



**COLORECTAL CANCER BURDEN SHIFTING TO  
YOUNGER INDIVIDUALS: A CLOSE LOOK AT WHAT THE  
MOST RECENT DATA TELLS US ABOUT CRC INCIDENCE,  
MORTALITY, AND SCREENING RATES**

MAY 18, 2020  
1:00 PM ET

# Purpose of Today's Webinar

- Learn what the most recent data from [Colorectal Cancer Statistics, 2020](#) tells us about colorectal cancer incidence, mortality, and screening rates.
- Understand how new findings indicate the burden of colorectal cancer is shifting to younger individuals.
- Q&A

CA CANCER | CLIN 2020:1-20

Colorectal Cancer Statistics, 2020

Rebecca L. Siegel, MPH<sup>1</sup>; Kimberly D. Miller, MPH<sup>2</sup>; Ann Goding Sauer, MSPH<sup>3</sup>; Stacey A. Fedewa, PhD<sup>4</sup>; Lynn F. Butterly, MD<sup>5</sup>; Joseph C. Anderson, MD<sup>6</sup>; Andrea Cercek, MD<sup>7</sup>; Robert A. Smith, PhD<sup>8</sup>; Ahmadi Jemal, DVM, PhD<sup>9</sup>

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**DISCLOSURES:** Rebecca L. Siegel, Kimberly D. Miller, Ann Goding Sauer, Stacey A. Fedewa, Robert A. Smith, and Ahmadi Jemal are employed by the American Cancer Society, which receives grants from private and corporate foundations, including foundations associated with companies in the health sector for research outside of the submitted work. The authors are not funded by or for personnel for any of these grants and their salary is solely funded through American Cancer Society funds. Andrea Cercek serves on the Advisory Board for Bayer and Amgen Biopharma and receives research support from Novartis, Merck, and Seattle Genetics, all outside the submitted work. The remaining authors made no disclosures conflicts.

[Correction added on March 14, 2020, after first online publication: The figure 3 legend text (A) (A) was inserted in the final publication. It has been corrected.] doi: 10.3322/caac.21601. Available online at [cancerjournal.org](https://cancerjournal.org).

**Abstract:** Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second most common cause of cancer death in the United States. Every 3 years, the American Cancer Society provides an update of CRC occurrence based on incidence data (available through 2016) from population-based cancer registries and mortality data (through 2017) from the National Center for Health Statistics. In 2020, approximately 147,590 individuals will be diagnosed with CRC and 53,200 will die from the disease, including 17,930 cases and 3,640 deaths in individuals aged younger than 50 years. The incidence rate during 2012 through 2016 ranged from 30 (per 100,000 persons) in Asian/Pacific Islanders to 45.7 in blacks and 89 in Alaska Natives. Rapid declines in incidence among screening-aged individuals during the 2000s continued during 2011 through 2016 in those aged 65 years and older (by 3.3% annually) but reversed in those aged 50 to 64 years, among whom rates increased by 1% annually. Among individuals aged younger than 50 years, the incidence rate increased by approximately 2% annually for tumors in the proximal and distal colon, as well as the rectum, driven by trends in non-Hispanic whites. CRC death rates during 2008 through 2017 declined by 3% annually in individuals aged 65 years and older and by 0.6% annually in individuals aged 50 to 64 years while increasing by 1.3% annually in those aged younger than 50 years. Mortality declines among individuals aged 50 years and older were deepest among blacks, who also had the only decreasing trend among those aged younger than 50 years, and excluded American Indians/Alaska Natives, among whom rates remained stable. Progress against CRC can be accelerated by increasing access to guideline-recommended screening and high-quality treatment, particularly among Alaska Natives, and elucidating causes for rising incidence in young and middle-aged adults. *CA Cancer J Clin* 2020;0:1-20. © 2020 American Cancer Society.

**Keywords:** colon and rectum neoplasms, epidemiology, health disparities, screening and early detection

**Introduction**

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the third most common cause of cancer death in both men and women in the United States, and ranks second when men and women are combined. However, more than one-half of all cases and deaths are attributable to modifiable risk factors, such as smoking, an unhealthy diet, high alcohol consumption, physical inactivity, and excess body weight, and thus potentially preventable.<sup>1</sup> CRC morbidity and mortality can also be mitigated through appropriate screening and surveillance.<sup>2</sup> In this article, we provide a comprehensive overview of current CRC statistics in the United States, including the estimated numbers of new cases and deaths in 2020 by age and incidence, survival, and mortality rates and trends by age and race/ethnicity based on incidence data through 2016 and mortality data through 2017. CRC screening prevalence in 2018 for adults aged 50 years and older is also presented nationally and by state.

**Materials and Methods**

**Data Sources**

Cancer incidence data in the United States are collected by the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) program

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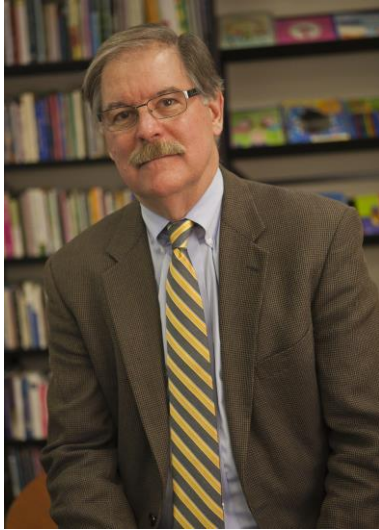
## Cancer Screenings in the U.S.



Figure 2. Weekly cancer screening volume vs. week in year for each kind of cancer screening.

<https://ehrn.org/wp-content/uploads/Preventive-Cancer-Screenings-during-COVID-19-Pandemic.pdf>

# Presenters



**Robert Smith, PhD**

Senior Vice President, Cancer  
Screening

American Cancer Society, Inc.



**Rebecca Siegel, MPH**

Scientific Director,  
Surveillance Research

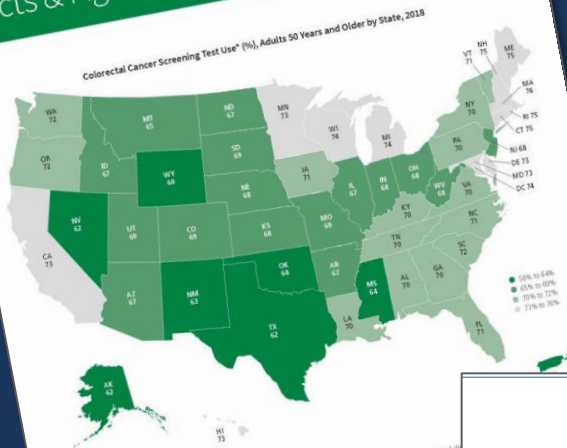
American Cancer Society, Inc.

# Virtual Housekeeping

- **The event is being recorded.** The replay and slides will be made available on [www.nccrt.org](http://www.nccrt.org) within a few days.
- **All participants are muted.**
- **Submit questions through the Q&A box at any time.** Use the chat box for general comments and technical questions only.
- **Please complete our evaluation.**

# Colorectal Cancer Statistics 2020

Rebecca Siegel, MPH  
Scientific Director, Surveillance Research  
American Cancer Society  
NCCRT webinar  
May 18, 2020





\*Blood alcohol test, sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy in the past 1, 5, and 10 years, respectively. Estimates are age adjusted to the 2000 US Standard population and do not distinguish between examinations for screening and diagnostic purposes. Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2010. See Sources of Statistics (page 30) for complete citation and more information.

[Cancer.org/statistics](https://www.cancer.org/statistics)

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## Colorectal Cancer Statistics, 2020

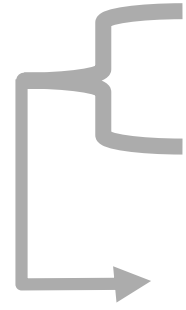
Rebecca L. Siegel, MPH <sup>1</sup>; Kimberly D. Miller, MPH <sup>1</sup>; Ann Goding Sauer, MSPH<sup>1</sup>; Stacey A. Fedewa, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Lynn F. Butterly, MD<sup>2,3</sup>; Joseph C. Anderson, MD<sup>3,4</sup>; Andrea Cercek, MD<sup>5</sup>; Robert A. Smith, PhD<sup>6</sup>; Ahmedin Jemal, DVM, PhD<sup>1</sup>

<https://acsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.3322/caac.21601>

# Data sources

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## ➤ Incidence

- 
- Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program (SEER; NCI)
  - National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR; CDC)
  - North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) → 95%

## ➤ Mortality

- National Center for Health Statistics (CDC)

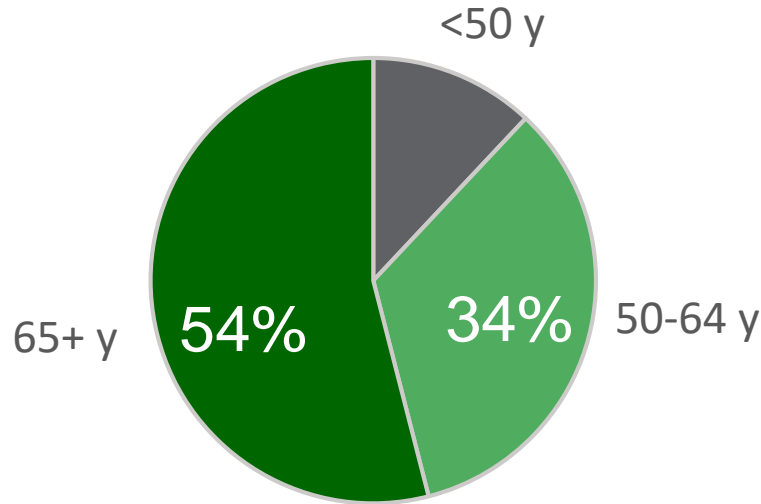
## ➤ Screening

- National Health Interview Survey (US Census Bureau)
- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (CDC)



