GLOBAL LUNG CANCER COALITION

Argentina briefing:
Symptom awareness, attitudes to lung cancer and views on screening
Findings from a global survey

Overview

The Global Lung Cancer Coalition (GLCC) is a partnership of 44 patient organisations across 32 nations / territories, working to improve lung cancer awareness, reduce stigma and improve outcomes.

The GLCC Patient Charter asserts that all people with lung cancer have the right to dignity, respect, quality care, informed decision making, privacy and freedom from blame and stigma.

Public perceptions can significantly affect these rights. Stigma and low symptom awareness may delay help-seeking and diagnosis, making it important to understand attitudes towards lung cancer.

In 2026, the GLCC conducted a global study to explore public attitudes to lung cancer, awareness of symptoms and views on screening. The research builds on studies undertaken in 2010, 2013, 2017 and 2023.

The GLCC is calling on governments and health systems across the world to:

- Increase recognition of lung cancer symptoms through targeted public awareness campaigns
- Challenge stigma and misconceptions through evidence-based awareness initiatives
- Implement national lung cancer screening programmes to support earlier detection and treatment
- Ensure equitable access to screening, diagnosis and care for all people affected by lung cancer

This briefing sets out the key findings from Argentina in 2026 and how they compare with other countries included in the survey. The results highlight three key themes:

- **Awareness of lung cancer symptoms** remains relatively low, with Argentina ranking among the countries with the poorest symptom recognition.
- **Levels of stigma** towards people with lung cancer remain above the global average.
- **Public support for lung cancer screening** is exceptionally strong, placing Argentina among the leading countries for support of earlier diagnosis through screening, despite the absence of a national lung cancer screening programme.

Key findings: Argentina

Symptom recognition

- Around **four in ten** people responding to the survey (**43.7%**) could not name any symptoms of lung cancer, placing Argentina among the countries with the lowest levels of symptom awareness in the survey. This is also slightly higher compared to **2023**, where **37.2%** could not list any symptoms.
- Women were more likely than men to report not knowing any symptoms (**45.9% vs. 41.0%**).
- Lack of symptom awareness was highest among people **aged 18-24** (**54.8%**).
- People who had never smoked were more likely than current or former smokers to report not knowing any symptoms (**53.0% vs. 38.7%**).

Attitudes towards lung cancer

- More than **four in ten** respondents (**41.8%**) reported having less sympathy for people with lung cancer than for those with other types of cancer. This proportion was higher than both the **global average** (**39.2%**) and the **39.8%** reported in **2023**, indicating a slight increase over time.

- Men were considerably more likely than women to report having less sympathy for people with lung cancer than for those with other cancers (**49.7% vs. 35.4%**).
- Differences were observed by age, with agreement highest among those **aged 35-44** (**45.2%**), and lowest among those **aged 55 and over** (**33.1%**).
- Current and former smokers were more likely than people who had never smoked to report having less sympathy for people with lung cancer (**43.7% vs. 38.0%**).

Views on lung cancer screening

- Nearly **nine in ten** people (**89.9%**) supported the introduction of a national lung cancer screening programme. Although slightly lower than in **2023** (**91.6%**), support remained among the highest recorded across all countries surveyed.
- Support was high among both women and men (**91.8%** and **87.5%**).
- High levels of support were consistent across all age groups.
- Support was also high regardless of smoking history, with current and former smokers slightly more likely to support a national screening programme than people who had never smoked (**90.8% vs. 88.7%**).

Methodology

The GLCC commissioned the market research agency Censuswide to undertake an online survey of adults across 32 countries between 17 March 2026 – 24 March 2026. The survey samples included 1,000 adults from Argentina and data was weighted using age, gender and region to produce a representative sample in each country. Respondents were asked the following questions:

- Q1. There are many warning signs and symptoms of lung cancer. Please list as many symptoms of lung cancer as you can think of [a tick box was provided for 'Don't know'].

- Q2. Lung cancer is mainly caused by smoking cigarettes and other tobacco products. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I have less sympathy for people with lung cancer than for other types of cancer.

- Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: There should be a national lung cancer screening programme to help people with lung cancer get diagnosed early.

Further analysis

Symptom recognition

Raising awareness of lung cancer symptoms is vital, as earlier diagnosis improves treatment outcomes.

