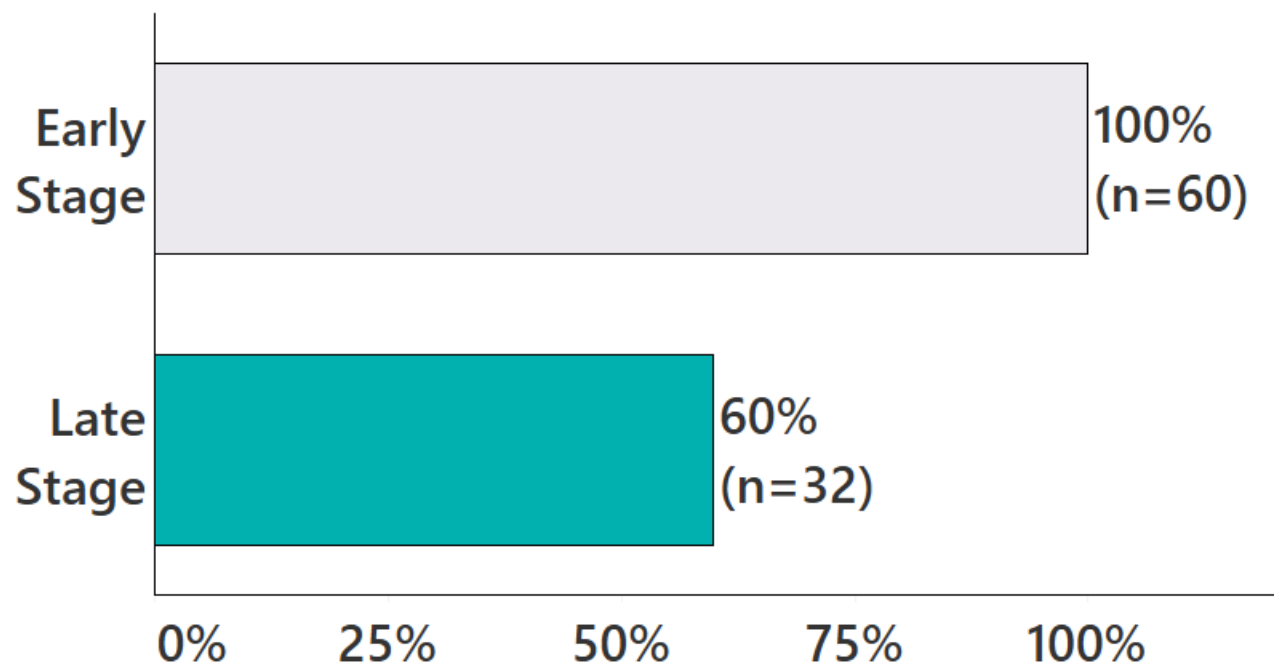
35%
Diagnosed at a Late Stage

Data from 2012-2021



#1 | Female Breast cancer | 5-Year Survival

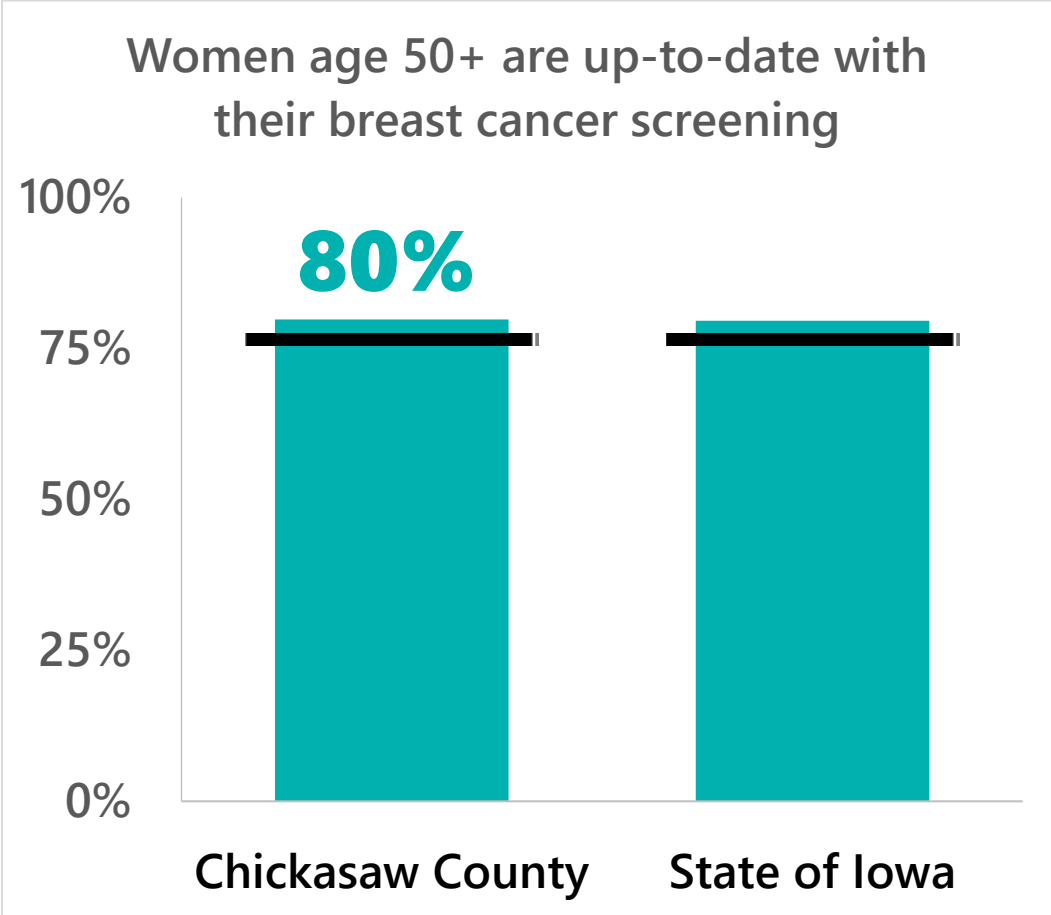
5-Year Relative Survival Rates, by Stage



Catching cancer early leads to higher survival rates

Data from 2011-2020

Breast Cancer Screening



Screening Guidelines

Persons with breasts, ages 40-74

Screen with a mammogram every 2 years

Talk to your doctor if you have a family history of breast cancer

Data years: 2022



The Care for Yourself – Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (CFY-BCC)

We provide free breast and cervical cancer screenings across Iowa.

- ▶ CFY-BCC is also called the Iowa Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program.
- ▶ CFY-BCC serves Iowans between 21 and 64 years of age.
- ▶ Are at or earn less than 250% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- ▶ Call (866) 339-7909 to speak to a confidential coordinator immediately.
- ▶ CFY-BCC coordinators are available to help you Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/public-health/cancer/cfy>



#2 | Prostate cancer

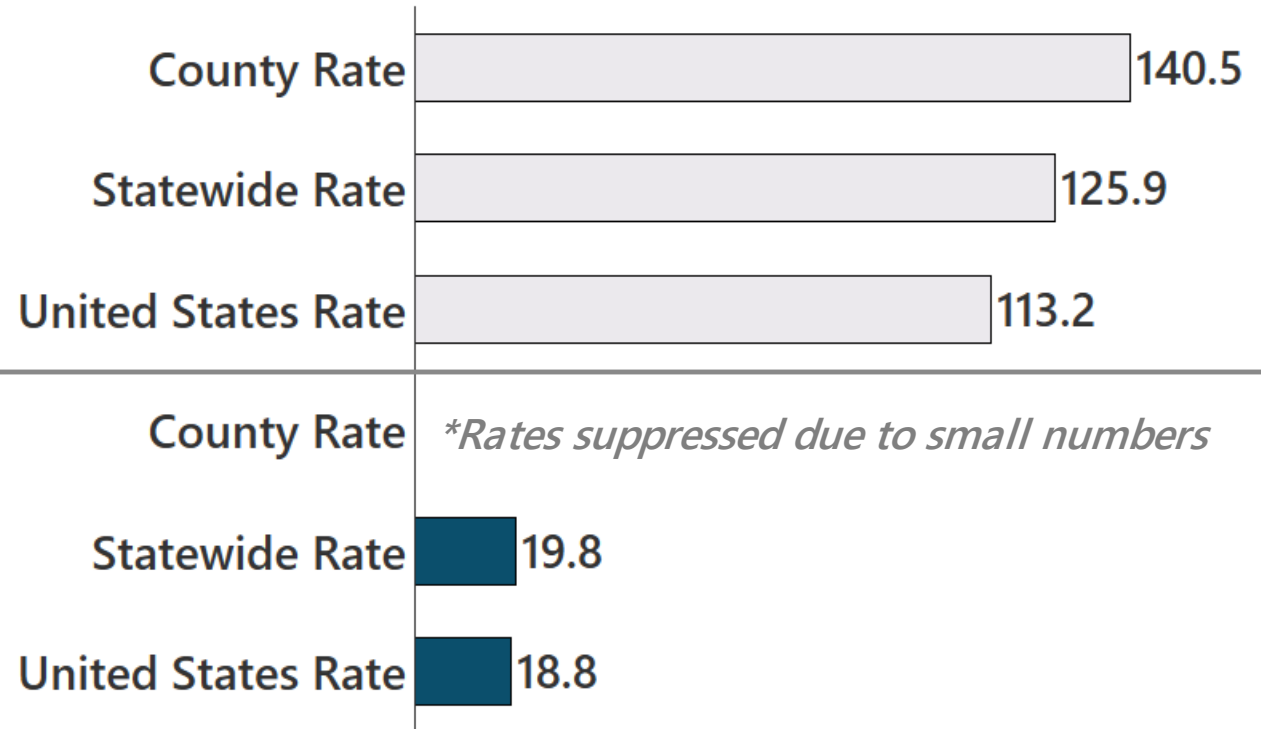
Each year in Chickasaw County, there are about...

