



# Cancer STATS & FACTS for Ohio

## HEAD & NECK CANCER

April 2020

### Who Gets Head & Neck Cancer?

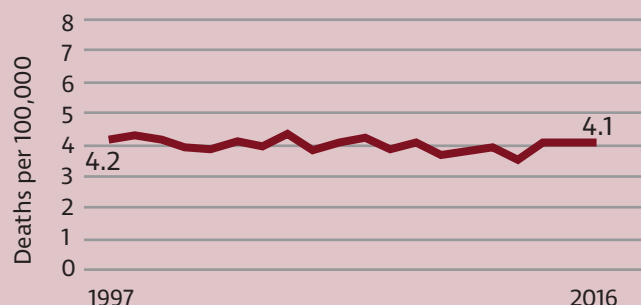
Head and neck cancers (HNC) include cancers that begin in or around the oral cavity (mouth), pharynx (throat), larynx (voice box), nose, and sinuses.\*

An average of **2,288** cases of HNC are diagnosed each year in Ohio, accounting for **4%** of all new cancer cases.

Most people are older than **50** when they are diagnosed with HNC.

### Head & Neck Cancer Deaths

In the past 20 years, HNC death rates in Ohio were relatively stable.

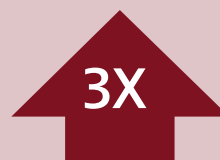


### The HNC incidence rate is:



higher among  
**men** than women.

### The HNC death rate is:



higher among  
**men** than women.

### Finding HNC Early Is Important

**92%** of people diagnosed at an early stage when HNC has not spread  
**SURVIVE 5 YEARS.**

**41%** of people diagnosed when HNC has spread to distant parts of the body  
**SURVIVE 5 YEARS.**

Regular dental or routine exams are important in detecting many of these cancers. Signs and Symptoms include:

- A lump or a sore that does not heal.
- A sore throat that does not go away.
- difficulty in swallowing.
- A change or hoarseness in the voice.



### Prevention Is Key

#### Avoid or quit tobacco and limit alcohol.

Alcohol and tobacco use are major risk factors for HNC. People who use both tobacco and alcohol are at even greater risk of developing HNC.



**If you are between the ages of 11 and 26, get vaccinated.** Infection with HPV (human papillomavirus) is a cause of up to 70% of HNCs that affect the tonsils, back of the mouth, and base of the tongue.

#### Avoid indoor tanning or too much sun.

Ultraviolet (UV) light exposure, such as exposure to the sun or artificial UV rays from tanning beds, is a major cause of lip cancer.

\*The statistics presented here apply to oral cavity, pharynx and larynx cancers only; nose and sinus cancers are excluded.

Cancer reports and fact sheets are available on the [Cancer Data and Statistics](#) web page.

Sources: Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System (2012-2016) and Bureau of Vital Statistics (2012-2016), Ohio Department of Health; National Cancer Institute.

**Ohio**

Department  
of Health