

COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH: Addressing the Barriers to Screening

Early Detection & Screening

A screening looks for cancer before a person has signs or symptoms. Colorectal cancer screenings are recommended between ages 50-75. One way a health care provider can screen for colorectal cancer is a take-home stool test called a FIT kit. Some health care providers can even mail FIT kits.

[Learn More about screening tests and FIT tests here](#)



Sometimes there are structural and individual barriers that prevent people from getting colorectal cancer screenings. There can be issues such as transportation and access to care in many areas. There are resources that can support individuals to get cancer screenings including:

- **Medicaid Transportation:** A non-emergency service to help people get to their doctor's appointment. Call 1-800-860-6812 to see if you qualify.
- **National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service:** Speak with an Information Specialist to answer cancer-related questions. Call 1-800-422-6237 or use Live Chat at cancer.gov/contact.

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Know the Facts:

More about colorectal cancer screening.

- [Screening Tests At-A-Glance](#)
- [How to Prevent Disparities in Colon Cancer Screening](#)
- [Colon Cancer Screening PATH](#)

Washington State is also working to improve Screening rates, despite these barriers. Rates have increased since **2012**, but are still lower than the national average:

[Washington State & CRC Screening Rates](#)

The Healthcare Community:

Working to make screenings accessible to everyone!

Researchers and doctors work hard to address barriers to screening through outreach and programs.

Dr. Rachel Issaka is the Clinical Lead for UW Medicine & Population Health Management Program. Her focus is on decreasing the death rate from colorectal cancer, with a special focus on medically underserved populations.

News & Resources:

What are patients saying about the barriers to screening? Here are some patient stories and perceptions to effective screenings:

[What Patients are saying about screenings](#)

The American Cancer Society also has great information about screening guidelines. Learn more [here](#).

