

Expanding Access to Lung Cancer Screening in a High Risk, Low Income Population

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Center for Asbestos Related Disease

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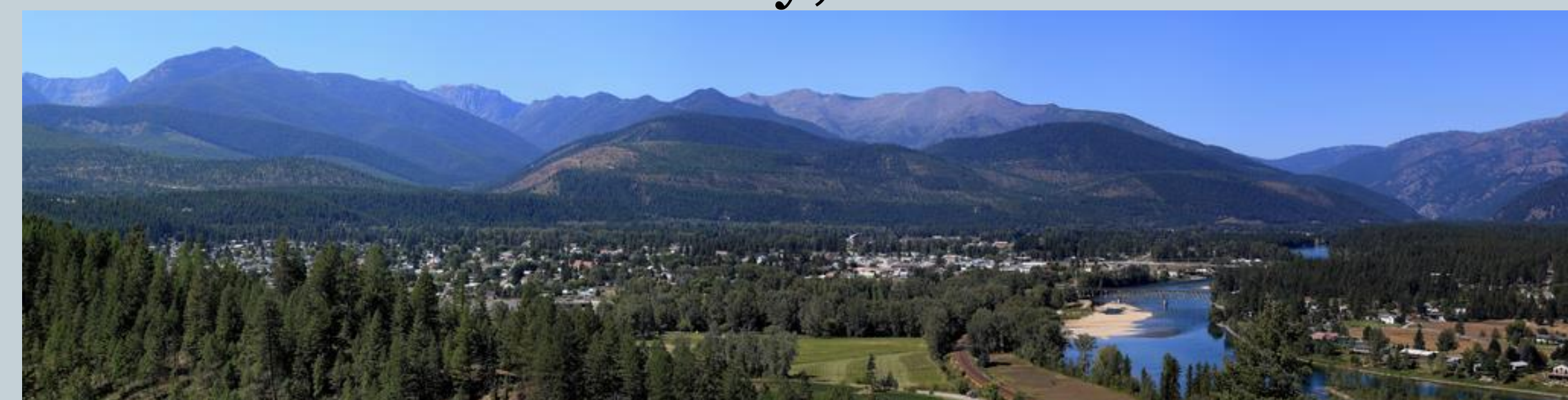
Background: Libby, MT

- The City of Libby is located in Lincoln County in Northwest Montana
- In 2009 EPA declared a Public Health Emergency due to community wide asbestos contamination in and around Libby.
- The asbestos was a contaminant of vermiculite mining operations from ~1920 to 1990.
- Contaminated ore was used extensively in homes and businesses as insulation, in gardens as a soil conditioner, and as a surfacing material for public areas.
- In 1999, when news of the widespread asbestos contamination and resulting health effects broke, an initial health screening program was conducted.
- Significant asbestos related pulmonary disease has been identified in the Libby population.
- The Center for Asbestos Related Disease (CARD) was formed in 2000 to meet the needs of this population.
- CARD follows over 2,000 people diagnosed with asbestos related diseases and over 750 who are current smokers.
- Asbestos exposure significantly increases risk of lung cancer. Coupled with substantial smoking history, the risk for developing lung cancers is exponentially increased.



