



Colorado Cancer Coalition

YEAR IN REVIEW

2023

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The Colorado Cancer Coalition (CCC, also referred to as Coalition) is a statewide collaborative of healthcare providers, public health professionals, caregivers, researchers, cancer survivors, cancer center staff, volunteers and many others working to eliminate the burden of cancer in Colorado. The CCC offers access to resources, expertise, and non-competitive collaboration. Through this collaboration, the Coalition hopes to have a great impact on cancer prevention, early detection, treatment and quality of life for all Coloradans touched by cancer.

The Coalition also works very closely with partners from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to carry out this work with administrative support from Trailhead Institute, the Coalition's fiscal sponsor. This past year, CCC Task Forces and partners worked together to implement strategies from the 2021-2025 Colorado Plan to reduce the impact that cancer has in Colorado. The CCC has made great progress and is looking forward to continuing these collaborative efforts. Learn more about the Colorado Cancer Plan at www.coloradocancercoalition.org/colorado-cancer-plan.

2023 Leadership

Although the CCC experienced a sudden departure of the Executive Director in 2023, the Coalition's Task Forces maintained their focus and continued to drive the CCC's successes. The Advisory Board and the Task Force Chairs, who have been integral in steering the Coalition while it underwent a change in leadership, also strengthened the CCC. During this transition period, the Coalition's leadership worked closely with Trailhead Institute who, per Colorado legislation, has served as stewards of the state check-off funds for the Coalition since 2016.

Together, Trailhead and Coalition leadership navigated the day-to-day operations of the Coalition and began to strategically plan to incorporate the Coalition into a program of Trailhead. As a program of Trailhead, the Coalition will continue to focus on strengthening networks and engaging communities to improve the lives of Coloradans touched by cancer.

2023 Advisory Board

Thank you to the members of the Advisory Board who provided support and direction for the Coalition in 2023.

- Allie Bain, American Cancer Society
- Carlin Callaway, University of Colorado
- Andrea (Andi) Dwyer, Colorado School of Public Health, Colorado Cancer Screening Program
- Debby Dyer, MD, National Jewish Health
- Ian Kahn, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE)
- Peggy Thomas, RN, AOCN, Penrose Cancer Center



What does the CCC do?

The CCC provides education, networking opportunities, best practice sharing, and partnership opportunities for those working in oncology care and support. It is committed to providing a neutral space for dialogue from diverse perspectives to improve cancer outcomes in Colorado.

In addition, the Coalition supports the needs of Coloradans to prevent cancer, detect cancer early, and enhance quality of life for survivors and their caregivers by disseminating education, cancer resources, and connecting patients and their caregivers to opportunities to advocate for better cancer outcomes in Colorado.

- Provides education on:
 - Cancer Prevention and Risk Reduction
 - Cancer Screening Guidelines
 - Cancer Support
- Hosts webinars on a variety of topics, including:
 - Colorectal cancer early detection
 - LGBTQ+ considerations in cancer care
 - Advance Directives
- Provides connections to quality of life programs for patients/caregivers
- Serves as a policy voice for cancer patients, survivors, and oncology professionals
- Provides access to experts in cancer prevention, screening, treatment and survivorship
- Distributes e-newsletter full of Colorado specific cancer updates
- Connects individuals and organizations who share a goal of reducing the burden of cancer for Coloradans



Learn more about the CCC by visiting coloradocancercoalition.org
or email CCCIinfo@trailhead.institute



Ways to engage with the CCC

Join a Task Force



- Breast Cancer *coming in 2024*
- Clinical Trials *not meeting at present*
- Colorectal Cancer
- HPV Vaccination
- Latino Cancer
- Lung Cancer
- Patient Navigation
- Prostate Cancer
- Skin Cancer
- Survivorship & Palliative Care

Find more information at:

[https://www.coloradocancercoalition.org/
/task-forces/](https://www.coloradocancercoalition.org/task-forces/)

Support the CCC



- Become a sponsor at the Annual Symposium
- Attend the Annual Symposium
- Join a Task Force
- Donate to the Colorado Cancer Fund using the tax check-off program on your Colorado State Income Tax Form

Interested in helping develop the next Colorado Cancer Plan?

Consider joining the CCC and CDPHE in developing the 2021-2026 Cancer Plan.

The Cancer Plan provides a five-year framework to reduce the risk, incidence, and mortality associated with cancer in Colorado.
Contact CCCInfo@trailhead.institute if interested in participating!



Not on our list? Want to get involved?

Consider subscribing to the CCC newsletter:
trailhead.institute/newsletter-signup

Do you have a cancer related support group?

List it here, so patients and caregivers can find support when they need it.

<https://www.coloradocancercoalition.org/supportgroups/>



Cancer Resource Map in English and Español

<https://www.coloradocancercoalition.org/cancer-map/>

<https://www.coloradocancercoalition.org/mapa-de-recursos-para-el-cancer-en-colorado/>

2023 Colorado Cancer Fund



The Colorado Cancer Fund is proud to be included as one of 20 eligible funds to participate in Colorado's check-off giving program on our state income tax returns in 2023. This program allows taxpayers to make voluntary contributions to their favorite charitable organizations when they file their state taxes. This past tax season, we raised more than \$110,000 through check-off giving, which will support the Coalition, including the Task Forces, as they work to implement the goals in the Colorado Cancer Plan.