14

New Cases per year

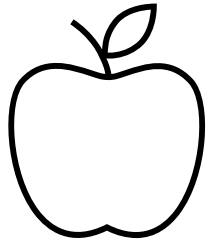
<6

Deaths per year

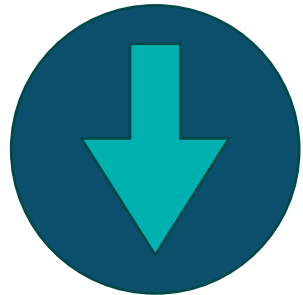


Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000
Incidence (2017-2021); Mortality (2018-2022)

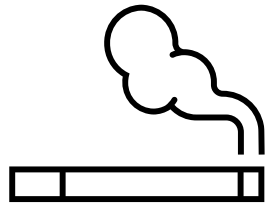
What can you do to prevent prostate cancer?



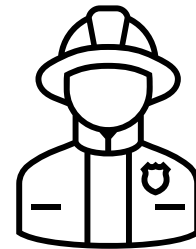
Healthy
Foods



Alcohol



Smoking

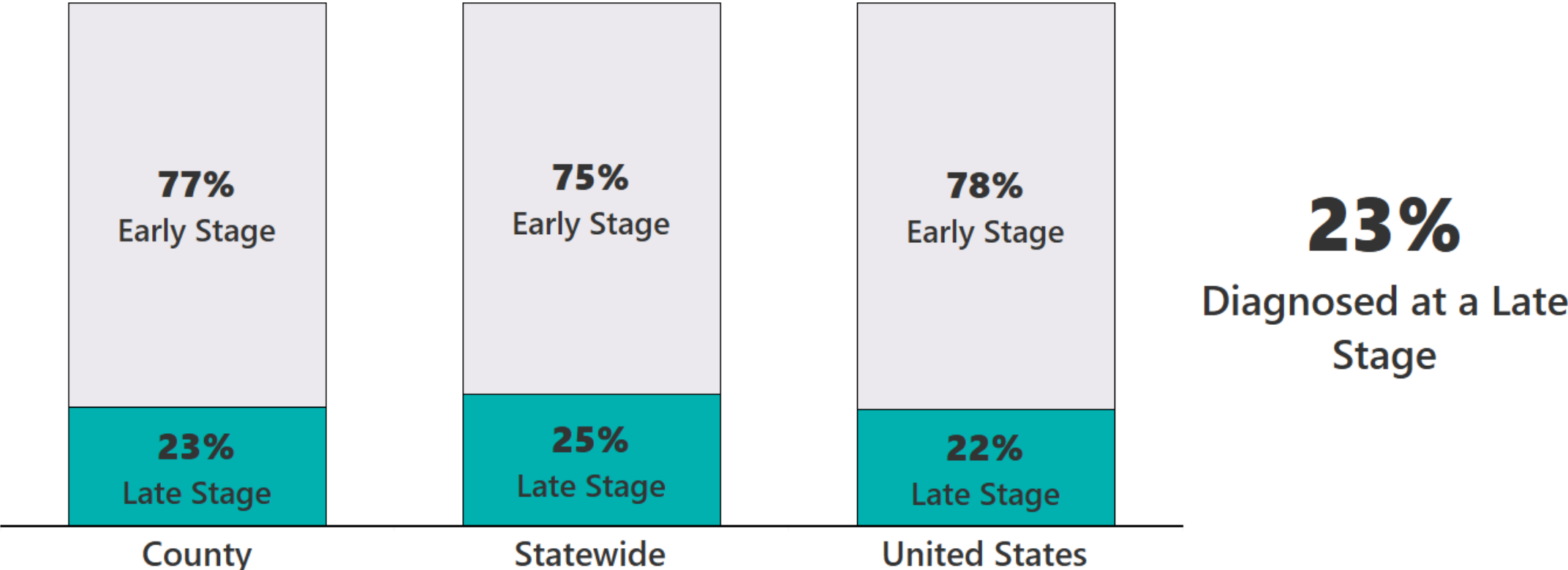


Chemical
Exposures

**+ Get
Screened!**

#2 | Prostate cancer | Stage at Diagnosis

Early stage = Easier to treat, Higher survival rates

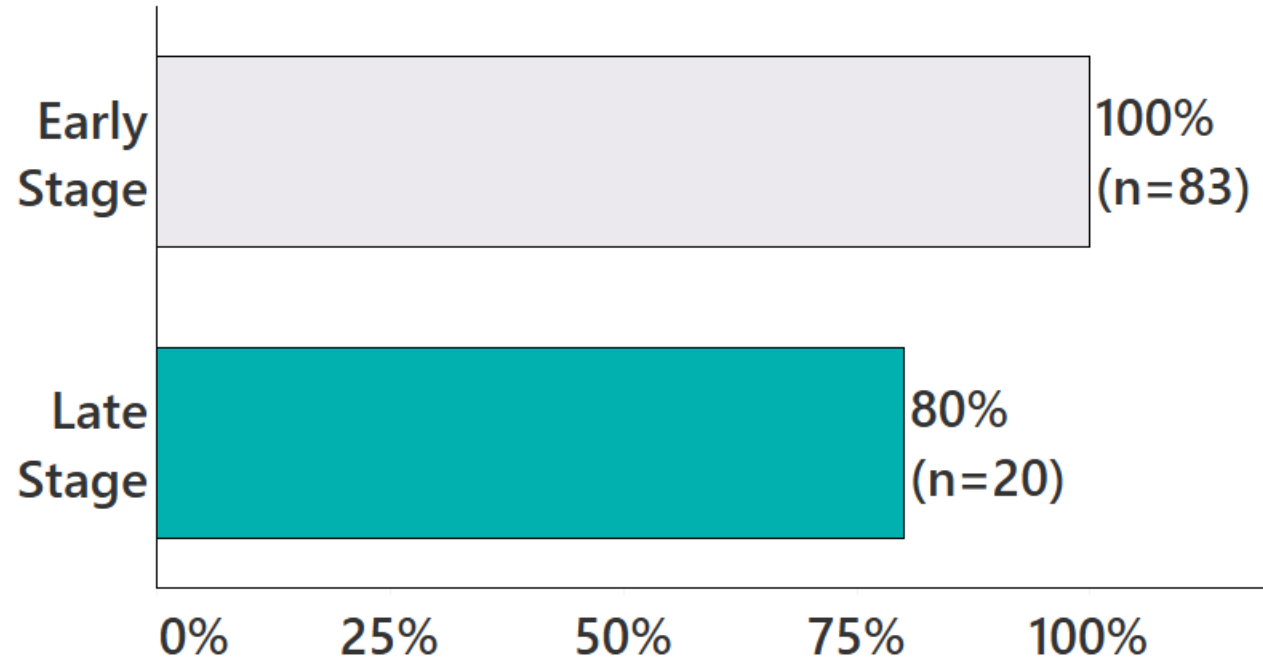


Data from 2012-2021



#2 | Prostate cancer | 5-Year Survival

5-Year Relative Survival Rates, by Stage



Catching cancer early leads to higher survival rates

Data from 2011-2020

Prostate Cancer Screening

Screening Guidelines

Screening test: Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test

If you have a prostate and are 55-69 years old, discuss with your doctor if a PSA test is right for you

#3 | Lung cancer

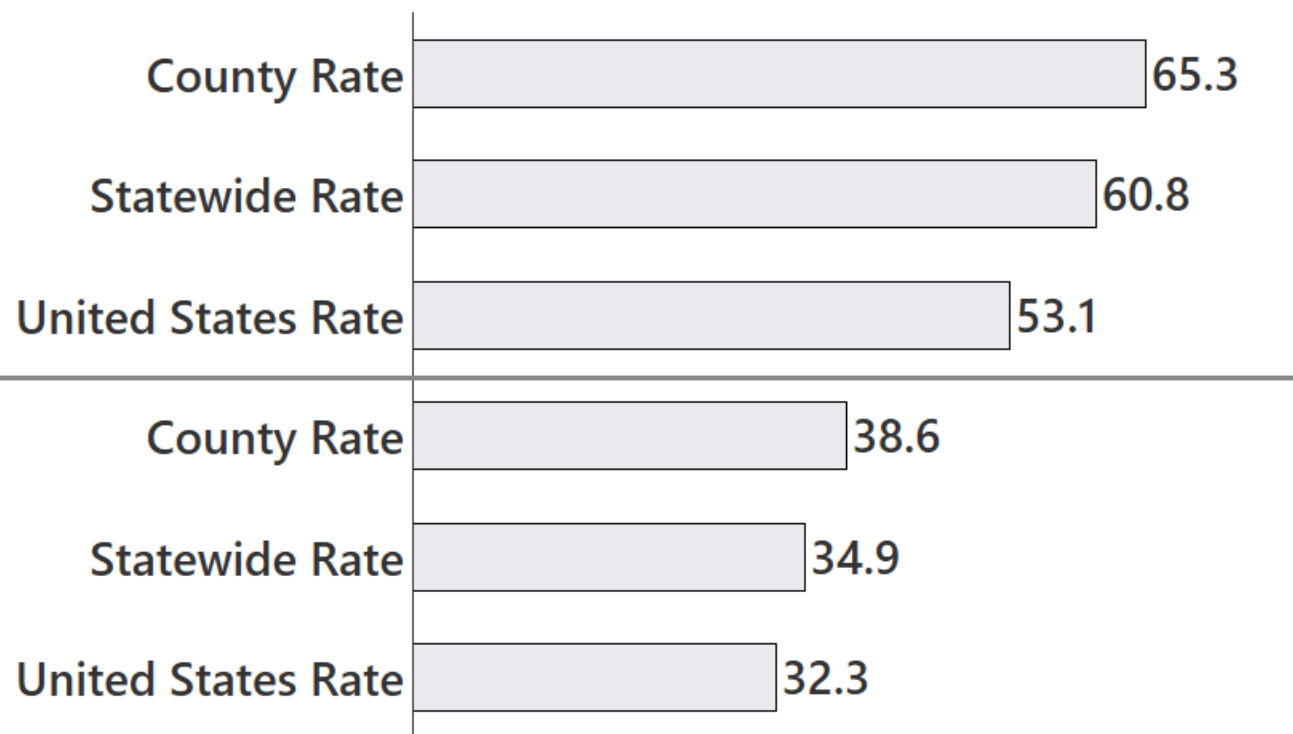
Each year in Chickasaw County,
there are about...

