

Nebraska Colon Cancer Screening Program Fact Sheet (2006-2024)

DISEASE BURDEN:

Cancer has been one of the top two leading causes of all deaths in Nebraska for the past two decades.¹ During the same period of time, colon cancer has ranked second place for all cancer deaths.¹ Between 2018-2022, colon cancer claimed 1,694 lives in Nebraska.² Colon cancer is one of the few cancers that can be prevented through regular screening. Pre-cancerous colon polyps can be removed before they have a chance to become cancerous. Regular screening can assist in finding colon cancer at its earliest stages when treatment is most effective.³

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

The Nebraska Colorectal Cancer Early Detection Program (NCCP) has provided colorectal cancer screening services since 2006. In the past 18 years, the program has served 53,887 men and women. Among them, 22,399 completed colon cancer screening, which is 42% of all people served; 3,327 had a colonoscopy; and 707 individuals had their precancerous colon polyps removed.

Through the years Nebraska's program has received both federal and state funds to provide colon cancer screening to Nebraskans. Currently Nebraska's Colon Cancer Screening Program is funded entirely by State funds. Preventive screening includes home-based screening tests such as Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) kit, Immunochemical Fecal Occult Blood Test (iFOBT), Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) kit, and screening colonoscopy. In Nebraska, an estimated 648,983 men and women are age appropriate for colon cancer screening.⁴

Nebraska men and women 45-74 years of age can receive a FIT test, a home-based stool test to screen for colon cancer in their own homes. FIT kits are distributed by the program and local health departments working with community partners. When abnormal results are detected with a State funded FIT kit, the program provides diagnostic colonoscopy services to program eligible individuals.

Nebraska men and women 45-74 years of age can receive a FIT kit by going to: <https://cip-dhhs.ne.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=RXHXTKJT3Y44FRFA> or talk to their provider about the best test for them.

For more eligibility and enrollment information, please go to <https://dhhs.ne.gov/CRC> or call NCCP at 800-532-2227 or send email to dhhs.nccsp@nebraska.gov.

SCREENING SERVICES PROVIDED

Colon cancer screening services refer to returned blood stool test kits (FOBT and FIT) and screening colonoscopy. Since 2023 the program has used FIT Kits exclusively as FIT has been proven to be a better quality test. In the past 18 years, the program sent out 75,714 blood stool test kits to 51,518 men and women and provided 3,482 screening colonoscopies to 2,867 men and women who were eligible for these services. By the end of 2024, a total of 22,399 individuals were screened for colon cancer.

Among individuals screened in the NCCP, the majority were Non-Hispanic Whites (77%), and individuals aged 50-74 (80%) (See Figure 1, 2, and 3).

Figure 1. Racial/Ethnic Distribution Among Men and Woman Screened for Colon Cancer, 2006-2024

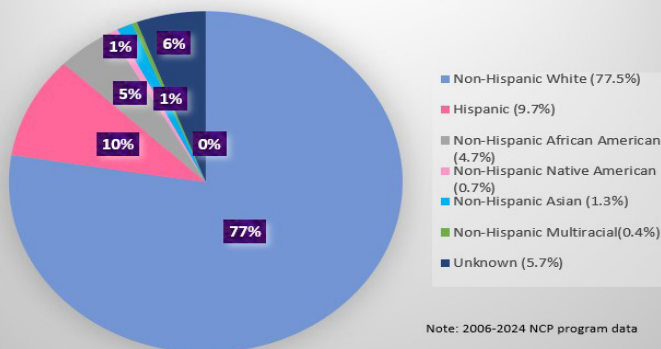
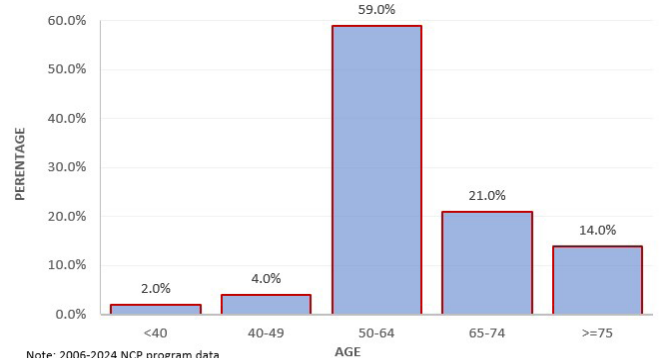
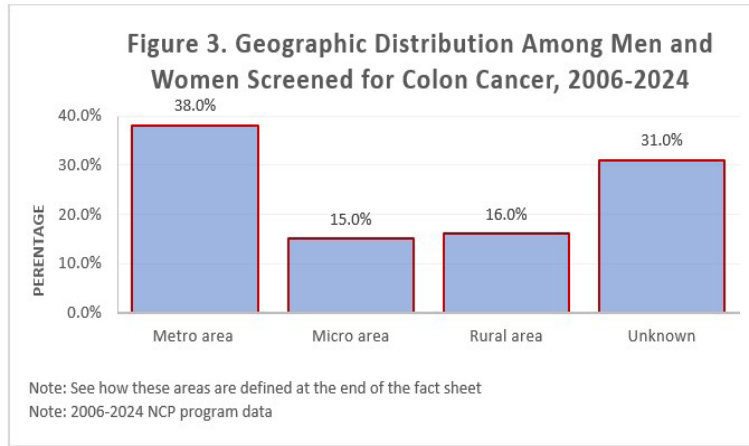
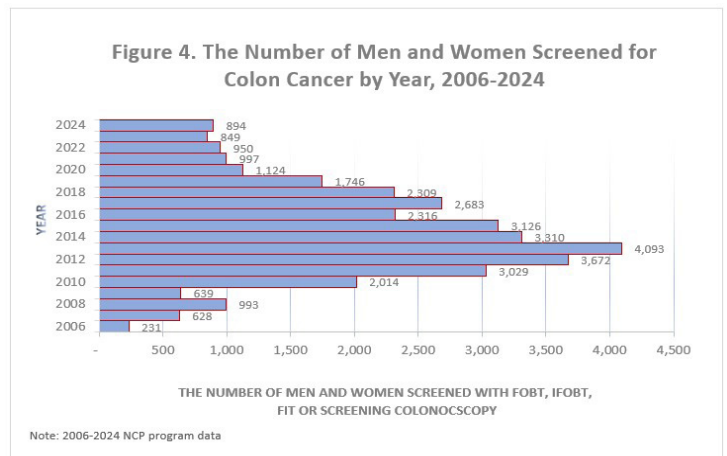


