**MYTH** Only people who smoke get lung cancer.

**TRUTH:** Anyone can get lung cancer. Approximately 18% of lung cancer patients have never smoked and 61% have already quit smoking.

**MYTH** Breast cancer kills more women than lung cancer.

**TRUTH:** In 2021, it is estimated that of all cancer deaths in women, 62,470 will be due to lung cancer and 43,600 from breast cancer.

**MYTH** If I already have lung cancer, there is no reason to quit smoking.

**TRUTH:** Quitting smoking can increase the success of lung cancer surgery, treatments and overall quality of life.

**MYTH** Lung Cancer is a death sentence.

**TRUTH:** With early diagnosis, the survival rate for lung cancer can be high. It is recommended that high risk patients be screened for lung cancer so it can be detected earlier.

**MYTH** Since lung cancer is the #1 cancer killer, it must receive the most funding.

**TRUTH:** Lung cancer claims more lives than breast, prostate and colorectal cancer combined, yet receives the least amount of federal funds per cancer death.
LUNG CANCER

risk factors

- Cigarette smoking (current or past)
  For smoking cessation help: www.quitlinenc.com
- Exposure to Radon – Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Radon is a colorless, odorless gas. You can test your home for radon for a small fee. www.ncradon.org
- Exposure to secondhand smoke
- Air Pollution
- Family history
- Radiation therapy to the chest
- Occupational exposure, such as asbestos, cadmium, arsenic, and diesel fumes
- Personal history of lung disease, such as Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, COPD

The Lung Cancer Initiative’s mission is to advance survivorship and provide support to those affected by lung cancer through research, education and access programs.

www.LungCancerInitiativeNC.org