12

New Cases per year

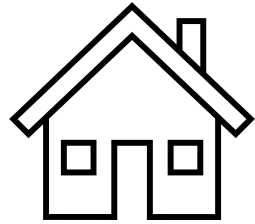
7

Deaths per year



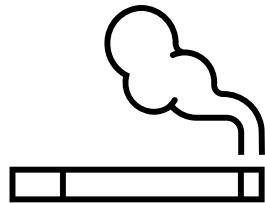
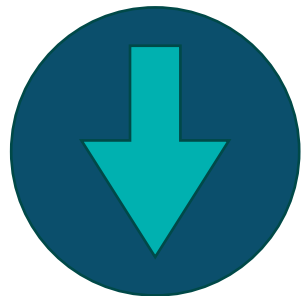
Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000
Incidence (2017-2021); Mortality (2018-2022)

What can you do to prevent lung cancer?



Test your home
for Radon

**+ Get
Screened!**



Smoking

What is Radon?

- Radon is an invisible, tasteless, odorless, radioactive gas
- It is naturally produced by radium and uranium in the soil
- Radon becomes harmful when it becomes trapped and concentrated in the air
 - For example, when it leaks into a basement through a crack in the foundation or a space around a pipe

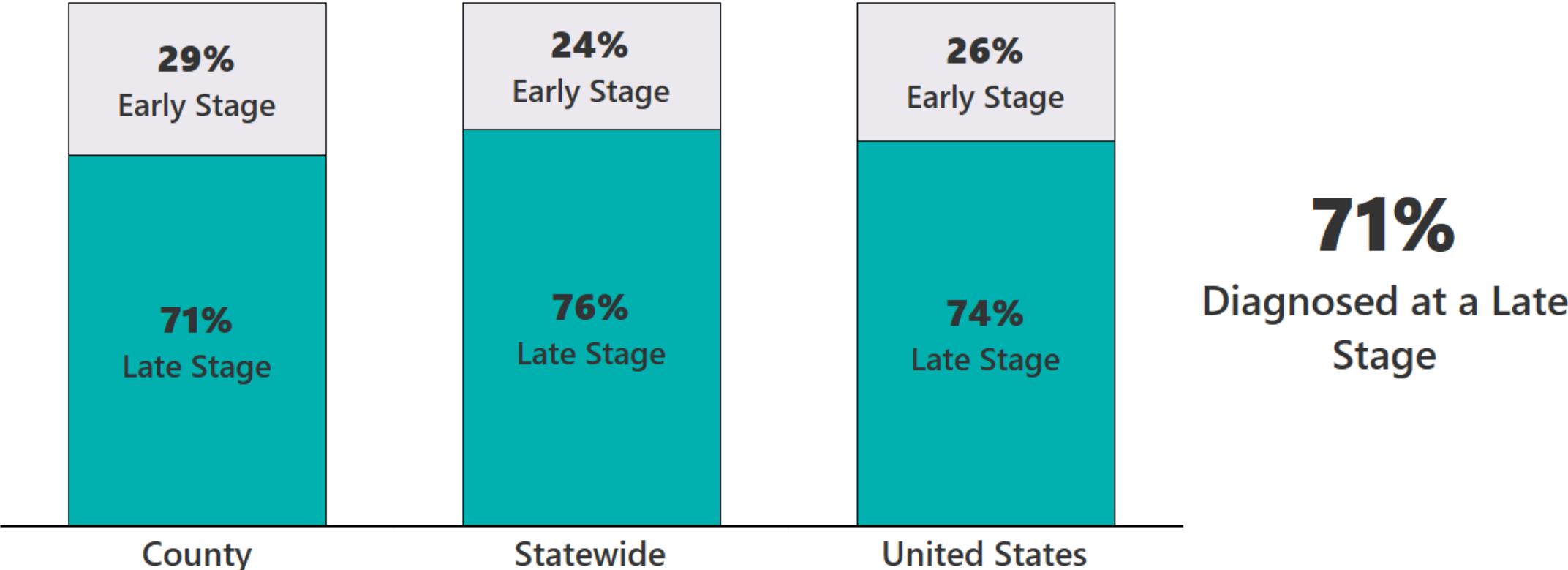
Learn more about Radon testing and mitigation:

Iowa Health & Human Services
hhs.iowa.gov/radiological-health/radon

Iowa Cancer Consortium
canceriowa.org/radon/

#3 | Lung cancer | Stage at Diagnosis

Early stage = Easier to treat, Higher survival rates

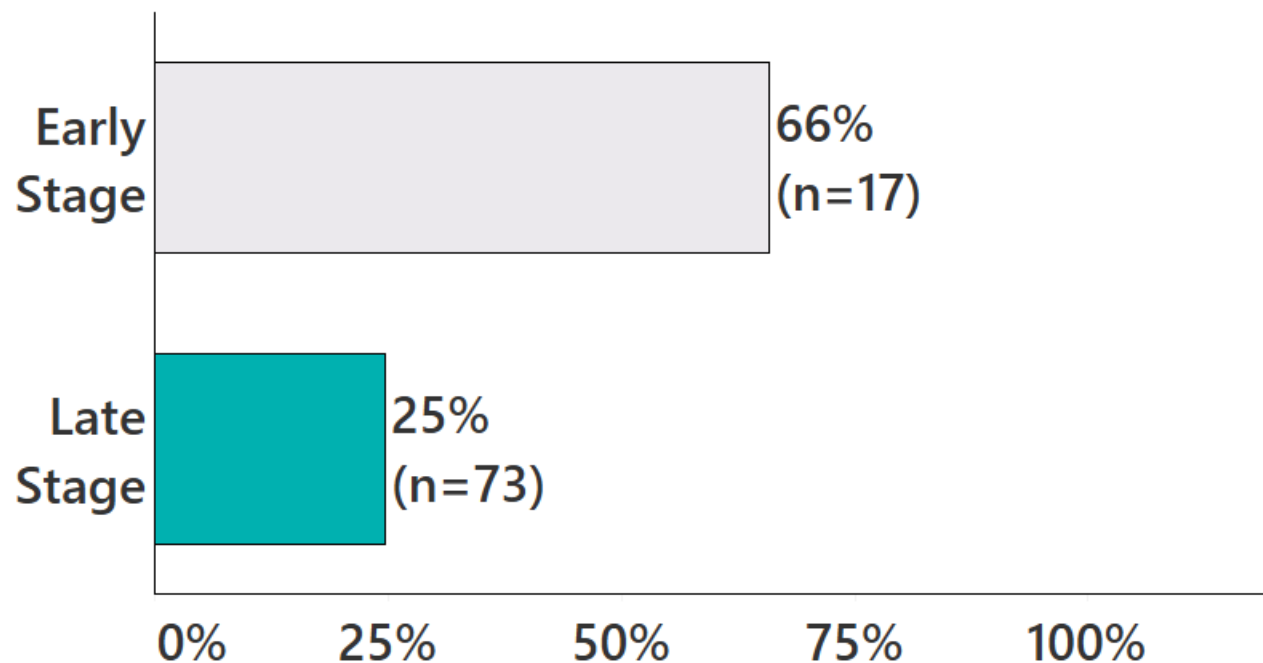


Data from 2012-2021



#3 | Lung cancer | 5-Year Survival

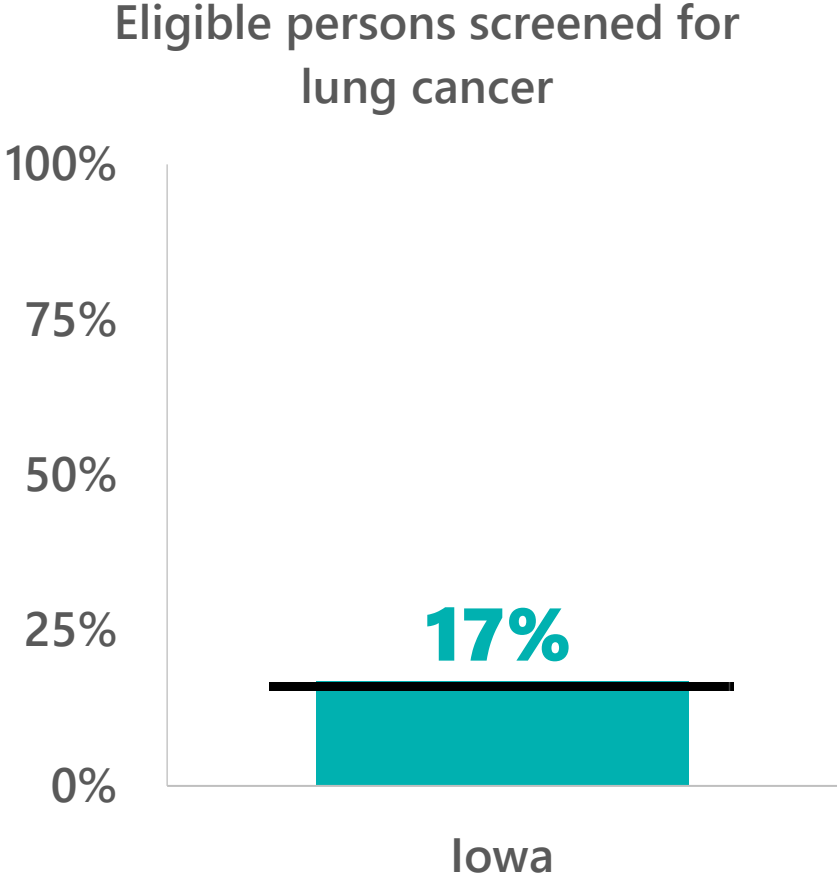
5-Year Relative Survival Rates, by Stage



Catching cancer early leads to higher survival rates

Data from 2011-2020

Lung Cancer Screening



Screening Guidelines

Lung cancer screening is a low-dose CT scan

If you have smoked in the last 15 years and are between the ages 50-80 years talk to your doctor about being screened for lung cancer

#4 | Colorectal cancer

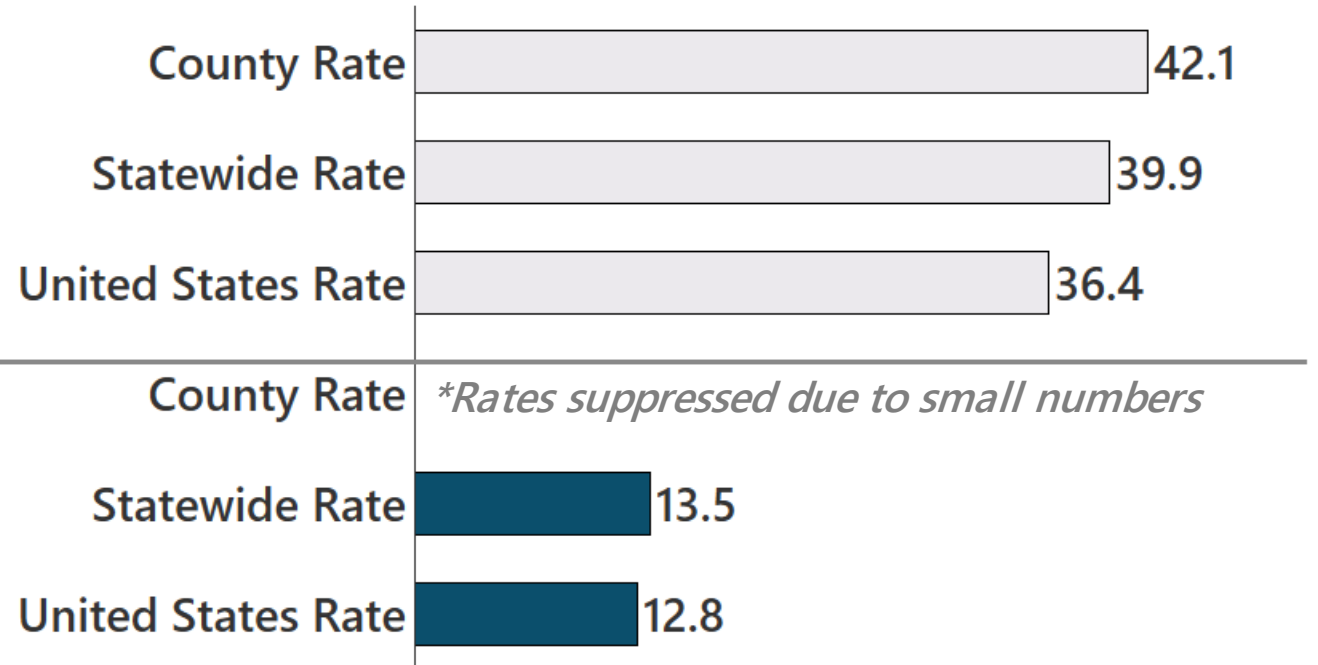
Each year in Chickasaw County,
there are about...

7

New Cases per year

<6

Deaths per year

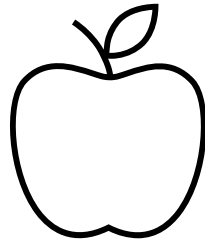


Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000
Incidence (2017-2021); Mortality (2018-2022)

What can you do to prevent colorectal cancer?