Libby Amphibole Asbestos Fibers

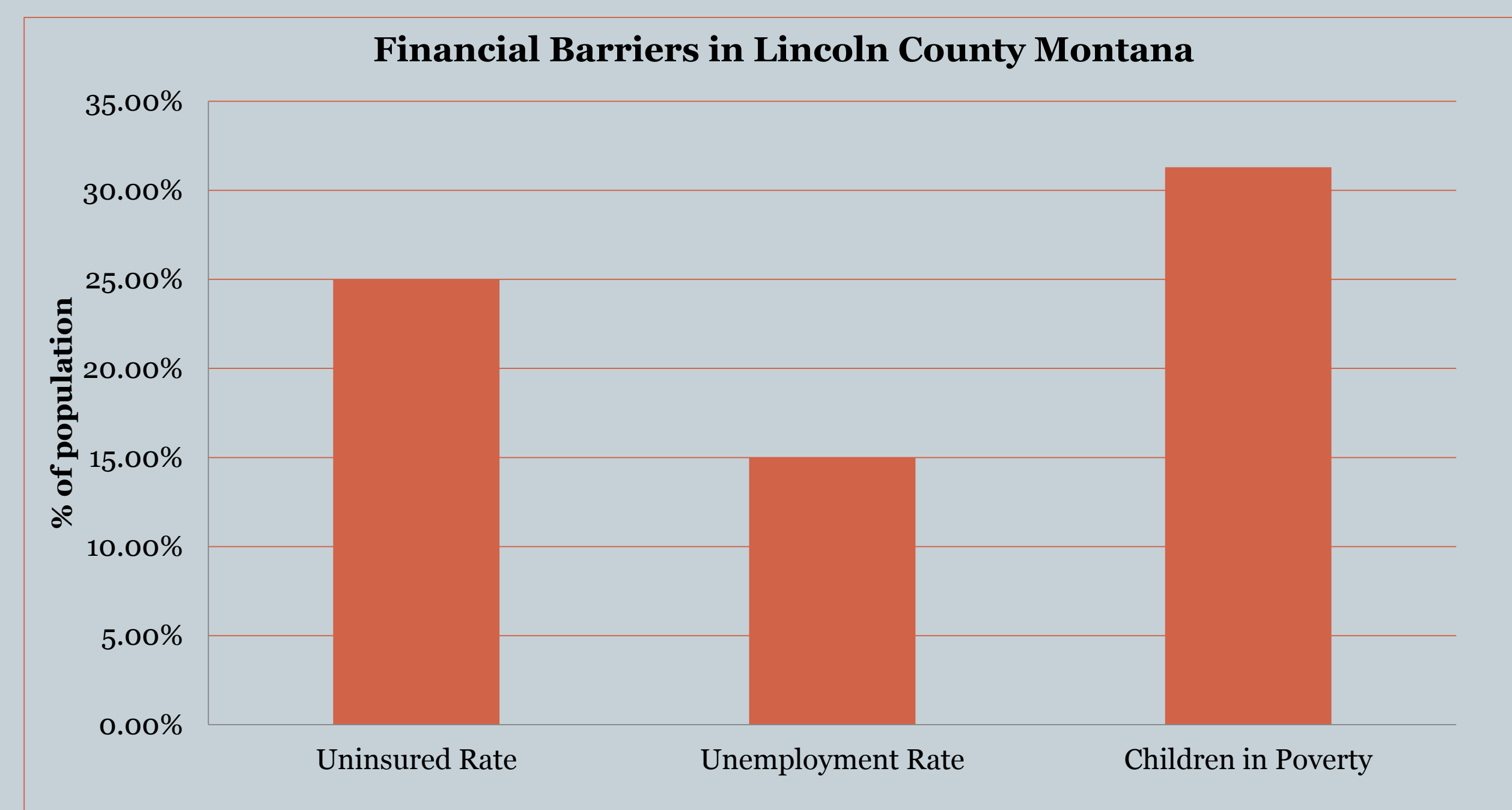
Libby, MT



Background: Barriers to Screening

Barriers to lung cancer screening in Libby, MT

- Geographic isolation- population density of 5 people per square mile and 90 miles to the nearest metropolitan area
- Financial barriers- high poverty, uninsured and unemployment rates
- Designated a medically underserved area
- Lack of an established screening program in the area
- Lack of education regarding increased risk of developing lung cancer due to the combined risk of asbestos exposure and smoking



Statistics in the above chart are from county health rankings and roadmaps. www.countyhealthrankings.org

Goals & Objectives

- Secure funding to implement a free lung cancer screening program for patients with increased risk from asbestos exposure and smoking.
- Increase awareness about the dangers of smoking, and offer free smoking cessation to anyone interested in quitting.
- Educate about the synergistic effects of tobacco and asbestos exposure for increasing risk level
- Encourage program participation through community outreach.

