

Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month Press Release Template 2025 Update

750 Coloradans Expected to Die from Colorectal Cancer in 2025

DENVER – Cancer is the No. 2 cause of death in Colorado, and colorectal cancer is the No. 3 cause of cancer death in the state in both men and women. In 2025, 2,130 Coloradans are expected to be diagnosed with colorectal cancer, and 750 residents are estimated to die from the disease, according to the [American Cancer Society](#).

Furthermore, diagnoses and deaths of colorectal cancer are increasing among adults younger than 50 years. Colorectal cancer was the fourth-leading cause of cancer death in both men and women younger than 50 years in the late-1990s but is now first in men and second in women (Siegel et al, 2024).

“We are excited that colorectal cancer screening rates are largely on the rise in Colorado ; but as we see younger people being diagnosed with colorectal cancer and many at high risk not being screened, we have a lot of work to do. We have an incredible arsenal of tools to help us with prevention and early detection. Talk to your local public health experts or medical team members about which screening test is right for you and when to start.” - Andrea (Andi) Dwyer, University of Colorado Cancer Center and Director, Colorado Cancer Screening Program.

Screening is recommended for adults ages 45-75, but those with increased risk of the disease due to family history or personal risk factors may need to begin at an earlier age. Screening rates in Colorado are improving but remain lower than the national goal of 80%, and disparities persist among those who are uninsured or have Medicaid.

In recent years, meaningful policy changes have occurred at both federal and state levels in an effort to lower Colorado’s incidence of colorectal cancer.

- [Experts from the University of Colorado were instrumental in helping the American Cancer Society \(ACS\)](#), and later the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), lower the screening age for average-risk patients from 50 to 45. Insurance plans must cover screening for adults ages 45-75 as of January 2023.
- In 2022, the federal government issued guidance to private health insurers and Medicare to [eliminate out-of-pocket expenses for a follow-up colonoscopy](#) for patients who have a positive stool-based screening test.
- In December 2020, [Congress passed the “Medicare Loophole Bill,”](#) which will eliminate the surprise bills some Medicare patients get if a colon polyp is found during their screening.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services added colorectal cancer screening as a quality measure for the [Medicaid 2022 Adult Core Set](#), which will bring stronger attention to the cancer prevention needs of the medically underserved.

PLEASE PROVIDE SPECIFIC DETAIL ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION'S EFFORTS OR DATA

For more information about [ORGANIZATION NAME'S] community resources and events please visit:

YOUR INFO

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About the Colorado Cancer Screening Program

The Colorado Cancer Screening Program (CCSP) aims to reduce disparities in access to cancer screening among Colorado communities. Founded in 2006 as the Colorado Colorectal Cancer Screening Program, the program expanded its mission in 2018 to focus on an expanded portfolio of screenable cancers including colorectal cancer (colonoscopy and stool-based testing methods), lung cancer, and hereditary cancer syndromes. CCSP partners with local safety net clinic systems and community partners to implement evidence-based interventions and population-based research in cancer prevention and control, and convenes partners at the local, regional, and national level with a shared interest in cancer prevention and control to align efforts for increased reach and effectiveness -

<https://sites.google.com/view/colorado-cancer-screening-prog/>

About the University of Colorado Cancer Center

The University of Colorado (CU) Cancer Center is Colorado's only National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated comprehensive cancer center and National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) center, creating a nexus of world-class doctors and researchers focused on discovering and delivering new ways to prevent and conquer cancer. Since its inception in 1985, the CU Cancer Center has become the hub of cancer research in the state of Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region. Learn more about the CU Cancer Center - medschool.cuanschutz.edu/colorado-cancer-center



Cancer Center

NCI-DESIGNATED COMPREHENSIVE
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