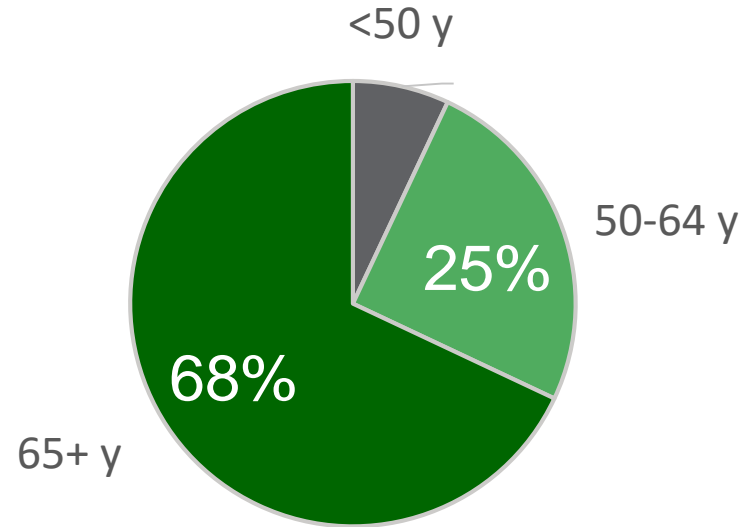
# Estimated cases & deaths in 2020

**147,950**



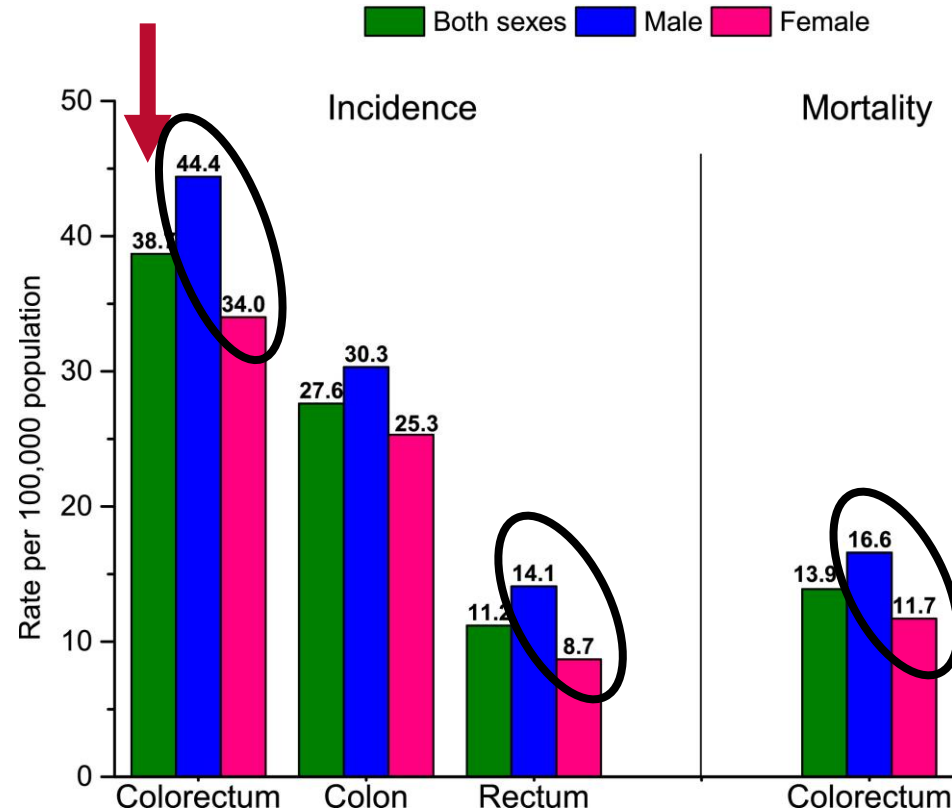
**CASES**

**53,200**

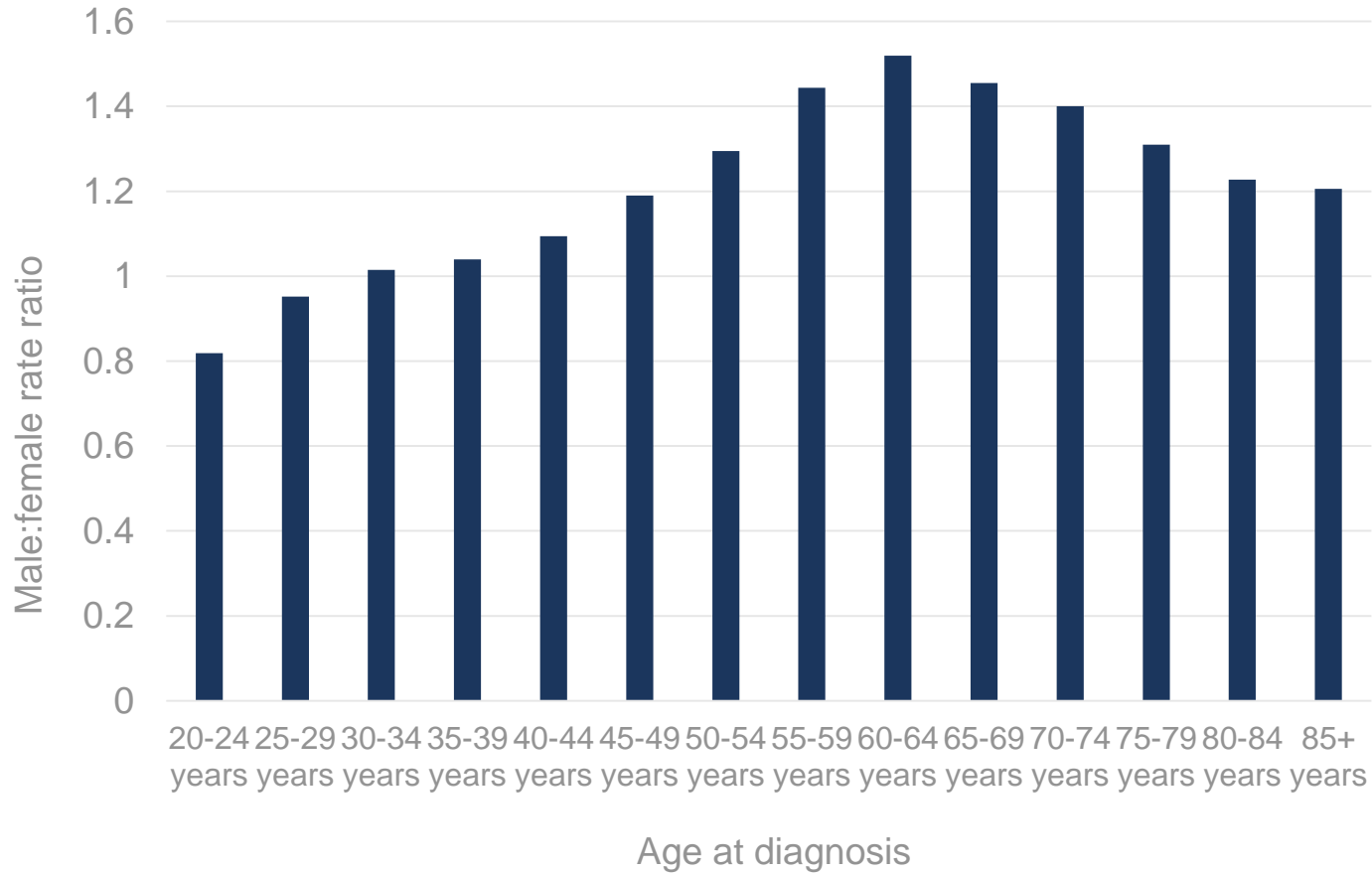


**DEATHS**

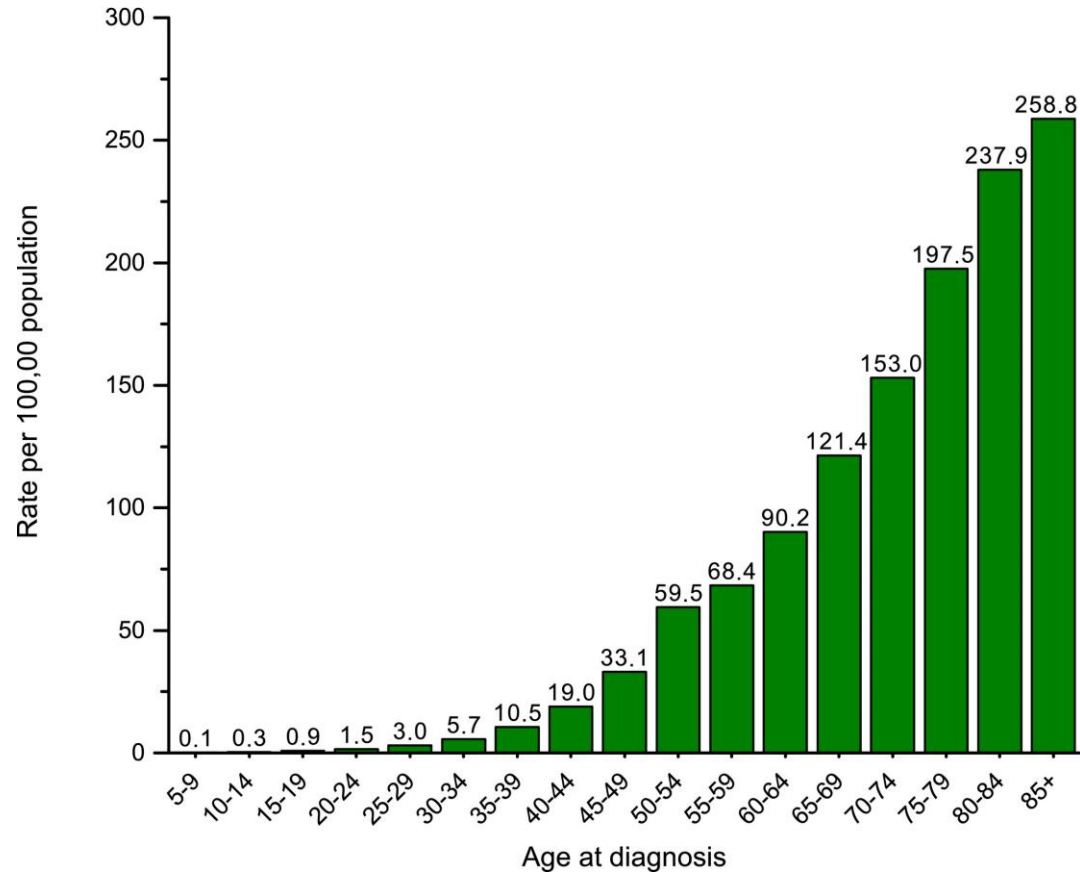
# CRC incidence (2012-2016) & mortality rates (2013-2017)



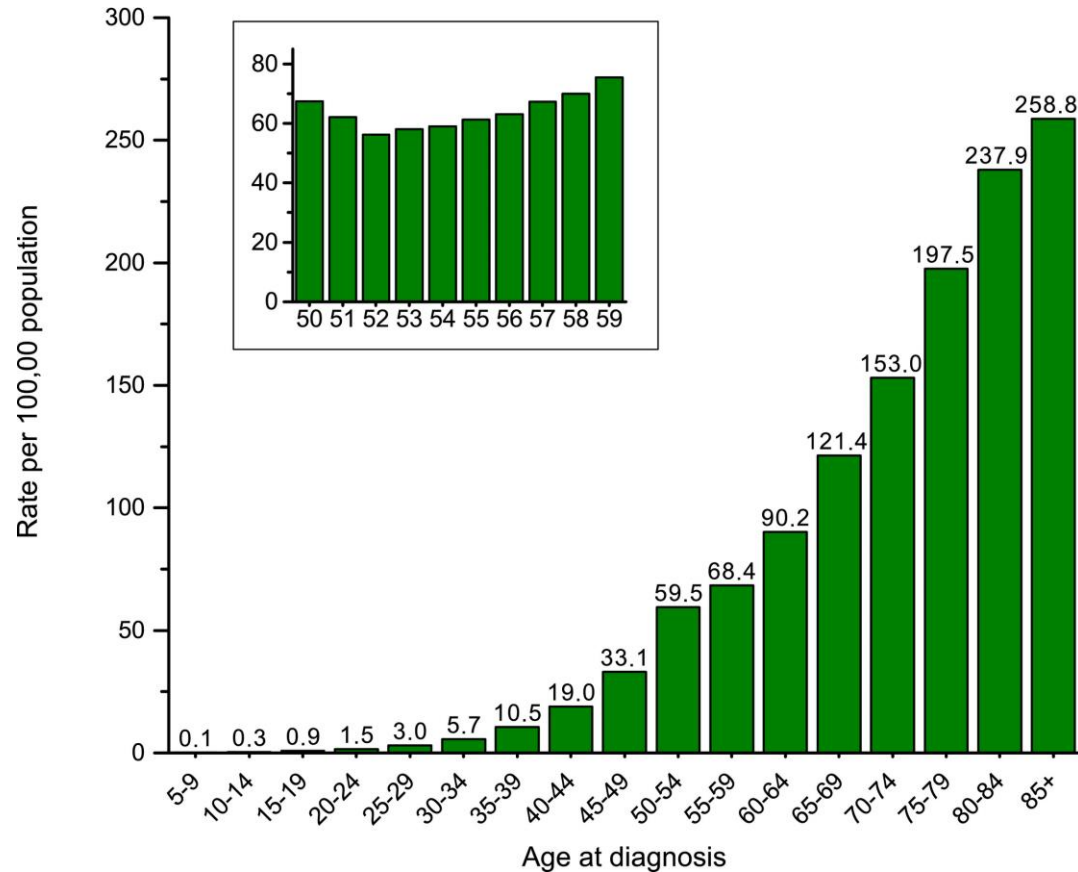
# Sex differences in CRC incidence by age



