

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



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Colorectal Cancer Control Program (CRCCP) – established by Congress in 2009 – provides grant funding to 23 state health departments, six universities, and one American Indian tribe to help prevent colorectal cancer.¹ 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.² An estimated 145,000 men and women will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer in 2019 and 51,000 individuals are estimated to die from the disease.³ The goal of the CRCCP grant work is to increase colorectal cancer screening rates among high-need groups. 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.

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.⁴

Despite the benefits of screening, only approximately 63 percent of individuals 50 years and older report being screened for colorectal cancer.⁴ Disparities in screening rates for colorectal cancer exist among uninsured adults; those without a high school diploma; and those of Hispanic, Asian, and American Indian/Alaska Native descent,⁴ contributing to higher death rates from the disease.

The CRCCP & its Grantees:⁶

- **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.

Colorectal Cancer Control Program Improves Screening and Saves Lives



Clinics



Health Systems



Providers



Patients aged 50-75

In year two of the current grant period, CRCCP grantees served nearly 1 million patients. For grantees enrolled in year one, screening rates **increased by an average of 8.3 percentage points**. New grantees enrolled in year two **increased screening rates by 3 percentage points** in just one year using evidence-based screening interventions.⁵ **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.

Call to Action

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) strongly **opposes 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.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Colorectal Cancer Control Program: About the program. Updated October 4, 2018. Accessed April 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/crccp/about.htm>.

² American Cancer Society. Colorectal Cancer Facts & Figures 2017-2019. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2017.

³ American Cancer Society. *Cancer Facts & Figures 2019*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2019.

⁴ American Cancer Society. *Cancer Prevention & Early Detection Facts & Figures 2019-2020*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2019.

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Colorectal Cancer Control Program: Spotlight on year 2*. Updated November 15, 2018. Accessed April 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/crccp/year2.htm>.

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Colorectal Cancer Control Program: Increasing Screening to Save Lives*. Accessed April 2019. https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/crccp/pdf/CRCCP_factsheet_SavingLives.pdf.