Methods

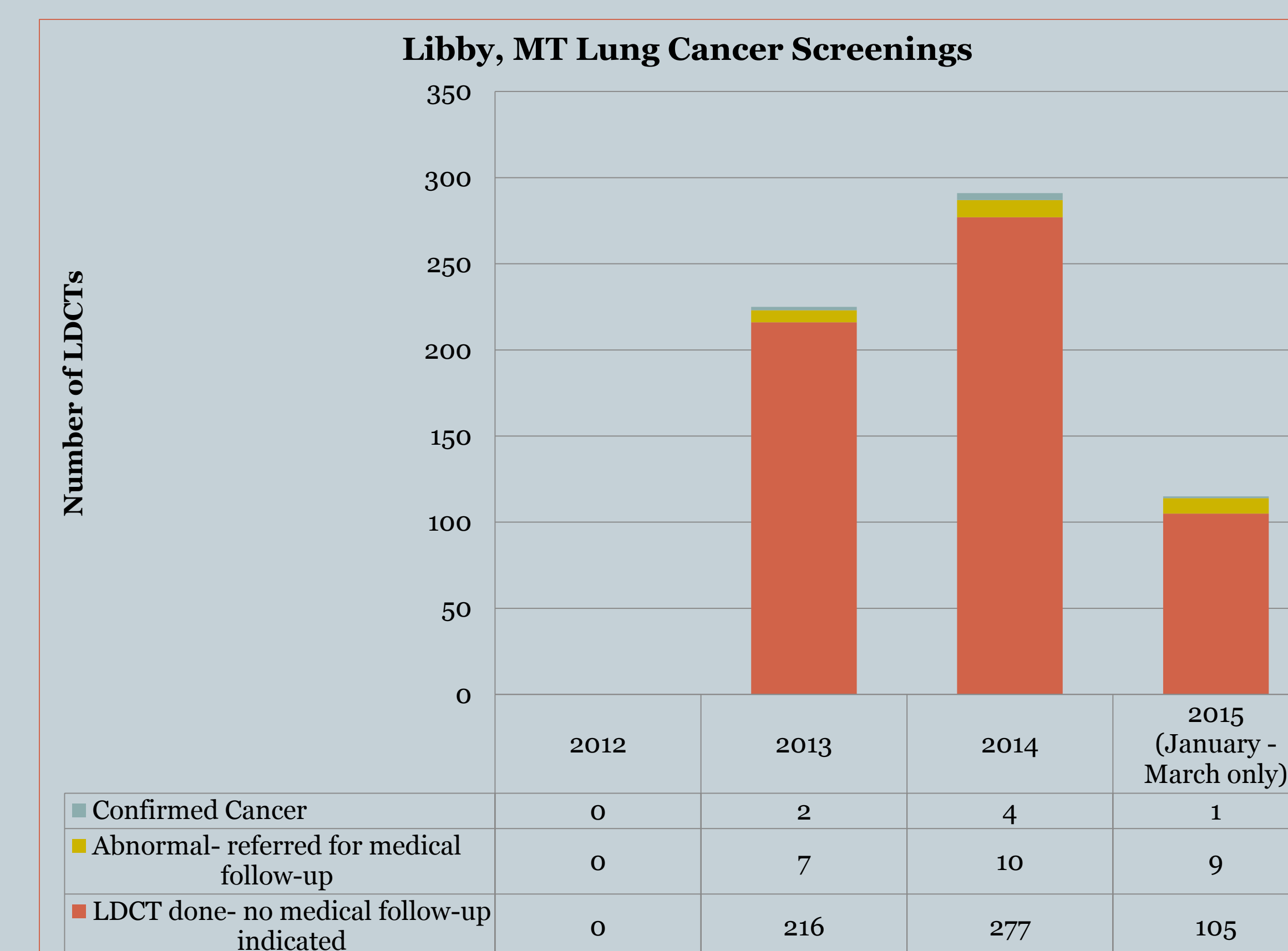
- In 2012, CARD submitted a proposal to CDC/ATSDR to expand our asbestos related disease screening program to include lung cancer screening for high risk individuals.
- After funding was secured, outreach about the program was conducted by newsletter and individual recruitment letters.
- The first free low dose CT scan (LDCT) for lung cancer screening was done in February 2013
- Lung Cancer Screening Guidelines from the American Association for Thoracic Surgery were used to develop eligibility criteria and follow up guidelines.

LDCT Program Eligibility

- 55-79 years of age AND
- ≥ 20 pack years of smoking history AND
- Diagnosed with an asbestos related disease OR documented asbestos exposure and a nodule ≥ 4 mm on prior imaging

