

Fast Facts

Colorectal Cancer Statistics, 2026



- In 2026, an estimated **158,850 new cases of colorectal cancer** (CRC) will be diagnosed in the US, and **55,230 people will die from the disease**.
- **Alaska Native** individuals have the **highest CRC incidence** (80.9 cases per 100,000) and **mortality** rates (31.5 deaths per 100,000) in the world, **more than twice** that of White people in the US (35.2 and 12.9 per 100,000, respectively); American Indian individuals have the second-highest burden in the US.
- CRC **incidence** rates **increased among adults younger than 65** by 3% per year for ages 20-49 and 0.4% per year for ages 50-64 during 2013-2022, in contrast to **declines** of 2.5% per year in **adults 65 years and older**.
- CRC **mortality** rates **increased by 1% per year** in both **adults under age 50** since 2004 and in **adults ages 50-64** since 2019, while decreasing by about 2% per year or more since at least 1990 in **ages 65 and older**.
- After decades of decline, overall **rectal cancer** incidence has **increased by 1% per year** since 2018 and now accounts for about **one in three** (32%) **CRC** diagnoses.
- **Increases in CRC incidence** in **adults younger than age 65** are dominated by tumors in the **distal colon**, particularly the **sigmoid colon**, and the **rectum**; in adults under age 50, incidence rates have **nearly doubled** since 1998 for both **sigmoid colon cancer** (from 2.1 to 3.7 per 100,000) and **rectal cancer** (3.6 to 6.6 per 100,000).
- **Increasing CRC incidence** in **adults ages 50-64** was **confined to advanced disease** (regional stage by 1.3% per year and distant stage by 1.1% per year) during 2013-2022.
- **Nearly half** (45%) of new CRC diagnoses are in adults **younger than 65**, **up from 27%** in 1995, reflecting a **major shift toward younger generations**.
- **Early-onset** (adults younger than age 50) CRC incidence rates are **increasing among all racial-ethnic groups**, ranging from **2% annually in Black** people to **3% annually in AANHPI, AIAN**, and **White** people, and **4% annually in Hispanic** people.
- **Three in four** CRCs in adults **younger than age 50** are **advanced stage** (regional or distant), including **27%** that are **distant-stage** disease.
- **One-half (50%)** of CRC diagnoses **under age 50** are in people **45-49 years** who are eligible for **CRC screening**, which can prevent cancer as well as detect early disease, which is more likely to be treated successfully.
- The **5-year relative survival for** CRC has increased from **50%** in the mid-1970s to **65%** during 2015-2021; the **largest gains** over the past three decades have occurred for **distant-stage rectal cancer**, from **8%** in the mid-1990s to **18%** during 2015-2021.

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Source: Siegel RL, Wagle NS, Star J, et al. Colorectal cancer statistics, 2026. *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*, 2026.

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