



Investigating Cancer Concerns in South Dakota

DEFINITION



Cancer Cluster

More cancer cases than usual that happen within a group of people, specifically in a geographic area or over a certain amount of time.

Information About Cancer Clusters

- + Many cancers are caused by lifestyle behaviors and **can be prevented with healthy choices**.
- + **Behaviors and exposures** that increase the risk of cancer can occur years or decades before a cancer diagnosis.
- + Many of us are **exposed to products or substances in our daily lives** without knowing if they cause cancer.
- + **There are many probable or known carcinogens**; however, linking evidence of these carcinogens to cancer clusters is very difficult.
- + Geographic areas where cancer clusters occur can be related etiologically through a group of people if it happens in a certain time frame.
- + Etiology is the different risks and causes related to developing a disease. For example, unprotected exposure to the sun is linked to skin cancer.

Traits of Cancer Clusters

They are very rare.

There are around 1,000 inquiries a year in the U.S. and the majority of them do not have enough evidence to be investigated.

They are usually all the same type of cancer.

Cancer clusters are usually all the same type of cancer, all within a similar family of cancers, or all have an environmental or chemical exposure that is either known or suggested to cause cancer.

Cancer Risk Factors

LIFESTYLE BEHAVIORS



Poor nutrition
or an
unhealthy diet



Lack of physical
activity



Sun exposure
without
protection



Excessive
alcohol
consumption



Tobacco
use

HEREDITARY FACTORS



Certain genetic mutations



Family history of cancer

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS



Exposure to radon, asbestos, or air pollution



Exposure to toxic chemicals or known carcinogens

Cancer Screening Recommendations

from the United States Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF)

Cancer Type	Recommended Age Group	Screening Frequency
Breast Cancer	Women aged 40 to 74 years	Every 2 years
Cervical Cancer	Women aged 21 to 29 years	Every 3 years
	Women aged 30 to 65 years	Every 3-5 years (depending on method)
Colorectal Cancer	Adults aged 45 to 75 years	As recommended by healthcare provider
Lung Cancer	Adults aged 50 to 80 years who have a history of smoking	Annually

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Unusual Cancer Patterns." *About Unusual Patterns of Cancer*, April 12, 2024, <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer-environment/about/index.html>
2. Stephanie L. Foster et al., "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention." *Guidelines for Examining Unusual Patterns of Cancer and Environmental Concerns*, 2022, <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer-environment/media/pdfs/Guidelines-for-Examining-Unusual-Patterns-of-Cancer-and-Environmental-Concerns-h.pdf>
3. United States Prevention Services Task Force, "Published Recommendations." *Cancer*, 2024, <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/>

Who to Contact with Concerns

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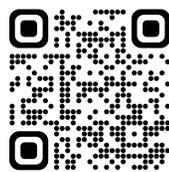
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