The check-off program makes it incredibly easy for people to donate to worthy Colorado charities, such as the Colorado Cancer Fund. This year, we hope to raise additional awareness of check-off giving to encourage even greater participation in our community and ultimately more money raised to support vital programs for cancer patients and caregivers.

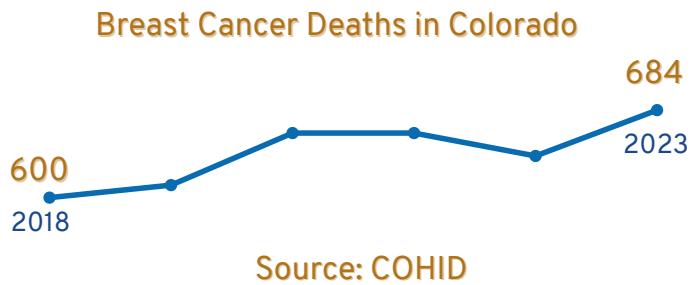
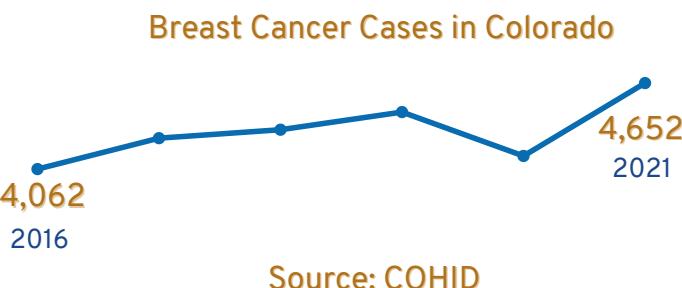


**Support the Colorado Cancer Fund
when you file your taxes!**

To learn more, visit www.coloradocancercoalition.org/colorado-cancer-fund/

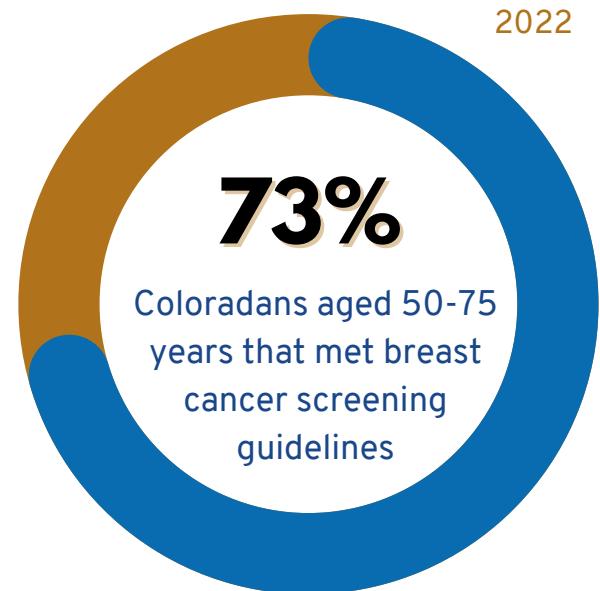
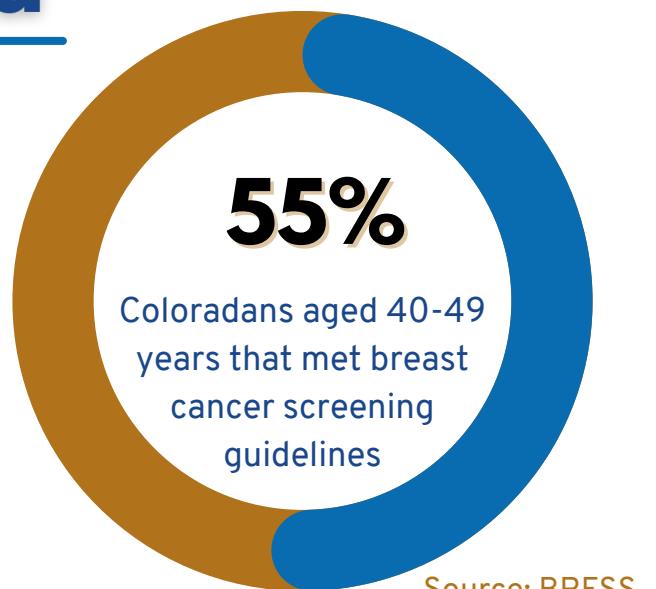
Thank you!

