

FIGHT

COLORECTAL CANCER

COLORECTAL CANCER CARE REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2024



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(in alphabetical order)

PRIMARY CONTRIBUTORS AND REVIEWERS

- Anjee Davis, MPPA, President, Fight Colorectal Cancer
- Andrea Dwyer, University of Colorado, Advisor to Fight CRC
- Cathy Eng, MD, Vanderbilt University
- Richard Goldberg, MD, West Virginia University Cancer Institute, Board Member of Fight CRC
- Samir Gupta, MD, University of California San Diego
- Rachel Issaka, MD, MAS, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center
- David Lieberman, MD, Oregon Health and Science University
- Fola May, MD, PhD, University of California Los Angeles
- Molly McDonnell, Vice President of Advocacy, Fight CRC
- Rebecca Siegel, MPH, American Cancer Society
- Ben White, MPP, Fight Colorectal Cancer
- Ann Zauber, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering
- Healthcare Consultancy Group
 - o Kyle Lambe, MPH, CMPP™
 - o Lindsay Tannenholz, PhD, CMPP™
 - o Amy Volpert, MA, CMPP™, Abigail Killen-Devine, DPhil, CMPP™

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DATA CONTRIBUTORS

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CASE STUDY CONTRIBUTORS

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEAR HEALTHCARE LEADERS,

As we present the Colorectal Cancer Care Initiative (CRCCI), I am reminded of the profound impact we can have in this fight. Our shared mission at Fight Colorectal Cancer is to ensure that everyone affected by colorectal cancer has more time—time to celebrate milestones, cherish moments with loved ones, and live life fully. This report reflects our collective progress and the unwavering dedication of our community.

The stories and data in this report serve as both a testament to the strides we have made and a reminder of the work still ahead. This past year alone, we have seen significant advancements in early detection and personalized treatments driven by the relentless efforts of researchers, healthcare professionals, patients, and advocates. Yet disparities in care persist, and we remain committed to ensuring that every patient receives high-quality care regardless of background or location.

While there are many ways to address the challenges that remain, we believe in setting ambitious yet actionable goals to drive us forward. As the saying goes, “what gets measured gets done.” These goals are tools for health systems and the Colorectal Cancer community to assess progress, identify gaps, and direct resources.

Our focus is on fostering partnerships, accelerating research, and advocating for patient-centered care. We envision a future where colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable, and curable for all.

With gratitude,



ANJEE DAVIS, MPPA
President
Fight Colorectal Cancer



OVERVIEW

COLORECTAL CANCER (CRC)

is the third most common cancer in the U.S. and the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths. Despite advances in screening and treatment, CRC continues to disproportionately affect racial minorities, lower-income populations, and younger individuals. Many challenges remain, including suboptimal screening rates, treatment delays, and significant disparities in access to quality care. These issues are especially pronounced among American Indian, Alaska Native, and non-Hispanic Black individuals, who face the highest incidence and mortality rates.

In response to these ongoing challenges, Fight Colorectal Cancer (Fight CRC) launched the Colorectal Cancer Care Initiative (CRCCI), a collaborative effort designed to address these critical gaps. The initiative brings together survivors, caregivers, healthcare professionals, researchers, and industry leaders to create actionable strategies that improve CRC care, focusing on enhanced screening, timely diagnosis, and equitable treatment nationwide.

MOVING FORWARD WITH AMBITIOUS GOALS:

Supported by a broad coalition of partners, this report outlines a practical yet ambitious framework aimed at transforming colorectal cancer care across the country. By establishing clear, actionable goals, the report serves as a tool for healthcare stakeholders to measure progress, allocate resources, and drive improvements in CRC outcomes.

A ROADMAP FOR HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS:

This report is the first step in providing a comprehensive roadmap for healthcare systems nationwide. It guides healthcare providers in using data-driven insights to make informed decisions, track progress, and allocate resources effectively. With both aspirational and achievable goals, the report offers actionable strategies to improve patient outcomes and create meaningful, lasting changes in colorectal cancer care.

LEADING WITH PURPOSE

The CRCCI brings together a diverse coalition of partners committed to making system changes in how CRC care is delivered and improved. We are focused on these key objectives.



FOCUSED ON DATA

Utilizing real-world data to identify care gaps, inform treatment protocols, and drive better health outcomes.



PARTNERSHIP-DRIVEN

Seek to harness the power and perspectives of a diverse array of stakeholders across the CRC continuum.



ACTION-ORIENTED

Not just about discussion; we're about action. We're driven by implementing tangible changes in healthcare practices and policies.

