

2009
Colorectal Cancer
Legislation Report Card
PRESENTED BY



This Report Card provides a snapshot of each state's effort to pass legislation requiring insurance coverage for colon cancer screening tests, according to the best clinical guidelines.

SAVE LIVES. MAKE COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING A NATIONAL PRIORITY.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths for men and women combined in the United States, but it doesn't have to be. With proper screening, colorectal cancer is often preventable and can be successfully treated more than 90% of the time when detected early. In February 2008, the American Cancer Society reported that the colorectal cancer death rate has continued to decline. Down approximately 3% from 2004 to 2005, colorectal cancer saw one of the largest declines in death rates of all leading cancers.

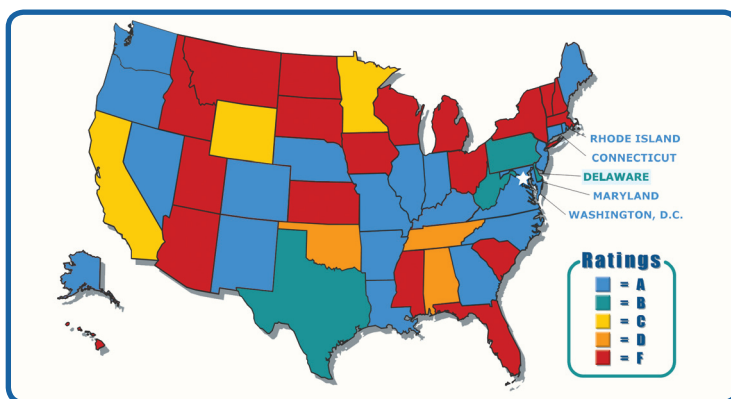
GET TESTED. BEAT THIS DISEASE.

Unfortunately, there is no federal legislation requiring insurance providers to cover the cost of preventative screenings, leaving many people uncertain about whether their insurance covers these tests. In recent years, a number of states have adopted preventative screening legislation for colorectal cancer.

In this 2009 Report Card for Colorectal Cancer, find out if your state has passed preventative screening legislation, and what you can do if your state fails to make the grade.

Colorectal cancer is highly preventable, yet fewer states* have passed screening legislation when compared to breast cancer.				
	NUMBER OF STATES MANDATING COVERAGE OF SCREENING			
TYPE OF CANCER	REQUIRE COVERAGE	INSUFFICIENT COVERAGE	NO COVERAGE	ESTIMATED DEATHS IN 2008
Colorectal	29	3	19	49,960
Breast	50	0	1	40,930

US figures estimated for 2008, American Cancer Society
* Including Washington D.C.



What You Can Do:

We all have the ability to prevent colon cancer from taking lives by simply getting involved and demanding action from our political, corporate, healthcare and insurance leaders:

- Reach out to legislator(s). Log on to www.nccra.org to find contact information for your local decision makers. Send an email or make a quick call if you don't like your state's grade.
- Talk to your employer. Ask if their health plan covers colorectal cancer screening, and if not, encourage them to consider it.
- Contact your insurance provider. Understand what screenings your policy covers and what it does not.
- Check in with your friends and family. Share this report (at www.nccra.org) with them and encourage them to talk to their doctor about getting screened.

Grading Criteria - States with above average grades (A-B) generally cover all policyholders age 50 and over, and those under 50 at high risk. Coverage includes:

- Colonoscopy screenings every 10 years
- Flexible sigmoidoscopy or double contrast barium enema screenings every 5 years
- Fecal occult blood tests (FOBT) or fecal immunochemical test (FIT) every year
- FOBT or FIT annually plus a flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years

A States receiving an A reference accepted screening guidelines*, allowing the legislation to include coverage of future advances in screening methods.

B States receiving a B meet current screening guidelines*, but no guidelines are specifically referenced. Therefore the legislation may potentially fall short of providing coverage for future advances in screening methods.

C States receiving a C have passed legislation that covers preventative cancer screenings, but the legislation is vague and does not specifically mention which types of colorectal cancer screenings are covered.

D States receiving a D have passed legislation that recommends insurance providers offer coverage, but does not require coverage.

F States receiving an F do not currently have any legislation that requires insurance providers to cover preventative colorectal cancer screenings.**

* Screening guidelines of the American Cancer Society, American Gastroenterological Association, American College of Gastroenterology and American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.

** This report card grades legislation only. Some states with F grades are working with insurance providers to implement voluntary programs that will ensure widespread coverage for colorectal cancer screening.

A Alaska
Arkansas
Colorado
Connecticut
Georgia
Illinois
Indiana
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Missouri
Nebraska
Nevada
New Jersey
New Mexico
North Carolina
Oregon
Rhode Island
Virginia
Washington
Washington D.C.

B Delaware
Pennsylvania
Texas
West Virginia

C California
Minnesota
Wyoming

D Alabama
Oklahoma
Tennessee

F Arizona
Florida
Hawaii
Idaho
Iowa
Kansas
Massachusetts
Michigan
Mississippi
Montana
New Hampshire
New York
North Dakota
Ohio
South Carolina
South Dakota
Utah
Vermont
Wisconsin

Presented by a coalition of organizations
committed to the early detection and prevention of colon cancer.



