



Summary of Community Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation

The Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) recommends interventions that engage community health workers to increase screening for colorectal cancer by colonoscopy or fecal occult blood test (FOBT). Economic evidence shows these interventions are cost-effective and may also result in net cost savings.

CPSTF also recommends interventions that engage community health workers for breast and cervical cancer screening.

Major Findings

The CPSTF recommendation is based on evidence from a systematic review of 66 studies (search period through July 2017). Included studies evaluated intervention effects on breast (36 studies), cervical (29 studies), or colorectal (17 studies) cancer screening use.

- Interventions that engaged community health workers, independently or as part of a team, increased colorectal cancer screening when compared with no intervention or usual care (17 studies).
- Interventions that aimed to both increase community demand of, and improve access to, screening services reported the largest increases in screening rates (22 studies across breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening).



Interventions that engage community health workers to increase colorectal cancer screening are typically implemented in underserved communities to improve health and can enhance health equity.

What are Interventions Engaging Community Health Workers?

Interventions that engage community health workers to increase colorectal cancer screening implement one or more intervention approaches reviewed by CPSTF. These approaches are divided into two strategies: increasing demand for, and improving community access to, cancer screening.

Cancer Screening Intervention by Strategy	
Increase Community Demand	Increase Community Access
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Education • One-on-one Education • Client Reminders • Small Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interventions to Reduce Structural Barriers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing Administrative Barriers • Assisting with Appointment Scheduling • Providing Transportation • Providing Language Translation • Providing Child Care

Facts about Colorectal Cancer

- Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in men and in women.¹
- Screening can find precancerous polyps—abnormal growths in the colon or rectum—so they can be removed before turning into cancer. Screening also helps find colorectal cancer at an early stage, when treatment often leads to a cure.²
- About one-quarter of adults have not been screened as recommended.³



Learn More

Read a complete summary of the systematic review and CPSTF finding and full-text publications

www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/cancer-screening-interventions-engaging-community-health-workers-colorectal-cancer

CDC Colorectal Cancer

<https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/>

National Cancer Institute, Cancer Control P.L.A.N.E.T.

<https://cancercontrolplanet.cancer.gov/planet/>

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Colorectal Cancer Statistics. Atlanta (GA): 2019. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/statistics/>

²Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Screen for Life: National Colorectal Cancer Action Campaign. Atlanta (GA): 2019. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/sfl/>

³Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Use of Colorectal Cancer Screening Tests. Atlanta (GA): 2021. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/statistics/use-screening-tests-BRFSS.htm>

Established in 1996 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) is an independent, nonfederal panel of public health and prevention experts whose members are appointed by the director of CDC. CPSTF provides information for a wide range of decision makers on programs, services, and other interventions aimed at improving population health. Although CDC provides administrative, scientific, and technical support for CPSTF, the recommendations developed are those of CPSTF and do not undergo review or approval by CDC. Find more information at www.thecommunityguide.org.

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