This report marks a crucial step in the CRCCI's mission, presenting real-world data and setting key performance targets to guide improvements in prevention, diagnosis, and care strategies nationwide. By leveraging these strategies and optimizing organizational resources, the CRCCI aims to substantially reduce the incidence and impact of CRC, thereby improving the health and lives of millions.



BY 2030...

colorectal cancer is projected to become the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in individuals under 49 years old. This alarming trend underscores the growing threat this disease poses to younger generations, emphasizing the critical need for intensified screening efforts and expanded access to timely treatment (Siegel et al., 2020).

KEY CHALLENGES



SCREENING GAPS

Despite progress, screening rates remain suboptimal, with significant disparities by race, income, and geographic location. Approximately 57–60 million average-risk Americans are eligible for screening annually (Ebner et al., 2024), but many remain unscreened, especially in underserved populations (Siegel et al., 2023).



FOLLOW-UP FAILURES

Fewer than 50% of patients who receive abnormal non-invasive stool test results undergo timely follow-up colonoscopies, a crucial step in confirming CRC (Doubeni et al., 2019). This failure to follow up diminishes the value of non-invasive screening tests.



TREATMENT DELAYS

On average, patients wait more than 6 weeks for treatment initiation, with racial and ethnic minority groups often experiencing longer delays (Lee et al., 2019).



UNDERUTILIZATION OF BIOMARKER TESTING

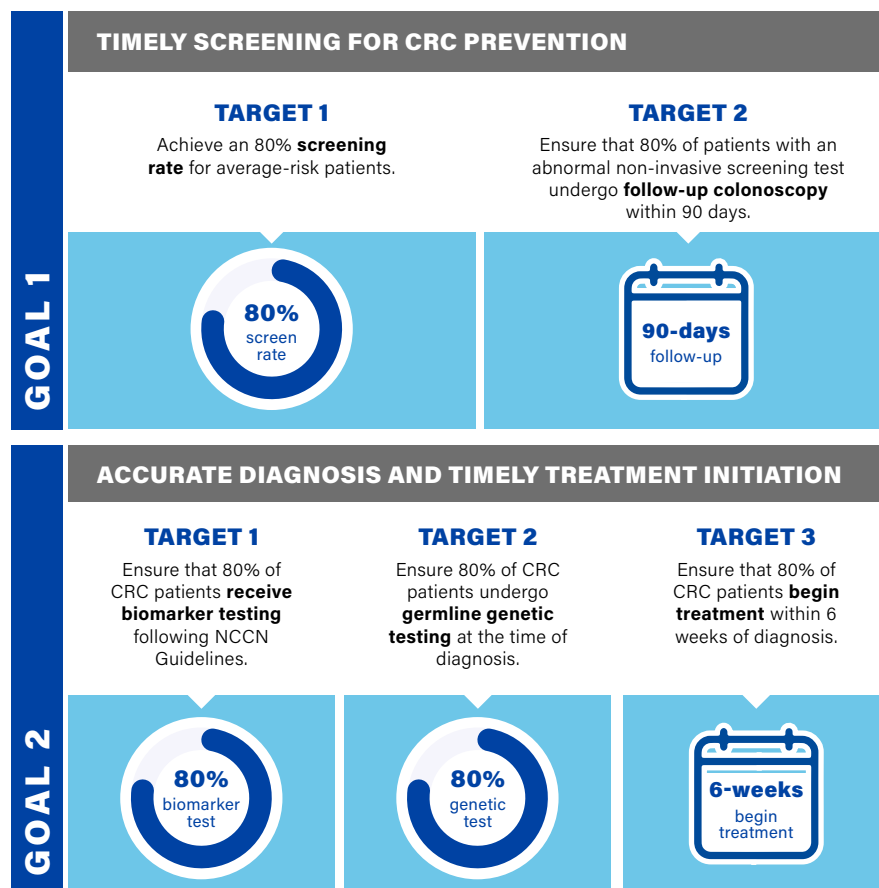
Only 37% of CRC patients receive recommended biomarker and genetic testing, despite the critical role these tests play in tailoring personalized treatments (Becker et al., 2021).

