Cancer



Iowa has the third highest cancer incidence rate for women in the United States and is one of the only states with an increasing rate of cancer.

Counties with highest overall cancer incidence rate

(new cases) for women (2017-2021):

Appanoose (545.5)	Monona (512.3)
Howard (538.4)	Benton (510.3)
Worth (531.2)	Cass (508)
Harrison (526.3)	Tama (506.3)
Washington (517.3)	Cherokee (503.9)



According to the Iowa Cancer Registry, three of the four types of cancer (lung, melanoma, and breast) explain Iowa's high and increasing cancer incidence rate in women.	Type of Cancer	Average New Cases Per Year	Average Deaths Per Year
	Overall	9,369	2,960
	Breast	2,692	393
	Lung and Bronchus	1,208	699
	Colon and Rectum	762	268
	Skin Melanomas	536	37

United States Cancer Statistics (USCS), CDC, 2017-2022

Behaviors & Risk Factors

Some major modifiable risk factors include alcohol consumption, physical inactivity, obesity and tobacco use.



15.7% of women reported binge drinking (4 or more drinks on one occasion) in the past 30 days. Iowa Rank: 2nd Highest



12.6% of women were current cigarette smokers. Iowa Rank: 16th Highest



42.2% of women did not meet aerobic activity recommendations (150 minutes per week). Iowa Rank: 24th Highest



38.6% of women were classified as obese (BMI 30 or higher). Iowa Rank: 10th Highest

What is HHS Doing?

HHS is focusing on cancer prevention, screening and workforce development.

Cancer Programming

- Partners and supports lowa's Federally Qualified Health Centers and local public health agencies with financial resources and technical assistance to increase colorectal cancer screenings.
- Contracts with the Iowa Cancer Consortium to address cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis, research, and survivorship through workgroups and the implementation of the state's cancer plan by its more than 650 members.
- Provides free breast and cervical cancer screenings, diagnostic services and referrals to treatment for underinsured and uninsured women.

The Care for Yourself: Breast and Cervical Cancer Program served 3,623 women in SFY24.

Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Program

- Provides counseling, information, referrals and tools to help people quit using tobacco products through Iowa Quitline.
- Assesses Quitline participants for their lung cancer screening eligibility and encourages them to be screened.

1,681 females participated in Quitline in SFY24.

Medicaid

Cancer screenings by type of cancer of Women ages 14-64, SFY24

Type of Cancer	Number of Medicaid Members
Breast Cancer	38,725
Cervical Cancer	21,683
Colorectal Cancer	6,296
Lung Cancer	1,398
Melanomas	1,892

312,147 women aged 14-65 enrolled in Medicaid SFY24

Iowa Vaccines for Adults Program

• Provides uninsured and underinsured women with Human Papilloma Virus vaccinations which can prevent the development of cervical cancer.

Partnership with University of Iowa

Iowa HHS provides financial support with federal funding to the Iowa Cancer Registry and the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Iowa Cancer Registry

- Studies data and informs health care providers, other partners and lowans across the state about lowa's cancer problem and what factors are contributing to it.
- Engages lowans in all 99 counties using data to inform them of how cancer is affecting people in their communities and across the state.

Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center

- Works with Iowa HHS to develop a cancer communications and dissemination plan that includes designing and testing which cancer risk factor and cancer screening messages best reach Iowans.
- Develops and tests a tool for health care providers to use with patients about alcohol use as a cancer risk factor.
- Manages a melanoma bio-repository and registry, conducts basic and translational melanoma research and clinical trials, and convenes a melanoma research symposium with financial support through a state appropriation.