

# Colorectal Cancer Control Program Helps to Prevent Colorectal Cancer & Save Lives



The President's FY2019 budget proposes eliminating the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Colorectal Cancer Control Program (CRCCP). Established by Congress in 2009, CRCCP currently provides \$23 million in grant funding to 23 state health departments, six universities, and one American Indian tribe to help prevent colorectal cancer.<sup>1</sup> Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in men and women and the second leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. for men and women combined.<sup>2</sup> An estimated 140,250 men and women will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer in 2018 and 50,630 individuals are estimated to die from the disease.<sup>3</sup> Without a continued, dedicated federal investment in colorectal cancer prevention and early detection, the U.S. could experience a reduction in screening leading to increases in completely preventable colorectal cancer cases and deaths.

## ACS CAN Opposes Proposed Cuts to the Colorectal Cancer Control Program

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) strongly **oppose any Administrative or Congressional efforts to cut or eliminate funding for the CRCCP**, which could reduce screening and add to the colorectal cancer burden in the U.S. The CRCCP is an essential program in the fight against cancer, as it helps to serve those at most risk for the disease.

### The CRCCP & its Grantees:<sup>6</sup>

- **Partner** with health systems that serve people less likely to get screened and more likely to die from colorectal cancer.
- **Improve** the use of evidence-based public health strategies shown to increase screening – including removing barriers.
- **Monitor** the impact of strategies on screening rates.

## Screening Rates for Colorectal Cancer Remain Low in High-Risk Americans

**Colorectal cancer screening is the most effective way of preventing cancer before it starts and finding it early when it's most treatable.** During the screening process non-cancerous polyps can be removed preventing it from becoming cancerous. Cancers that are found at an early stage can be treated more easily, and lead to greater survival.<sup>4</sup>

Despite the benefits of screening, only approximately 63 percent of individuals 50 years and older report being screened for colorectal cancer.<sup>4</sup> Individuals 50-64 years old, females, Hispanics, American Indian/Alaska Natives, Asians, persons living in rural areas, and individuals with lower income and education are the groups least likely to be screened for colorectal cancer, contributing to higher death rates from the disease.<sup>4</sup>

## Colorectal Cancer Control Program Improves Screening and Saves Lives

In year one of the current grant period, CRCCP grantees increased screening rates by an average of six percentage points by partnering with over 400 clinics serving over 700,000 patients aged 50 to 75 years of age to implement evidence-based screening interventions.<sup>5</sup> **Maintaining or increasing funding for the CRCCP program has the potential to**

**significantly improve screening rates for high-need populations across the U.S. and reduce the burden of colorectal cancer for thousands or even millions of Americans.**

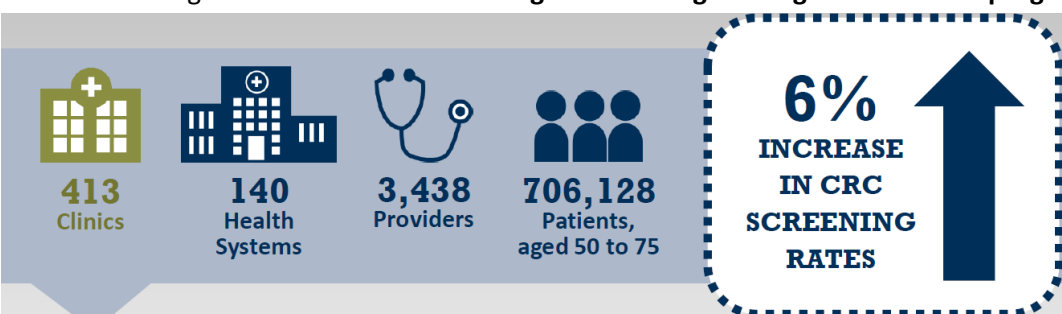


Image Citation: Centers for Disease Control and prevention. Spotlight on year 1 of CDC's Colorectal Cancer Control Program. Updated June 22, 2017. Accessed February 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Colorectal Cancer Control Program: About the program. Updated August 31, 2017. Accessed February 2018. <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/crccp/about.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> American Cancer Society. Colorectal Cancer Facts & Figures 2017-2019. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2017.

<sup>3</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2018. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2018.

<sup>4</sup> American Cancer Society. Cancer Prevention & Early Detection Facts & Figures 2017-2018. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2017.

<sup>5</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Colorectal Cancer Control Program: Spotlight on year 1. Updated June 22, 2017. Accessed February 2018. <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/crccp/year1.htm>.

<sup>6</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Colorectal Cancer Control Program: Increasing Screening to Save Lives. Accessed February 2018. [https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/crccp/pdf/CRCCP\\_factsheet\\_SavingLives.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/crccp/pdf/CRCCP_factsheet_SavingLives.pdf).