In 2026, 43.7% of people in Argentina said they did not know any symptoms of lung cancer. This was substantially higher than the global average and among the highest proportions recorded across the 32 countries included in the survey, with only Spain, Bulgaria and Japan reporting lower levels of symptom awareness.

Among those who could identify symptoms, responses were concentrated around a small number of well-recognised warning signs, particularly breathlessness, persistent cough, coughing up blood and chest pain. Awareness of other symptoms was much lower, with relatively few respondents identifying hoarseness, wheezing, recurrent chest infections or loss of appetite. Other recognised symptoms, including difficulty swallowing, swelling of the face or neck and finger clubbing, were rarely identified.

These findings suggest that improving public awareness of the broader range of lung cancer symptoms should be a priority in Argentina, supporting earlier presentation, diagnosis and access to treatment.

Chart 1. Percentage of respondents who indicated they did not know any symptoms, by country

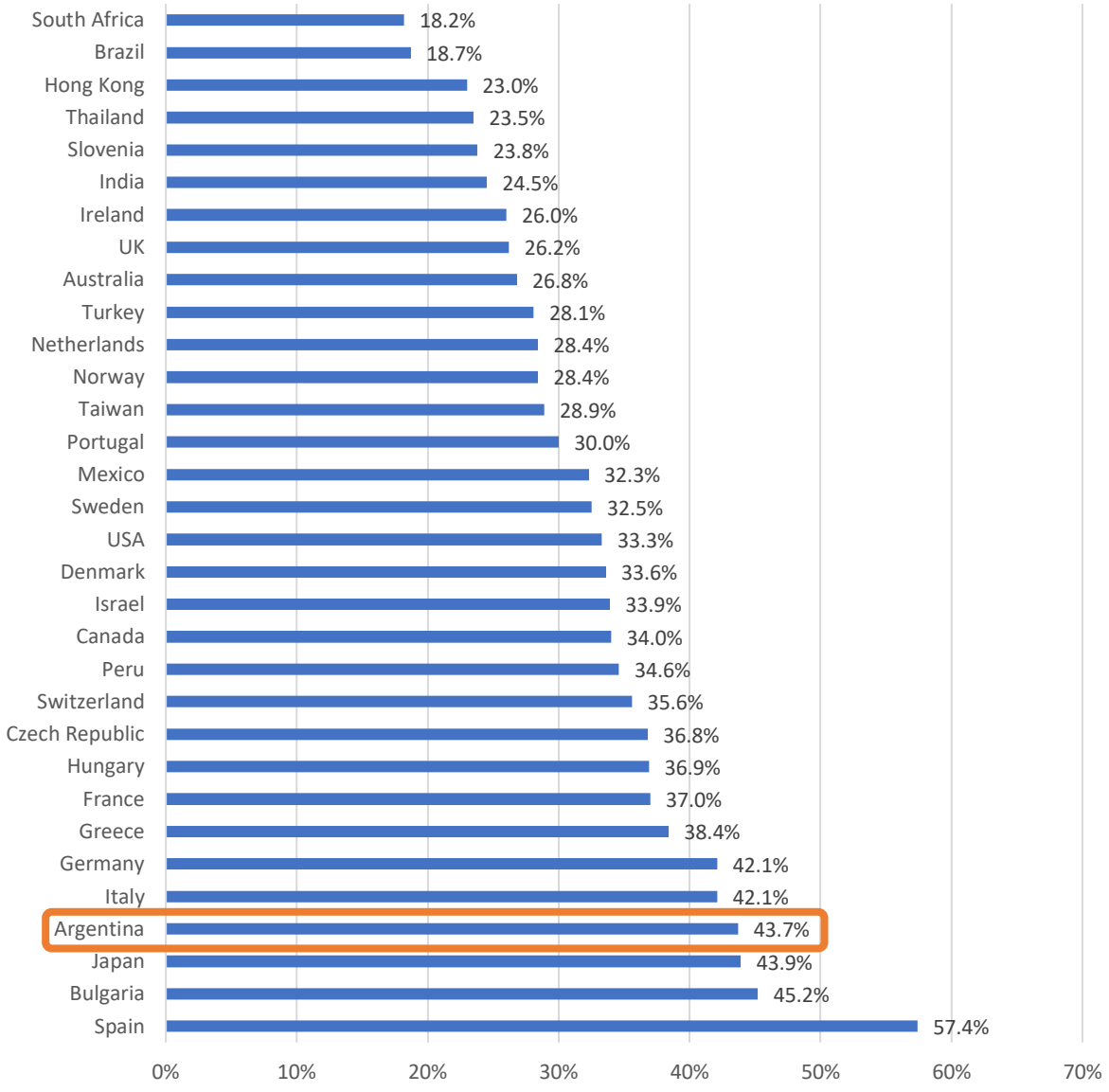


Chart 2. Percentage of respondents in Argentina who indicated they did not know any symptoms, by age

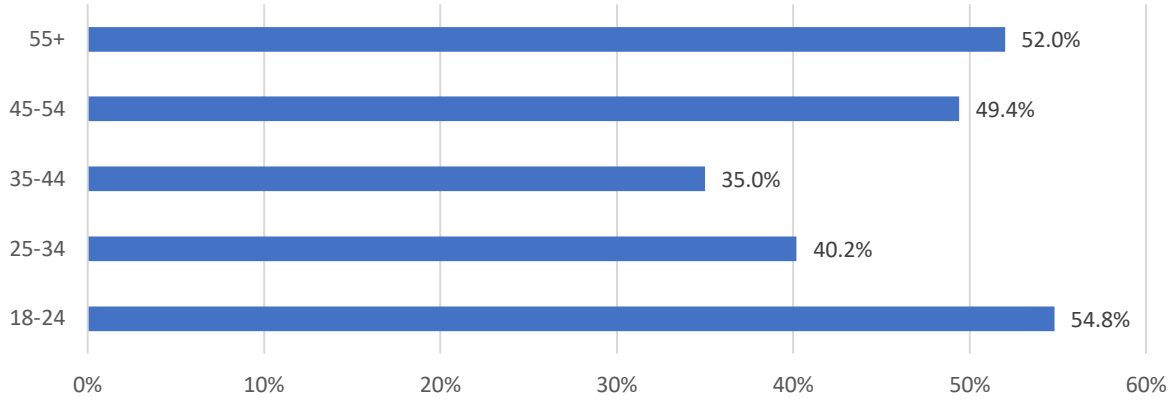
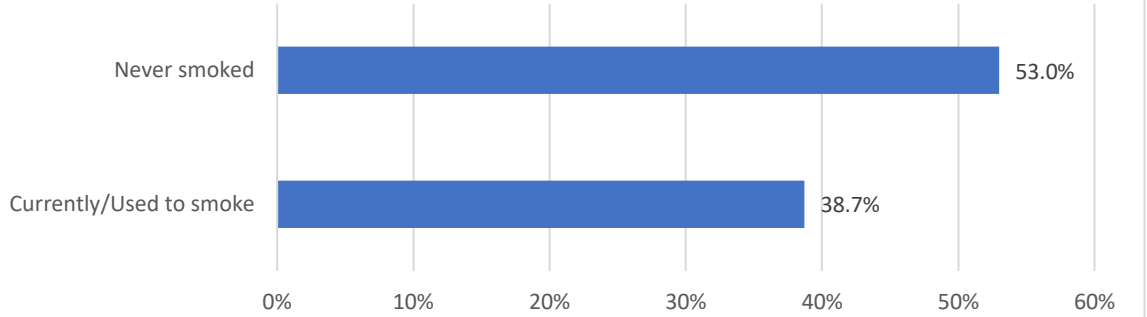


Chart 3. Percentage of respondents in Argentina who indicated they did not know any symptoms of smoking, by status



Attitudes towards lung cancer

Around 60-70% of lung cancer cases are linked to smoking, which can contribute to stigma and blame associated with the disease.[1] This is concerning because lung cancer can affect people regardless of smoking history, while stigma and misconceptions may discourage some individuals from seeking medical advice when symptoms first appear. The GLCC believes that everyone living with lung cancer deserves access to high-quality treatment and care, regardless of the cause of their cancer.

