

NEWS BRIEF

Provided by: Creative Benefits, Inc.

U.S. Reports Largest Drop in Cancer Rates for a Single Year

According to a [report](#) from the American Cancer Society, the United States has seen a 29% decrease in cancer rates from 1991 to 2016—which equates to 2.9 million fewer cancer deaths. From 2016 to 2017, the United States saw rates decrease by 2.2%, the biggest single-year drop in cancer rates in history.

Decreases by Cancer Type

The report highlights significant decreases in breast cancer, prostate cancer and colorectal cancer, but attributes the overall decrease in cancer rates to the decrease in lung cancer prevalence.

Specifically, lung cancer has declined by 51% in men since 1990 and by 26% in women since 2002. Historically, lung cancer accounts for nearly 1 in 4 cancer deaths in the United States, which is more than breast, prostate and colorectal cancers combined.

The report cites early detection, breakthrough treatments and lower smoking rates as reasons behind the decline in lung cancer-related deaths.

Smoking Cessation Stats

Smoking rates have been on the decline since 2005, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Despite the 20% nationwide decrease, there are still 40 million Americans who report that they smoke daily.

What Can Employers Do?

Given the correlation between smoking and lung cancer, employers should consider making their workplace one that is smoke-free and promote smoking cessation.

“Lung cancer remains the number one cause of cancer death both in men and women in the United States, as well as globally, and so any progress that we make in reducing lung cancer mortality will have an impact on overall cancer death rates.”

- Mark Awad, clinical director for the Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology

Promoting smoking cessation can help employees quit smoking, which may help them prevent developing lung cancer and various other health conditions.

For more information about smoking cessation programs or tips on becoming a smoke-free workplace, contact Creative Benefits, Inc. today.