Breast Cancer Data

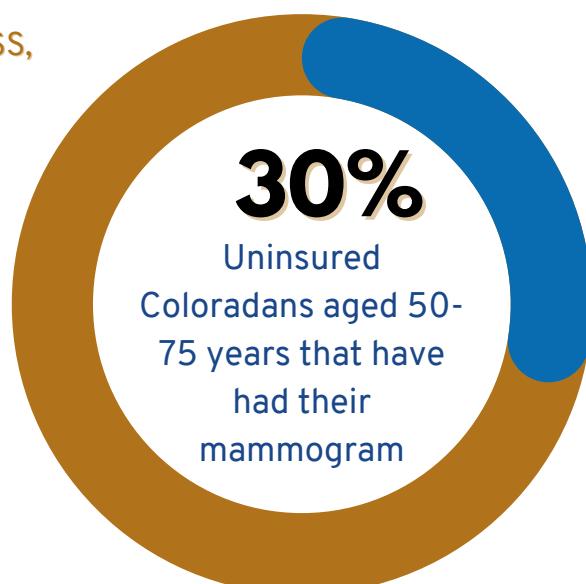
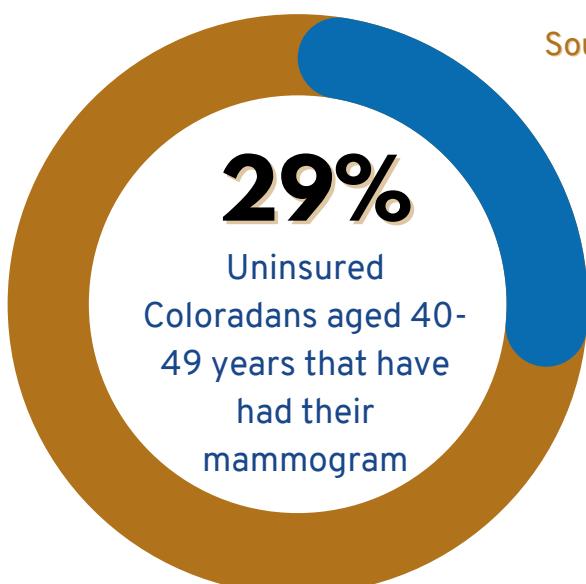


Breast Cancer is the 2nd leading cause of cancer death for women in Colorado

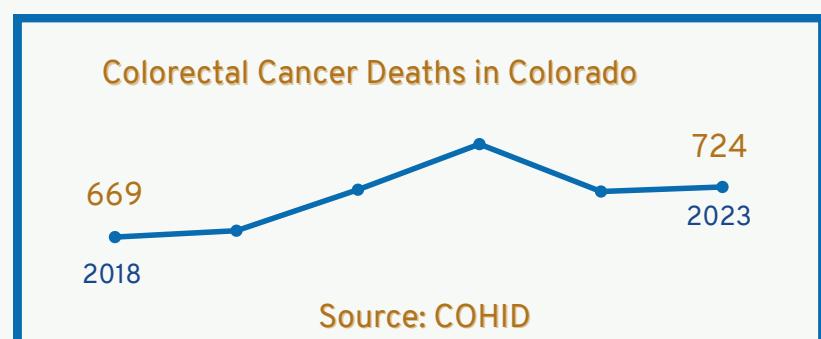
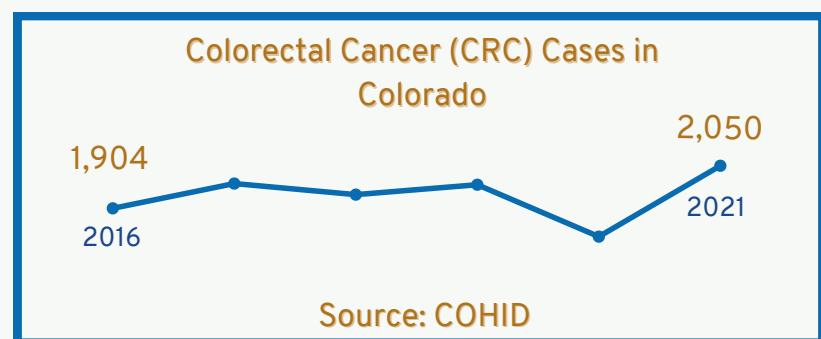
Interested in joining the Breast Cancer Task Force?
breastcancer@coloradocancercoalition.org



Uninsured Breast Cancer Screening Rates

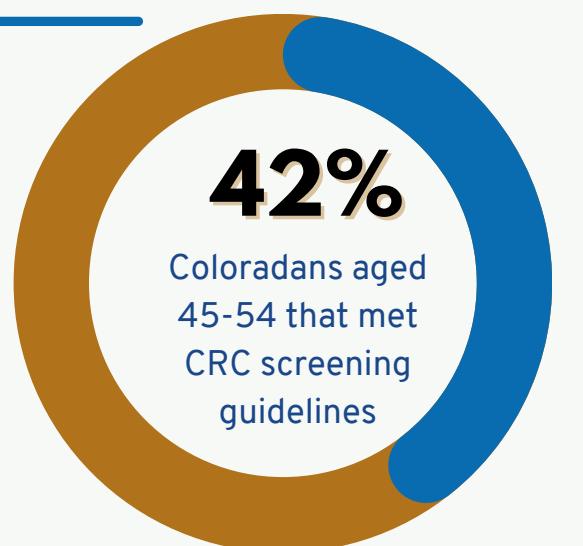


Colorectal Cancer Data

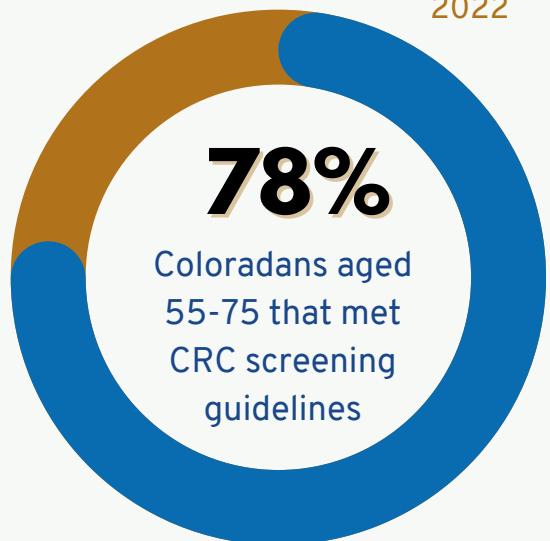


Colorectal cancer is the 2nd leading cause of cancer death for men and women combined in Colorado