# Age-specific CRC incidence (2012-2016)



# Age-specific CRC incidence (2012-2016)

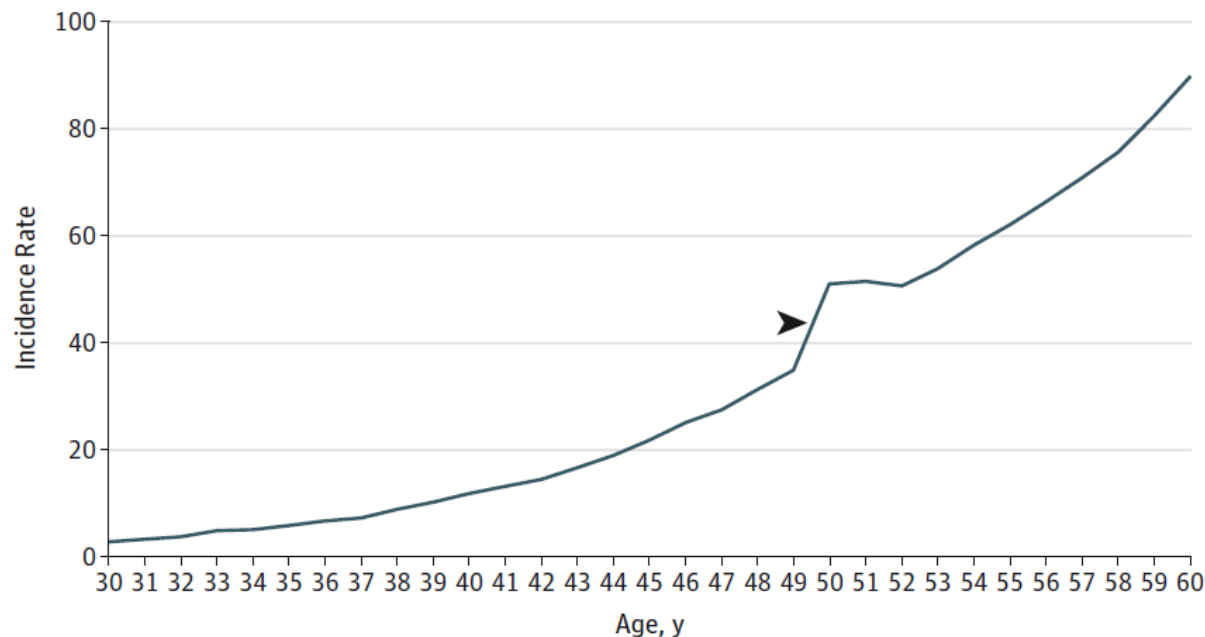


# Trends in Incidence of Early-Onset Colorectal Cancer in the United States Among Those Approaching Screening Age

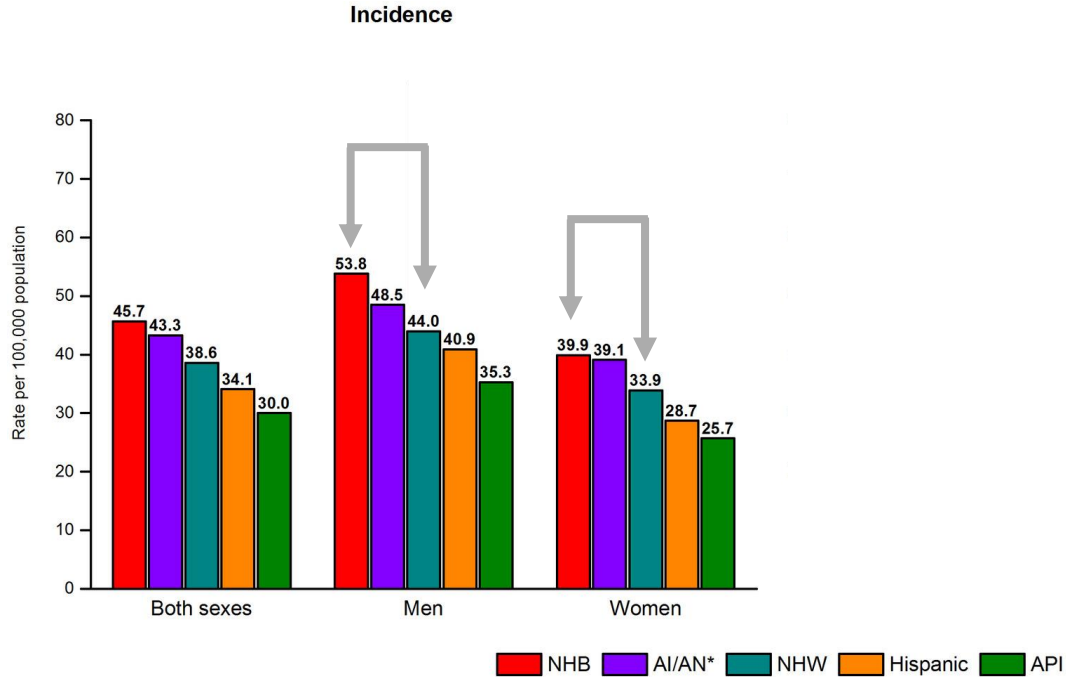
Wesal H. Abualkhair, MD, MS; Meijiao Zhou, PhD; Dennis Ahnen, MD; Qingzhao Yu, PhD; Xiao-Cheng Wu, MD, MPH; Jordan J. Karlitz, MD

JAMA Netw Open. 2020;3(1):e1920407. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2019.20407

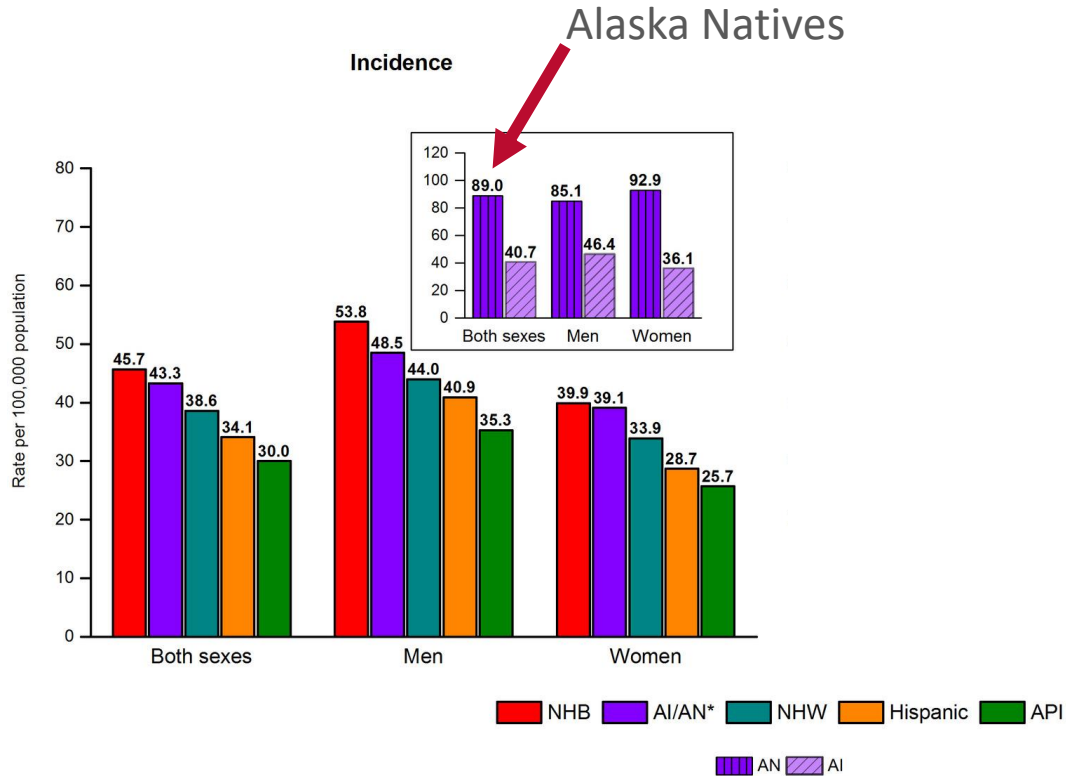
Figure 1. Colorectal Cancer Incidence Rates per 100 000 Population in 1-Year Age Increments in the US Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results 18 Registries Among Patients Aged 30 to 60 Years, 2000-2015



