

FIGHT COLORECTAL CANCER

STATE ISSUE BRIEF: SCREENING AGE OF 45



SCREENING SAVES LIVES: Urge Your State to Lower the Screening Age to 45



Research has shown that the number of new cases of colorectal cancer (CRC) has been increasing among younger people. Those born in 1990 have double the risk of colon cancer and quadruple the risk of rectal cancer compared with adults born in 1950.

In 2018, the American Cancer Society (ACS) guidelines were updated to recommend that those at average risk begin colorectal cancer screening at age 45. A big step!

IS CRC SCREENING AT 45 COVERED BY INSURANCE? THE SHORT ANSWER: *IT DEPENDS*

- There isn't one universal body that regulates health plans - some are regulated by the federal government whereas others are regulated by the states.
- There are also multiple bodies that put out guidelines for colorectal cancer screening, for example:
 - The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), a national body which develops screening guidelines, recommends beginning colorectal cancer screening at age 50 for those at average risk.
 - ACS [recommends screening](#) begin at age 45.
 - Professional organizations, such as the American College of Gastroenterology, also have [recommendations](#).
- Employers - particularly large employers - also have some discretion over what they cover. Many employers have chosen to follow the ACS and lower the screening age to 45!

HOW CAN I TACKLE THIS IN MY STATE?

- Check out Fight CRC's [state fact sheets](#) to find out what policies your state has on colorectal cancer screening.
- [Sign our petition](#) to urge your state to lower the screening age to 45. And ask your friends to join!
- Fight CRC's [Catalyst State-by-State Advocacy Program](#) works with state coalitions to advance legislative, regulatory and other efforts to provide coverage for CRC screening beginning at age 45.



Find out how to take action in your state at
[FightCRC.org/Advocacy](https://fightcancer.org/advocacy)

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STATE-BY-STATE ADVOCACY
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