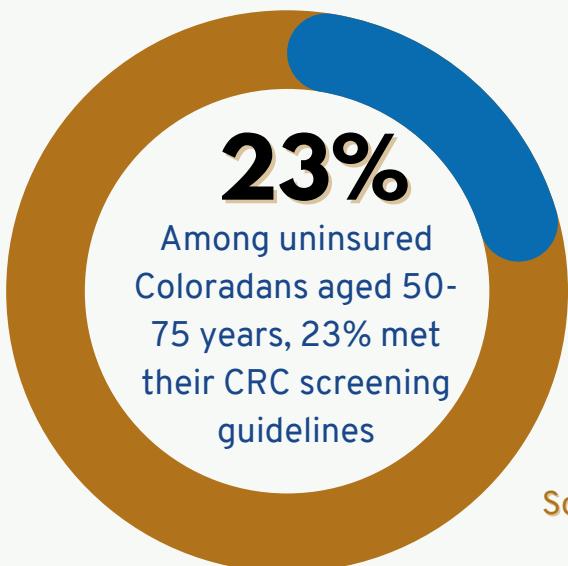
Interested in joining the CRC Task Force?
colorectal@coloradocancercoalition.org



Source: BRFSS, 2022



Uninsured CRC Cancer Screening Rates



Source: BRFSS, 2022

Colorectal Cancer Task Force

2023 Successes

The CRC Task Force met monthly to share ideas to promote collaboration among Task Force members and provided learning opportunities on colorectal cancer screening and prevention.



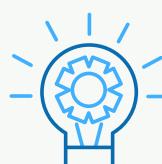
The Task Force has two goals: to improve screening in Colorado and raise awareness about the importance of screening.

- For screening, the Task Force convened stakeholders for the Links of Care Advisory Group to determine the best approach for connecting patients with reduced cost colonoscopies.
- To raise awareness, Task Force members reached out to the Governor's office and their local governments to request CRC Awareness Month proclamations. Each year the Task Force receives more proclamations; this year they got five proclamations, plus one from the Governor.

Additionally, in an effort to improve healthcare team knowledge The Task Force is working on producing a virtual, on-demand CRC Screening 101 training.

Member Organizations

- American Cancer Society
- ACS Cancer Action Network
- CDPHE
- Centennial Area Health Education Center
- Colon Cancer Coalition
- Colorado Cancer Screening Program
- Colorado Community Health Network
- Colorectal Cancer Alliance
- Exact Sciences
- Office of Community Outreach & Engagement
- Penrose Cancer Center



Of all cancers, colorectal cancer will take the most lives of people under 50 by 2030.

Source: Fight CRC



The best test is the test that gets done. Talk with your provider about the right screening schedule and test for you.

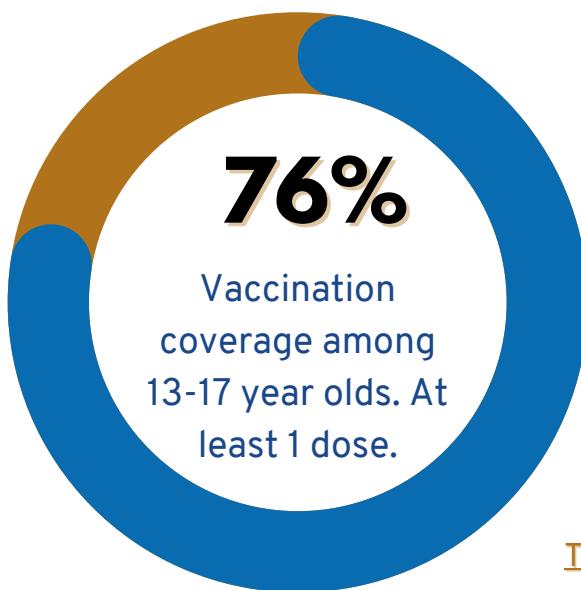


Task Force Co-Chair, Ian Kahn, at Get Your Rear in Gear, an event from the Colon Cancer Coalition.

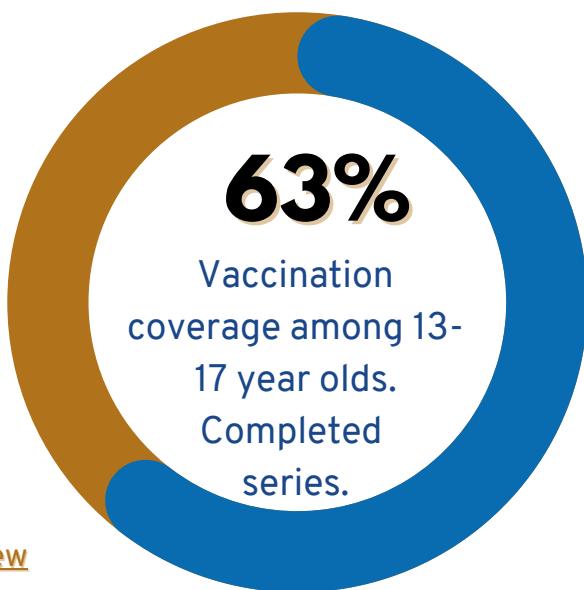
Interested in joining the task force or learning more?
colorectal@coloradocancercoalition.org



