

FUND COLORECTAL CANCER RESEARCH NOW



WE URGE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO SUPPORT \$20 MILLION TO ESTABLISH A COLORECTAL CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM WITHIN THE CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED MEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM (CDMRP).

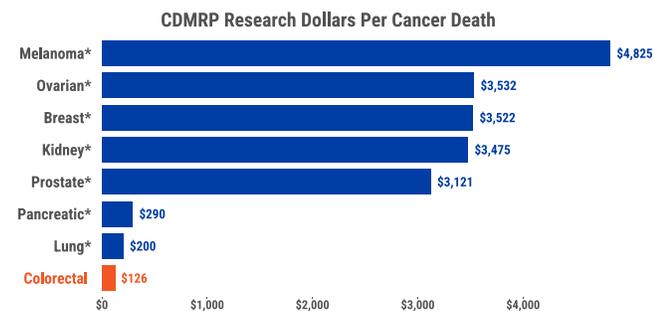
YOUNG AMERICANS ARE DYING OF COLORECTAL CANCER

Rates of colorectal cancer (CRC) in young Americans have dramatically increased over the past two decades. **Colorectal cancer is now the number one cancer killer for Americans under 50¹**, a key demographic for active and reserve duty military personnel. More colorectal cancer research is needed to understand why the rates are increasing, and more importantly, to develop better early detection and treatment options.

HIGH NATIONAL BURDEN, LOW CONGRESSIONAL INVESTMENT

Colorectal cancer is the second overall cause of cancer death in the US and the number one for Americans under 50, but colorectal cancer research is dramatically underfunded compared to its disease burden and devastatingly low late-stage survival rates.

IN 2024, COLORECTAL CANCER WAS THE ONLY TOP 5 CANCER KILLER NOT TO HAVE ITS OWN RESEARCH PROGRAM.



* Standalone CDMRP Research Program, Most Recent Public Data (2024)

PROMISING RESEARCH BEING LEFT BEHIND

Budget constraints within the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (which CRC is currently eligible for) leave too many potentially life-saving CRC research projects unfunded each year. **In 2024, out of 73 promising research applications, just eight were funded.** Of the unfunded applications, 28 were deemed “Outstanding” or “Excellent” but were unable to move forward. Without a dedicated colorectal cancer program in CDMRP, critical advances are being lost. The science is there, **we’re just not funding it.**



A REAL IMPACT TO ACTIVE-DUTY READINESS

In 2024, more active duty service members were diagnosed with colorectal cancer than most other cancers with standalone CDMRP programs and colorectal cancer caused far more missed workdays due to service members in hospitals.

CANCER TYPE	2024 ACTIVE-DUTY CANCER DIAGNOSES	2024 ACTIVE-DUTY DAYS IN HOSPITAL
Colorectal Cancer	324	656
Breast Cancer	511	434
Lung Cancer	83	133
Ovarian Cancer	52	21
Pancreatic Cancer	47	127
Prostate Cancer	220	52

* Health Care Burdens Attributable to Various Diseases and Injuries, Active Component, U.S. Armed Forces (2024)

The **CDMRP** is a research initiative that addresses medical challenges identified by Congress. The CDMRP fills critical research gaps by funding projects other agencies often overlook, particularly **high-impact, high-risk, and high-reward projects**. The CDMRP drives solution-focused research, engages consumer advocates, and supports scientists at every career stage.

For questions or additional information reach out to Fight Colorectal Cancer’s Advocacy Team at advocacy@fightcrc.org

References:

1. Siegel RL, Kratzer TB, Wagle NS, Sung H, Jemal A. Cancer statistics, 2026. doi:10.3322/caac.70043