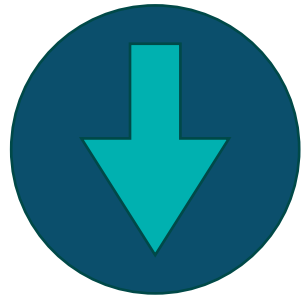


Physical
Activity

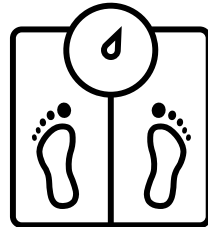


Healthy
Foods

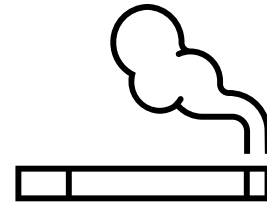
**+ Get
Screened!**



Alcohol



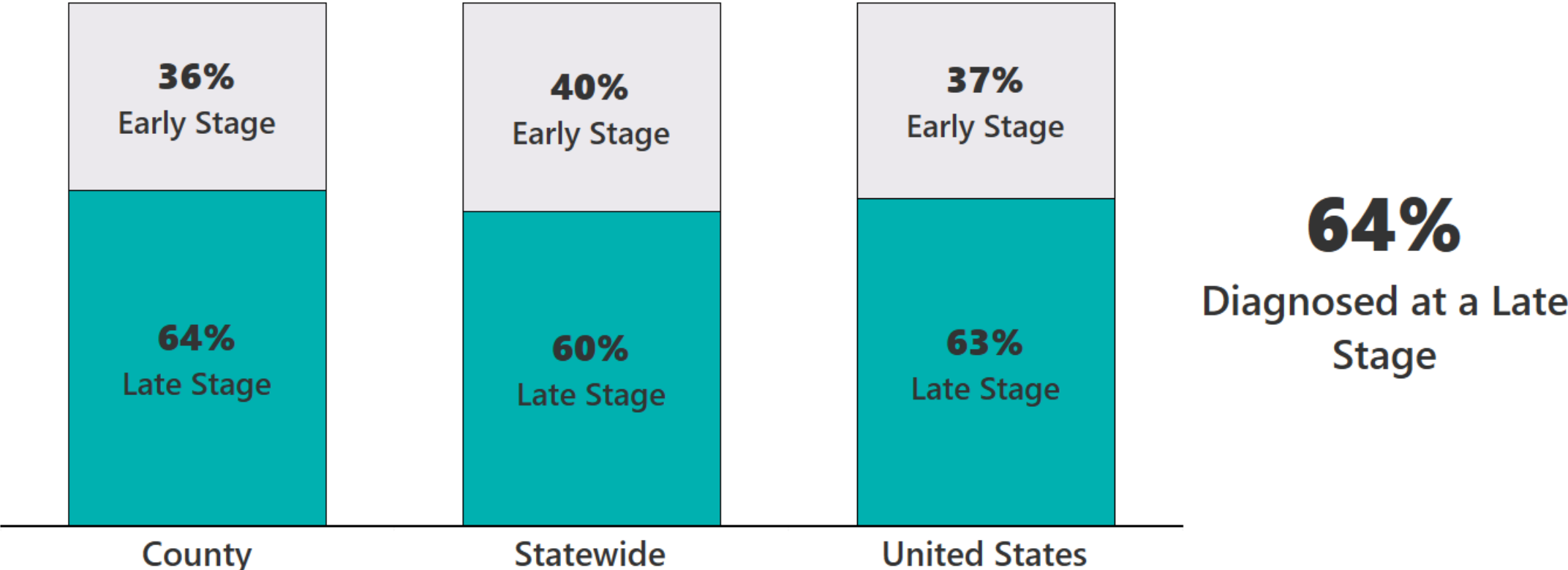
Excess Body
Weight



Smoking/
Tobacco

#4 | Colorectal cancer | Stage at Diagnosis

Early stage = Easier to treat, Higher survival rates

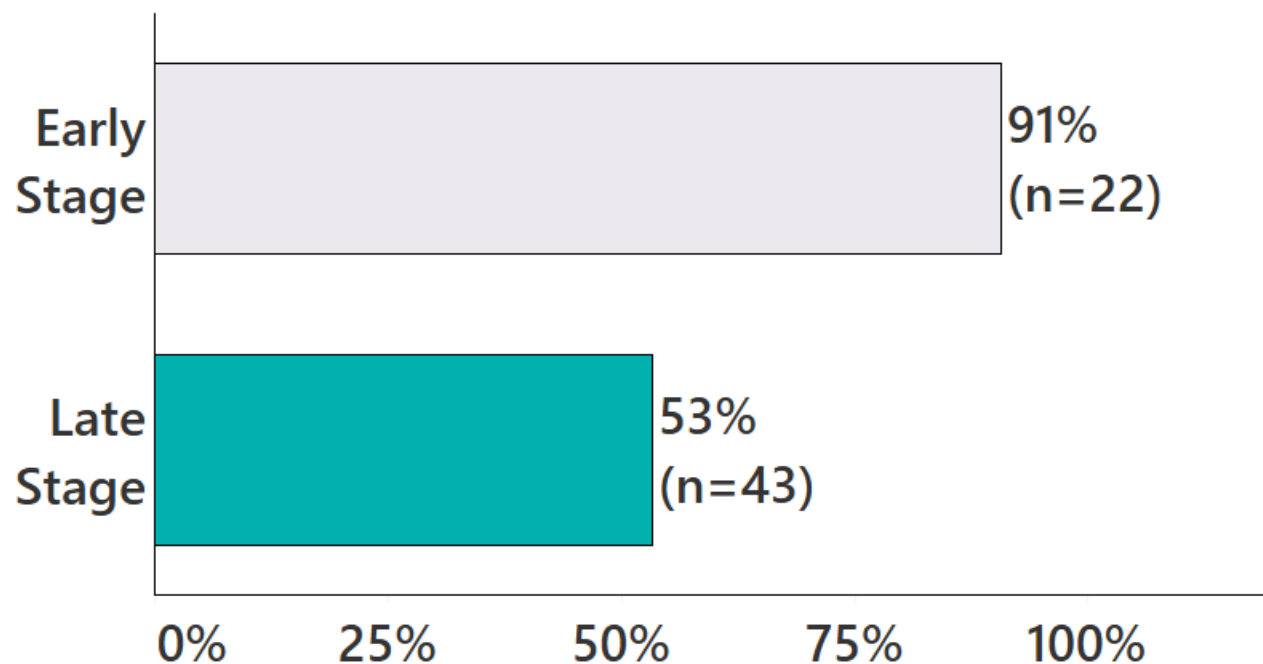


Data from 2012-2021



#4 | Colorectal cancer | 5-Year Survival

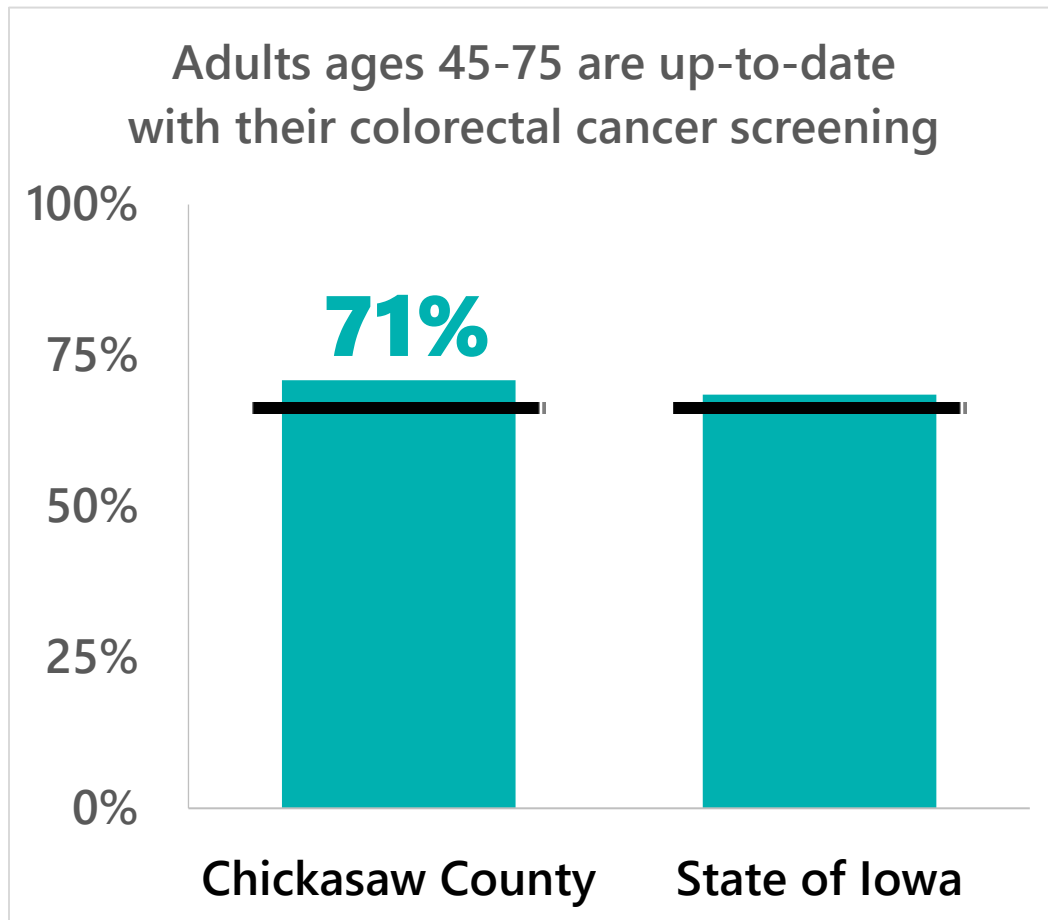
5-Year Relative Survival Rates, by Stage



Catching cancer early leads to higher survival rates

Data from 2011-2020

Colorectal Cancer Screening



Screening Guidelines

Talk with your doctor about which is the best option for you

For all adults ages 45-75:

2 options

1. At home stool-based test
2. Colonoscopy

Data years: 2022

Iowa Get Screened (IGS): Colorectal Cancer Program

We partner with Iowa's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and local public health agencies to increase colorectal cancer screening.

Through a collaboration with the Iowa Primary Care Association (Iowa PCA) and FQHCs, the program serves low-income Iowans, ages 45-75, to:

- ▶ Increase the number of cancers prevented
- ▶ Increase the diagnosis of early-stage colorectal cancer
- ▶ Reduce colorectal cancer incidence and mortality in the state



<https://hhs.iowa.gov/public-health/cancer/colorectal-cancer-screening-program>

#5 | Uterine cancer or Endometrial Cancer

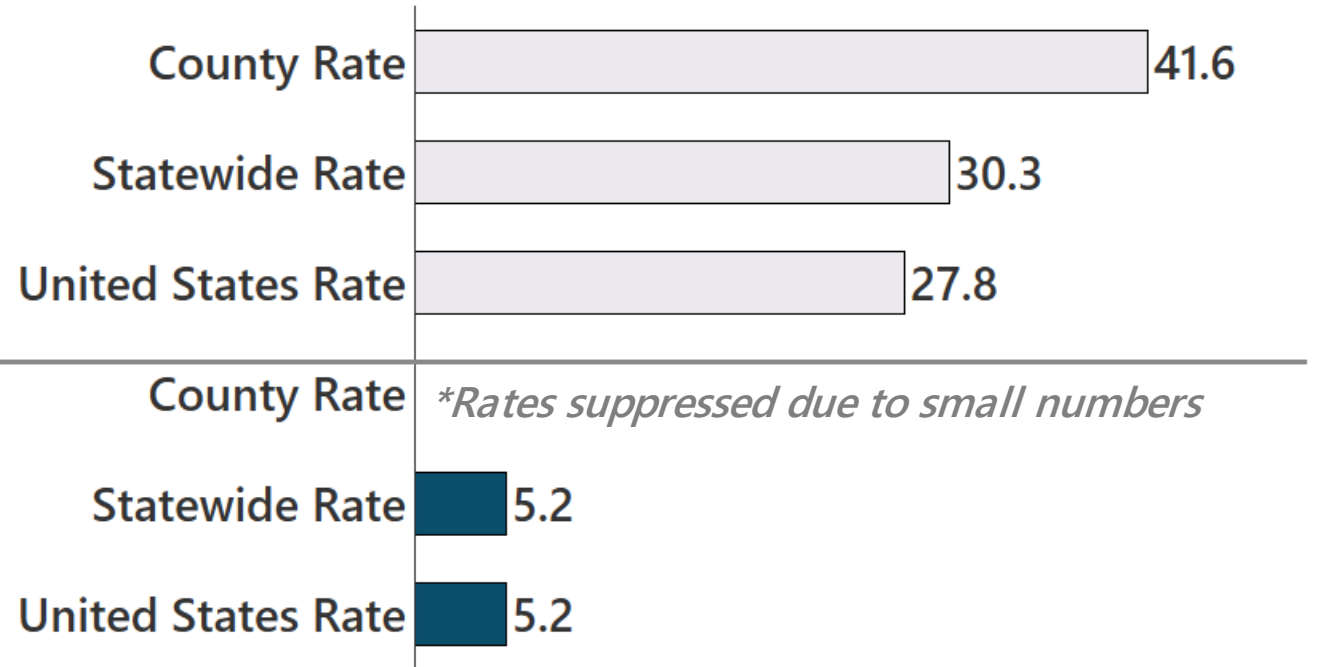
Each year in Chickasaw County, there are about...