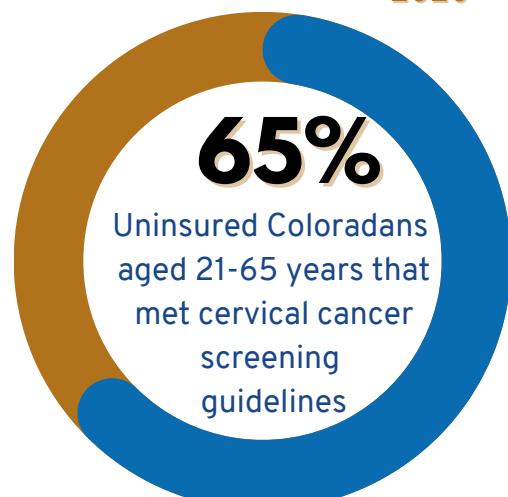
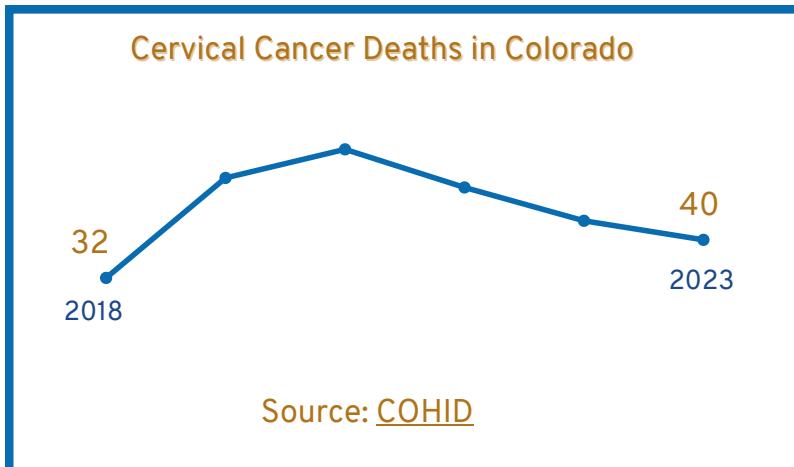
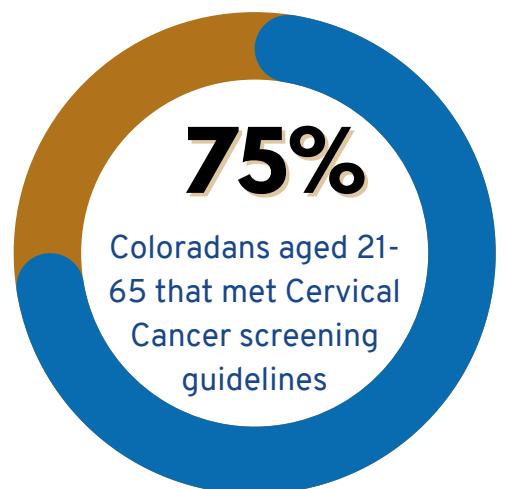
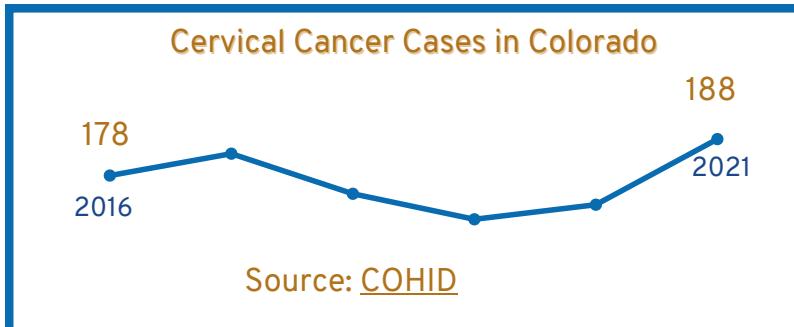
HPV Data



Source:
[TeenVaxView](#)
2022



Cervical Cancer Data



HPV Vaccination Task Force

2023 Successes

The HPV Task Force conducted a survey to identify the top priorities for its task force members. Survey results showed that 'General Education and Training' and 'Clinical Workforce Education and Training' (particularly focused at Dental professionals) are the areas with highest priority for the Task Force.

The HPV Task Force also held a Peer Sharing Call on HPV Vaccination Efforts in Colorado featuring current TF members from Children's Hospital Colorado, the Public Health Institute at Denver Health, and the Alliance for HPV-Free Colorado.

Member Organizations

- Alliance for HPV Free Colorado
- American Cancer Society
- CDPHE
- Immunize Colorado
- Merck
- Northeast Colorado Health Department
- Office of Community Outreach and Engagement at the CU Cancer Center
- Penrose Cancer Center
- Public Health Institute at Denver Health

Did you know, HPV could cause the following cancers?



- **Cervix, vagina, and vulva in women**
- **Penis in men**
- **Anus in both women and men**
- **Back of the throat (called oropharyngeal cancer), including the base of the tongue and tonsils, in both men and women.**

Vaccination is the key to PREVENTION!



Most people who are sexually active will be exposed to HPV at some point in their life. About 13 million Americans, including teens, become infected with HPV each year. Most HPV infections will go away on their own, but infections that do not go away can cause certain types of cancer.

