Cancer Facts for LGBTQ+ People

- The American Cancer Society estimates there could be approximately 163,000 new cancer cases and nearly 50,000 cancer deaths among LGBTQ+ people in 2025.
- Many LGBTQ+ people face barriers to cancer screening such as access to health care or fear of provider discrimination.
- Based on a 2023 survey, 58% of LGBTQ+ cancer patients and survivors are concerned about the political climate impacting their ability to get health care.
- 1/3 of LGBTQ+ people report that their healthcare provider never talked with them about cancer screening.
- LGBTQ+ people have a higher risk of cancer than heterosexual and cisgender people.
- Transgender patients may be more likely to be diagnosed with advanced stage lung cancer and less likely to receive treatment for kidney cancer, compared with cisgender patients.
- Lesbian and bisexual women have a higher risk for breast cancer.
- Gay and bisexual men have a higher risk of anal cancer, especially those who are HIV+.

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Support for LGBTQ+ Communities

LGBTQ+ people face a unique and increased cancer burden including:

- unfair cancer risk factors;
- cancer screening disparities;
- obstacles to cancer prevention, detection, and treatment;
- health care provider discrimination; and
- other systemic factors that go beyond the connection to cancer.

As part of our deep commitment to advancing health equity, ACS CAN advocates for policies that reduce LGBTQ+ disparities in cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, and survivorship. This is critical to ending cancer as we know it, for everyone.

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Commercial Tobacco and LGBTQ+ People

- Higher smoking rates among LGBTQ+ people are often in response to intense stress caused by homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination coupled with Big Tobacco's unjust targeting of the community.
- People who identify as lesbian and gay (27%) and bisexual (66%) are more likely to smoke cigarettes than heterosexual people.
- People who identify as transgender are more likely than cisgender people to smoke cigarettes (17% versus 14%).
- About 36% of LGBT people that smoke use menthol cigarettes compared to 29% of heterosexual people that smoke cigarettes. Menthol flavoring makes it are easier to start smoking and harder to quit.
- Cigarette smoking increases the risk of lung cancer by 25-fold and increases the risk of at least 11 other cancers.

For information on quitting tobacco:



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