

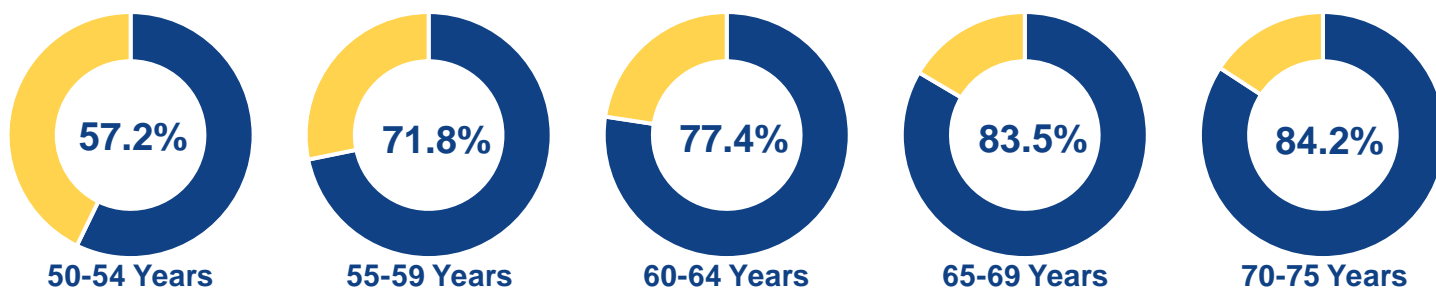
# Colorectal Cancer Screening Rates among Adult New Yorkers 50-54 Years Old are Lower than in Older Age Groups



Colorectal cancer is the fourth most common cancer in New York State (NYS) and the second leading cause of cancer deaths. Regular screening is key to preventing colorectal cancer or finding it early when it may be easier to treat. In 2019, over 70% of NYS adults ages 50 to 75 years old reported being up to date with colorectal cancer screening, but screening rates varied by age group.<sup>1</sup>

- Colorectal cancer screening rates were lowest among NYS adults ages 50 to 54 years old.
- Among adults ages 50 to 54 years old, colorectal cancer screening rates were lowest for men, those with lower annual household incomes, those without health insurance, and those without a personal health care provider.

## Colorectal Cancer Screening Rates among Adult New Yorkers, by Age Group, 2019 BRFSS



Data Source: 2019 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

## Public Health Opportunity

Colorectal cancer screening rates among adults 50 to 54 years old are significantly lower than screening rates for older adults. Some studies have shown that patients under the age of 55 are more likely to be diagnosed with late-stage cancer than their older counterparts.<sup>2</sup> Recent changes to the [U.S. Preventive Services Task Force CRC screening guidelines](#) lowered the recommended age for average-risk adults to start screening to 45 years old. Health care providers have an important opportunity to encourage these life-saving screenings by:

- Talking to patients about colorectal cancer screening *before* age 45 to prepare them to start screening on time and discussing screening at every patient encounter and not just at yearly check-ups.
- Reviewing family history, risk status, and [screening test options](#) at an early age to identify the right test for each patient.
- Using [evidence-based interventions](#) to increase community demand for, and access to, cancer screening.
- [Strengthening messages](#) and [customizing health information](#) and [small media](#) to specific patient populations.

## References:

1. [New York State Department of Health, BRFSS Brief Number 2021-17, Colorectal Cancer Screening, New York State Adults, 2019.](#)
2. Rebecca L. Siegel, Stacey A. Fedewa, William F. Anderson, Kimberly D. Miller, Jiemin Ma, Philip S. Rosenberg, Ahmedin Jemal, Colorectal Cancer Incidence Patterns in the United States, 1974–2013, *JNCI: Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, Volume 109, Issue 8, August 2017

**Contact:** For more information about the data included and their specific implications for action, please send an e-mail to [DCDIPIFA@health.ny.gov](mailto:DCDIPIFA@health.ny.gov) with **IFA # 2021-23** in the subject line. To see other reports, visit the NYSDOH public website: [http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/prevention/injury\\_prevention/information\\_for\\_action/index.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/prevention/injury_prevention/information_for_action/index.htm)