< 6

New Cases per year

< 6

Deaths per year

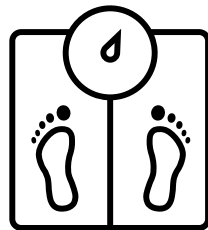
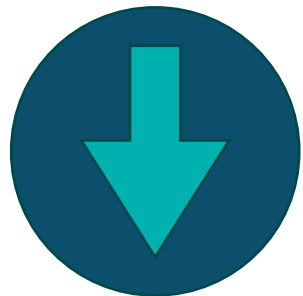


Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000
Incidence (2017-2021); Mortality (2018-2022)

What can you do to prevent uterine cancer?



Physical
Activity



Excess Body
Weight

Other Risk Factors

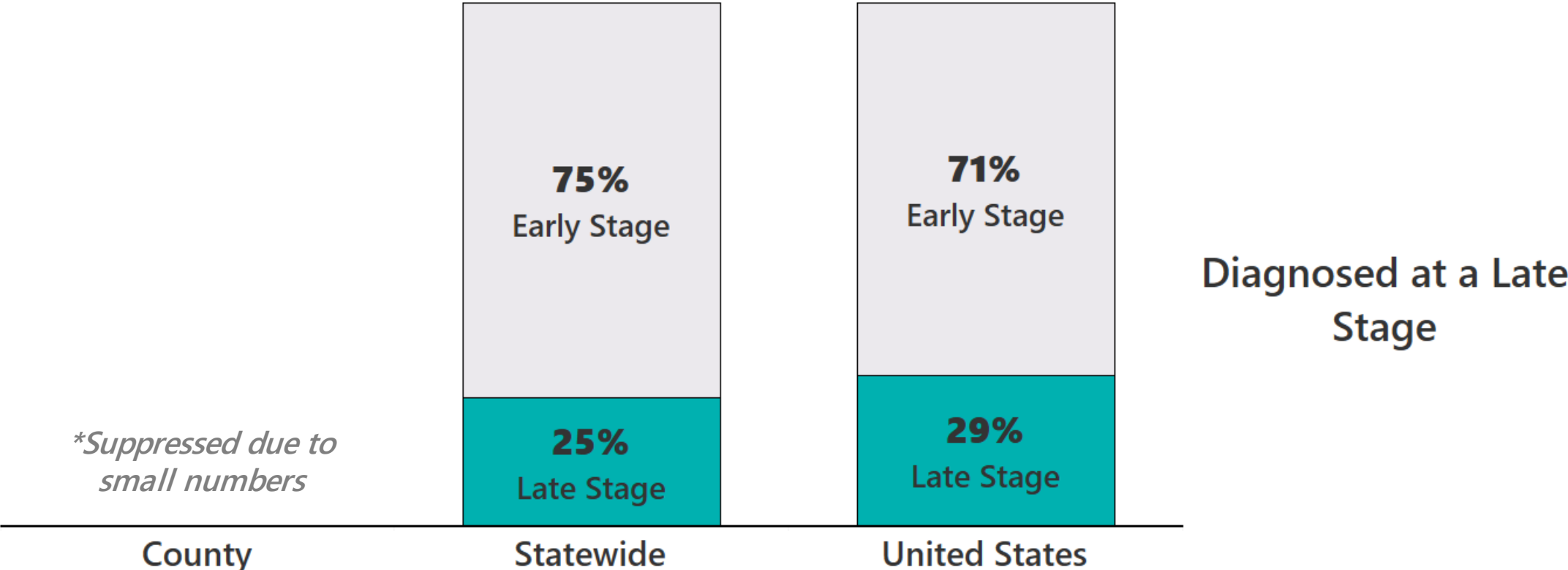
- Taking estrogen-only hormone replacement therapy (HRT) after menopause
- Type 2 diabetes
- Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)
- Family history of endometrial cancer
- Genetic conditions, such as Lynch syndrome and BRCA

Talk to your doctor if you experience...

- Vaginal bleeding or discharge not related to menstruation (periods)
- Vaginal bleeding after menopause
- Difficult or painful urination
- Pain during sexual intercourse
- Pain in the pelvic area