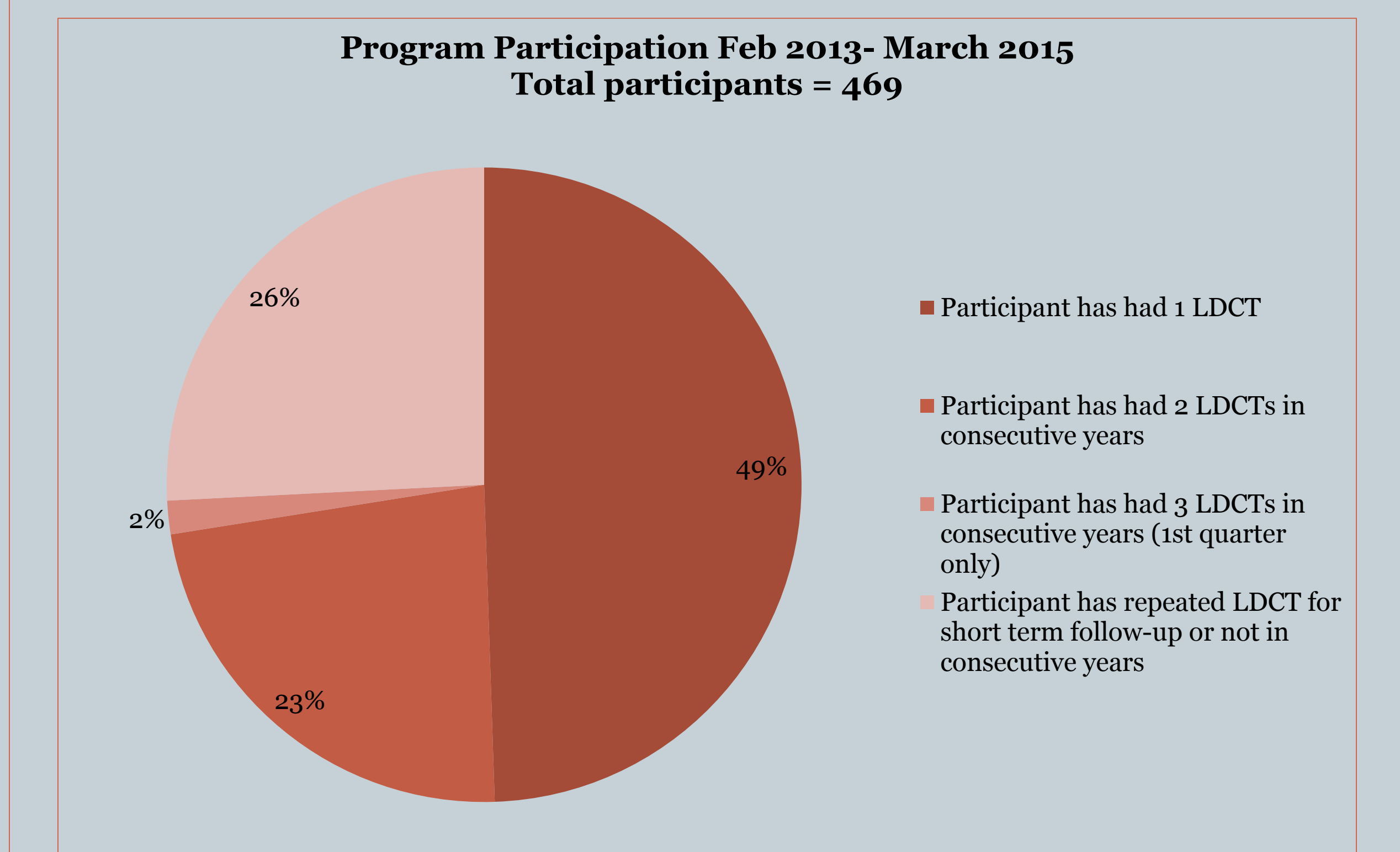
Smoking Cessation Program

CARD offers free smoking cessation counselling to anyone interested in quitting. Counselling is provided by a licensed social worker specifically trained in smoking cessation.



Results

- 631 free LDCTs for lung cancer screening have been done.
- 469 patients have been served.
- As of October 2013, 510 CARD patients met eligibility criteria. This number is growing as CARD's patient population grows.
- 7 confirmed cancers have been identified.
- In 2015, 34 active smokers have been seen at CARD. 20 were counselled briefly, 8 had intermediate level counseling and 5 are actively engaged in the program.



Conclusions

- Offering a free lung cancer screening program in Libby, MT has been very successful.
- Lung cancer screening participation has increased from zero to nearly 500 in less than three years.
- Individuals at risk for developing lung cancer are becoming aware of the program through both formal outreach strategies and word of mouth.
- Nearly 25 % of CARD's patient population diagnosed with an asbestos related disease have qualified for and participated in the lung cancer screening program as part of their annual health monitoring appointment.
- Offering free smoking cessation counselling is an important component of CARD's lung cancer screening program.