The American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) is dedicated to the mission of advancing the science and practice of gastroenterology. Founded in 1897, the AGA is one of the oldest medical-specialty societies in the U.S. Comprised of two non-profit organizations — the AGA and the AGA Institute — our more than 16,000 members include physicians and scientists who research, diagnose and treat disorders of the gastrointestinal tract and liver. On a monthly basis, the AGA Institute publishes two highly respected journals, *Gastroenterology* and *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*.



ACS CAN, the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, supports evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. ACS CAN works to encourage elected officials and candidates to make cancer a top national priority. ACS CAN gives ordinary people extraordinary power to fight cancer with the training and tools they need to make their voices heard. For more information, visit www.acscan.org.



Founded in 1912, Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is the largest women's, largest Zionist, and largest Jewish membership organization in the United States. In Israel, it supports pacesetting medical care and research, education and youth programs, and reforestation and parks projects. In the US, Hadassah promotes health education, social action and advocacy, volunteerism, Jewish education and research, Young Judaea and connections with Israel. For complete information about Hadassah, visit www.hadassah.org.



Colorectal Cancer Coalition is a national organization whose mission is to eliminate suffering and death due to colorectal cancer. C3 pushes for research to improve screening,

diagnosis, and treatment of colorectal cancer; for policy decisions that make the most effective colorectal cancer prevention and treatment available to all; and for increased awareness that colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable.



The Colon Club was founded in 2003 by Molly McMaster, 28, a colon cancer survivor who was diagnosed on her 23rd birthday, and Hannah Vogler, 30, whose cousin and Molly's friend, Amanda Sherwood Roberts, died of the disease at the age of 27. Our main goal is to educate as many people as possible, as early as possible, about colorectal cancer in interesting and out-of-the-box ways. Our wishes are for people to have "colon talk" in their everyday lives, to know the risk factors and symptoms, and to get screened when it is appropriate for them. For more information, please visit www.colonclub.com.



Founded in 1941, The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE)'s mission is to be the leader in advancing patient care and digestive health by promoting excellence

in gastrointestinal endoscopy. ASGE, with nearly 11,000 members worldwide, promotes the highest standards for endoscopic training and practice, fosters endoscopic research, recognizes distinguished contributions to endoscopy, and is the foremost resource for endoscopic education. Visit www.asge.org and www.screen4coloncancer.org for more information and to find a qualified doctor in your area.



The ACG was formed in 1932 to advance the scientific study and medical treatment of disorders of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. Representing over 10,000 members, the College promotes the highest standards in medical education and is guided by its commitment to meeting the needs of clinical gastroenterology practitioners.



The American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS), established in 1899, is an association of surgeons and other professionals dedicated to assuring high quality patient care by advancing the science for prevention and management of disorders and diseases of the colon, rectum and anus through research and education. The deeply held beliefs of the ASCRS are that diseases of the colon, rectum and anus are significant health problems; that people deserve the best quality care for these diseases; and improvement in recognition, treatment and ultimate eradication of these diseases.



The mission of the Prevent Cancer Foundation is cancer prevention and early detection through research, education and community outreach to all populations, including children and the underserved. Over the years, we have provided more than \$106 million in support of cancer prevention research, education and outreach programs nationwide and have played a pivotal role in developing a body of knowledge that is the basis for important prevention and early detection strategies.



Colon Cancer Alliance
THE VOICE OF SURVIVORS

The Colon Cancer Alliance (CCA) is a national nonprofit organization and includes over 100 chapters nationwide. The CCA is dedicated to ending the suffering caused by colorectal cancer through patient support, education, research and advocacy. The CCA website (www.ccalliance.org) includes information about screening, treatment, clinical trials, quality of life, financial issues and much more. Free printed materials and colorectal cancer awareness merchandise online are also available. The CCA produces a variety of awareness and educational campaigns and provides support services for patients and their loved ones through a national conference, community-based seminars, a toll free helpline (1-877-422-2030), the CRC Online Community, a social network for those affected by colorectal cancer and Buddy Program, which provides both survivors and caregivers with a chance to connect with someone who has gone through a similar experience. All of CCA's campaigns, programs and services can be accessed through the helpline or website.



The National Colorectal Cancer Research Alliance is dedicated to the eradication of colorectal cancer by promoting education about the importance of early medical screening and funding cutting-edge research to develop better tests, treatments and ultimately, a cure. The NCCRA was co-founded in March of 2000 by journalist Katie Couric, cancer activist Lilly Tartikoff, and the Entertainment Industry Foundation. As a result of the attention NCCRA and NBC's TODAY Show have focused on colorectal cancer, the number of colonoscopy screenings has increased almost 20% since March 2000. Researchers at the University of Michigan have referred to this as the "Couric Effect." Visit www.nccra.org.

EIF, as a leading charitable organization of the entertainment industry, harnesses the collective power of the entire industry to raise awareness and funds for critical health, educational and social issues in order to make a positive impact in our community.



The Jay Monahan Center for Gastrointestinal Health serves as a unique model of coordinated and compassionate care, dedicated to public education and the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and research of gastrointestinal cancers. Visit www.monahancenter.org.