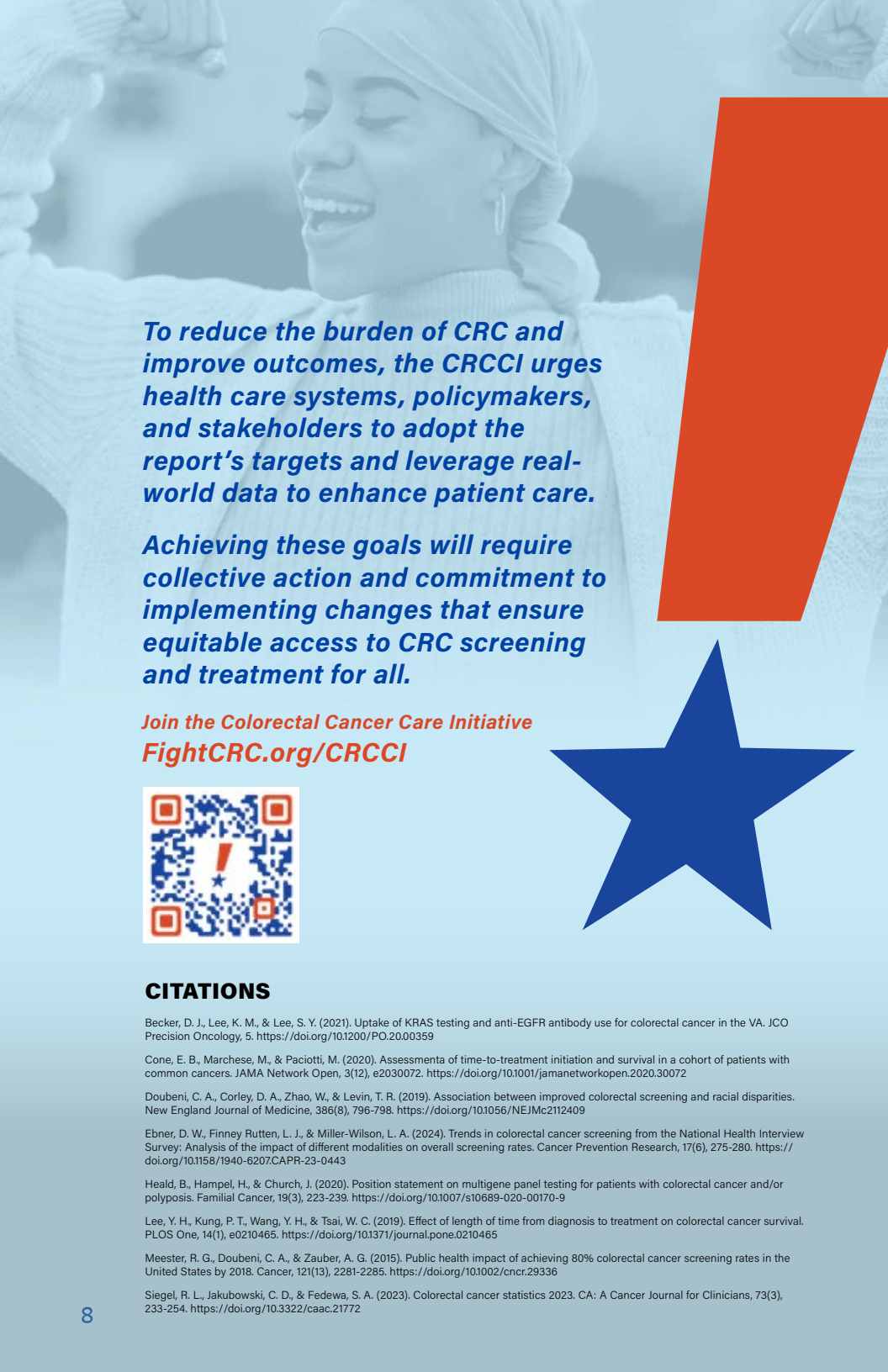
SCAN TO READ
THE FULL REPORT



GOALS AND TARGETS

THE FOLLOWING GOALS AND TARGETS serve as measurable values that assist clinics and health systems in evaluating the quality of care provided to colorectal cancer patients, from screening through treatment. These measures align with national efforts and guidelines, while also driving our aspirations to push the boundaries of care and support for patients. By tracking this data, we can identify opportunities for improvement, optimize patient outcomes, and continuously enhance the quality of care.





To reduce the burden of CRC and improve outcomes, the CRCCI urges health care systems, policymakers, and stakeholders to adopt the report's targets and leverage real-world data to enhance patient care.

Achieving these goals will require collective action and commitment to implementing changes that ensure equitable access to CRC screening and treatment for all.

**Join the Colorectal Cancer Care Initiative
[FightCRC.org/CRCCI](https://www.fightcancer.org/crcci)**



CITATIONS

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