

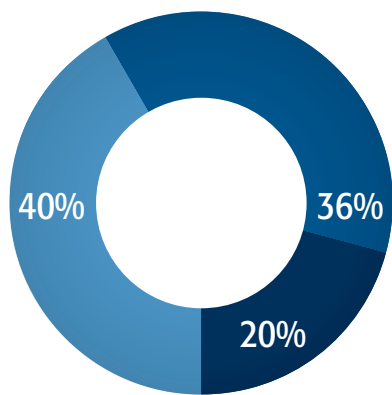


Colorectal Cancer Facts

Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer diagnosed in both men and women in the United States. Most colorectal cancers start from polyps, abnormal growths on the inner lining of the colon or rectum. Over time, some polyps can turn into cancer. Colorectal cancers can develop slowly over several years, and people who have polyps or colorectal cancer don't always have symptoms. Sometimes symptoms don't present until the cancer is in an advanced stage.

The death rate from colorectal cancer has decreased in both men and women over the last 20 years. This may be because of an increase in screening tests, such as colonoscopy, which can detect colorectal cancer early or find polyps and remove them before they can turn into cancer.

Early Detection Makes a Difference

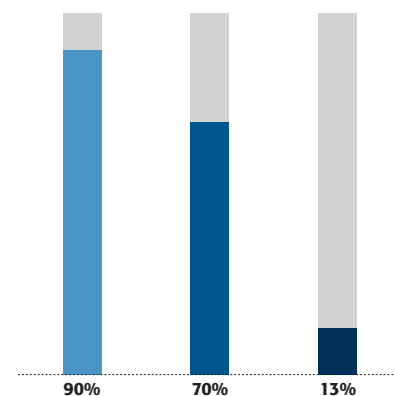


Percentage of Patients Diagnosed with Colorectal Cancer at Each Stage

Localized
Confined to area of origin

Regional
Spread to nearby tissues or lymph nodes

Distant
Spread to other parts of the body



5-Year Relative Survival Rate for Colorectal Cancer by Stage at Diagnosis



1 million

Colorectal cancer survivors in the United States



Signs & Symptoms

People who have polyps or colorectal cancer don't always have symptoms, but some experience the following:

- Blood in or on stool
- Frequent pains, aches or cramps in lower stomach
- Change in bowel habits
- Change in shape of stool
- Prolonged constipation or diarrhea
- Unintentional weight loss

These symptoms may be caused by other conditions, but the only way to be sure is to see your doctor and talk about colorectal cancer screening.

source: The American Cancer Society, cancer.org



If you have a family history of polyps or colorectal cancer, talk with your doctor to see if you need to begin screening before age 50.

If you've had polyps or colorectal cancer, it's important to tell close relatives so they can start screening at the right age.

Risk Factors

- Age: About 9 out of 10 people diagnosed with colorectal cancer are at least 50 years old.
- History of polyps or colorectal cancer
- History of inflammatory bowel disease, such as ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease.
- Obesity
- Smoking
- Family history: People with a parent, sibling or child who had polyps or colorectal cancer are at increased risk. Your risk is higher if your relative was diagnosed with cancer when they were younger than 45, or if more than one first-degree relative was diagnosed.