In Argentina, 41.8% of respondents agreed with the statement that they have less sympathy for people with lung cancer than for people with other types of cancer. This is higher than the global average of 39.2% and places Argentina among the countries reporting the highest levels of stigma towards people with lung cancer. These findings highlight the continued need for public education to challenge misconceptions about lung cancer and reduce blame associated with the disease.

[1] World Health Organization (2026) *Lung cancer*. Available at: https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/lung-cancer (Accessed: 11 August 2026)

Chart 4. Percentage of respondents who agree with the statement they have less sympathy for people with lung cancer than for other types of cancer, by country

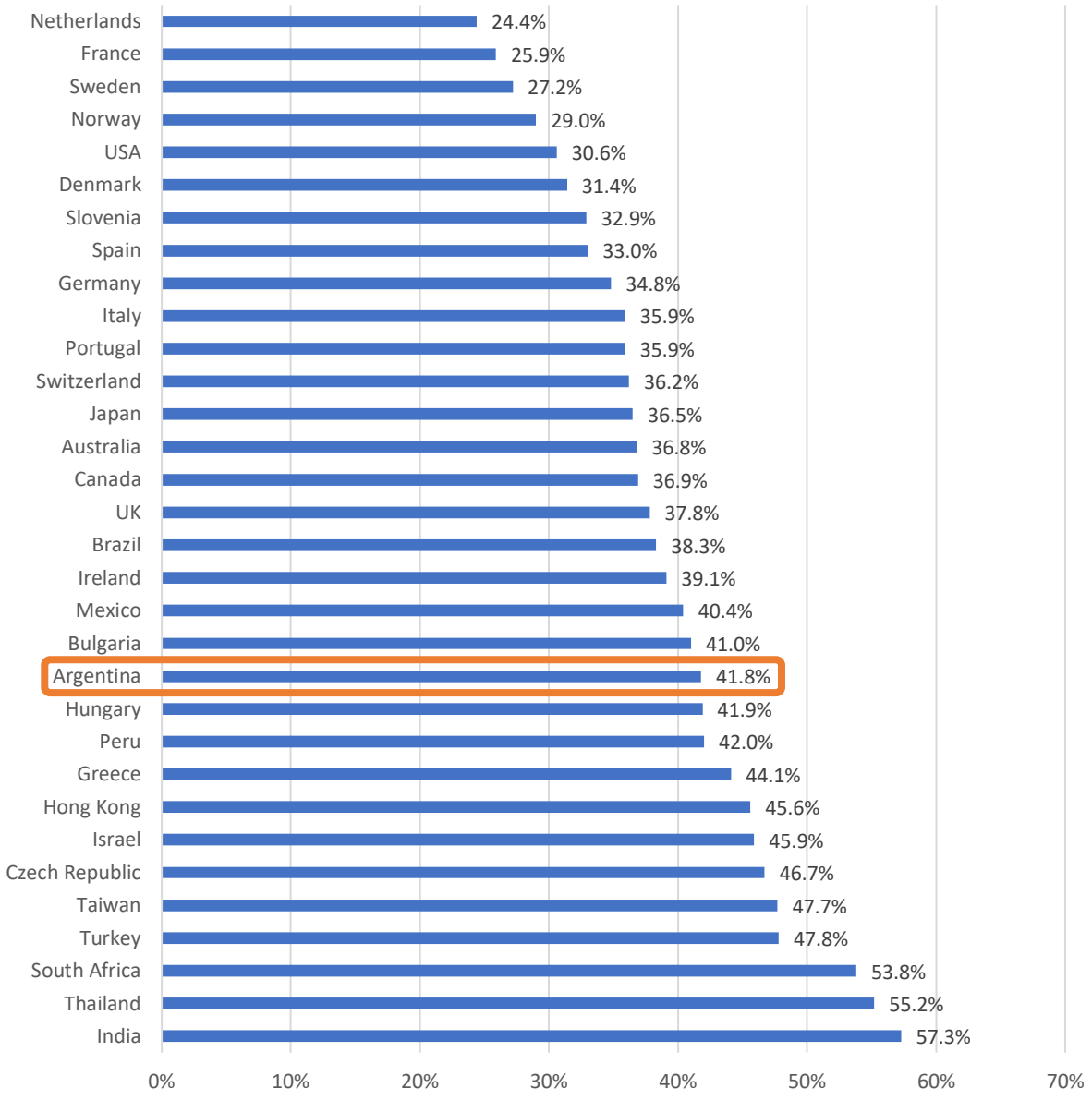


Chart 5. Percentage of respondents in Argentina who agree with the statement they have less sympathy for people with lung cancer than for other types of cancer, by age

