

A Cross-Sectional Quality Improvement Study: Assessing The General Public Knowledge of Colorectal Cancer (CRC) by Comparing Races During CRC Awareness Month in March 2022 at a Safety Net Hospital

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Introduction:

- CRC is the 2nd leading cause of cancer death and the 3rd most common cause of cancer amongst men and women in the US.
- 7 in 10 US adults are up-to-date with CRC screening, despite being one of the most preventable malignancies.
- By 2035, there will be a 27.8% increase in mortality rate 2nd to colorectal cancer.
- By 2050, 30% of the US people will be Hispanic.
- Currently, around half of the Hispanic population in the US has reported obtaining CRC screening.

Materials & Methods:

- A short CRC awareness survey was provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Randomly handed out to patients, employees, and visitors at Nassau University Medical Center, a 530-bed safety-net hospital in Long Island, NY, during *National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month* (NCCAM).
- Statistical analysis was conducted to ascertain the overall percentage of accurate responses and a comparison of Hispanic (H) and non-Hispanic (n-H) responses.

Results:

- 278 individuals (72 H, 206 n-H) completed the CRC awareness survey during NCCAM.
- Findings reflect an overall good understanding regarding symptomatology (80.6% [66.6% H; 85.4% n-H]), gender disease (93.5% [90.3% H; 94.7 n-H]), preventive screening (89.2% [95.8% H; 86.9% n-H]), and symptom-related CRC (87.8% [77.7% H; 91.3% n-H]) (Table 1).

Results cont.:

- There was also a significant shortfall regarding screening alternatives (45.3% [12.5% H; 56.8% n-H]) and age-starting (24.1% [12.5% H; 28.1% n-H]) and age-ending screenings (22.3% [11.1% H; 26.2% n-H]) (Graph 1).

Conclusion:

- The high incidence and mortality rates found in the US could be due to a lack of CRC knowledge.
- Our study provides evidence of CRC awareness deficiency, particularly amongst Hispanics and non-Hispanics.
- This disparity among races was highly noticeable, with 12% of Hispanics compared to 56% of non-Hispanics aware of other screening modalities.
- Further action is warranted to increase awareness of CRC.

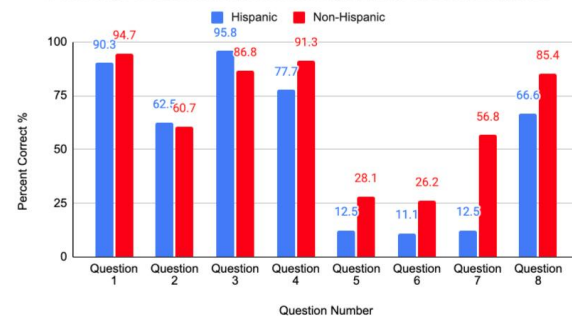
MORE THAN 75% OF PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW WHEN TO START OR STOP CRC SCREENING!!!



Table 1: CRC Awareness Survey provided by the CDC given on random dates to Hispanics and non-Hispanics patients, employees, and visitors of a large New York safety-net hospital during *National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month*.

*For an estimated population of 1,000 on any given day in a large safety-net hospital, 278 participants account for a 95% confidence level (p<0.05).

Percentage of Correct Responses Among Hispanic and Non-Hispanics



Graph 1: The percentage of correct responses to the CRC Awareness Survey among Hispanics and Non-Hispanics patients, employees, and visitors of a large New York safety-net hospital during *National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month*.

Legend: Q: Question A: Correct answer	Total Answers (n=278)	%	Correct Answers Hispanics (n=72)	%	Correct Answers Non-Hispanics (n=206)	%
Q1: Who gets colorectal cancer? : Men only : Women only A: Both men and women.	13/278 5/278 260/278	4.7 1.8 93.5	65/72	90.3	195/206	94.7
Q2: Colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in the U.S. A: True. A: False.	170/278 107/278	61.2 38.5	45/72	62.5	125/206	60.7
Q3: Getting screened for colorectal cancer can help you prevent the disease. A: True. A: False.	248/278 22/278	89.2 7.9	69/72	95.8	179/206	86.9
Q4: If you don't have any symptoms, it means you don't have colorectal cancer. A: True. A: False.	36/278 244/278	12.9 87.8	58/72	77.7	188/206	91.3
Q5: Screening is recommended to begin at what age? A: 45. A: 50. A: 60.	122/278 67/278 84/278 6/278	43.9 24.1 30.2 2.2	9/72	12.5	58/206	28.1
Q6: At what age can you stop getting screened for colorectal cancer? A: 40. A: 55. A: 70. A: 75. A: 80.	15/278 10/278 29/278 63/278 160/278	5.4 3.6 10.4 22.3 57.6	8/72	11.1	54/206	26.2
Q7: The only screening test for colorectal cancer is colonoscopy. A: True. A: False.	152/278 126/278	54.7 45.3	9/72	12.5	117/206	56.8
Q8: Which of these are symptoms of colorectal cancer? : Blood in or on your stool (bowel movement). : Stomach pain, aches, or cramps that don't go away. : Losing weight and you don't know why. A: All of these. A: None of these.	34/278 10/278 4/278 224/278 11/278	12.2 3.6 1.4 80.6 4.0	48/72	66.6	176/206	85.4