Figure 2. Age Distribution Among Men and Women Screened for Colon Cancer, 2006-2024



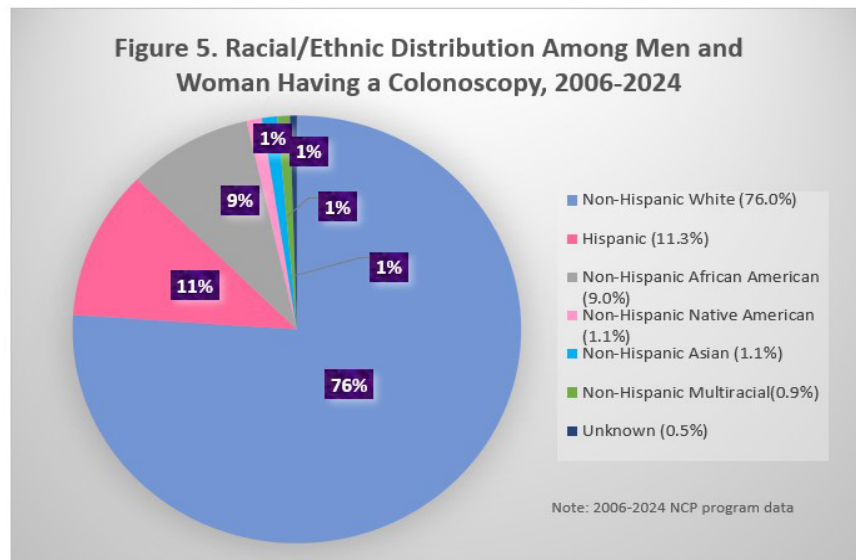


The changes in funding and policies have shaped how the program provided these screening services (See Figure 4). These changes included but not limited to legal status requirement, Affordable Care Act, and Nebraska Medicaid expansion.



COLONOSCOPY PROVIDED

Colonoscopy provided by the program includes screening colonoscopy and diagnostic colonoscopy for program eligible men and women. Screening colonoscopies were provided to men and women who were eligible for the program and had a family history of colon cancer. The diagnostic colonoscopy was given to individuals who returned their FOBT, IFOBT or FIT kits with a positive result. A total of 4,043 colonoscopies were provided to 3,372 individuals. The majority of these individuals were Non-Hispanic White (76%), and age range was 50-64 (94%) (See Figure 5, 6, and 7).



