

Addressing disparities in colorectal cancer screening participation in Canada

Adefemi, K. (2025). Addressing disparities in colorectal cancer screening participation in Canada. *CRDCN Research-Policy Snapshots*, 4(1). <http://hdl.handle.net/11375/30913>

Context

This research investigates the distribution of colorectal cancer screening participation in Canada, focusing on the impact of racial and sociodemographic factors. It addresses the critical knowledge gap in understanding current screening behaviours, disparities among diverse Canadian populations and the various factors that significantly affect screening participation. By analyzing nationally representative data, this study provides an up-to-date assessment of screening rates, highlighting persistent disparities across socioeconomic levels, geographic regions, and racial/ethnic groups. This research is crucial for informing targeted interventions and policy measures to improve screening participation and reduce the burden of colorectal cancer in Canada.

Key finding(s) from the research

Despite increased colorectal cancer screening participation rates across Canada, significant disparities persist across socioeconomic, geographic, and racial/ethnic groups.

Population(s) studied: Adults aged 50-74 in all Canadian provinces

Research dataset(s) used: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2017

Policy implications for this research

This research highlights the need for policies and interventions to address disparities in colorectal cancer screening across Canada. These could include developing targeted interventions to address socioeconomic barriers, ensuring equitable access to screening services regardless of income level; strengthening public awareness campaigns to increase knowledge about the importance and availability of colorectal cancer screening, particularly in lower socioeconomic groups and regions with lower screening participation rates; and implementing culturally tailored health promotion initiatives for immigrant and minority ethnic groups, addressing cultural barriers and misconceptions, and fostering trust in the healthcare system to promote better engagement with screening programs.

Policy area(s) this research can inform: Health; Immigration and ethnocultural diversity; Population and demography; Seniors and aging

Read the full article

Adefemi, K., Knight, J. C., Zhu, Y., & Wang, P. P. (2024). Racial and sociodemographic distribution of colorectal cancer screening in Canada: A cross-sectional study. *Canadian Journal of Public Health* 115(3), 371–383. <https://doi.org/10.17269/s41997-024-00859-9>