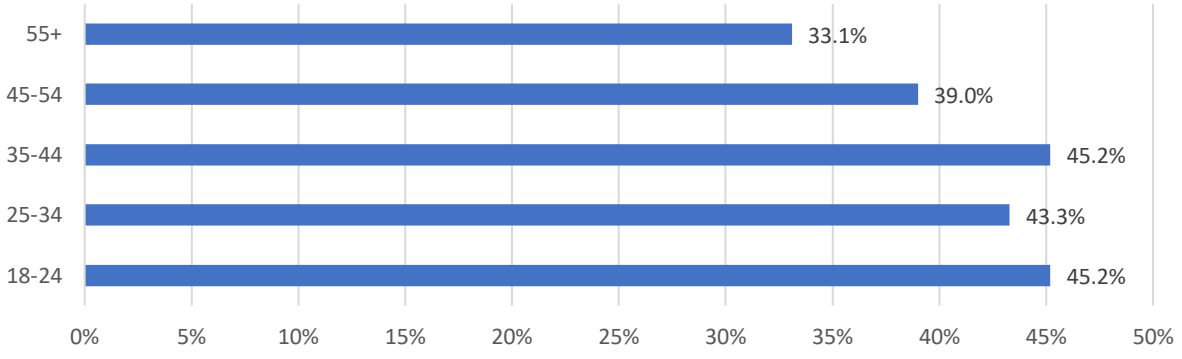
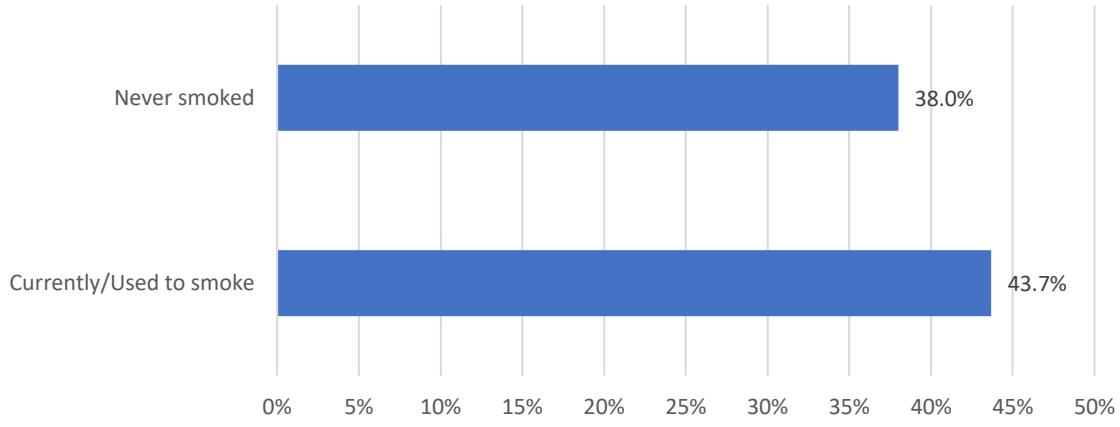


Chart 6. Percentage of respondents in Argentina who agree with the statement they have less sympathy for people with lung cancer than for other types of cancer, by smoking status



Views on lung cancer screening

A national lung cancer screening programme is a key measure to reduce the substantial burden that lung cancer places on individuals, families and healthcare systems. Lung cancer screening using low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) can save lives by detecting the disease at an earlier, more treatable stage. A large clinical trial found that LDCT screening reduced lung cancer mortality by 24% in men and 33% in women after 10 years of follow-up compared with no screening.[2]

Public support for lung cancer screening is very strong in Argentina, with 89.9% of respondents agreeing that there should be a national lung cancer screening programme to help people with lung cancer get diagnosed early. Argentina ranks among the strongest supporters of screening across all countries surveyed, recording the seventh-highest level of support.

