

Innovation Out of Reach: Where Cancer Hits Hardest, Trials Are Often Unavailable



Cancer Incidence vs. Clinical Trial Availability by State

Examining the geographic distribution of disease burden and clinical trial availability across all 50 states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico

Although cancer clinical trials are often opened in multiple locations, they are not available everywhere. This study evaluated cancer clinical trial access within 20 and 100 miles from the capitol buildings of all 50 states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico and found significant differences in availability. Results are shown for all cancer clinical trials and colorectal cancer as a specific cancer case study.

- The availability of any cancer trial within 100 miles of the capitol ranged from 18 (SD) to 1811 (CT), a hundredfold difference.
- Availability of colorectal cancer trials at 100 miles ranged from 0 (AK) to 147 (CT).
- There are 13 states with 5 or fewer colorectal cancer trials within 100 miles, compared to 12 states with over 75, within the same distance.
- Residents living around Des Moines, IA, have fewer than one third the number of trials available at 100 miles than residents of Columbus, OH, do at 20 miles; in Juneau, Alaska, no trials are available at all.

These findings demonstrate that for many individuals in rural states, accessing trials involves significant travel. Importantly, each clinical trial has specific eligibility criteria for participation, such as cancer stage, prior treatments, or specific tumor mutation requirements. Therefore, the presence of a single clinical trial for colorectal cancer, for example, does not mean any colorectal cancer patient could enroll. ***For a wide variety of patients to be able to access a clinical trial, multiple trials need to be available at a distance that is accessible to the patient.***

Capital, State	State rank by incidence rate (cases per 100,000)	State rank by clinical trial availability (100-mile radius from capitol)	Clinical trials available within 20 miles of the capitol		Clinical trials available within 100 miles of the capitol	
			All cancers	Colorectal	All cancers	Colorectal
Montgomery, AL	32nd	45th	8	0	100	13
Juneau, AK	31st	52nd	0	0	0	0
Phoenix, AZ	48th	28th	472	45	474	46
Little Rock, AR	17th	37th	140	3	163	3
Sacramento, CA	45th	12th	217	13	728	47
Denver, CO	49th	19th	548	55	580	55
Hartford, CT	8th	1st	114	4	1811	147
Dover, DE	21st	3rd	9	1	1388	121
Tallahassee, FL	22nd	50th	13	0	39	2
Atlanta, GA	10th	21st	497	32	553	38
Honolulu, HI	42nd	44th	107	3	107	3
Boise, ID	38th	42nd	119	4	119	4

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			All cancers	Colorectal	All cancers	Colorectal
Springfield, IL	20th	15th	115	3	637	53
Indianapolis, IN	37th	24th	256	19	534	39
Des Moines, IA	3rd	38th	139	5	162	5
Topeka, KS	23rd	31st	49	0	352	23
Frankfort, KY	1st	20th	0	0	576	42
Baton Rouge, LA	5th	34th	85	6	243	17
Augusta, ME	11th	43rd	18	2	109	2
Annapolis, MD	24th	4th	64	4	1380	120
Boston, MA	50th	9th	841	74	991	85
Lansing, MI	25th	11th	92	4	811	92
St. Paul, MN	4th	17th	328	20	612	44
Jackson, MS	16th	48th	65	1	83	5
Jefferson City, MO	13th	36th	30	1	173	13
Helena, MT	33rd	46th	16	1	94	3
Lincoln, NE	34th	32nd	64	4	325	23
Carson City, NV	46th	40th	20	1	137	7
Concord, NH	26th	8th	23	1	998	82
Trenton, NJ	6th	2nd	76	4	1689	140
Santa Fe, NM	51st	39th	16	1	157	8
Albany, NY	9th	35th	58	0	196	5
Raleigh, NC	12th	18th	54	3	609	42
Bismarck, ND	30th	49th	56	3	66	4
Columbus, OH	15th	13th	485	24	701	45
Oklahoma City, OK	19th	33rd	270	25	289	25
Salem, OR	43rd	27th	11	1	483	34
Harrisburg, PA	28th	6th	127	7	1200	92
Providence, RI	39th	7th	173	8	1119	94
Columbia, SC	35th	30th	39	0	369	16
Pierre, SD	14th	51st	18	2	18	2
Nashville, TN	27th	14th	649	79	658	79
Austin, TX	40th	22nd	227	23	549	72
Salt Lake City, UT	29th	29th	415	36	424	37
Montpelier, VT	18th	26th	23	1	501	38
Richmond, VA	41st	10th	239	11	885	83
Olympia, WA	36th	16th	59	2	618	47
Charleston, WV	2nd	47th	39	3	85	5
Madison, WI	7th	25th	236	18	526	37
Cheyenne, WY	44th	23rd	23	1	538	52
Washington, DC	47th	5th	822	82	1245	110
San Juan, PR	52nd	41st	128	13	134	13
All USA			4501	321	27338	2214

Methodology note: Trial data was collected using ClinicalTrials.gov during June 2026. Search criteria used were phase 1-3 interventional within 20 miles and 100 miles of the state/territory capitol building's address. State-level cancer incidence rankings are sourced from NCI/CDC State Cancer Profiles (latest single year).