



# WE CAN

REDUCE THE IMPACT OF LUNG CANCER IN SOUTH CAROLINA

## LUNG CANCER IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Approximately **3,896\*** people are diagnosed with lung cancer and **2,797** die from the disease each year.

Smoking is the main cause of lung cancer, and exposure to secondhand smoke causes lung cancer for non-smoking adults. The best way to decrease tobacco usage is to make it easy to quit smoking, prevent kids from smoking, and to create smoke-free places. For more information, visit [www.sctobaccofree.org](http://www.sctobaccofree.org).

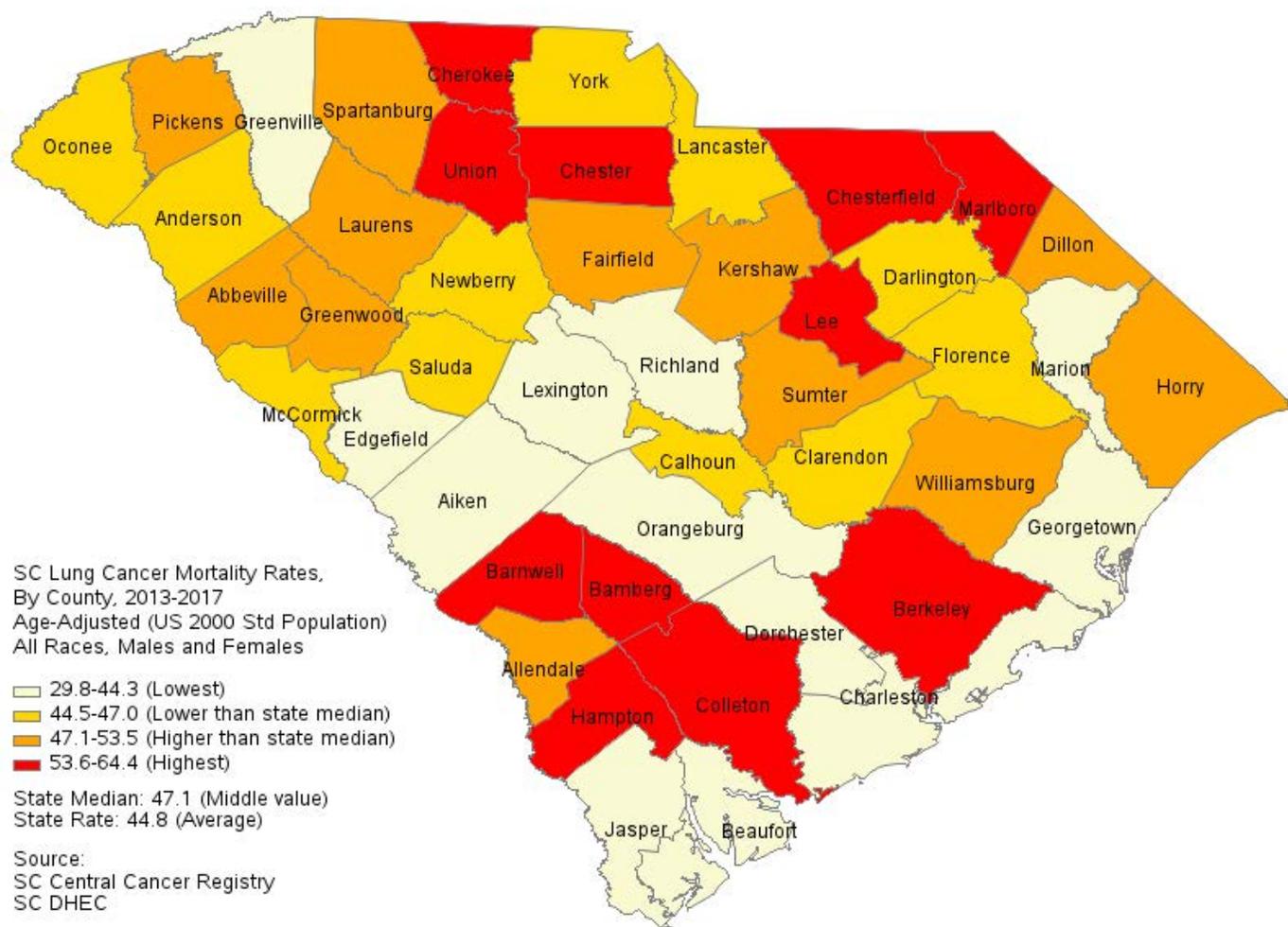
\*This statistic *excludes* in situ cancers.

## SCREENING

The only recommended screening test for lung cancer is a low-dose CT scan. A yearly lung cancer screening is **recommended** if you:

- have a history of heavy smoking (30 "pack years" or more. A "pack year" is smoking an average of 1 pack of cigarettes per day), **and**
- smoke now or have quit in the past 15 years, **and**
- are between the ages of 55-80.

# South Carolina Lung Cancer Mortality Map



A risk factor is anything that affects a person's chance of getting a disease such as cancer. Some risk factors, like smoking, can be changed. Others, like a person's age or family history, can't be changed.

## smoking

Cigarette smoking is the number one risk factor for lung cancer. Quitting at any age can significantly lower your risk of developing lung cancer.

## family history

Your risk of lung cancer may be higher if your parents, brothers or sisters, or children have had lung cancer.

## secondhand smoke

Smoke from other people's cigarettes, pipes or cigars (secondhand smoke) also causes lung cancer.

## age

As you get older, your risk of developing cancer increases. The average age in the United States for a lung cancer diagnosis is around 70 years of age.

## air pollution

Outdoor air pollution may increase the risk of developing lung cancer. This risk is far less than the risk caused by smoking, but some researchers estimate that about 5% of all deaths from lung cancer may be due to outdoor air pollution.

## exposure to asbestos

People who work with asbestos (such as in mines, mills, textile plants, places where insulation is used, and shipyards) are several times more likely to die of lung cancer. Exposure to asbestos might raise lung cancer risk.

Source: The information on this fact sheet was adapted from the U.S. Preventive Service Task Force.