Argentina does not yet have a national lung cancer screening programme. The high level of public support identified in this survey reinforces the case for progressing towards a national screening programme, helping more people to be diagnosed at an earlier stage when treatment is more likely to be effective and outcomes can be improved.

[2] de Koning, H.J., van der Aalst, C.M., de Jong, P.A. *et al.* (2020) 'Reduced Lung-Cancer Mortality with Volume CT Screening in a Randomized Trial', *New England Journal of Medicine*, 382(6), pp. 503-513. Available at: https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa1911793

Chart 7. Percentage of respondents who agree there should be a national lung cancer screening programme to help people with lung cancer get diagnosed early, by country

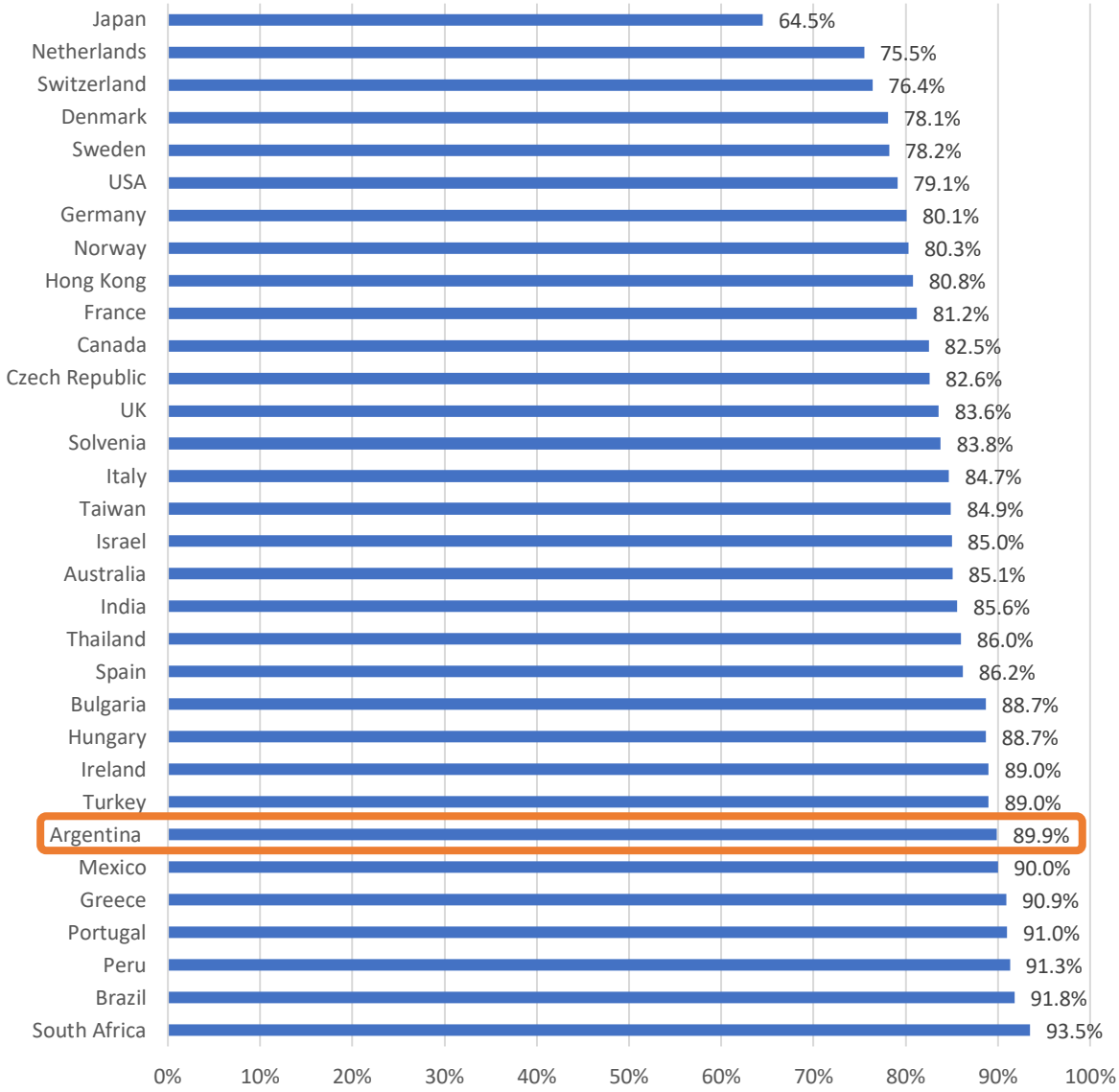


Chart 8. Percentage of respondents in Argentina who agree there should be a national lung cancer screening programme to help people with lung cancer get diagnosed early, by age

