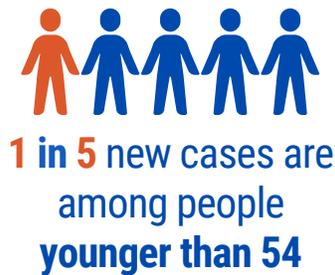
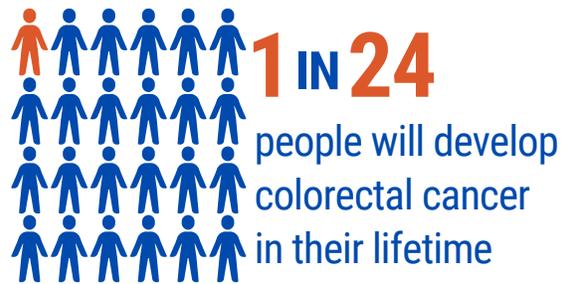


# COLORECTAL CANCER

## What is colorectal cancer?

Cancer is a disease where cells grow out of control and spread to other parts of the body. When this type of growth begins in the colon or rectum, it's called **colorectal cancer**. Most colorectal cancers begin as a noncancerous growth, called a **polyp**, in the inner lining of the colon or rectum. Polyps are common, and most do not become cancerous. Those that do, progress slowly, allowing for **cancer prevention** through their detection and removal during **colorectal cancer screening**.

Colorectal cancer is the 2nd leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the Northeast.



When caught early, the **survival rate** of colorectal cancer is **91%**

## SCREENING saves lives.

Screening for colorectal cancer starts at age **45** for average-risk adults.

Know your **risk factors**. Family history, certain conditions, and lifestyle practices can increase your risk. **Over 54% of colorectal cancers are associated with potentially modifiable risk factors.**



People with early stage colorectal cancer are typically asymptomatic. The most common signs and symptoms include rectal bleeding, blood in the stool, changes in bowel habits, abdominal pain, decreased appetite, and weight loss.

Anyone can get colorectal cancer, but some people have a higher risk than others. Everyone should start regular screening for colorectal cancer at age 45, but if you have a higher risk, you may need to start screening earlier. Talk to your doctor about risk factors and screening options.

Source: American Cancer Society, 2025