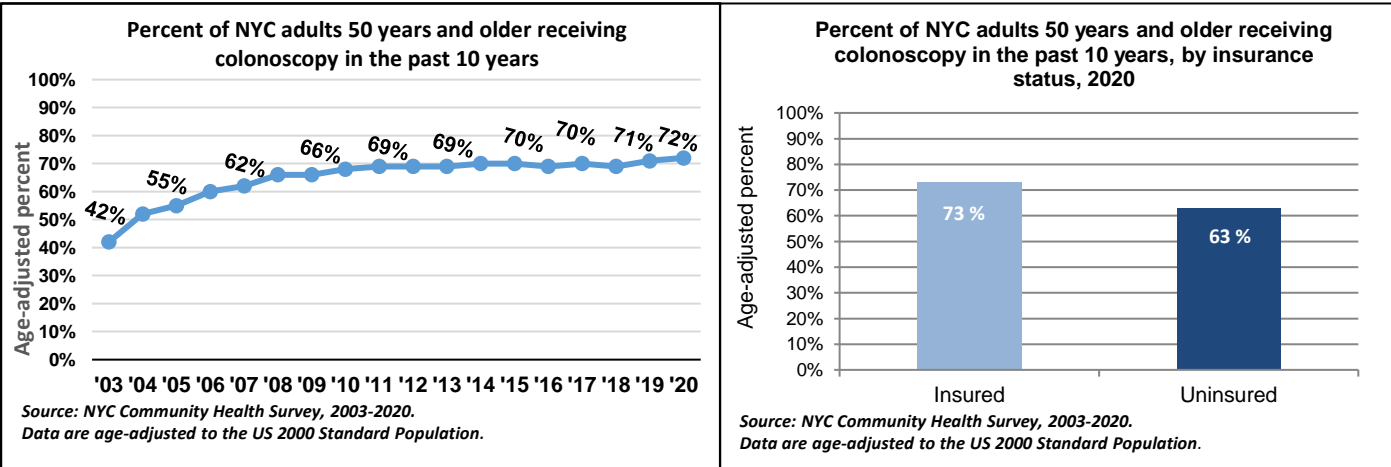




NYC Community Cares Project

Increasing Colonoscopy Screening for Uninsured New Yorkers

The NYC Health Department’s NYC Community Cares Project helps facilitate partnerships between Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs) and primary care centers such as Community Health Centers (CHCs) to provide all aspects of colonoscopy screenings (anesthesia, procedure, pathology) FREE of charge to uninsured patients referred from primary care sites. This collaboration leverages synergies resulting from the implementation of the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) and Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) quality improvement strategies, providing a unique opportunity to improve colorectal cancer screening rates and tackle persisting health disparities.



Background

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second leading cause of cancer death in NYC.¹ As a CRC screening tool, colonoscopy detects cancer early and prevents it by removing adenomas, which are a type of precancerous polyp.²

Since 2003 NYC has made significant strides in colonoscopy screening trends:

- A large increase in screening rate from 42% in 2003 to 72% in 2020, shown in the line graph to the left³
- A reduction in screening inequalities by income⁴

However, significant inequalities by insurance status remain, shown in the bar graph to the left.

Partnering Organizations

Primary Care Sites

Boriken Neighborhood Health Center	Family Health Centers at NYU Langone
Charles B. Wang Community Health Center	Urban Health Plan, Plaza del Sol
Community Healthcare Network	Ryan Health Network
NYC H+H/Cumberland	Institute for Family Health
NYC H+H/East New York	Jamaica Hospital Medical Center
NYC H+H/East New York	Mount Sinai Health Systems – EHHOP
NYC H+H/Gouverneur	NYC H+H/Sydenham
NYC H+H/Morrisania	NYC H+H/Kings County
NYC H+H/Queens	
Flushing Hospital Medical Center	

Ambulatory Surgery Centers

Advanced Endoscopy Center	South Brooklyn Endoscopy Center
East Side Endoscopy	The Endoscopy Center of New York
Manhattan Endoscopy Center	Liberty Endoscopy Center
Goldstep Ambulatory Surgery Center	Kips Bay Endoscopy Center
Queens Boulevard Endoscopy Center	
Westside GI	

Latest Outcomes: From August 2013 through August 2021, a total of **9,686 uninsured patients have been referred** for colonoscopy and **4,878 have completed screening**. Of those, **1,501 patients had adenomas removed**, meaning that up to 1,501 cases of cancer were potentially averted.

1. New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. (2016) Vital Statistics. Retrieved September 5, 2017.
2. Winawer SJ, Fletcher RH, Miller L. (1997) Colorectal cancer screening: clinical guidelines and rationale. *Gastroenterology*. 112; 594-642.
3. New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. (2020). Community Health Survey. Retrieved August 16, 2021.
4. Itzkowitz, S. H. et al., New York Citywide colon cancer control coalition: A public health effort to increase colon cancer screening and address health disparities. *Cancer*, 2015.

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