# CRC occurrence by race/ethnicity



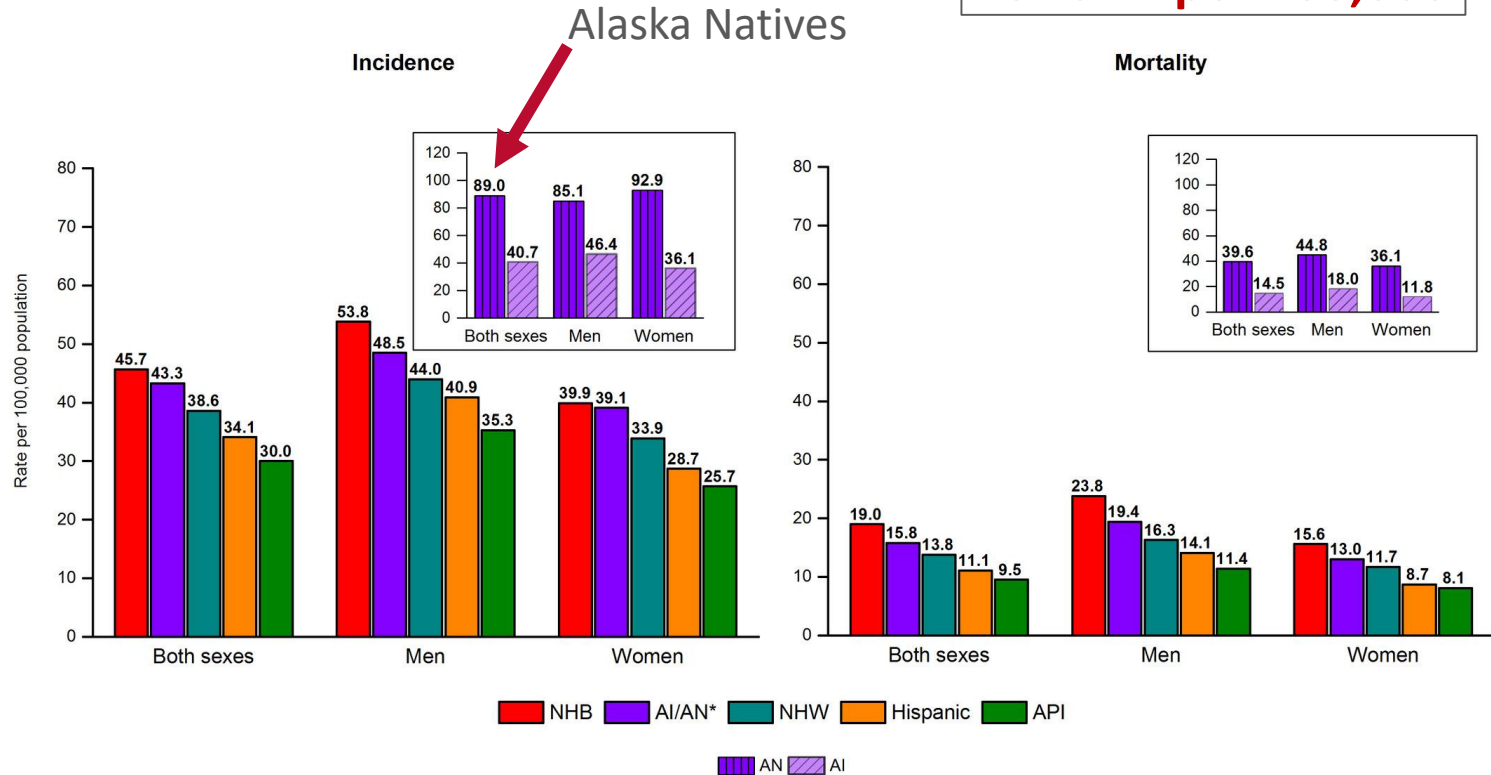
# CRC occurrence by race/ethnicity



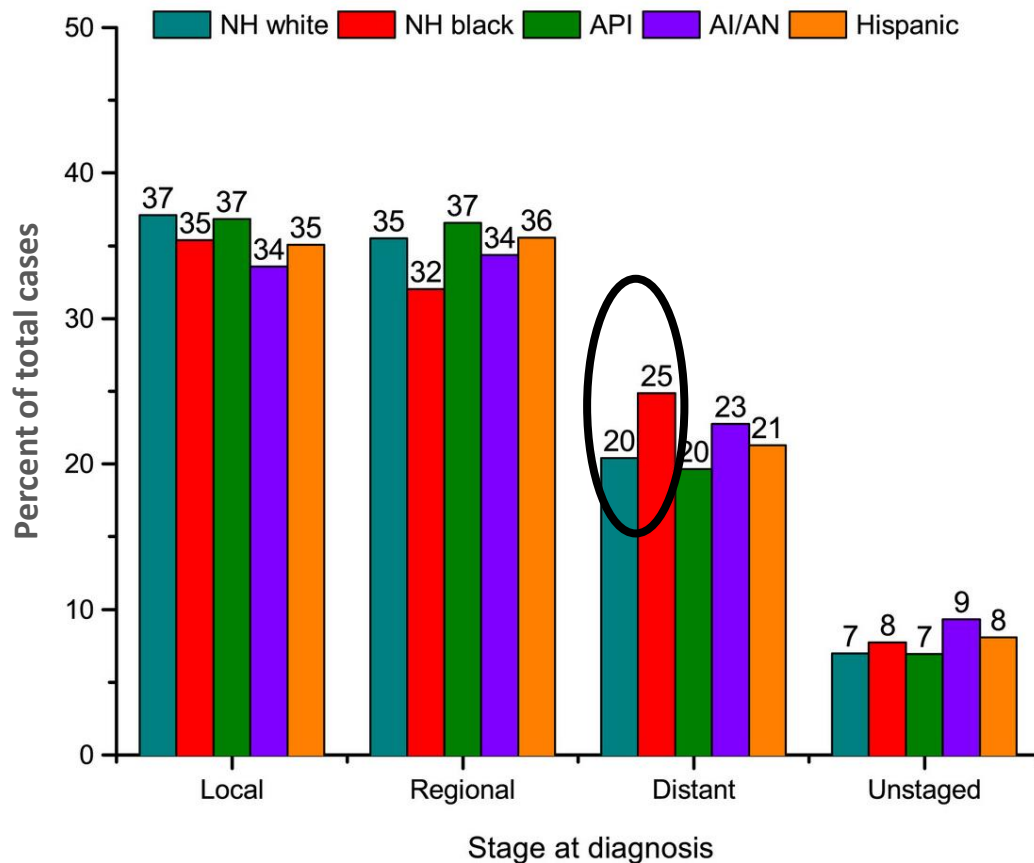


# CRC occurrence by race/ethnicity

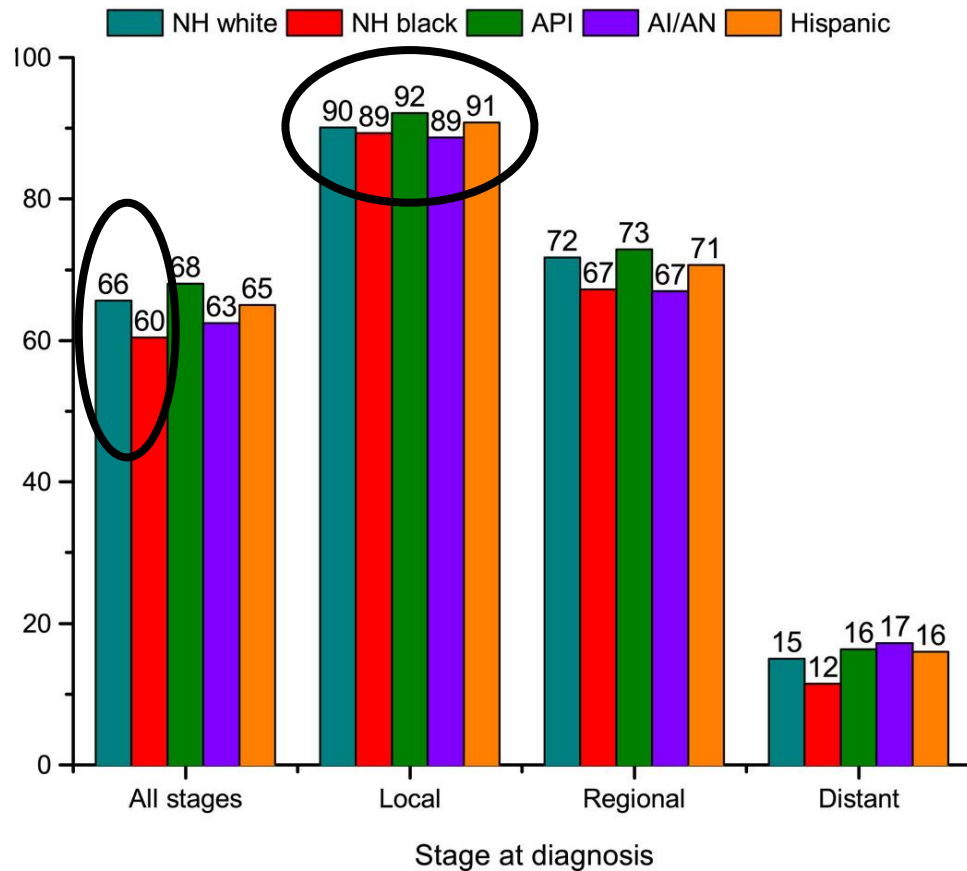
**40 vs 14 per 100,000**



# CRC stage distribution (%) by race/ethnicity, 2012-2016

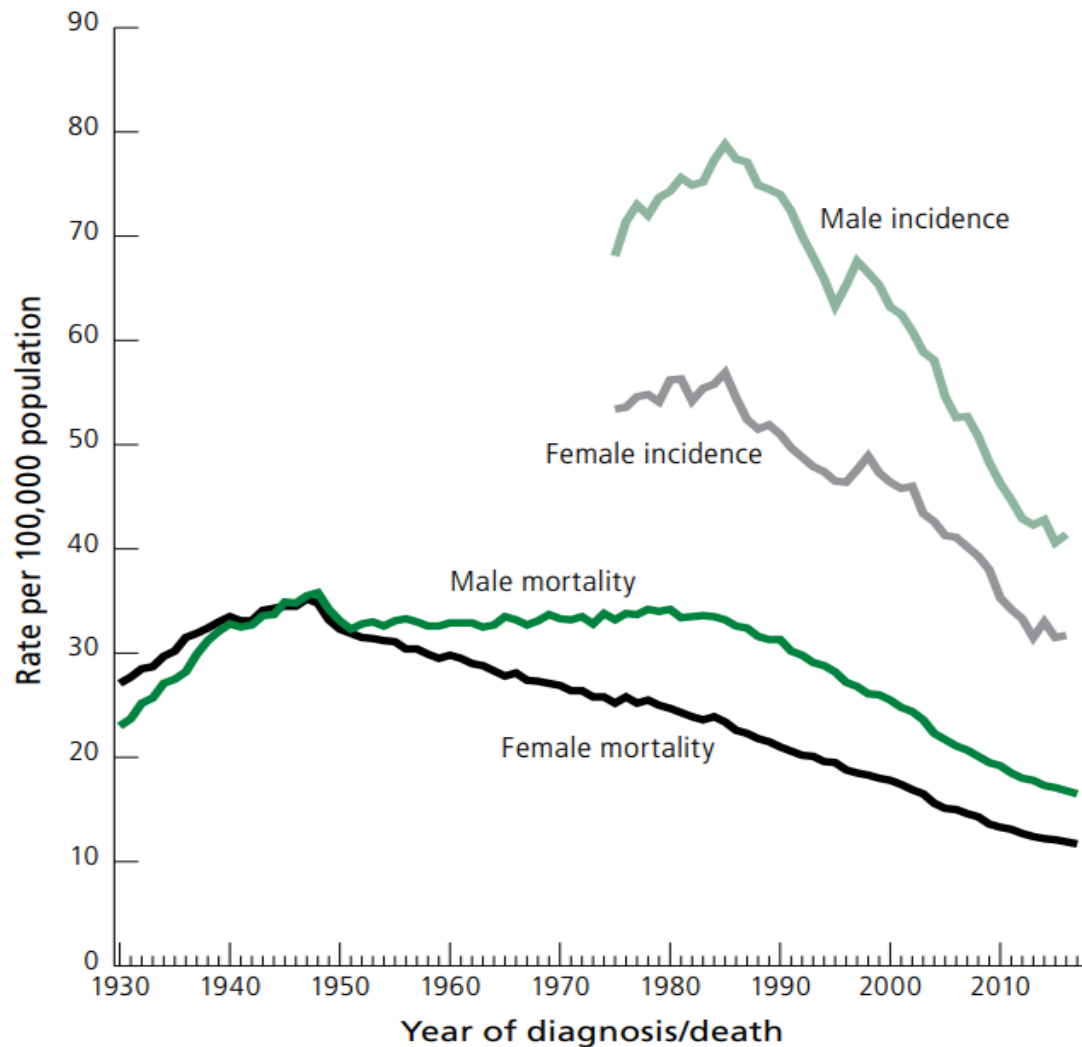


# CRC 5-yr survival (%) by race/ethnicity, 2009-2015

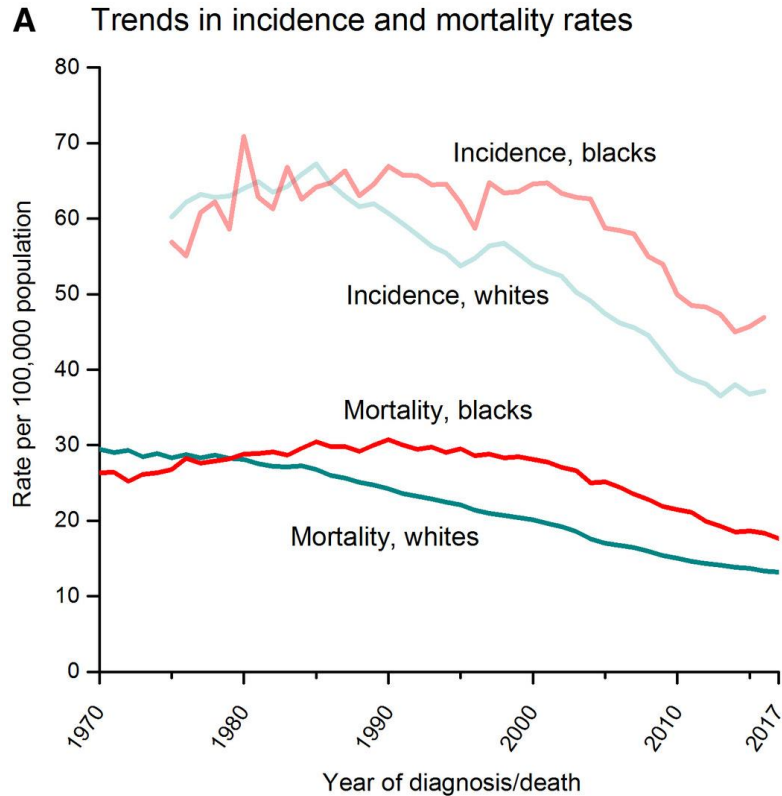


# Overall CRC incidence & mortality in the U.S.

declines have  
slowed from  
3%-4% to 1.5%

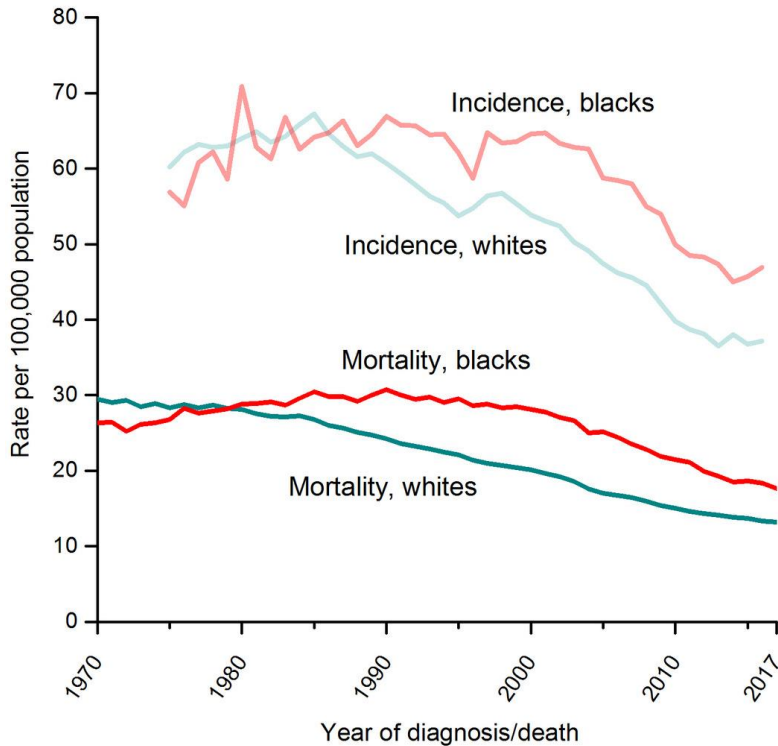


