

# Fast Facts

## Colorectal Cancer Screening Saves Lives

- Of cancers affecting both men and women, colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in the United States.
- In 2005 (the most recent year for which statistics are currently available), 53,005 people (26,781 men and 26,224 women) in the United States died of colorectal cancer.
- Colorectal cancer also is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in the United States. In 2005, 141,405 people in the U.S. (72,007 men and 69,398 women) were diagnosed with colorectal cancer.
- Screening is recommended for men and women beginning at age 50.
- Colorectal cancer often can be prevented. Screening helps find precancerous polyps so they can be removed before they turn into cancer.
- Screening helps find colorectal cancer early, when treatment can be most effective.
- You may be at increased risk for colorectal cancer if you or a close relative have had colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer, if you have inflammatory bowel disease or if you have certain genetic syndromes. If you think you are at increased risk, ask your doctor at what age and how often you should be screened.

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For more information, please call **1-800-CDC-INFO**  
(1-800-232-4636) or visit [www.cdc.gov/screenforlife](http://www.cdc.gov/screenforlife)

