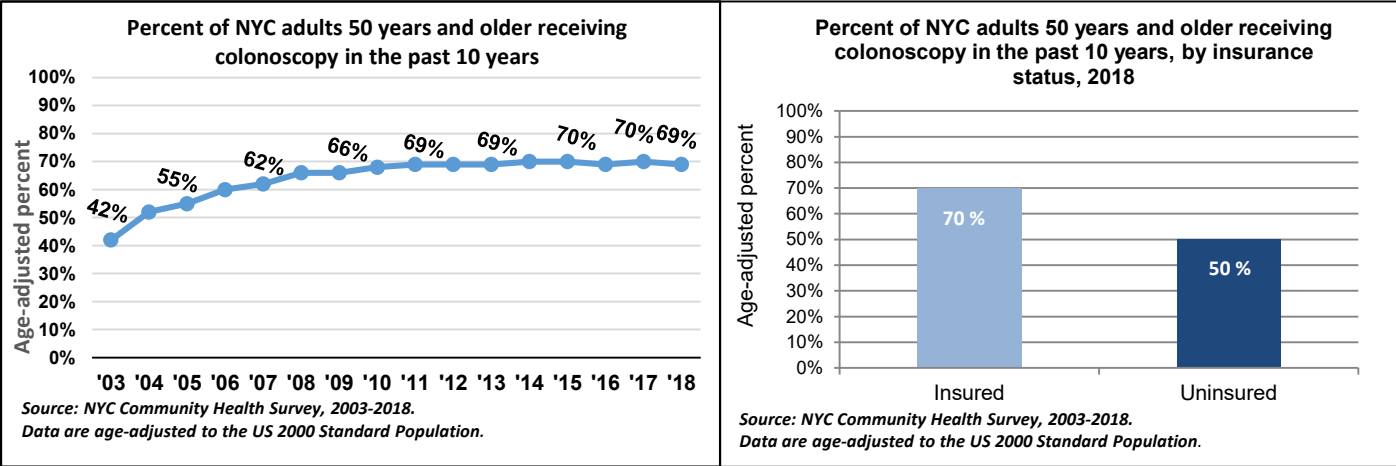




NYC Community Cares Project

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 69% in 2018, 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		Ambulatory Surgery Centers
Boriken Neighborhood Health Center	Family Health Centers at NYU Langone	Advanced Endoscopy Center
Charles B. Wang Community Health Center	Urban Health Plan, Plaza del Sol	South Brooklyn Endoscopy Center
Community Healthcare Network	The William F. Ryan Community Health Network	East Side Endoscopy
NYC H+H/Cumberland	Institute for Family Health	Manhattan Endoscopy Center
NYC H+H/Gotham Health: Parsons	Jamaica Hospital Medical Center	Goldstep Ambulatory Surgery Center
NYC H+H/East New York	Mount Sinai Health Systems – EHHOP	Gramercy Park Digestive Disease Center
NYC H+H/Gouverneur	NYC H+H/Sydenham	Westside GI
NYC H+H/Morrisania	NYC H+H/Kings County	
NYC H+H/Queens	Grameen VidaSana	
Flushing Hospital Medical Center		

Latest Outcomes: From August 2013 through July 2019, a total of **8,508 uninsured patients have been referred** for colonoscopy and **4,369 have completed screening**. Of those, **1,319 patients had adenomas removed**, meaning that up to 1,319 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. (2018). Community Health Survey. Retrieved December 4, 2019.
 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.

Contact us at CCP@health.nyc.gov