# CRC incidence & mortality by race, 1970-2017

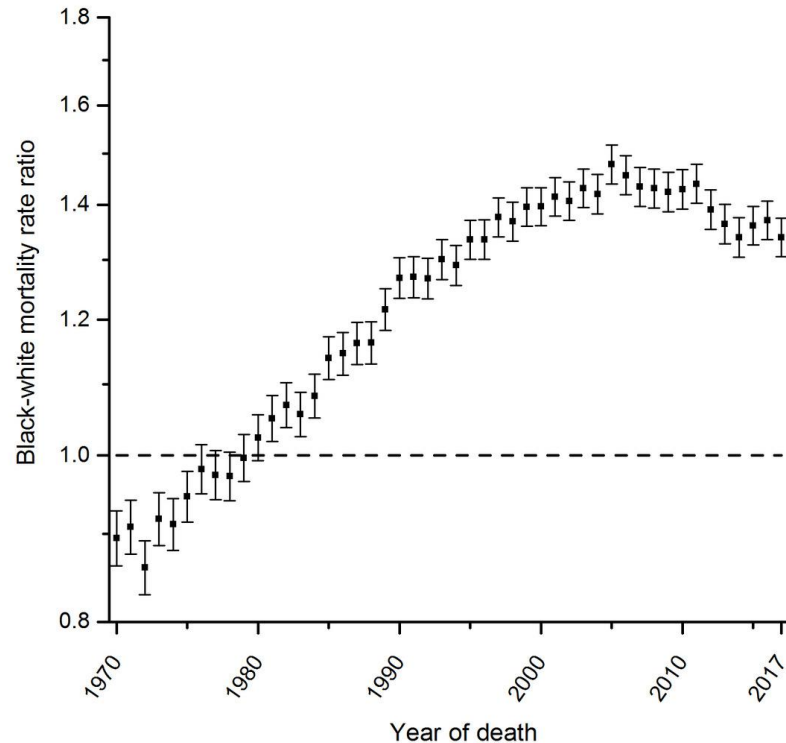


# CRC incidence & mortality by race, 1970-2017

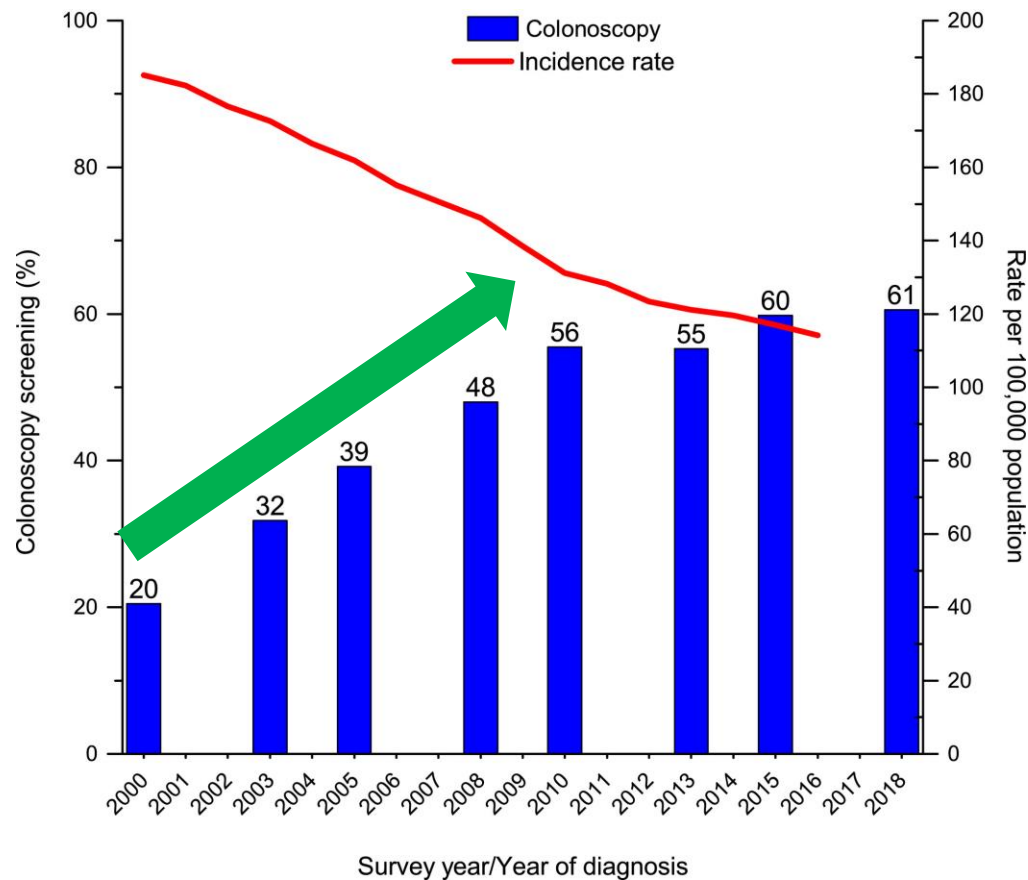
**A** Trends in incidence and mortality rates



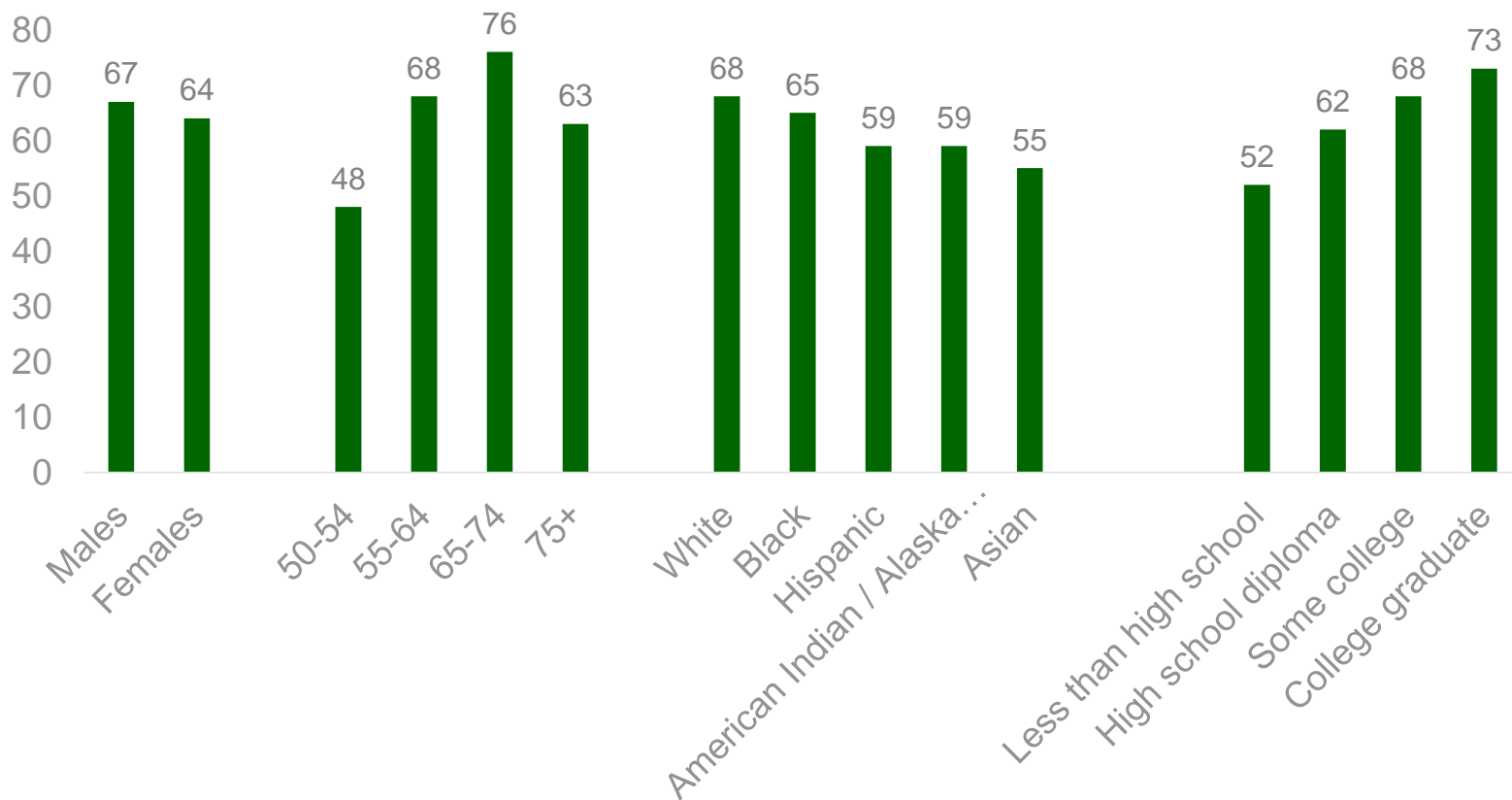
**B** Trends in mortality rate ratios (blacks vs. whites)



# CRC incidence & colonoscopy use in ages 50+ since 2000

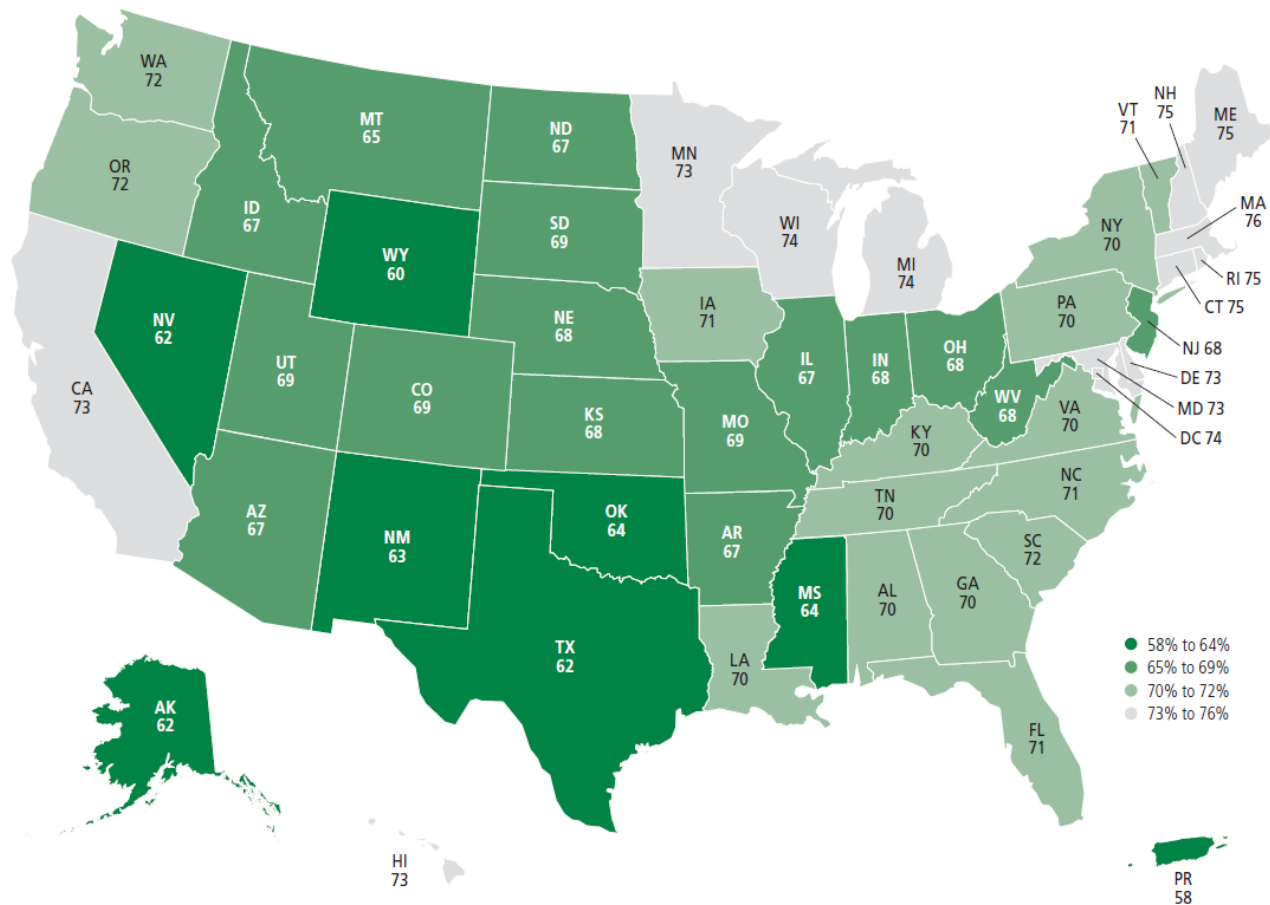


# Variation in up-to-date CRC screening (50+ y), 2018

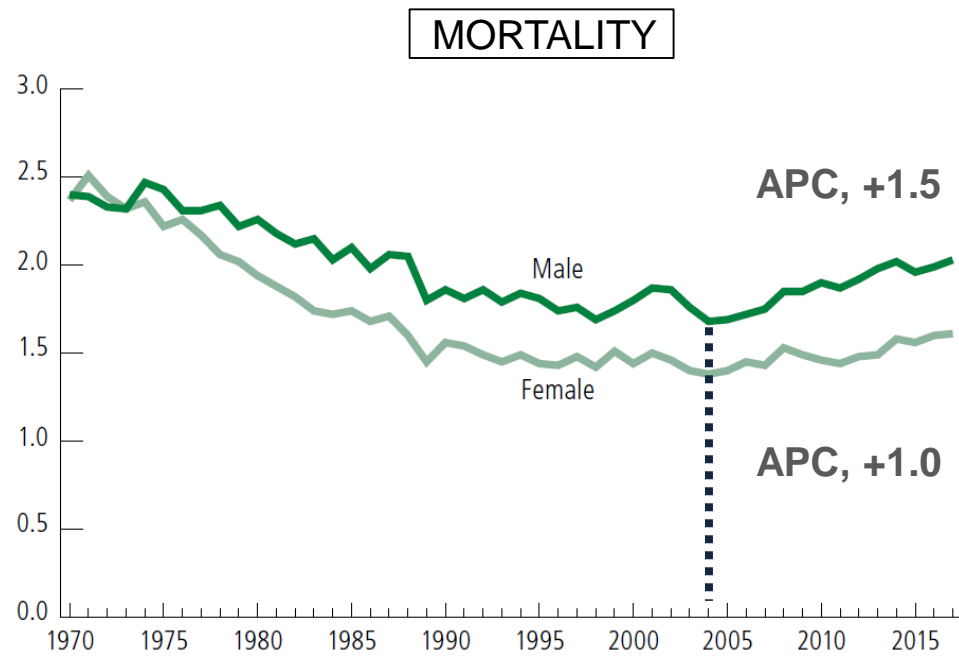
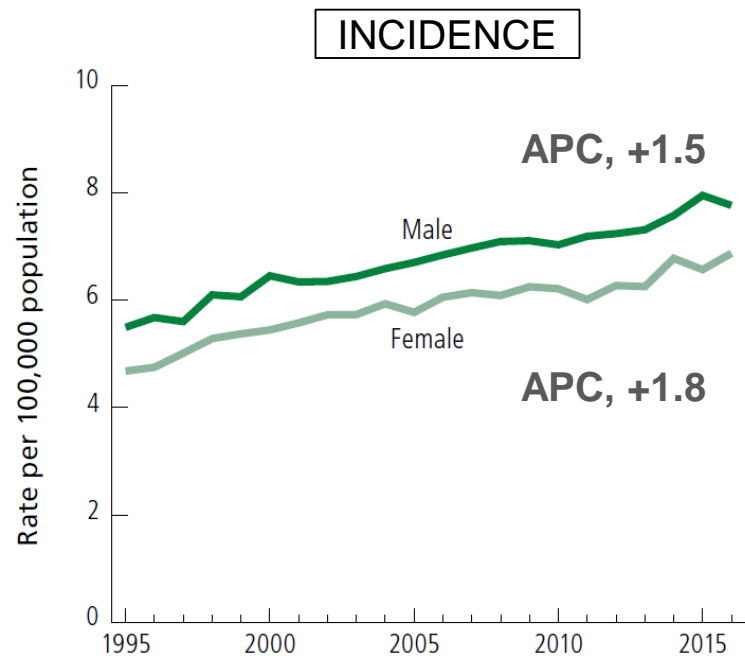