#5 | Uterine cancer | Stage at Diagnosis

Early stage = Easier to treat, Higher survival rates

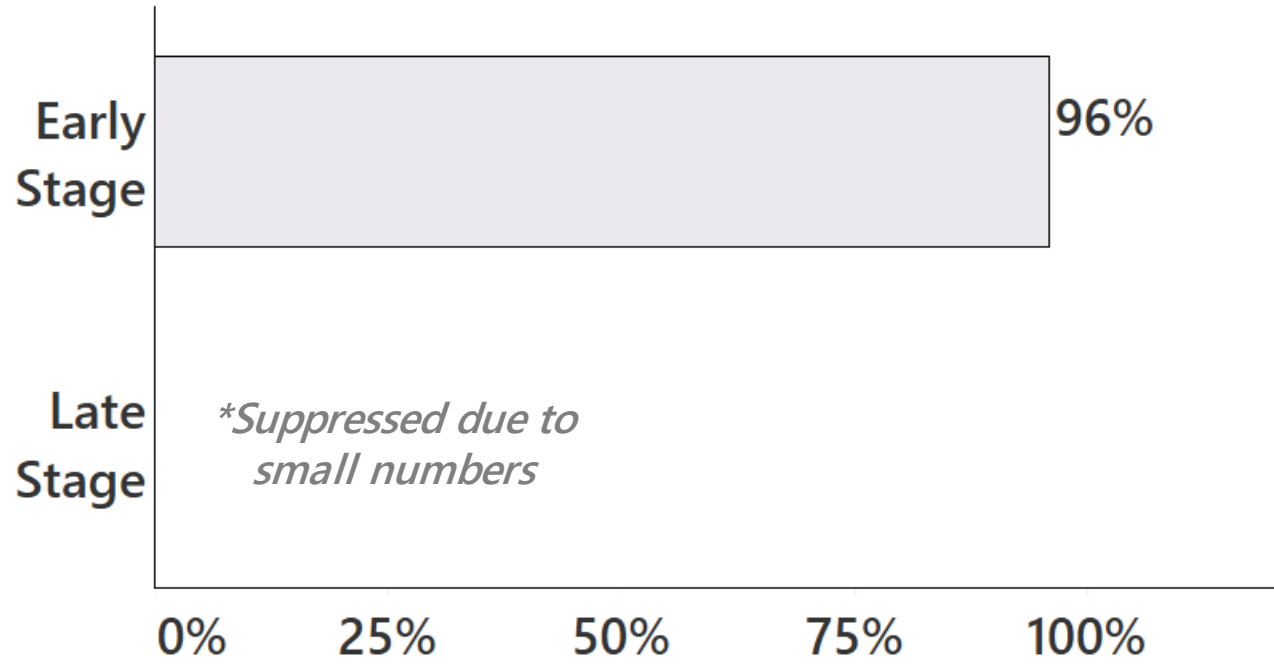


Data from 2012-2021



#5 | Uterine cancer | 5-Year Survival

5-Year Relative Survival Rates, by Stage

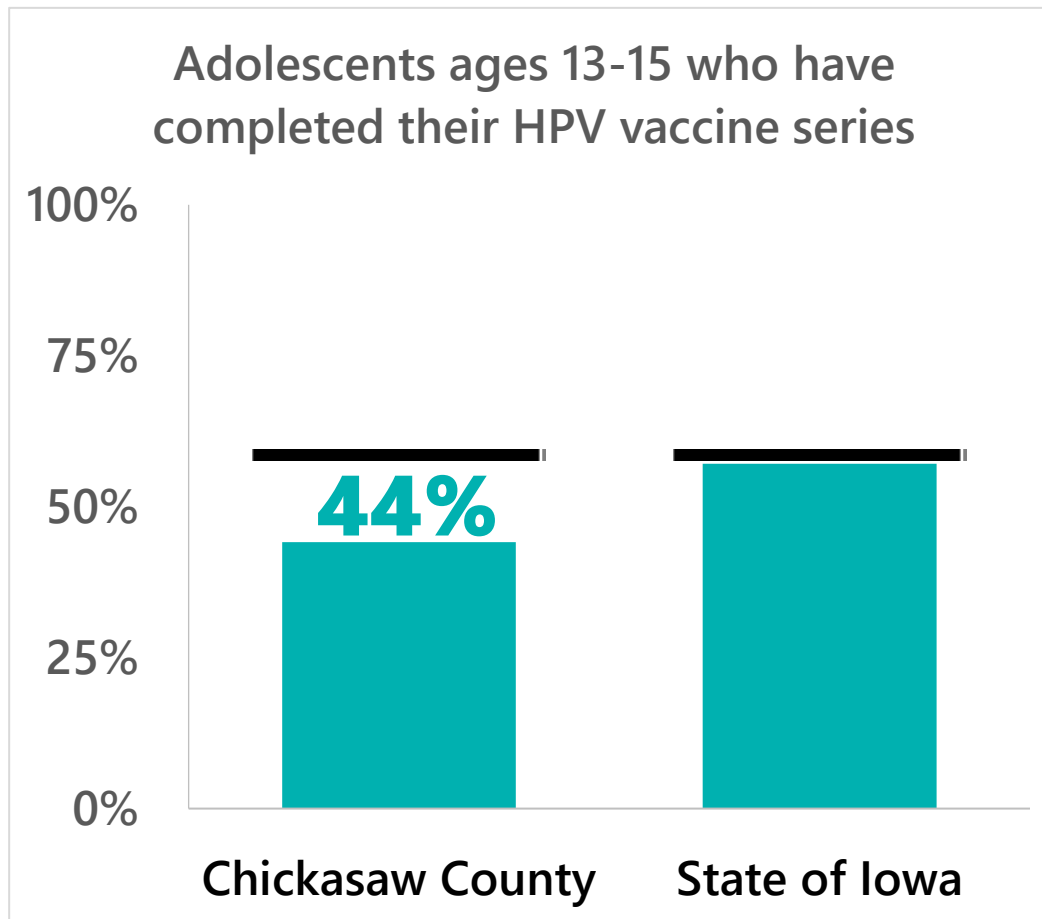


Catching cancer early leads to higher survival rates

Data from 2011-2020



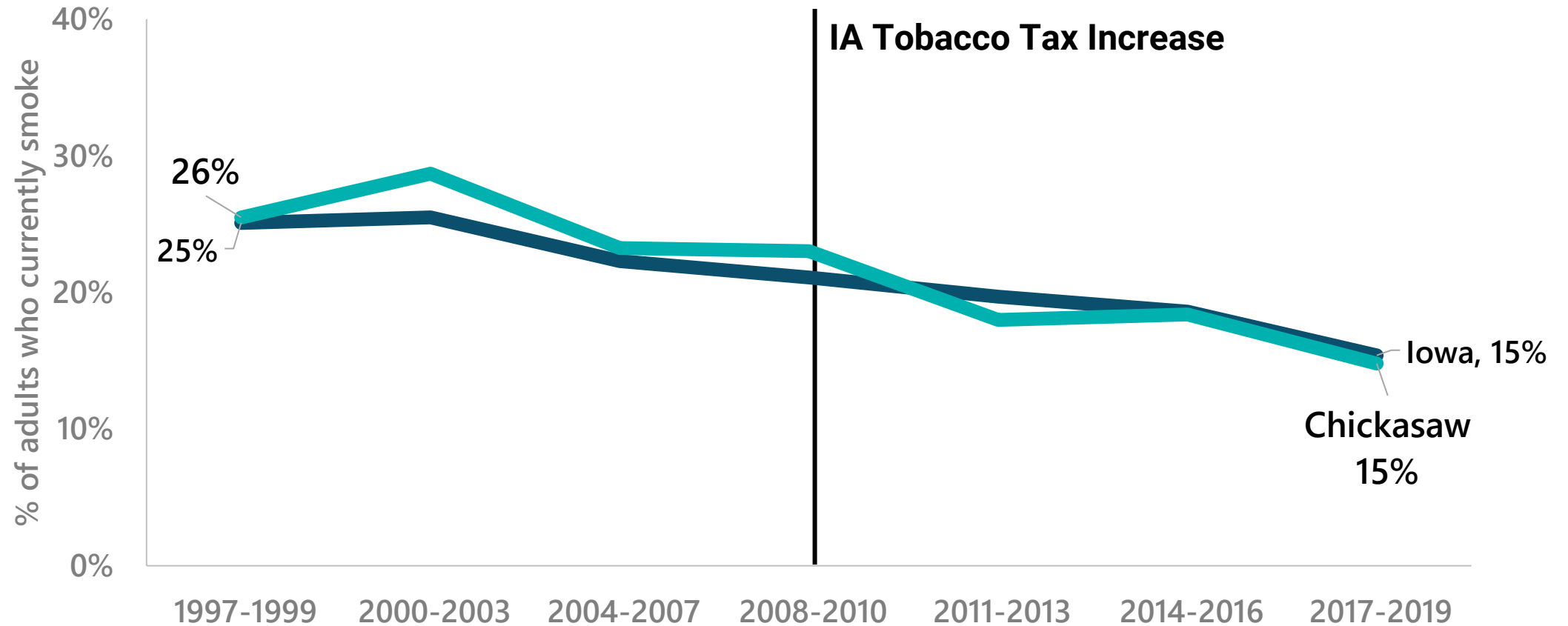
A vaccine that prevents cancer: HPV



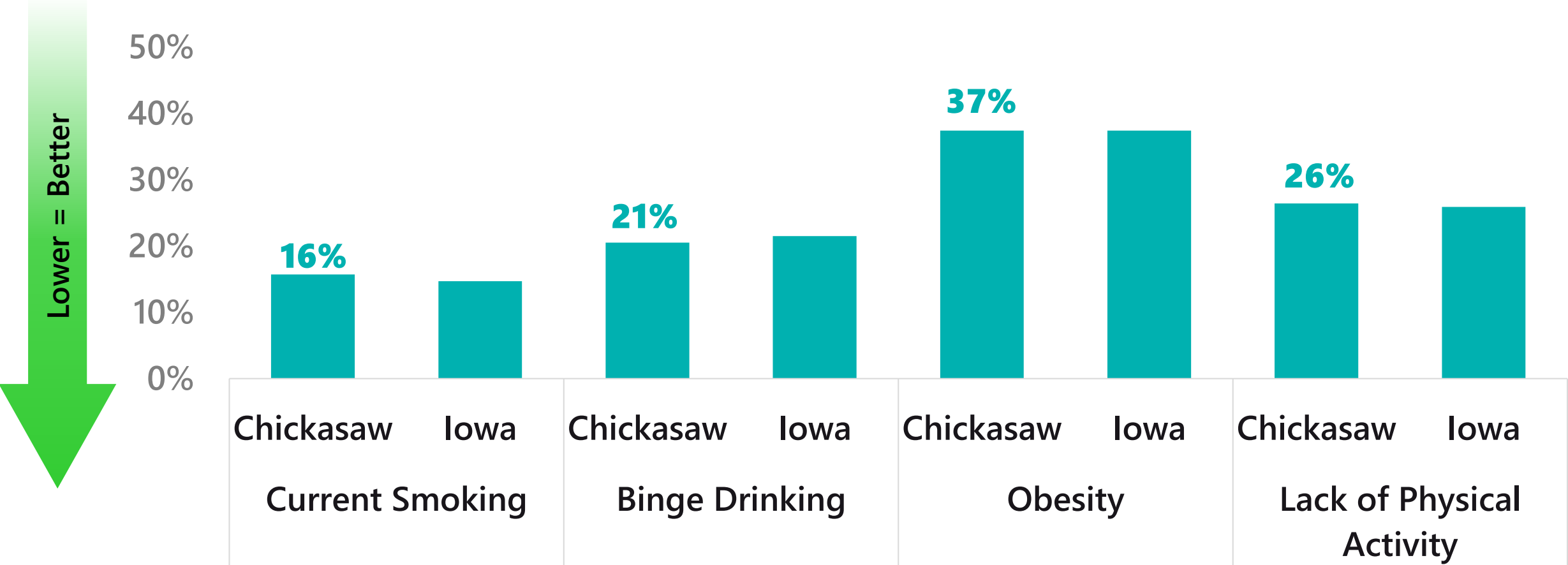
- HPV infection can cause cancers of the cervix, mouth and throat, anus, rectum, penis, vulva, and vagina.
- Iowa has the highest rate of oropharyngeal cancer in the U.S.
- Vaccine provides safe, effective, and lasting protection against HPV, thus reducing cancer risk
- Recommended at age 11 or 12 years, when immune response is best & before HPV exposure

Data years: 2022

After the last increase to the tobacco tax was passed in 2007, smoking rates **decreased** in Chickasaw County



Other Cancer Risk Factors



2022 model-based county-level estimates

PLACES. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed 11/01/2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/places>

Resources to help understand and address cancer in Iowa communities

Iowa Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (CCCP)

We work with partners to prevent cancer whenever possible and support cancer survivors across Iowa.

- ▶ The CCCP partners with many organizations, including the Iowa Cancer Consortium, Iowa's cancer coalition.
- ▶ CCCP is involved in the revision and implementation of the Iowa Cancer Plan.
- ▶ Currently CCCP is focused on increasing HPV vaccination, increasing lung cancer screening, and supporting cancer survivors.

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/public-health/cancer>
<https://canceriowa.org/iowa-cancer-plan/>



Photo from the Iowa Cancer Consortium, taken at the Iowa Cancer Summit

Iowa Cancer Consortium



A non-profit cancer coalition that provides

- Connections and partnership
- Latest news and cancer updates via email
- Training and educational opportunities
- Grant opportunities and technical assistance
- Free cancer educational materials for distribution
- Blueprint for cancer control, the Iowa Cancer Plan

Virtually-hosted workgroups include:

- *Cancer Screening & Early Detection*
- *Health Equity*
- *HPV (w/ Iowa Immunizes coalition)*
- *Policy*
- *Radon*
- *Research & Clinical Trials*
- *Rural Cancer*
- *Quality of Life*
- *Cancer & the Environment Task Force*



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.