Interested in joining the task force or learning more?

hpv@coloradocancercoalition.org



Latino Cancer Task Force

About the Task Force's Support Groups

The Latino Cancer Task Force created two Spanish Cancer Support Groups in rural and metro areas for patients, survivors, caregivers, and anyone who has lost someone to cancer. The goals of the groups are to address the mental health needs of Latino community members impacted by cancer and to inform/educate on cancer topics related to prevention, treatment, nutrition, exercise, patient advocacy. The objectives of the group are: 1) to offer social and emotional support for cancer patients/survivors/caregivers/anyone who has lost someone to cancer; 2) to reduce the stigma around therapy; 3) to link interested individuals into therapeutic services; 4) to inform and educate.

Bilingual and bicultural licensed therapists facilitate the groups, along with an advisor on oncology, cancer patient navigators, cancer survivors, and caregivers of cancer patients. The groups have provided a safe place for learning, sharing, support, and hope for Spanish-speaking community members impacted by cancer and living in Colorado. Participants learn how to manage anxiety and depression throughout the cancer journey.

2023 Successes

- The Task Force offered 12 support group sessions (9 virtual and 3 in person), providing education and social/emotional support to about 130 people
 - 70% of participants were uninsured
 - 60% of participants were referred to mental health therapy
- The Task Force also reached their community through health fairs and by providing navigation services to about 200 patients
- Supported registering people with the Omnisalud program
- Collaborating with the Ray of Hope Cancer Foundation and CDPHE to identify 10 bilingual licensed mental health providers to complete a training in Psycho-Oncology to expand access to mental healthcare for patients, survivors, and caregivers

Cancer is the leading cause of death for Hispanic and Latino people in the United States.



Hispanic or Latino people generally face more barriers in getting medical care. Such barriers include:

- Language barriers
- Lack of paid sick leave
- Lack of health insurance
- Educational disparities

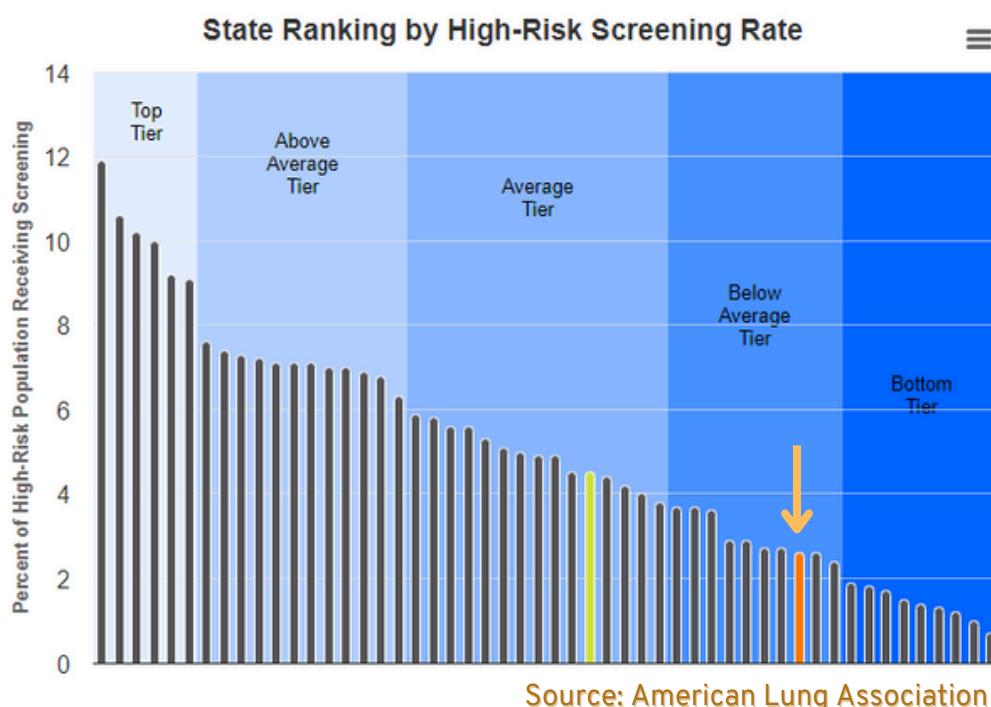
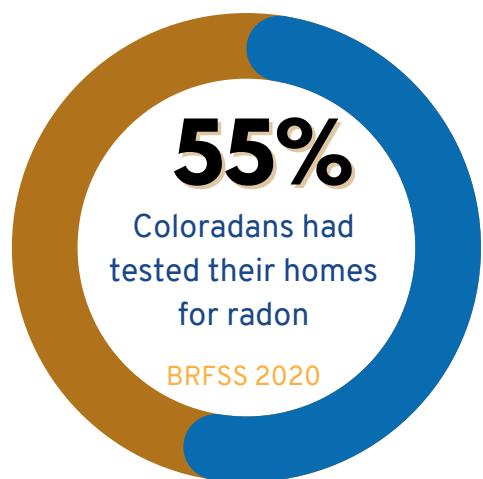
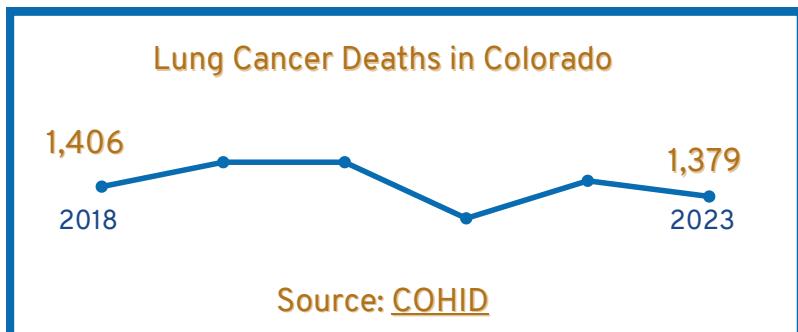
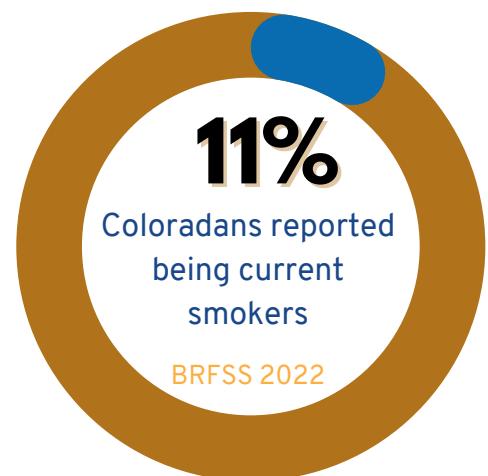
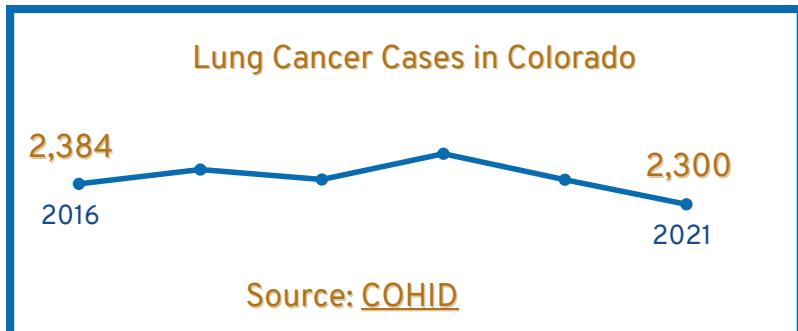
Interested in joining the Task Force or registering for a support group?