# Up-to-date CRC screening (50+ y) by state, 2018

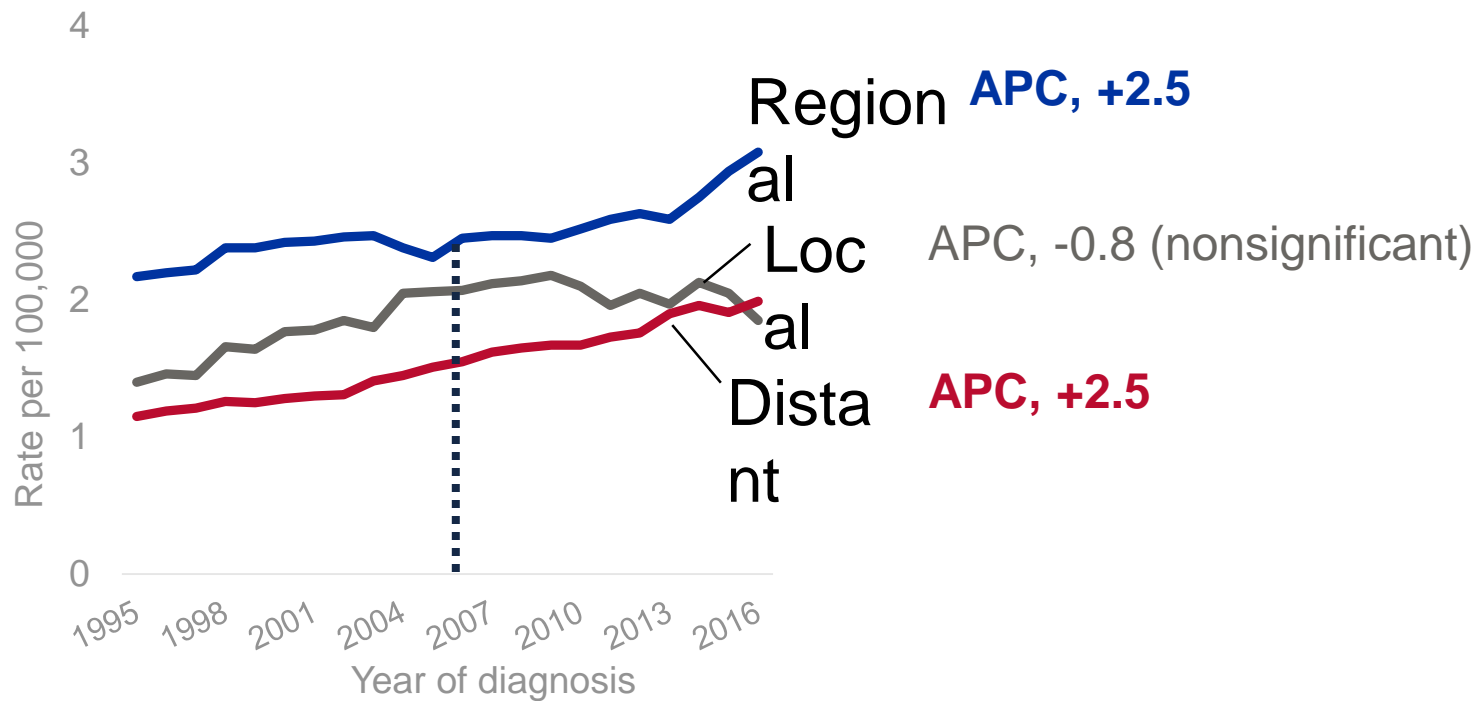


# CRC incidence & mortality age <50 yr

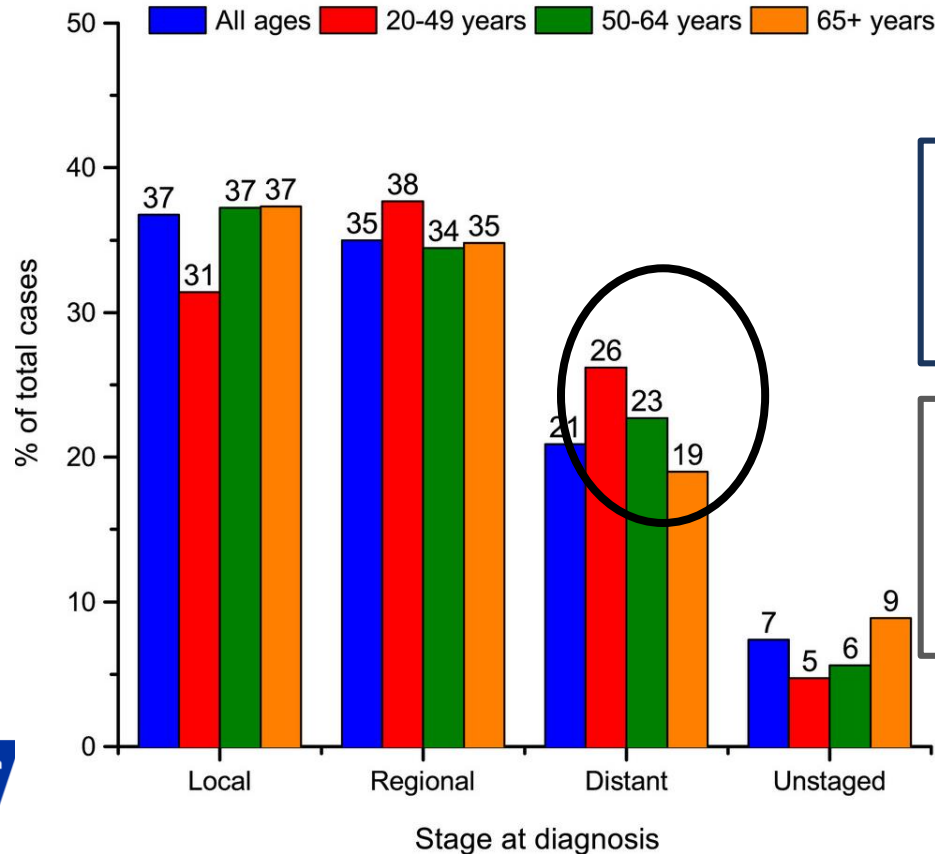


**36% localized stage in women vs 31% in men**

# CRC incidence age <50 yr by stage at diagnosis



# CRC stage distribution (%) by age, 2012-2016



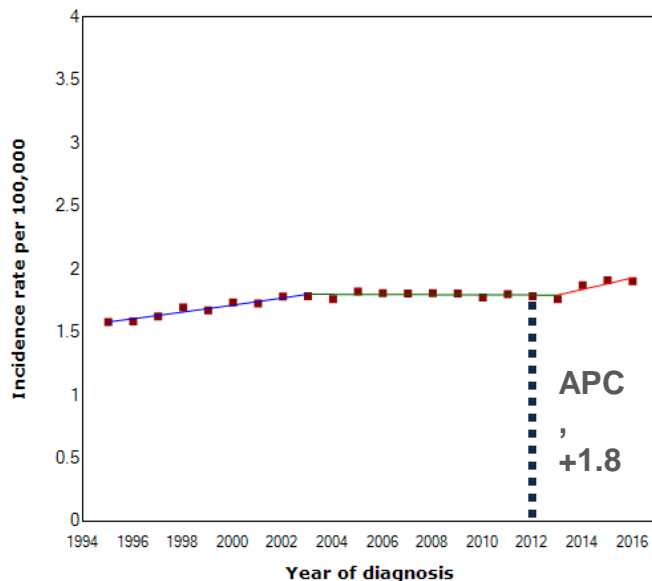
Risk of advanced stage <50  
**40%** higher **after accounting**  
**for screening**

Time from symptoms to  
tx:

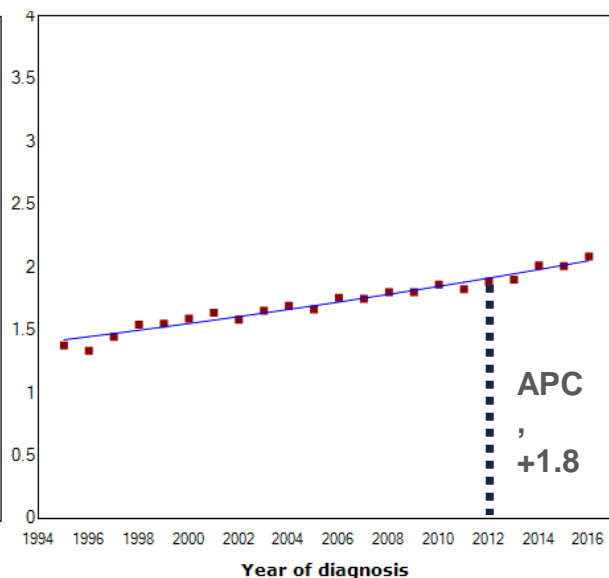
**217 d** vs **29.5 d**

# CRC incidence age <50 yr by tumor subsite

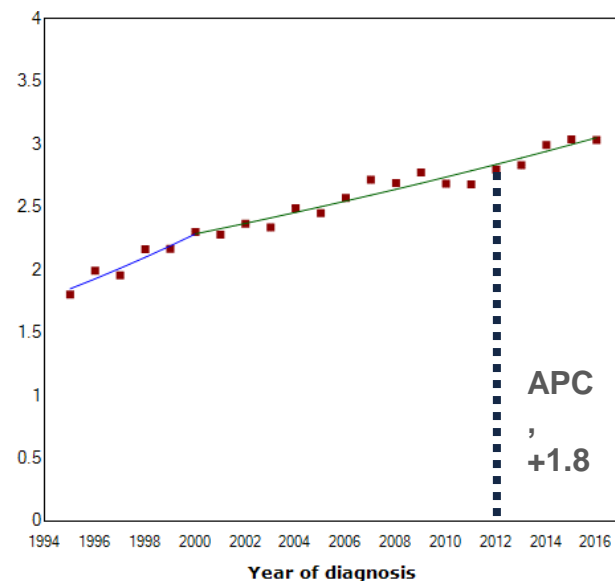
## Proximal colon



## Distal colon

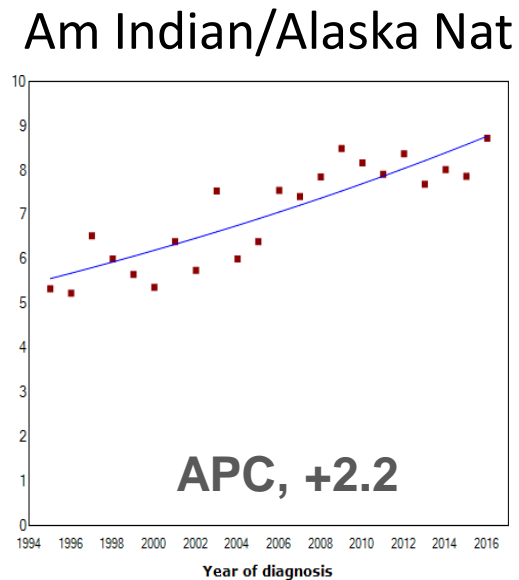
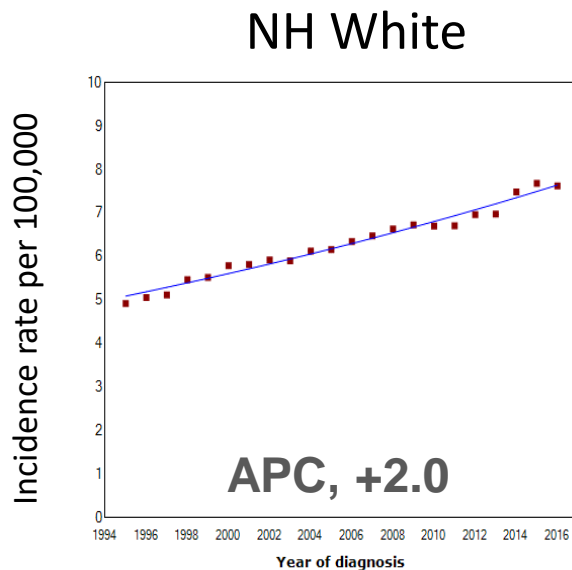


