

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

SCREEN NYC PROPOSAL

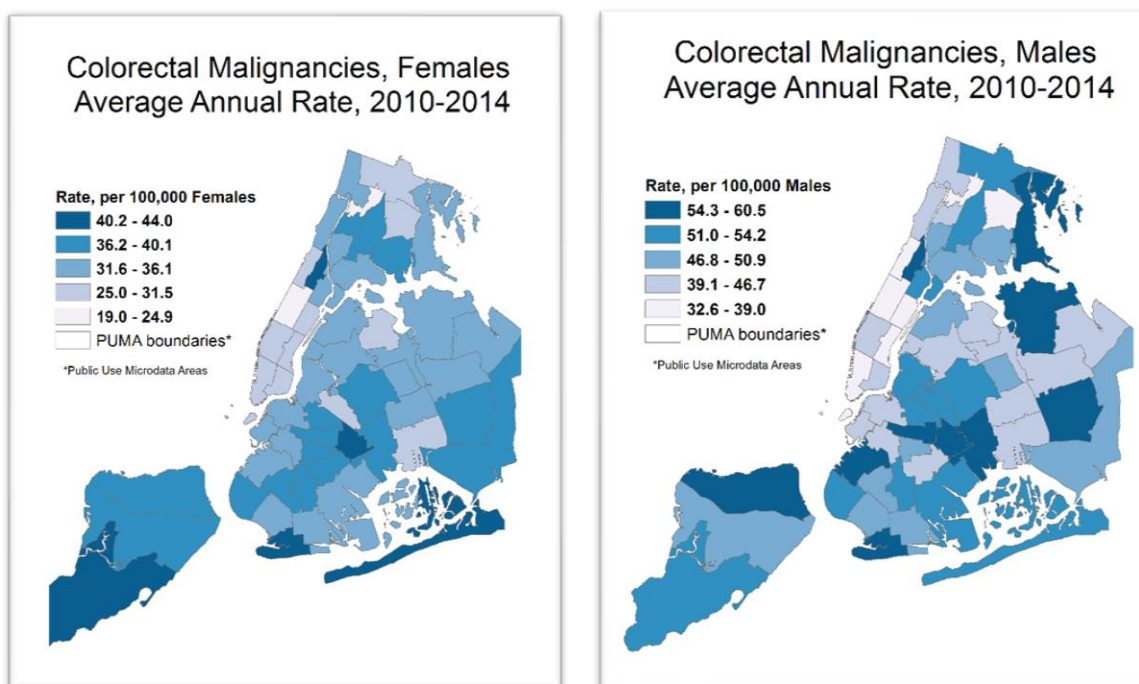
Expand the New York City Community Cares Project

According to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene each year in New York City, more than **41,000 new cancer cases** are diagnosed and approximately **11,700 cancer deaths** will occur. In 2014-2018, Black adults in NYC had higher age-adjusted death rates (148.4 deaths per 100,000 New Yorkers) than White (127.4), Latino (102.9) and Asian/Pacific Islander adults (92.8).

COLORECTAL CANCER is the second-leading cause of cancer death in New York City, after lung cancer. It is most often found in people aged 45 and older. Each year in NYC, about 1,100 adults die from colon cancer and more than 3,500 New Yorkers are newly diagnosed. While colorectal cancer affects men and women of all racial and ethnic groups, differences exist between racial and ethnic groups. In 2014-2018, Black and White New Yorkers had higher death rates (14.8 and 11.8 deaths per 100,000 people, respectively) than Latinos (9.8) and Asian/Pacific Islanders (8.5).

While every borough and every neighborhood is impacted by colorectal cancer, significant differences in cancer incidence rates between neighborhoods do exist. According to the New York State Department of Health:

- **Men living in Central Harlem and women in Brighton Beach and Coney Island** have the approximate highest colorectal cancer incidence rate.
- **Men and women living in Upper West Side and West Side** have the approximate lowest colorectal cancer incidence rate



NYC COMMUNITY CARES PROJECT—The NYC Community Cares Project, a program of the NYC DOHMH, helps facilitate partnerships between primary care providers such as Community Health Centers and Ambulatory Surgical Centers to provide all aspects of colonoscopy screenings (anesthesia, procedure, pathology) free of charge to uninsured patients referred from primary care sites. Through the partnership with 18 primary care sites, the Community Cares Project identifies patients in need of a colonoscopy and refers them to one of the 10 partnering Ambulatory Surgical Centers.

Upon completion of their colonoscopy, patients requiring follow up care are referred to one of the 21 community, diagnostic & treatment, hospital and long-term care centers in New York City that are operated by NYC Health + Hospitals.

Record of Success—From August 2013 through March 2021, a total of 9,425 uninsured patients have been referred for colonoscopy and 4,839 have completed screening. Of those, 1,486 patients had adenomas removed, meaning that up to 1,486 cases of cancer were potentially averted. The Community Cares Project has significantly improved colorectal cancer screening rates and made great progress in tackling persisting health disparities.

SCREEN NYC PROPOSAL—With over 540,000 New York City residents reporting being uninsured according to U.S. Census data in 2019 there is significant unmet need in New York City. The pandemic has only exacerbated that need. Despite a small budget and no dedicated funding line, the Community Cares Project has identified thousands of New Yorkers in need of a colonoscopy and successfully utilized patient navigators to ensure that identified patients get the necessary screening. New York City should continue its commitment to tackling colorectal cancer by improving access to cancer screening through an expanded Community Cares Project.

ACS CAN recommends that New York City:

- Establish a dedicated budget line for the program
- Provide \$1 million in funding in Fiscal Year 2022-2023; and
- Rebrand the program **Screen NYC** to reflect the importance of screening

Further expansion in 2023

The Screen NYC program should conduct a full needs assessment and then look to expand its outreach to support breast cancer screening in those areas with the greatest need.