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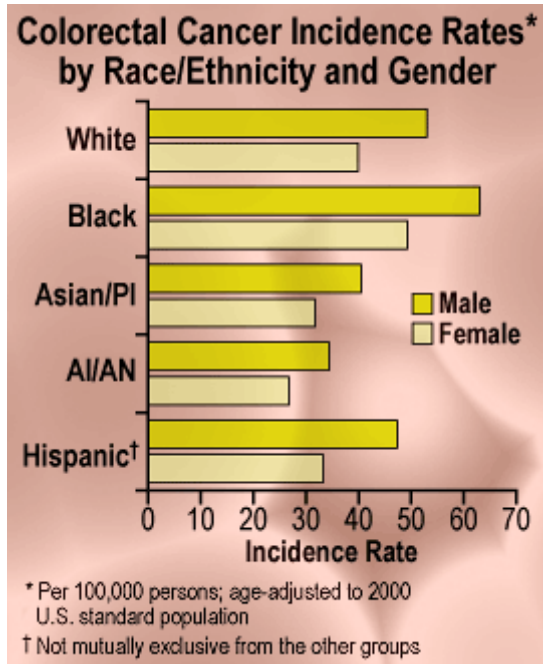
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Colorectal (Colon) Cancer Incidence Rates

Screening saves lives: all men and women aged 50 years or older should be screened regularly for colorectal cancer.



Colorectal cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States. In 2006 (the most recent year for which statistics are available), more than 139,000 Americans were told they have colorectal cancer, including 70,270 men and 68,857 women.

"Incidence rate" means how many people out of a given number get the disease in a year. The graph shows how many people out of 100,000 got colorectal cancer in 2006. The colorectal cancer incidence rate is grouped by race, ethnicity, and gender.

Men and women had significantly different incidence rates. Among men, black men the highest rates; 63.0 out of every 100,000 black men were diagnosed with colorectal cancer in 2006. White men were second with a rate of 53.0 per 100,000, followed by Hispanic men (47.3), Asian/Pacific Islander men (40.5), and American Indian/Alaska Native men (34.4).

Among women, black women were the most likely to be diagnosed with colorectal cancer in 2006, at a rate of 49.2 per 100,000. White women were second at 39.9, followed by Hispanic women at 33.2, Asian/Pacific Islander women at 31.7, and American Indian/Alaska Native women at 26.7.

†Hispanics are not mutually exclusive from whites, blacks, Asians/Pacific Islanders, and American Indians/Alaska Natives.

Reducing Risk

[Colorectal cancer screening](#) saves lives. However, many people who are at risk for colorectal cancer are not being screened according to national guidelines. It is estimated that as many as 60% of colorectal cancer deaths could be prevented if all men and women aged 50 years or older were screened routinely.

Data source:

U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. *United States Cancer Statistics: 1999–2006 Incidence and Mortality Web-based Report* pre-release data. Atlanta (GA): Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and National Cancer Institute; 2010.

More Information

- [Colorectal \(Colon\) Cancer](#)
- [Cáncer colorrectal](#)
- [Colorectal Cancer Statistics](#)
- [Colorectal Cancer Research](#)
- [Screen for Life Print Materials](#)
- [Colorectal Cancer Control Program](#)

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