## Rectum



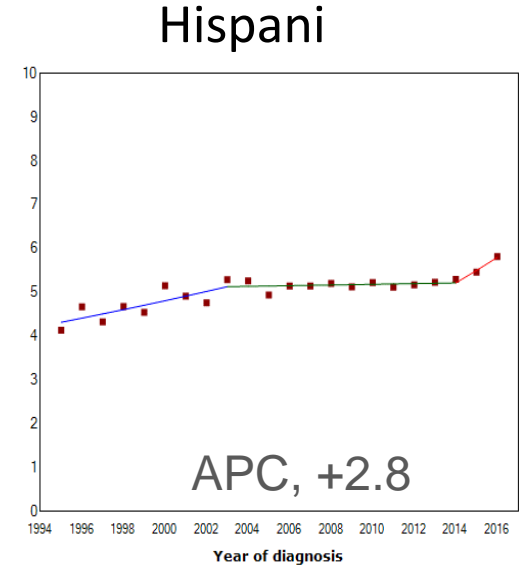
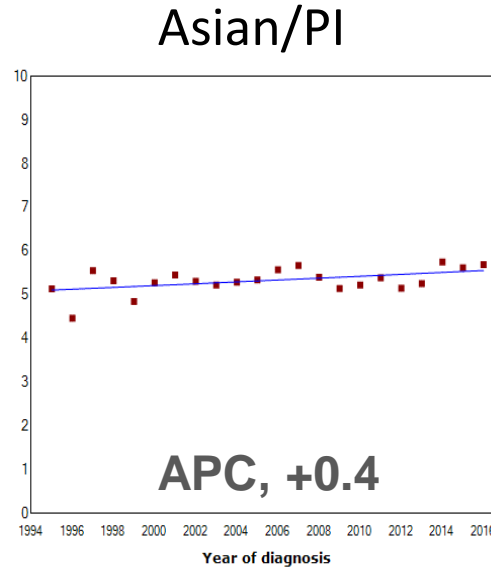
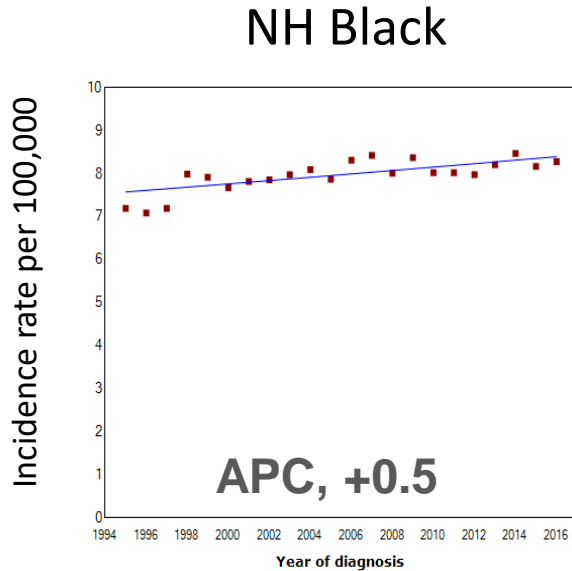
APC = annual percent change

# CRC incidence age <50 yr by race/ethnicity



APC = annual % change **Bold**=statistically significant

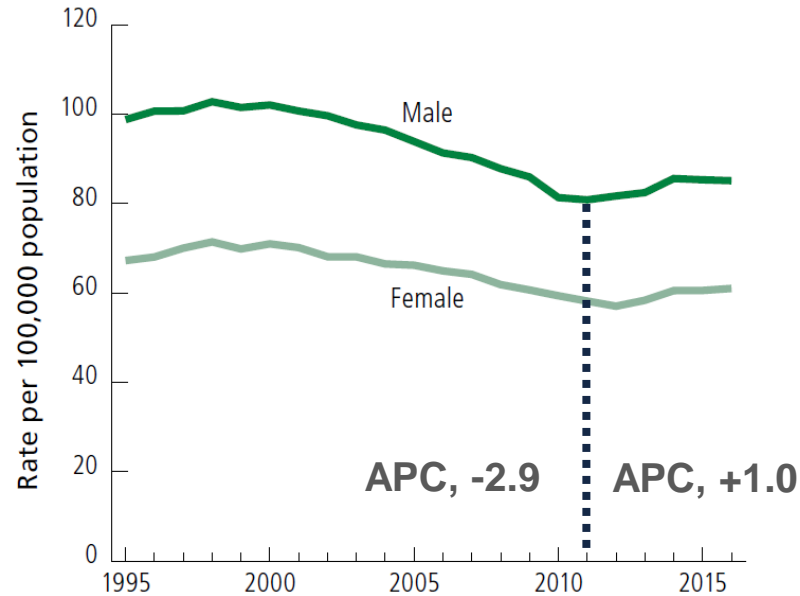
# CRC incidence age <50 yr by race/ethnicity



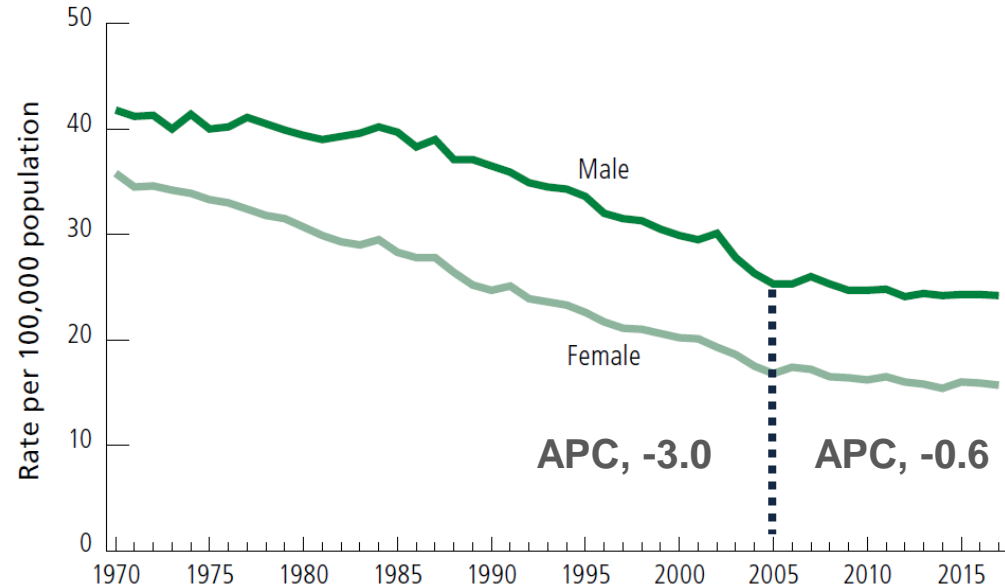
APC = annual % change **Bold**=statistically significant

