



80% by 2018 Fact Sheet

What is 80% by 2018? "80% by 2018" is a National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable initiative in which dozens of organizations have committed to eliminating colorectal cancer as a major public health problem and are working toward the shared goal of 80% of adults aged 50 and older being regularly screened for colorectal cancer by 2018.

The National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable, an organization co-founded by the American Cancer Society and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is rallying organizations to embrace this shared goal.

Why are organizations focusing on colorectal cancer?

Colorectal cancer is a major public health problem. Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer death in both men and women in the U.S. and a cause of considerable suffering among more than 140,000 adults diagnosed with colorectal cancer each year. The good news is that when adults get screened for colorectal cancer, it can be detected early at a stage when treatment is most likely to be successful, and in some cases, it can be prevented through the detection and removal of precancerous polyps. About 1 in 3 adults between 50 and 75 years old – about 23 million people -- are not getting tested as recommended.

What will an 80% screening rate achieve?

Our organizations stand united in the belief that we can eliminate colorectal cancer as a major public health problem. We can save thousands of lives by increasing screening rates to 80%. We know what we need to do to get more people screened for colorectal cancer, prevent more cancers and save lives, and we share a commitment to eliminating disparities in access to care. Our organizations will work to empower communities, patients, health care providers, community health centers, and health systems to close the screening gap.

What groups have committed to 80% by 2018?

Dozens of groups, including the American Cancer Society and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, have committed to work together to increase the nation's colon cancer screening rates and embrace the goal of reaching 80% screened for colorectal cancer by 2018. Over a hundred organizations, including medical professional societies, non-profits, health plans, government, health departments, survivors, cancer coalitions and medical practices, have embraced the goal. The number is growing every day. Achieving an 80 percent screening rate by 2018 will require the collaboration of many leaders; it cannot be achieved working in isolation. Health care providers, health systems, communities, businesses, community health centers, government, and every day Americans all have a role to play.



With so many other competing needs, why now?

Most importantly, we know screening is working. Colon cancer incidence rates have dropped 30 percent in the U.S. in the last 10 years among adults 50 and older. In the simplest terms, this means people aren't developing colon cancer at the same high rate as the past, because more people have been getting screened. The percentage of the population up-to-date with recommended colorectal cancer screening increased from 56 percent in 2002 to 65 percent in 2010¹. On top of that, the healthcare landscape is changing and barriers to colorectal cancer screening are breaking down. More people now have coverage for colorectal cancer screening than ever before. Top health systems already are achieving 80% screening rates. Massachusetts is already screening over 76% of their eligible population, the highest screening rate in the nation. An 80% screening rate is achievable. Now is the time to work together to reach an 80 percent colorectal cancer screening rate by 2018.

Who is not getting screened?

Across our nation significant disparities exist but we are committed to eliminating these disparities. The people less likely to get tested are Hispanics, American Indians or Alaska Natives, rural populations, men, those 50 to 64, and those with lower education and income. Patients and providers do not always know about or consider all the available recommended screening tests, and currently, most health care providers and systems are not set up to help more people get screened for colorectal cancer. Screening saves lives, but only if people get tested. There are several recommended screening test options, including: colonoscopy, stool tests (guaiac fecal occult blood test [gFOBT] or fecal immunochemical test [FIT]), and sigmoidoscopy. The best test is the one that gets done.

What is an organization committing to if they embrace the goal?

At the most basic level, an organization is committing to investing more energy in increasing colorectal cancer screening rates than they did before. Part of the 80 percent by 2018 goal is to leverage the energy of multiple and diverse committed partners to make history and achieve this remarkable public health goal. By working together, demanding more of ourselves, and collectively pushing harder toward this common goal, we will make greater progress, prevent more cancers, and save more lives than we would by acting alone.

How can an organization be a part of the 80% by 2018 effort?

Go to nccr.org/about/80-percent-by-2018/80-percent-by-2018-pledge and sign up on line!

¹ Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: Vital Signs: Colorectal Cancer Screening Test Use — United States, 2012. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. November 5, 2013. Vol. 62