



The Patriot-News



BACK TO BIRDS

SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR MICHAEL CLAY WILL RETURN TO THE EAGLES AFTER AGREEING TO A NEW CONTRACT, DESPITE INTERVIEWING FOR ANOTHER TEAM LAST WEEK. **C1**

HEALTH

More Americans are surviving cancer — even the deadliest ones



"Seven in 10 people now survive their cancer five years or more," says the American Cancer Society's Rebecca Siegel. *Washington Post*

For the first time, the five-year survival rate for all cancers has reached 70%, according to a new report.

Allyson Chiu *Washington Post*

More Americans diagnosed with cancer are now surviving the disease — marking a positive trend that experts say reflects the effectiveness of early prevention and detection strategies, and advancements in treatment and care.

New findings from the American Cancer Society's annual report released Tuesday show for the first time that the five-year survival rate for all cancers has reached 70%, with the most notable survival gains occurring among people diagnosed with more fatal cancers such as myeloma (a blood cancer), liver cancer and lung cancer.

"Seven in 10 people now survive their cancer five years or more, up from only half in the mid-70s," Rebecca Siegel, senior scientific director of surveillance research at ACS and lead author of the report, said in a news release. "This stunning victory is largely the result of decades of cancer research that provided clinicians with the tools to treat the disease more effectively, turning many cancers from a death sen-

tence into a chronic disease."

LIVING LONGER

The cancer mortality rate has continued to decline through 2023, averting 4.8 million deaths since 1991, according to the report. In 2026, the United States is expected to see upward of 2 million new cancer cases and more than 626,000 deaths related to the disease. Cancer incidence and mortality generally appears to be higher among men than women, the report found.

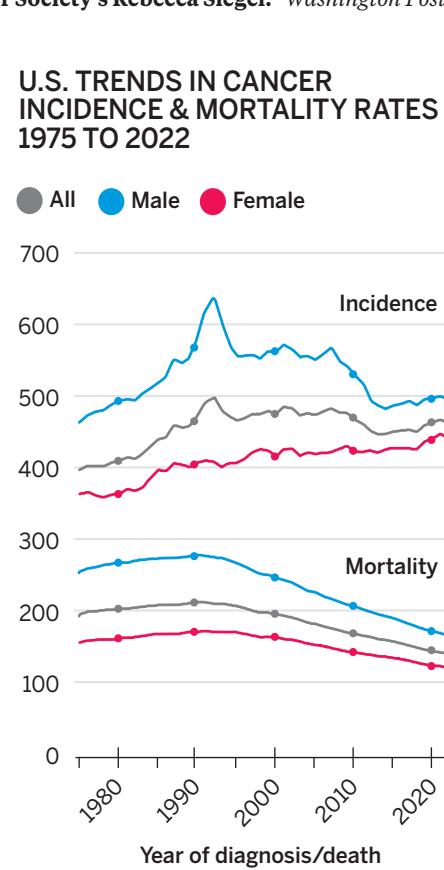
Improvements in survival rates can largely be attributed to less tobacco use, better ways to detect cancers early and the development of more effective treatments, said William Dahut, chief scientific officer for ACS. Importantly, he noted, advancements in cancer care, such as novel therapies, that have led to people living longer would not have been possible without funding research.

In early 2025, the Trump administration slashed millions in health research grants, including money that had been earmarked for cancer studies.

"The thing to focus on is really the importance of scientific funding and scientific discovery to really drive improvements in five-year survival," said Dahut, who added that the trends being observed in patients with metastatic cancer, in which the disease has spread to other parts

SEE HEALTH, A2

U.S. TRENDS IN CANCER INCIDENCE & MORTALITY RATES 1975 TO 2022



Rates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population, and incidence rates are adjusted for delays in case reporting. Incidence data for 2020 are shown separate from trend lines. Advance Local Graphic. Source: American Cancer Society Journal, Cancer statistics, 2026

Shapiro joins White House in pressing to boost power supply

Thirteen governors want the grid operator to hold an auction for companies to bid on contracts for power plants.