latino@coloradocancercoalition.org

Lung Cancer Data

Lung cancer is the #1 cause of cancer deaths in Colorado.



2.6% of those at high risk were screened for lung cancer in Colorado

Lung Cancer Task Force

2023 Successes

The Lung Cancer Task Force convened monthly and discussed several challenging issues regarding implementation of lung cancer screening, including steering, where health insurance companies direct services to specific locations. This is a significant consideration related to quality of lung cancer screening implementation and outcomes.

With support from the American Cancer Society and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Lung Cancer Task Force conducted two regional events that raise awareness, build engagement, and support lung cancer screening in communities that experience higher rates of eligibility. The events attracted primary care clinicians, primary care staff, and other invested communities partners. Presentations highlighted the technical and fundamental aspects of lung cancer screening, the “people” side of lung cancer screening, and provided an overview of local processes and procedures for referring individuals for lung cancer screening.

Member Organizations

- American Cancer Society
- ACS Cancer Action Network
- American Lung Association
- AstraZeneca
- Amgen
- Colorado Cancer Screening Program
- CDPHE
- Common Spirit
- Intermountain Health
- Kaiser Permanente
- National Jewish Health
- University of Colorado Cancer Center
- The White Ribbon Project



Task Force Chair, Dr. Jamie Studts, presenting at a Lung Cancer Screening Forum in Pueblo, Colorado



Who should be screened:

People who are aged 50 to 80 years and have a 20 pack-year smoking history or currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years.



Find a lung cancer screening location near you:

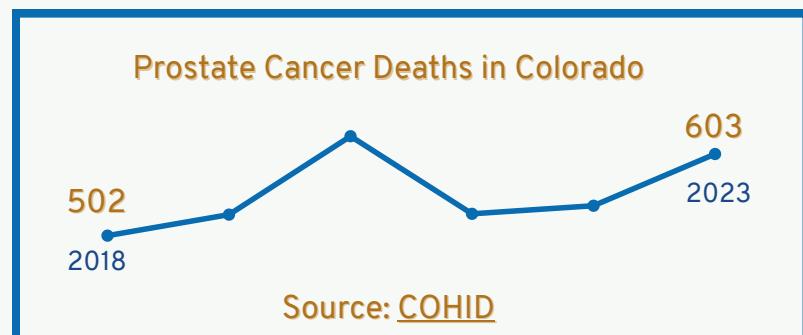
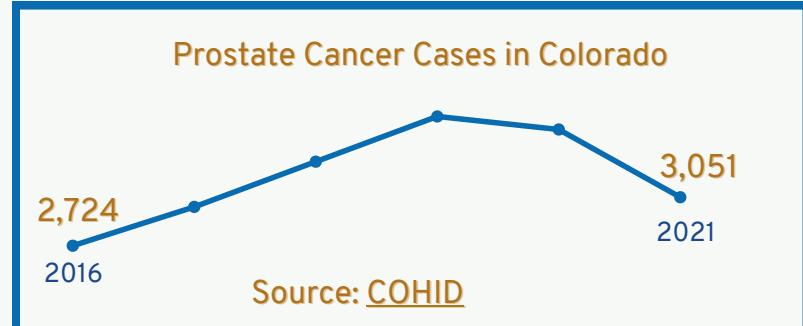
<https://www.acr.org/Clinical-Resources/Lung-Cancer-Screening-Resources/LCS-Locator-Tool>

Interested in joining the Task Force or learning more?

