


1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 1150
Washington DC 20006
202-463-2080
www.lungcanceralliance.org
www.screenforlungcancer.org



Issued by Lung Cancer Alliance-Massachusetts

A large, stylized silhouette of a person's head and shoulders in a light blue color, positioned on the left side of the page. The silhouette is partially overlapping a yellow rectangular area that contains the report card title.

**2007 LCA-MA
REPORT
CARD
on Lung Cancer**



Subject	Grade	Comments
Number of Deaths	F	Unacceptable. Lung cancer is the number one cause of cancer deaths among Massachusetts men and women. This year alone, 5,060 Massachusetts citizens will be diagnosed—3,630 will die from the disease.
Five-Year Survival Rate	F	No progress in decades. For nearly 40 years, there has been virtually no improvement in lung cancer's 15% five year survival rate. Conversely, breast cancer's 5-year survival rate has increased to 88% and prostate cancer's to 99%.
Number of Late Stage Diagnoses	F	Must improve. Over 70% of lung cancer patients are diagnosed in the late stages of the disease when it is not curable, most succumbing to the disease within the first year of diagnosis. We must shift to earlier detection, diagnosis and treatment if we hope to improve overall survival.
Newly-Addicted Youth Smokers	F	Shameful. 7,400 new Massachusetts "daily" smokers under the age of 18 are addicted each year. Over 14 million packs of cigarettes are bought or smoked by Massachusetts youth each year. Over 20% of Massachusetts high school students smoke cigarettes. Big Tobacco's relentless multi-billion dollar campaigns to hook more young people continue.
State-Supported Research	F	Missed Opportunity. Lung cancer research is woefully under funded relative to its Massachusetts' health impact. Massachusetts has failed to adequately fund research in prevention, early disease management and treatment for lung cancer. This must change.
State Cancer Plan Commitment	D	Promising but Needs Improvement. The goal of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition's plan is to reduce and eliminate death and suffering due to cancer by 2011. While the plan recommends smoking cessation programs, it fails to recommend research for lung cancer early detection and treatment. All three critical components must be included if lung cancer mortality is to be reduced.

Lung Cancer Alliance-Massachusetts Commitment: Better Grades

LCA-MA's mission is to lead the movement to reverse decades of stigma and neglect by empowering those with or at risk for the disease, elevating awareness and changing public health policy.

LCA-MA WILL DO THE FOLLOWING:

Advocate for increased research funding in Massachusetts

LCA-MA commits to working with the Governor, state legislators, and other public and private health interests to increase awareness of the public health impact of lung cancer, push for a greater sense of urgency in coordinating a state response to address lung cancer, and secure increased research funding for lung cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

Help those at risk through early disease management

LCA-MA commits to pursue funding for a lung cancer early detection pilot research program in MA for those at high risk (including smokers and former smokers, those with a family history of lung cancer and those whose military service or employment exposed them to smoke, Agent Orange, asbestos,

beryllium or other carcinogens).

The pilot program, with a significant set aside for minorities and underserved rural populations, must link the latest in CT technology to the best published practices for diagnosing lung cancer at its earliest stage.

Strengthen strategic alliances

LCA-MA commits to strengthening its partnerships with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition, accredited research facilities throughout the state and all other organizations who commit to the common goal of reversing decades of stigma and neglect too long associated with lung cancer.

Enhance patient support

LCA-MA commits to supporting Massachusetts lung cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and family members by providing the most comprehensive and current information on all lung cancer treatment and support options. We will also inform patients and caregivers about emerging treatments and offer assistance in clinical trial enrollment.

Educate the public

LCA-MA commits to organizing grassroots efforts and public awareness campaigns on the need to increase funding for research and support for early detection. Such initiatives will include an annual Report Card on lung cancer and observance of November as Lung Cancer Awareness Month in Massachusetts.

Reduce youth smoking

LCA-MA commits to decreasing the number of youth smokers through strengthened partnerships with tobacco prevention, control, and cessation advocates.

For more information or to make a donation, visit lungcanceralliance.org.

LCA-MA is an affiliate of the national organization, Lung Cancer Alliance, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

