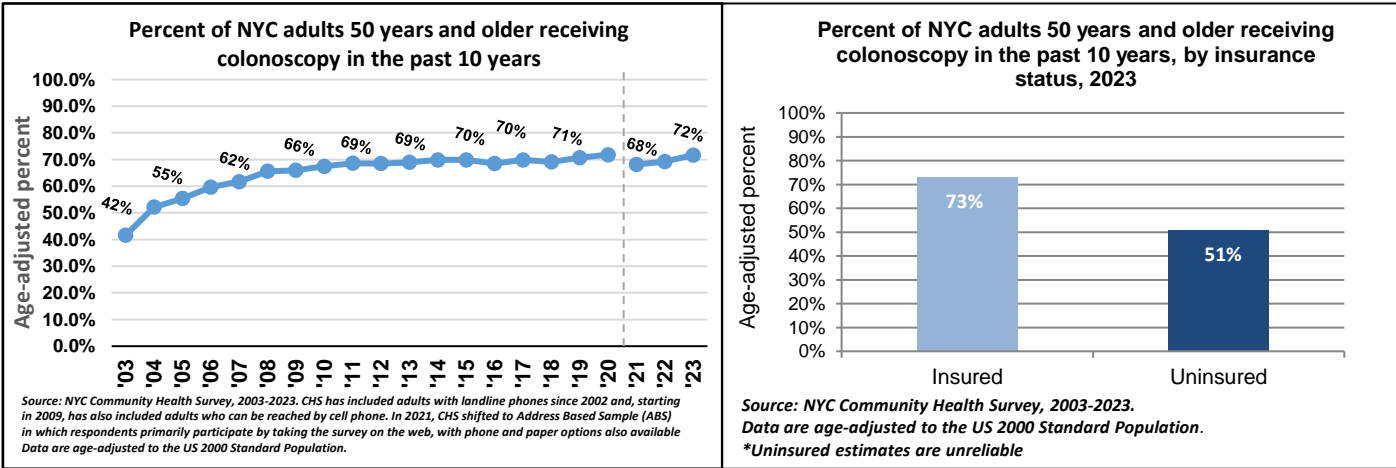




NYC Community Cares Project

Increasing Screening Colonoscopies for Uninsured New Yorkers

The NYC Health Department’s NYC Community Cares Project facilitates 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 provides 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 made significant strides in colonoscopy screening trends:

- An increase in screening rate for people aged 50-75 from 42% in 2003 to 72% in 2020, shown in the line graph to the left³. Please note that due to changes in methodology in 2021, data after 2020 cannot be compared to previous years. Nonetheless, it is worth mentioning that in 2023, the screening rate for people aged 50-75 was 72%.
- A reduction in screening inequalities by income⁴

However, inequalities by insurance status remain, shown in the bar graph to the left. Now that widespread screening is recommended at age 45, even more capacity for charity care is needed.

Participating Organizations		
Primary Care Centers		Ambulatory Surgery Centers
Charles B. Wang Community Health Center	Jamaica Hospital Medical Center	Goldstep Ambulatory Surgery Center
Community Healthcare Network	NYC H+H/Gotham Health/East New York	Liberty Endoscopy Center
Family Health Centers at NYU Langone	NYC H+H/Gotham Health/Gouverneur	Manhattan Endoscopy Center
Flushing Hospital Medical Center	NYC H+H/Gotham Health/Morrisania	Mount Sinai CHOICE Program
Institute for Family Health	Ryan Health Network	Queens Boulevard Endoscopy Center

Latest Outcomes: From January 2013 through May 2024, a total of **10,806 uninsured patients have been referred** for colonoscopy and **5,308 have completed screening**.

Of those, **1,644 patients had adenomas removed**, meaning that up to 1,644 cases of CRC were potentially averted.

1. New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. (2021) Vital Statistics. Retrieved August 20, 2024.
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. (2023). Community Health Survey. Retrieved August 8, 2024.
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