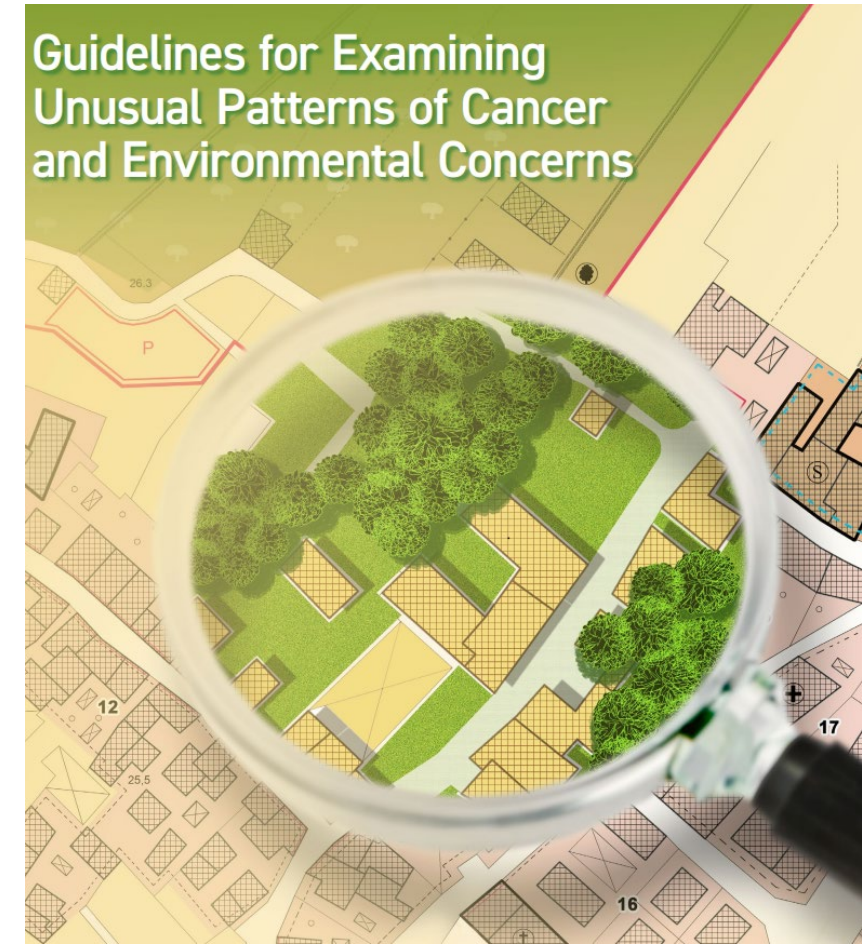
- 1. Health Equity:** identify and eliminate cancer health disparities.
- 2. Prevention and Risk Reduction:** whenever possible, prevent cancer from occurring.
- 3. Early Detection and Screening:** promote the benefits of screening tests to ensure early diagnosis.
- 4. Diagnosis and Cancer-Directed Therapy:** 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/](https://canceriowa.org/iowa-cancer-plan/)

What to do if you suspect a cancer cluster in your community

- If you are concerned about cancer excess in your area, please email us at ICR-CancerConcerns@uiowa.edu
- We will ask you about:
 - Geographic area of concern
 - Cancer types diagnosed in the area
 - Time frame
 - Exposure(s) of concern
- If possible, ICR will conduct an analysis comparing the expected number of cancers to what's been observed
 - A written report of the results will be sent to you and a meeting to discuss the results will be offered



Recommended Actions



Iowa Cancer Plan

Use to identify strategies aligned with community-specific needs

canceriowa.org/iowa-cancer-plan/

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network



Engage American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACSCAN) to promote cancer-relevant legislation

www.fightcancer.org



Iowa Cancer Consortium

Connect for state-wide collaboration and potential community-level funding

www.canceriowa.org

Include cancer in needs assessments

Include cancer-relevant strategies in your hospital's community health needs assessments or public health department's needs assessment

hhs.iowa.gov/lphs/cha-chip



Main Takeaways

Cancer is a critically important health issue facing the residents of Chickasaw County

There are proven ways to prevent cancer & find it early
You can avoid risk factors and get screened

Iowa has a strong Cancer Plan, resources, & organizations to help fight cancer

Policy changes at the local and state levels can have a huge impact!
Please communicate your concerns & needs with your state representatives and local policymakers

And let us know how we can help!

These slides will be posted

1. These slides will be posted to the Iowa Cancer Registry website: <https://shri.public-health.uiowa.edu/cancer-data/cancer-in-iowa-99-counties-project/>
2. We will write and post a more detailed report on our website to accompany this presentation



If you have questions, please email us at ICR-99countiesproject@uiowa.edu

Cancer in Iowa: 99 Counties Project Resource Guide

- Organizations and programs we presented today
 - Iowa Rural Health Association
 - Environmental Exposures and Health Risks Fact Sheets
 - Agricultural Health Study
 - Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contamination
- IHHS Programs
 - Tobacco Use Prevention and Control
 - Immunization Program
 - The Hepatitis Program
 - Iowa Private Well Grants Program
 - Radon

And more!



Located under the
"Resources"
drop down menu

Environmental Exposures and Health Risks Fact Sheets

These facts sheets include information on

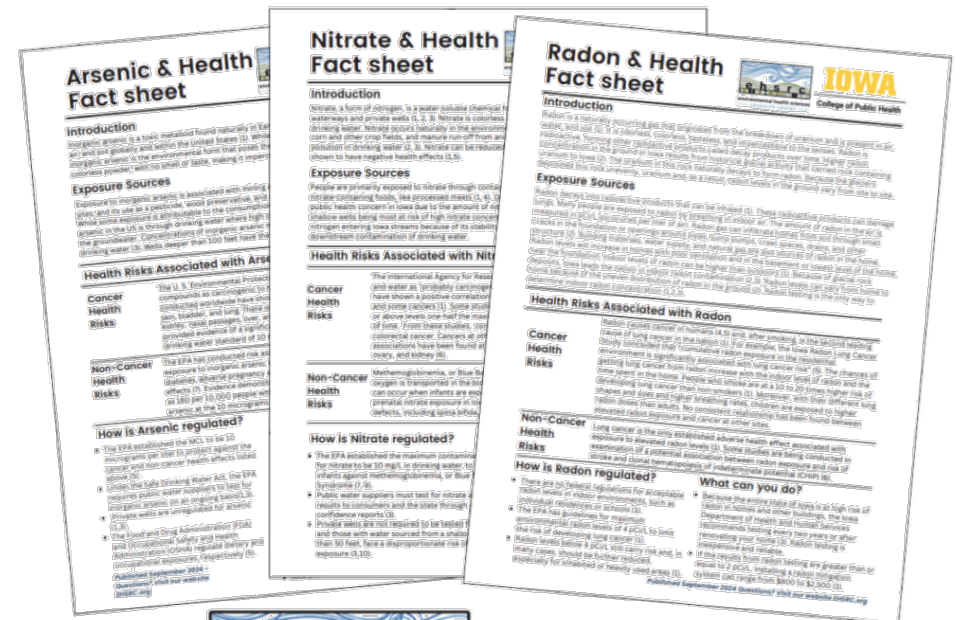
- Cancer and non-cancer health risks for each environmental exposure
- How the exposures are regulated
- What you can do to limit your exposure

Environmental Health Fact Sheets

- [Arsenic](#)
- [Nitrate](#)
- [Radon](#)



NEW Environmental Exposures & Health Risks Fact Sheets

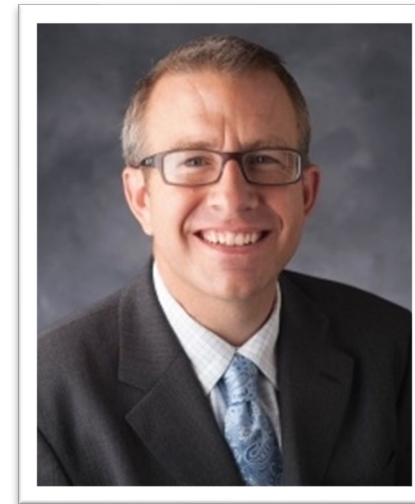


Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contamination (CHEEC)

CHEEC

The University of Iowa Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contamination (CHEEC) supports and conducts research to identify, measure and study adverse health outcomes related to exposure to environmental toxins. CHEEC was established through the 1987 Iowa Groundwater Protection Act and has focused its efforts to date mainly on drinking water contaminants.

For questions about environmental contaminants, please contact Dr. Cwiertny at the email address below.



David Cwiertny
Director of CHEEC



cheec.uiowa.edu

Email: cheec@uiowa.edu

Iowa Private Well Grants Program

Iowa Health & Human Services

Iowa's [Private Well Grants Program](#) (PWG) provides free water testing to all private well owners and users for the analytes listed below. The Iowa DNR recommends that all private well owners have their water tested at least annually.

Follow the steps outlined on the Iowa DNR website.



To get your private well tested, please contact your local county health department.

[County Health Department - contact list \(click here\)](#)

- [Bacteria/coliform](#) (annually)
- [E.coli/fecal coliform](#) (annually)
- [Nitrate](#) (annually)
- [Arsenic](#) (every 3 years)
- [Manganese](#) (every 3 years)
- [PFAS](#) (requires pre-approval from the DNR)

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/public-health/environmental-health/private-well-grants>

<https://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/Private-Well-Program/Private-Well-Testing>

Chickasaw County Resources

Private Well Testing

offered through Environmental Health

For more information, contact the Health Department

641-394-4053

d.lechtenberg@chickasawcounty.iowa.gov

https://chickasawcounty.iowa.gov/environmental_health/well_water_testing/

Radon Tests

offered through Chickasaw County Health

- Maintain a small number of Air Check short-term Radon test kits
- \$20 per test

https://chickasawcounty.iowa.gov/public_health/radon_testing/



Thank you!

→ <https://shri.public-health.uiowa.edu/>

Email questions here: ICR-99countiesproject@uiowa.edu