COLONOSCOPY PROVIDED (continued)

Figure 6. Age Distribution Among Men and Women Having a Colonoscopy, 2006-2024

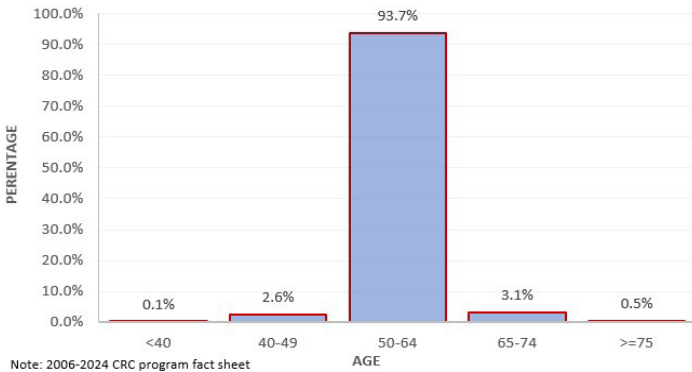


Figure 7. Geographic Distribution Among Men and Women Having a Colonoscopy, 2006-2024

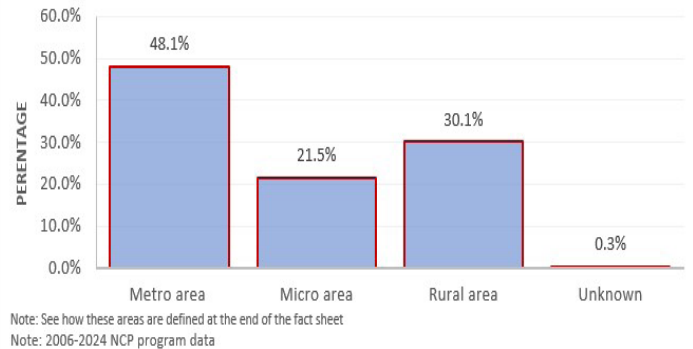
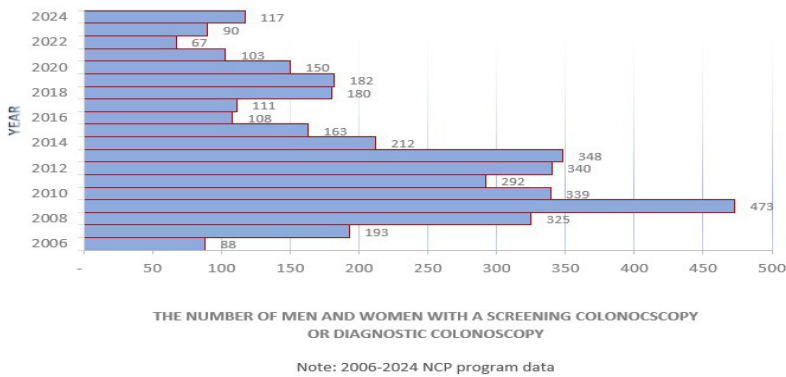


Figure 8. The Number of Men and Women Having a Colonoscopy by Year, 2006-2024

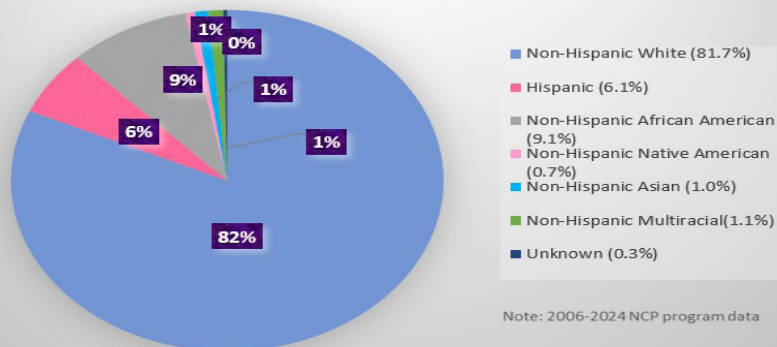


The changes in funding and policies have also contributed to how the program provided colonoscopies (See Figure 8).