Lung@coloradocancercoalition.org

Prostate Cancer Data

Prostate Cancer is the 2nd leading cause of cancer death for men in Colorado



Prostate Cancer Task Force

2023 Successes

In 2023, the Prostate Cancer Task Force made significant strides in expanding and reviving our task force, bringing together a diverse group of experts and advocates dedicated to fighting prostate cancer in Colorado. We welcomed new members, including urologists, radiation oncologists, survivors, and key stakeholders, creating a robust and collaborative team.

Our efforts this year focused on increasing awareness, providing prostate cancer testing, and offering educational resources to the community.

Here are some of our key accomplishments:

- Organized 13 health screening and education events across Colorado
- Nearly 700 men were tested for prostate cancer through these events
- Follow-Up Services: Provided patient navigation services to 143 attendees, ensuring they received the necessary follow-up care and support
- Educated approximately 300,000 Coloradans about prostate cancer prevention, detection, and treatment options
- Prostate Cancer Awareness Month: Successfully advocated for the Prostate Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation, signed by the Governor, highlighting the importance of prostate cancer awareness and early detection

As we move forward, we are committed to continuing to build the Task Force in 2024 and leading the initiative to include Prostate Cancer in the 2026-2030 Colorado Cancer Plan.

Patient Navigation

Task Force

2023 Successes

The Patient Navigation Task Force had its first meeting in November 2023. The kick-off meeting presented on the evolving landscape of patient navigation inside the clinic and out in the community.

In 2024, the Task Force aims to create a set of goals to guide their future work. One such goal is to work with the Patient Navigation & Community Health Worker Training Collaborative (PNCT) to build a cohort of patient navigators and community health workers. Other goals include spreading awareness about patient navigation training opportunities, and educating the public on cancer prevention, screening, early detection, and treatment.



What is patient navigation?

Patient navigation in the cancer care setting refers to individualized assistance offered to patients, families, and caregivers to help overcome healthcare system barriers and facilitate timely access to quality health and psychosocial care from pre-diagnosis through all phases of the cancer experience.

Patient barriers may include:



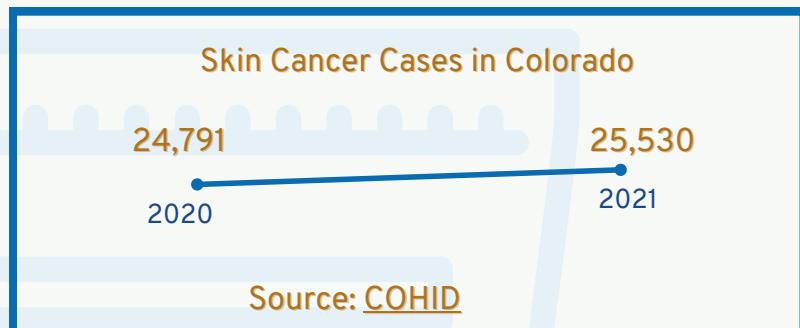
- Lack of transportation.
- Lack of care for children or elderly relatives.
- Not understanding why they should be screened.
- Speaking a different language.
- Mistrust of the health care system.
- Fear of finding out they have cancer or fear of the screening procedures.

Interested in joining the Patient Navigation Task Force or learning more?

jennaya.colons@commonspirit.org

Skin Cancer Data

Protect Your Skin
From the Sun



Skin Cancer Task Force

2023 Successes

In the last year, our efforts significantly advanced skin health and sun protection initiatives. Accomplishments included:

- Secured funding for and installed free sunscreen dispensers in seven state parks, increasing access to sun protection for outdoor enthusiasts
- Supported the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge in securing a Shade Structure grant from the American Association of Dermatology, resulting in increasing shade in a popular conservation area
- Brought the Reveal Camera to multiple community events, including the National Western Stock Show, the Yahweh Health Clinic, and multiple events across the Western Slope, bringing skin protection education to thousands of people across the state

Interested in joining the Task Force or learning more?

skin@coloradocancercoalition.org

Survivorship & Palliative Care Task Force

As of January 1, 2021, there were an estimated 87,117 people alive in CO who were diagnosed with cancer in the previous five years.

Source: U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group

2023 Successes

The Task Force held bi-monthly Survivorship & Palliative Care meetings. They also hosted webinars on a variety of topics, including:

- Advance Directives: A Step-by-Step Guide to Completing Them Correctly
- Palliative Care through the Cancer Journey: An Interdisciplinary Approach
- Palliative Care in Colorado: From the Front Range to the Western Slope

The Task Force also worked with several other groups to plan Colorado Survivor's Day, an event celebrating Cancer Survivors with a guided nature walk.

Member Organizations

- American Cancer Society
- Cancer Support Community
- CDPHE
- Center for Improving Value in Health Care
- Colorado Cancer Counseling
- Epic Experience
- Intermountain Healthcare
- Live by Living
- National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
- Ray of Hope Cancer Foundation
- Shift Healing
- Sites and Insights, Inc.
- University of Colorado School of Medicine



Participants gathered at Survivor's Day at Bear Creek Lake Park, Colorado



Find support groups in Colorado:

<https://www.coloradocancercoalition.org/supportgroups/>

Find cancer resources near you in Colorado:

<http://www.coloradocancercoalition.org/cancer-map/>

Interested in joining the Task Force or learning more?

survivorship@coloradocancercoalition.org



www.coloradocancercoalition.org

CCCIinfo@trailhead.institute



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