Associated Press

The Trump administration and a bipartisan group of governors are trying to step up pressure on the operator of the nation's largest electric grid to take urgent steps to boost power supplies and keep electricity bills from rising even higher.

Administration officials said doing so is essential to win the artificial intelligence race against China, even as voters raise concerns about the enormous amount of power data centers use and analysts warn of the growing possibility of blackouts in the mid-Atlantic grid in the coming years.

"We know that with the demands of AI and the power and the productivity that comes with that, it's going to transform every job and every company and every industry," Interior Secretary Doug Burgoon told reporters at the Eisenhower Executive

Office Building, next to the White House. "But we need to be able to power that in the race that we are in against China."

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SAYS IT HAS 'THE ANSWER'

The White House and 13 governors want the mid-Atlantic grid operator to hold a power auction for tech companies to bid on 15-year contracts to build new power plants, so that data center operators, not regular consumers, pay for their own power needs.

Data centers that don't have their own power source and don't volunteer to be cut off from the grid during power emergencies should be billed for the cost of new power plants, they said.

They also want the operator, PJM Interconnection, to contain consumer costs by

SEE ENERGY, A2

DAUPHIN COUNTY

Pa. sues vendor who missed delivering mail from state agencies

The Swatara township-based company's owner says he had to reduce staff because of the state budget impasse.

Gillian McGoldrick *Philadelphia Inquirer*

Gov. Josh Shapiro's administration has sued a former vendor for failing to deliver 3.4 million pieces of state agency mail to residents, resulting in a statewide debacle with some residents losing access to their public benefits.

Shapiro called the situation "absolutely unacceptable" in his first public remarks on the matter last week.

The Pennsylvania Department of General Services this month filed suit in Dauphin County Court against the Swatara Township-based Capitol Presort Services, a mail presort company, for damages totaling more than \$220,000 for its failure to deliver critical state agency communications from the Department of Human Services, Department of Transportation and more.

The lawsuit alleges that the owner of Capitol Presort Services told the state he had been forced to reduce staff due to the 135-day state budget impasse, during which outside vendors were not paid. But the owner, Phil Gray, never told the state his company could not fulfill its contractual obligations, according to the state's filing.

Gray "systematically reviewed the mail entering his facility and elected to process the mail that was most easily traced, to hide that he was falling behind," according to a letter sent to lawmakers last week by DGS Secretary Reggie McNeil.

The unsent mail went undetected by the state for one month before it was discovered, and Capitol Presort Services was swiftly fired. The state found another vendor through an emergency contract with technology solution company Pitney Bowes for \$1 million.

Shapiro said his administration has been "working overtime" to ensure no benefits were lost, and if they were, "we're going to make it right."

The mail delay has become an early point of attack against Shapiro as he runs for reelection and is likely to face Treasurer Stacy Garrity, the Pennsylvania Republican Party's endorsed candidate.

Following Shapiro's reelection campaign announcement this month, the state GOP claimed that Shapiro has "even failed at the easy stuff, like sending out millions of letters from state agencies, causing vulnerable residents to lose their health care without notice."

WHY THE STATE SUED

The state hired Capitol Presort in 2021 to tray and sort some of the state's mail, in order to save money on postage. Its latest purchase order for 2024-25, according to the suit, totaled nearly \$5.3 million to deliver millions of state agency communications to residents.

The state alleges in the suit that the vendor continued to deliver trackable mail while not delivering untracked mail, arguing that this was evidence of an "active and fraudulent concealment and an affirmative misrepresentation that it was performing its obligations under the contract."

Capitol Presort Services allegedly continued to pick up mail daily throughout the month of November, and Gray did not tell the state when asked on Dec. 4 that he could not meet his contractual obligations, McNeil said in his letter to lawmakers.

However, Gray allegedly told the state that he had reduced his staff since July due to the impact of the budget impasse, which lasted 135 days, or nearly five months. Outside vendors are not paid during budget impasses but are expected to meet their contractual obligations.

Gray could not be reached for comment Thursday and did not have an attorney listed on the lawsuit.