Nebraska Colorectal Cancer Quick Facts:

- Between 2010 and 2014, 4,550 Nebraska residents were diagnosed with colorectal cancer, while 1,714 Nebraska residents died from it.
- The rate at which colorectal cancer occurs (incidence) and the rate at which people die from it (mortality) increase with age (Figure 1).
- Colorectal cancer incidence and mortality in Nebraska and the United States followed a downward trend in recent years (Figures 2 & 3).
- Colorectal cancer incidence and mortality rates are higher in Nebraska compared to the United States (Figures 2 & 3).
The Nebraska Cancer Registry (NCR) was created by the Nebraska Unicameral in 1986 and began collecting data in 1987. The purpose of the registry is to document new cases of cancer among Nebraska residents, analyze geographic patterns and long-term trends, and plan and evaluate cancer control programs. The registry also provides statistical and other information about cancer in Nebraska in response to specific requests. The NCR collects information about cancer cases from hospitals, pathology laboratories, outpatient therapy sites, physician offices, death certificates, and cancer registries in other states. In recognition of the accuracy and completeness of the data it has collected, the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries has awarded the NCR its gold standard certificate of data quality for 19 consecutive years (1995-2013). The NCR is managed by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

This publication is supported by Cooperative Agreement Grant Number 5NU58DP003928 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of CDC.

Colorectal Cancer Risk Factors and Screening

- Risk factors for colorectal cancer include age, African American race, personal or family history of colorectal cancer or polyps, chronic inflammatory bowel disease, inherited syndromes, physical inactivity, obesity, type 2 diabetes, smoking, heavy alcohol consumption, and a high-fat diet.

- Recommended colorectal cancer screening tests include several types of stool tests, flexible sigmoidoscopy, colonoscopy, CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy), and double-contrast barium enema. Frequency of testing varies by test type. For people of average risk without symptoms, screening should start at age 50.

- According to data collected by the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) in 2014, 64.1% of Nebraska residents 50-75 years of age reported that they been screened for colon cancer as recommended.

- If you are a Nebraska resident 50-75 years of age and meet certain income guidelines, you may be eligible for free or low-cost colorectal cancer screening tests. For more information, visit the Nebraska Colon Cancer Screening Program at http://dhhs.ne.gov.crc or call (800) 532-2227.

About the Nebraska Cancer Registry

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