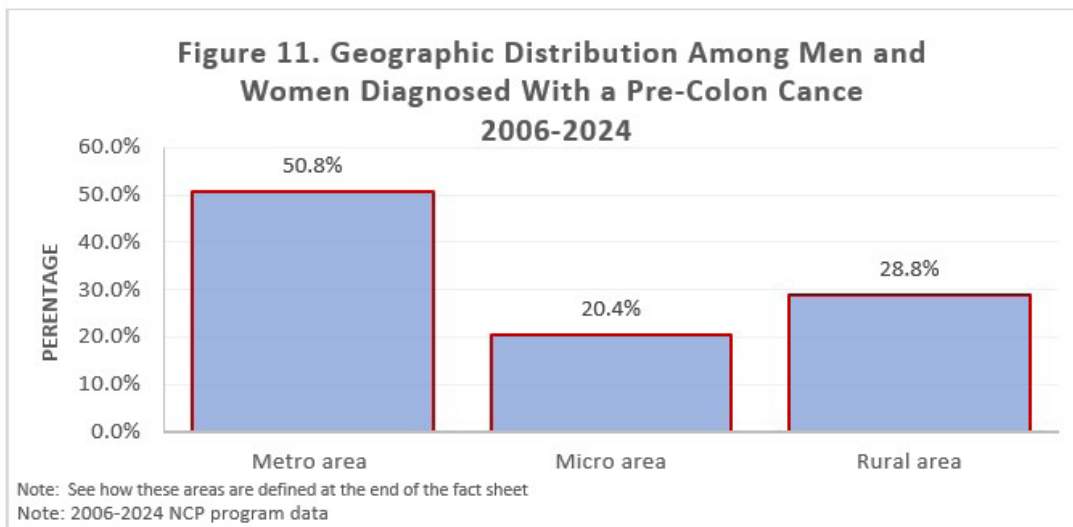
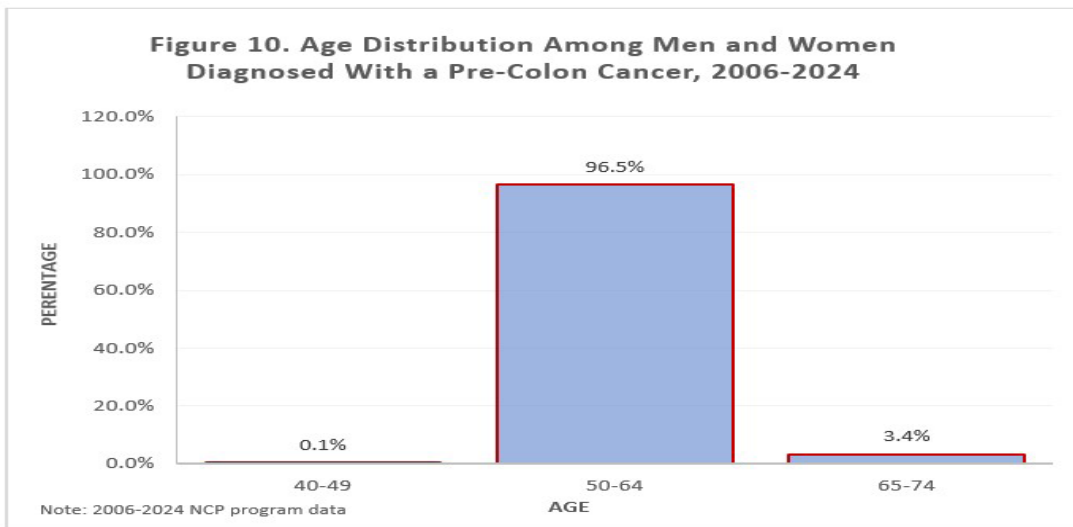
PRE-CANCER (POLYPS) and CANCER

Colon cancer is preventable by removing precancerous colon polyps with colonoscopy. In the past 18 years, the program helped 707 men and women remove their pre-cancerous colon polyps with colonoscopy; 33 individuals were diagnosed with a colon cancer. Figure 9, 10, and 11 show that among these individuals with a precancer 82% were Non-Hispanic White, 97% were 50-64, and 71% lived in Metro and Micro areas.

Figure 9. Racial/Ethnic Distribution Among Men and Woman Diagnosed With a Pre-Colon Cancer 2006-2024



(Continued on Page 4)



RESOURCES:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/colonrectal-cancer/risk-factors/index.html>. Accessed on January 27, 2025.
- U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/colonrectal-cancer-screening>. Accessed on January 27, 2025.
- American Cancer Society. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/colon-rectal-cancer/causes-risks-prevention/prevention.html>. Accessed on January 29, 2025.
- American Cancer Society. <https://www.cancer.org/health-care-professionals/american-cancer-society-prevention-early-detection-guidelines/colorectal-cancer-screening-guidelines.html>. Accessed on January 29, 2025.

REFERENCES:

- Nebraska Vital Statistics Reports (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016). <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Vital-Statistics.aspx>. Accessed on June 13, 2024.
- Nebraska Cancer Registry Internal Data Report. Received on November 6, 2024.
- American Cancer Society. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/colon-rectal-cancer/causes-risks-prevention/prevention.html>. Accessed on January 27, 2025.
- Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. <https://dee.nebraska.gov/state-energy-information/energy-statistics/key-indicators/nebraskas-population-age>. Accessed on January 29, 2025.
- Census Bureau. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sahie.html>. Accessed November 21, 2022.

Note: The geographic classification is from 2016 State Health Assessment Report. Metro area refers to metropolitan core county where it contains a city with more than 50,000 residents, plus its outlying counties; these counties are Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, Saunders, Washington, Lancaster, Seward, Dixon, and Dakota. Micro area refers to micropolitan core county where it contains a city with more than 10,000 residents; these counties are Scottsbluff, Lincoln, Dawson, Buffalo, Hall, Adams, Madison, Platte, Dodge, and Gage. The rest of all counties is the rural area.