# CRC incidence & mortality age 50-64 yr

## INCIDENCE



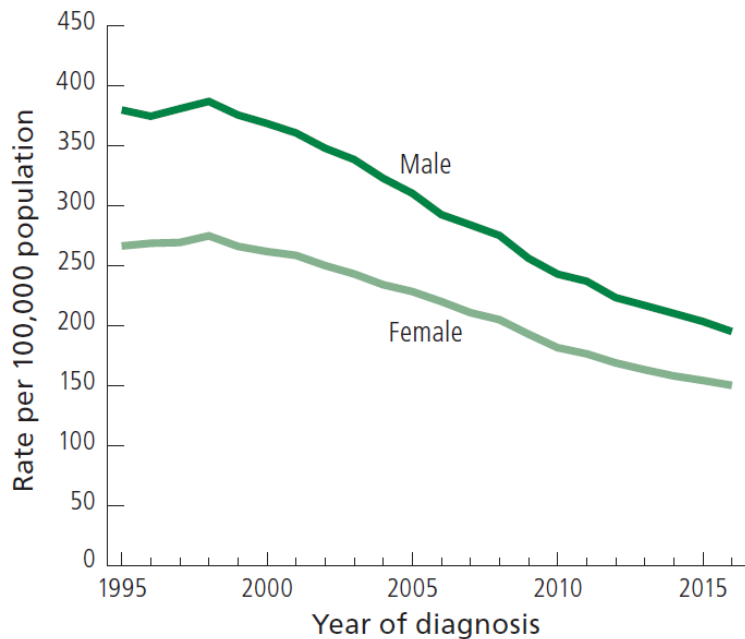
## MORTALITY



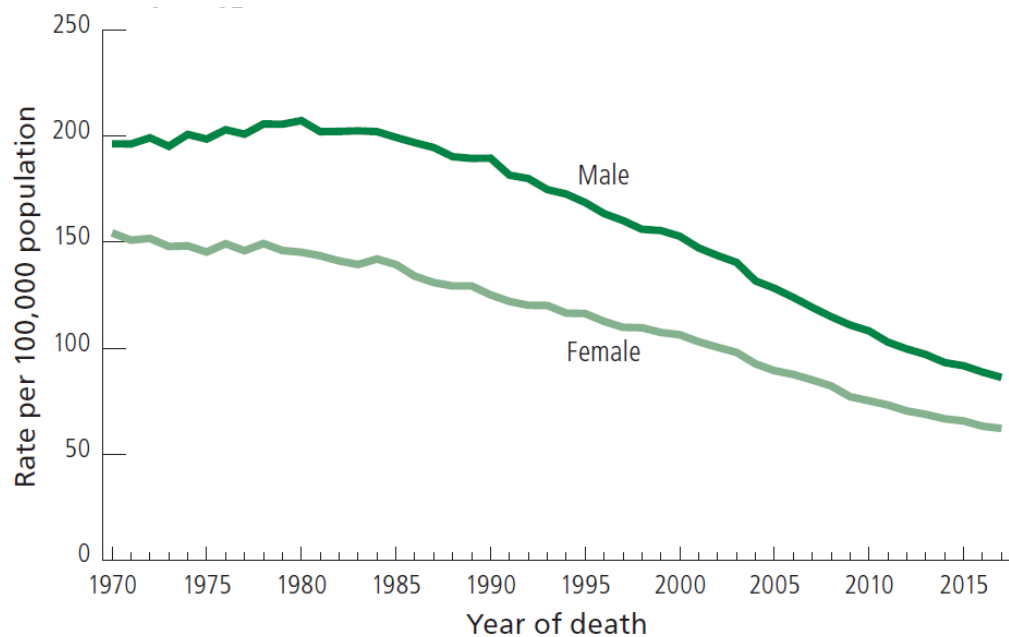


# CRC incidence & mortality age 65+ yr

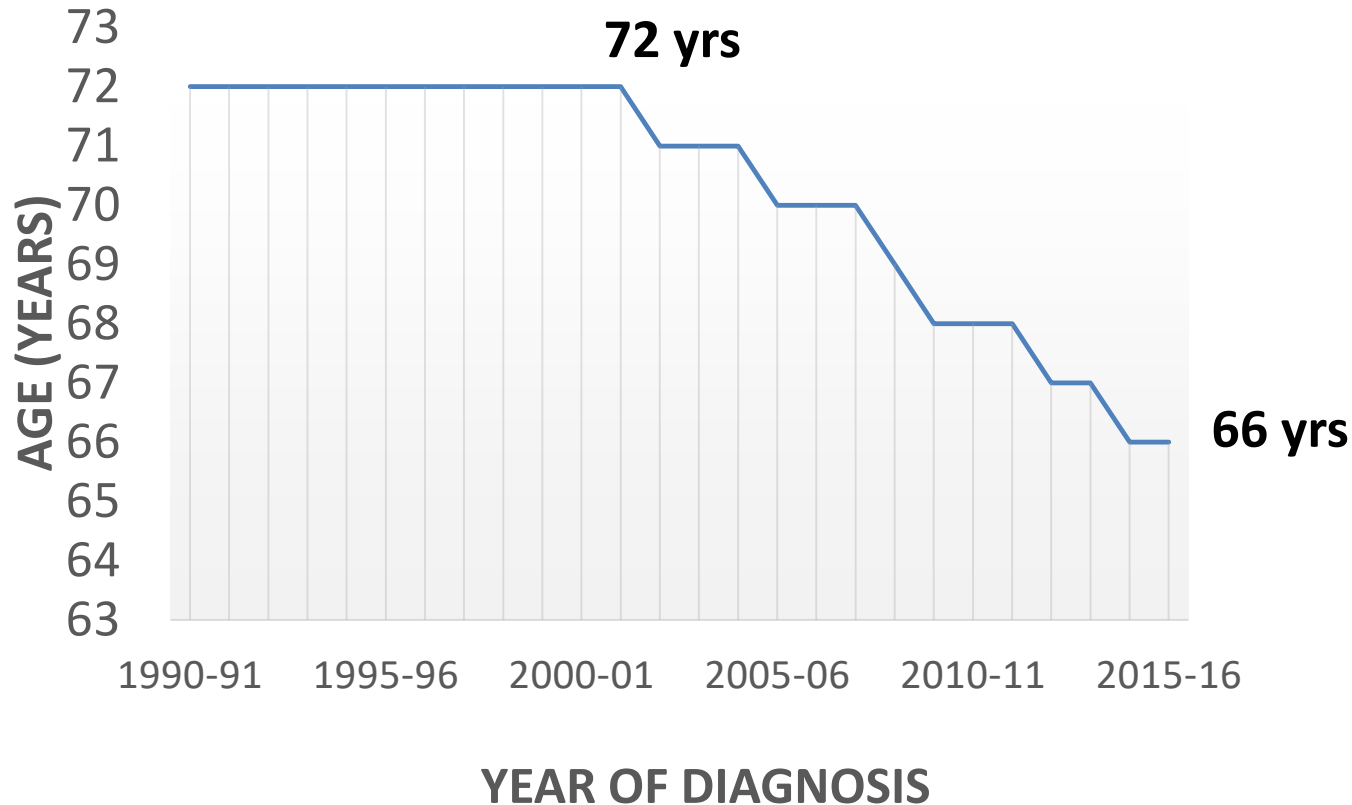
INCIDENCE



MORTALITY



# Median age at CRC diagnosis, 1990-2016

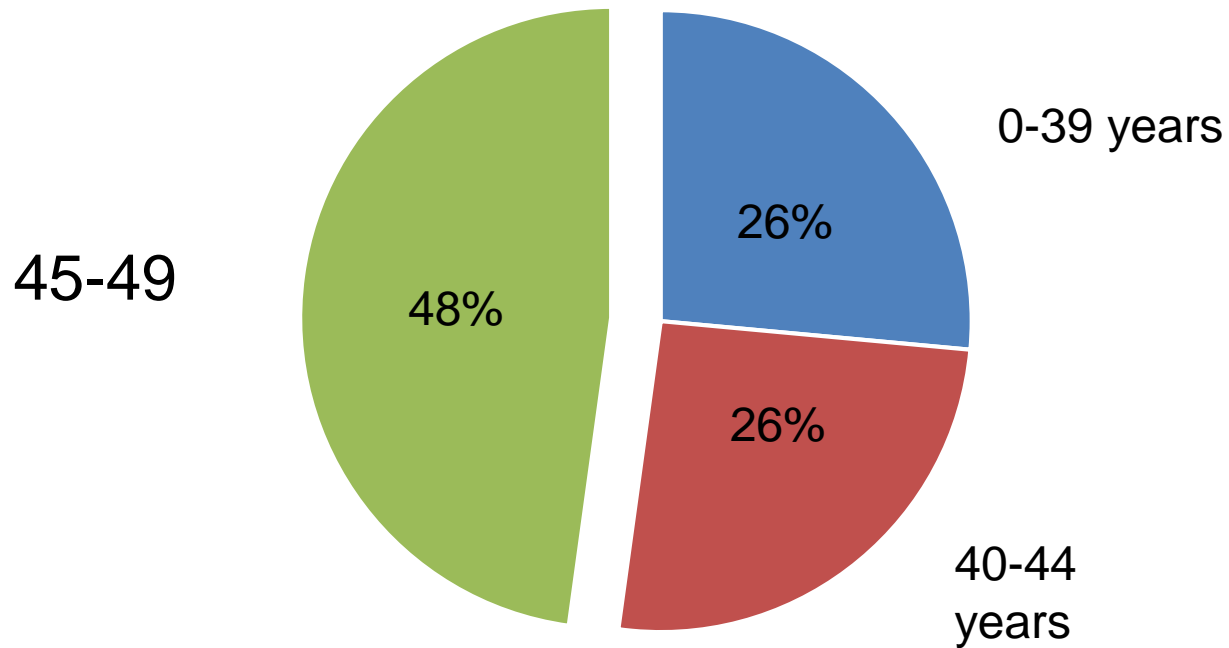




## CRC < 50 y in 2020

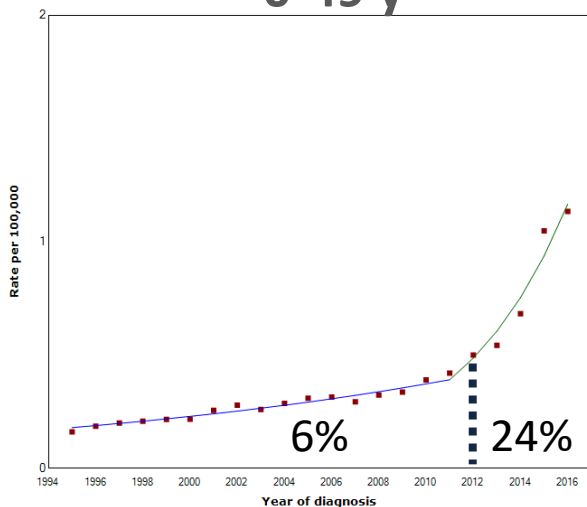
- 17,930 new cases  
=49 per day
- 3,640 deaths  
=10 per day

## CRC age distribution <50 yr

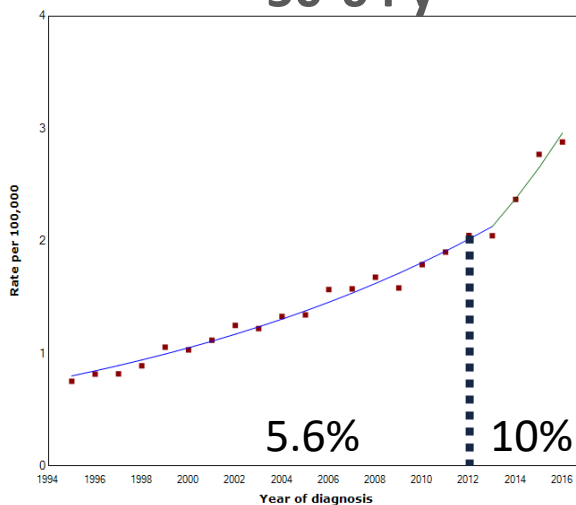


# Trends in incidence rates for appendiceal cancer by age, 1995-2016

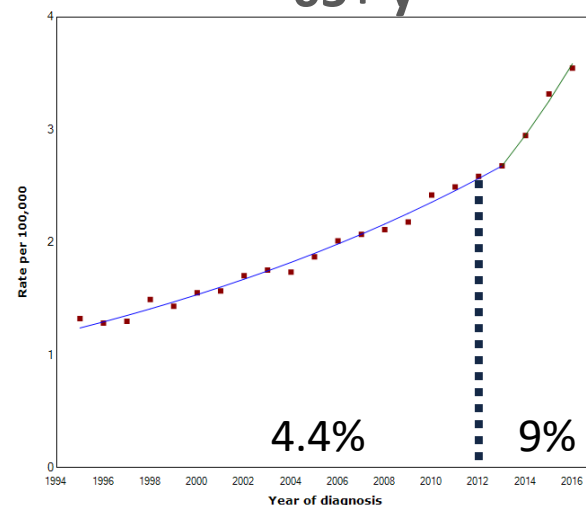
0-49 y



50-64 y



65+ y

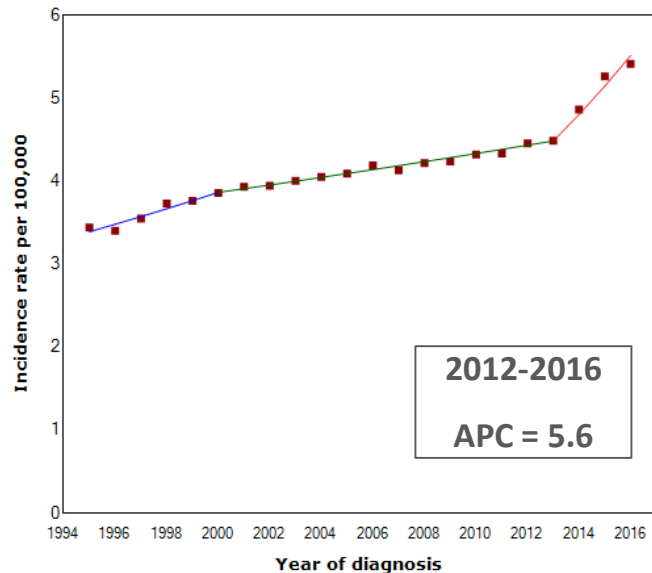


# Influence of appendix on CRC incidence trends 2012 to 2016

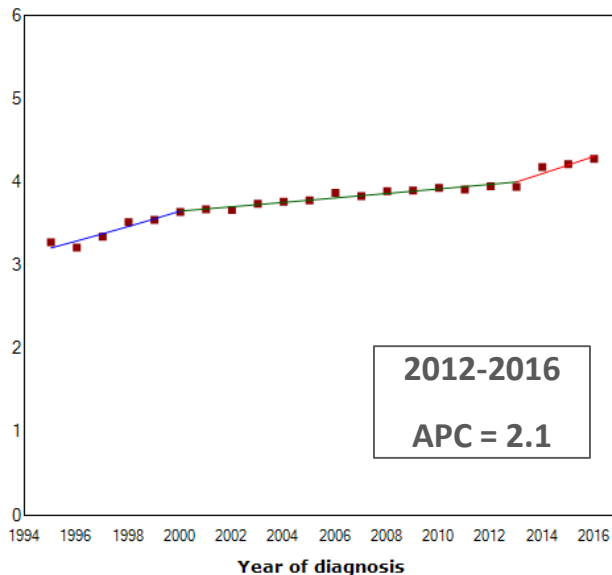
	APC including appendix	APC excluding appendix
0-49 y	4.3	2.2
50-64 y	1.3	1.0
65+ y	-3.2	-3.3
All ages	-0.8	-1.5

# Influence of appendix on rates of early-onset CRC

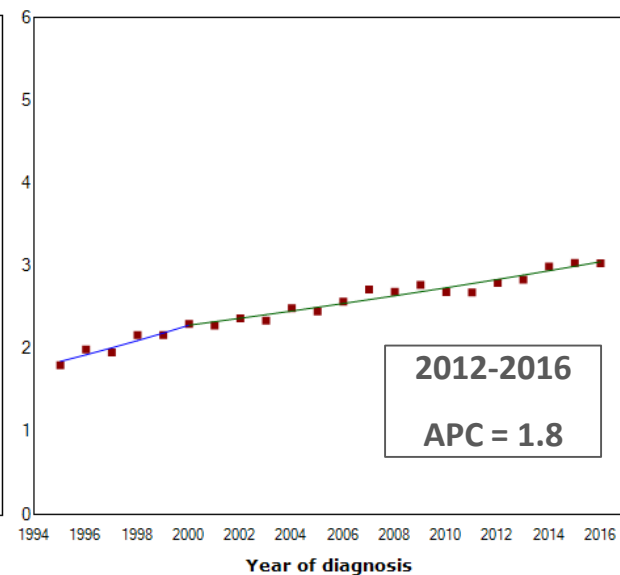
**Colon  
including appendix**



**Colon  
excluding appendix**



**Rectum**



# Summary

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- CRC burden is highest in Alaska Natives & blacks
- Declining incidence confined to 65+
- Median age at diagnosis is 66 y, down from 72 in 2001-02
- Increases in incidence <50 confined to advanced disease
  - 49 new cases and 10 deaths per day in 2020
  - 7 in 10 with regional/distant spread
- Future rates/trends of CRC will exclude appendiceal tumors



# Opportunities

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- Encourage healthy lifestyles – 50% of cases due to behavioral factors
  - Health body weight
  - Physical activity
  - Healthy diet
  - No smoking/heavy alcohol
- Improve access to high-quality care/risk-based screening
  - Screening at 45 is cost-effective! Improve 45-54 uptake
  - Fam risk at 40 – better family-history taking followed w/action
- Reduce delays in diagnosis before 50
  - **General public:** Increase awareness of symptoms/increased risk/destigmatize
  - **PCPs:** increase awareness of increased risk – zebras abound
- More holistic tx

# Collaborators

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Cancer registry staff worldwide

Kim Miller

Stacey Fedewa

Ahmedin Jemal

Lynn Butterly

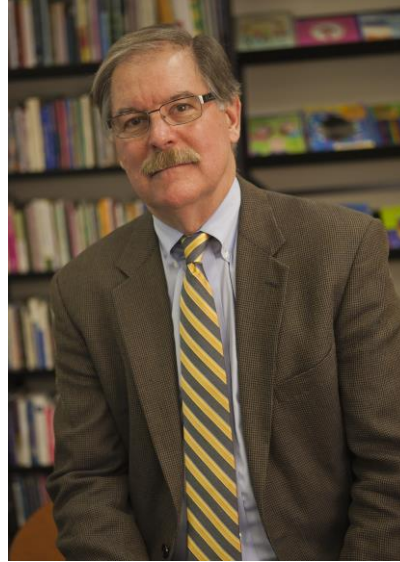
Joe Anderson

Andrea Cercek

# Thank you!



Please submit  
your questions  
in the Q&A  
box.



**Robert Smith, PhD**  
Senior Vice President,  
Cancer Screening  
American Cancer  
Society, Inc.



**Rebecca Siegel, MPH**  
Scientific Director,  
Surveillance Research  
American Cancer  
Society, Inc.

# Thank You!

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## For more information contact:

[nccrt@cancer.org](mailto:nccrt@cancer.org)

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