HEAD & NECK CANCERS in IDAHO 2023

1,576 cases of malignant head and neck cancers diagnosed among Idahoans during 2016-2020

Over 1,900 Idahoans alive as of July 1, 2020 had received a diagnosis of head or neck cancer diagnosis in the past 10 years

359 deaths from head and neck cancer during 2017-2021

Male Idahoans are diagnosed with head and neck cancer at 3 times the rate of female Idahoans.

7 in 10 deaths from head and neck cancers were among male Idahoans during 2016-2020.

Prevent head and neck cancers!

- Get vaccinated for human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Limit alcohol intake (< 1 drink per day)
- Quit using tobacco products. Scan the QR code for free resources on quitting tobacco at ProjectFilter.org
- Get bi-annual dental check-ups that include cancer screenings

Idahoans living with head and neck cancer...

- Should be referred for speech pathology evaluation prior to radiation.
- Can talk to their doctor about quality of life, diet, and physical activity during and after therapy.

Health Behavior

- HPV vaccination in Idaho has increased 59% in girls and 189% in boys since 2014, but less than half of Idaho’s youth aged 13-17 are vaccinated against cancer-causing HPV strains.
  - As of 2021, 49.4% of girls and 45.7% of boys had completed the HPV vaccination series.
- Tobacco products and heavy alcohol use are head and neck cancer risk factors.
  - 8.2% of male and 6% of female Idahoans report drinking heavily* (2020 BRFSS).
  - Nearly 2 in 5 Idahoans are current or former smokers (36.9%; 2020 BRFSS).

Rates of new larynx cancers have decreased 3.5% per year among males since 2000.

Idahoans living in areas with higher poverty are 25% more likely to die of their head or neck cancer than Idahoans living in more affluent areas.

Deaths from head and neck cancers have been decreasing 1.5% per year since 2000.

*Drinking heavily is defined as more than 14 drinks per week for men and more than 7 drinks per week for women.

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