California Department of Public Health
PROGRAM FACT SHEET

California Colon Cancer Control Program

Mission
Increase public awareness of colorectal cancer and the importance of early detection through screening to reduce prevalence of colon cancer.

Key Message: Colorectal Cancer Is Preventable, Treatable, and Beatable!

What is Colorectal Cancer?
CRC is cancer that occurs in the colon or rectum. It usually starts from certain types of polyps in the colon or rectum. A polyp is a growth on the surface of the colon or rectum that could, over time, turn into cancer.

Program Background
Established in 2009, the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) California Colon Cancer Control Program (C4P) focuses on the following key objectives:

- Provide information and messages to **increase public awareness** of colorectal cancer (CRC), and the importance of early detection through screening.
- Collaborate with existing health organizations and community partners to **improve access** to screenings and treatment services
- Collect data from partnering clinics and providers to **measure screening success**.
- Promote **provider education/awareness** for U.S. Preventive Services Task Force CRC screening guidelines and the use of quality standards for CRC screening

Statistics
CRC is the third most common cancer in California among both men and women, and the third most common cause of cancer-related deaths (from American Cancer Society, *California Cancer Facts & Figures 2014*). In 2014, of the estimated 14,260 Californians diagnosed with CRC, approximately 5,265 were expected to die. Overall, rates of CRC have steadily declined from 1998-2008 as more individuals have been screened. However, this decline is not uniform across populations. African-Americans have the highest risk of developing CRC. Among Asian-Americans, there are subgroup variations in cancer risk and some subgroups have experienced increases in cancer rates (from CDPH, Cancer Surveillance & Research Branch, California Cancer Registry, 2010 *Facts about Colorectal Cancer in California*.)

Screening Saves Lives
Screening tests can find CRC early, when treatment is more effective. The CRC survival rate is 94 percent if it is detected and treated before it extends beyond the intestinal wall (American Cancer Society, California Cancer Facts & Figures 2014). There are several different screening tests to find polyps or colorectal cancer. Ask your doctor about which screening test is most appropriate for you.

Funding
CDPH's California Colon Cancer Control Program (C4P) is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For further information and resources regarding colorectal cancer, please visit the C4P website.
Email ContactC4P@cdph.ca.gov

Lifetime of Wellness

CDPH California Department of PublicHealth

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