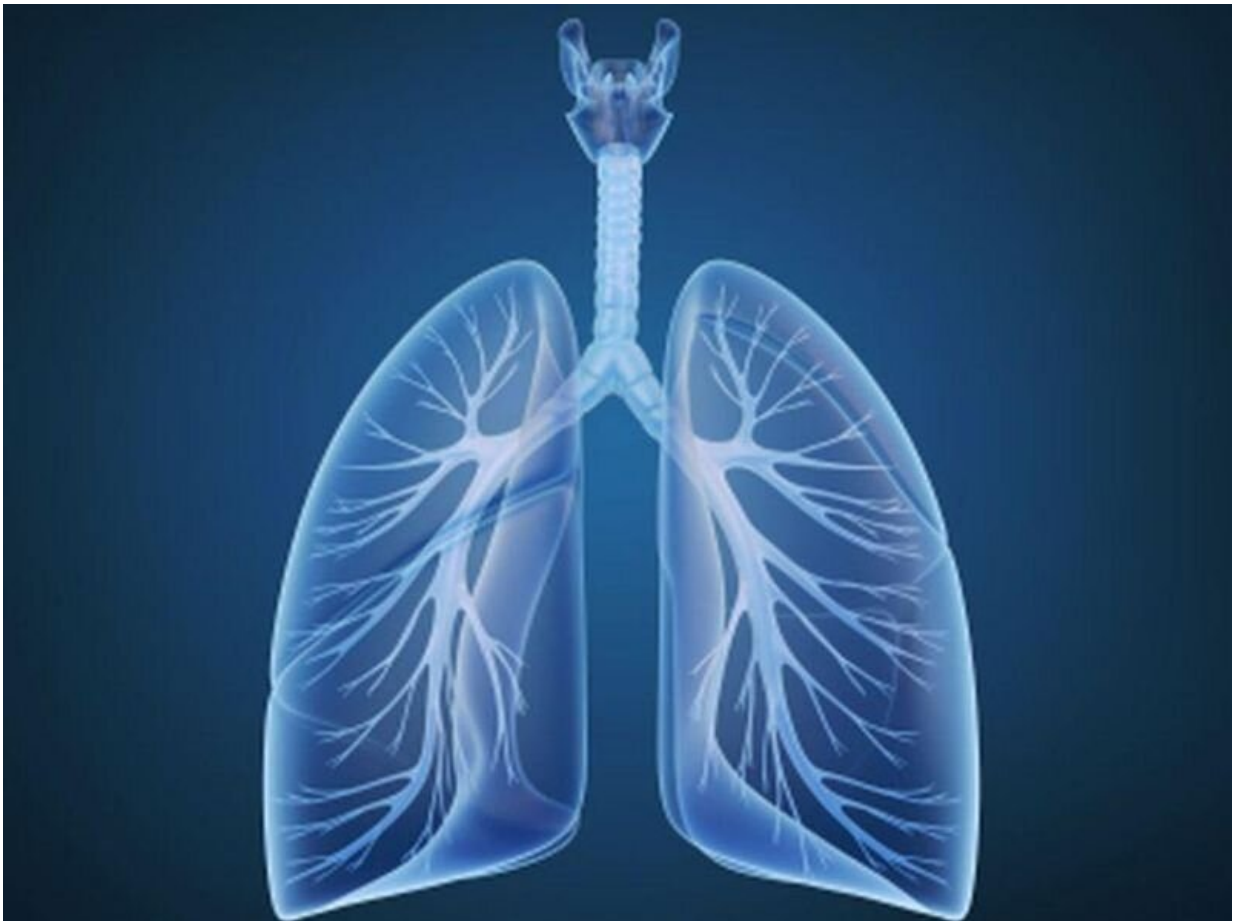


2021 USPSTF guidance expands eligibility for lung cancer screening

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(HealthDay)—Adopting the 2021 U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

(USPSTF) recommendations for lung cancer screening will increase the number of eligible people, including more women and racial and ethnic-minority groups, according to a study published online Oct. 12 in *JAMA Network Open*.

Debra P. Ritzwoller, Ph.D., from Kaiser Permanente Colorado in Aurora, and colleagues estimated population-level changes associated with the 2021 USPSTF recommendations for [lung cancer screening](#), which lowered the [screening](#) age from 55 to 50 years and smoking history from 30 to 20 pack-years.

The researchers identified 341,163 individuals aged 50 to 80 years who currently or previously smoked as of September 2019. Of these, 34,528 were eligible for [lung cancer](#) screening according to the 2013 USPSTF criteria. With the 2021 USPSTF recommendations, screening eligibility was expanded to an additional 18,533 individuals, representing a 53.7 percent increase. The newly eligible population included 5,833 individuals aged 50 to 54 years (31.5 percent), more women (52.0 percent), and more racial or ethnic-minority groups. The relative increase was higher for women than men (61.2 percent versus 47.4 percent) and for those with a lower comorbidity burden and lower socioeconomic status (SES; 68.7 percent for Charlson Comorbidity Index score of 0; 61.1 percent for lowest SES). Compared with the 2013 recommendations, the 2021 recommendations were associated with an estimated 30 percent increase in incident lung cancer diagnoses.

"This updated [eligibility criteria](#) may help reduce barriers to screening access for individuals at highest risk for lung cancer," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed ties to the biopharmaceutical industry.

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