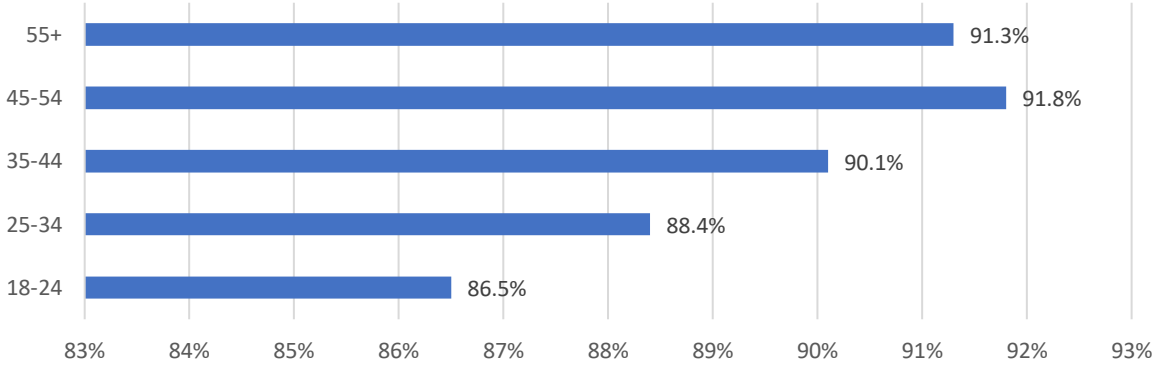
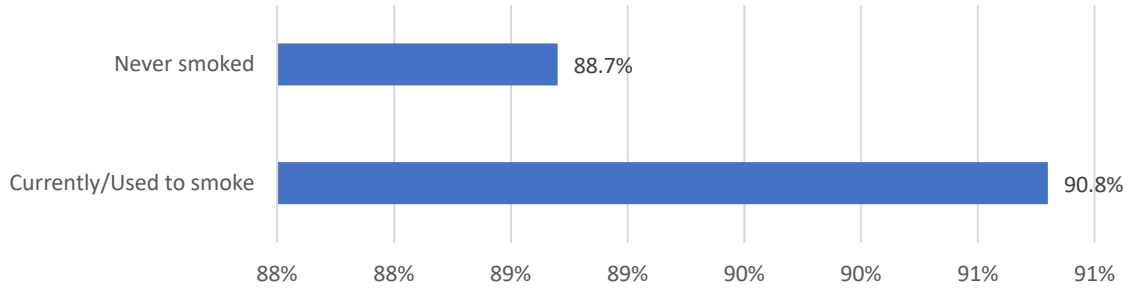


Chart 9. Percentage of respondents in the Argentina who agree there should be a national lung cancer screening programme to help people with lung cancer get diagnosed early, by smoking status



Conclusion

The 2026 findings suggest that Argentina faces significant challenges in both symptom awareness and perceptions of lung cancer. Nearly half of the population could not identify a single symptom of lung cancer, while levels of stigma remain above the global average. At the same time, public support for lung cancer screening is among the highest recorded in the survey.

These findings highlight the need for greater investment in public awareness, action to challenge stigma and misconceptions, and progress towards implementing a national lung cancer screening programme. Together, these measures could help drive earlier diagnosis and improve outcomes for people affected by lung cancer in Argentina.

More information

Established in 2001, the GLCC comprises 44 non-government patient organisations from 32 nations / territories: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, UK and USA.

The GLCC promotes global understanding of lung cancer and the right of patients to effective early detection, better treatment and supportive care. By serving as the international voice of lung cancer patients, the GLCC is committed to improving disease outcomes for all.

For more information about this study and the work of the GLCC please visit: www.lungcancercoalition.org or email our secretariat at: glcc@roycastle.org.