

## FACTS ABOUT COLORECTAL CANCER

FACTS

MAINE COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM

## What is colorectal cancer?

Colorectal cancer includes cancers of the colon and rectum. While colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in the United States, it is also one of the most detectable — and, if found early enough — most treatable forms of cancer.

Most colorectal cancers develop first as colorectal polyps, which are growths inside the colon or rectum. Colorectal cancer can be prevented if the polyps are detected and removed before they become cancerous — which is why regular screening is so important!

## Facts & figures:

Colorectal cancer is the #2 cause of cancer death in men and women in the U.S.

Maine has the eighth highest colon cancer death rate in the U.S.

In 2004, an estimated 144,940 new cases of colorectal cancer were diagnosed, with 56,730 Americans expected to die of colorectal cancer.

In 2004, an estimated 800 Mainers were diagnosed with colorectal cancer, causing 310 deaths.

**Colorectal cancer is 90% treatable when detected early.**

**Screening can find polyps before they become cancer.**

**The most common symptom is no symptom at all.**



An Initiative of the  
Maine Comprehensive Cancer Control Program  
Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Bureau of Health

For more information about colorectal cancer,  
call **1-877-320-6800**

**TTY: 1-800-438-5514 (Deaf/Hard of Hearing)**  
or visit [www.mainepublichealth.gov](http://www.mainepublichealth.gov).



John Elias Baldacci  
Governor

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services does not discriminate against people on the basis of disability, race, color, creed, gender, age or national origin in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services or activities, or its hiring or employment practices. This information is available in alternate format upon request. The Maine Comprehensive Cancer Control Program is a collaborative effort of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Centers For Disease Control and Prevention.