

Entertainment Industry Foundation's
National Colorectal Cancer Research Alliance
&
American Gastroenterological Association

2004
COLORECTAL CANCER LEGISLATION
REPORT CARD



National Colorectal Cancer
RESEARCH ALLIANCE™
An Entertainment Industry Foundation Program



MAKING COLORECTAL CANCER A NATIONAL PRIORITY

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths for men and women combined in the United States, but it doesn't have to be. Colorectal cancer can be successfully treated more than 90% of the time when detected early.

Getting tested is the first step to beating this disease.

For many people, a major obstacle to getting tested is the uncertainty of whether or not their insurance covers the cost of comprehensive colorectal cancer screenings. Unfortunately, there is no Federal legislation that requires insurance providers to cover preventative screenings.

Encouraging screenings is a wise investment, especially when you factor in the billions of dollars spent annually to treat colorectal cancer and the hundreds of thousands of lives forever affected by the disease.

In recent years, 19 states* have adopted some type of preventative colorectal cancer screening legislation. These laws range from comprehensive coverage of all preventative screening measures as recommended by current medical guidelines to merely recommending insurance providers *offer* coverage without actually *requiring* it.

To help you better understand these varied and complex laws, the Entertainment Industry Foundation's National Colorectal Cancer Research Alliance (EIF's NCCRA) and the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) have prepared the 2004 Colorectal Cancer Legislation Report Card. In this report, you can learn if your state has passed colorectal cancer legislation and how it compares to other states.

COLORECTAL CANCER BY COMPARISON

STATES* WITH CANCER SCREENING LEGISLATION				
TYPE OF CANCER	REQUIRE COVERAGE	OFFER COVERAGE	NO COVERAGE	DEATHS PER YEAR
Colorectal	18	1	32	57,310
Breast	47	3	1	40,580
Prostate	26	1	24	29,900
Cervical	23	1	27	3,900

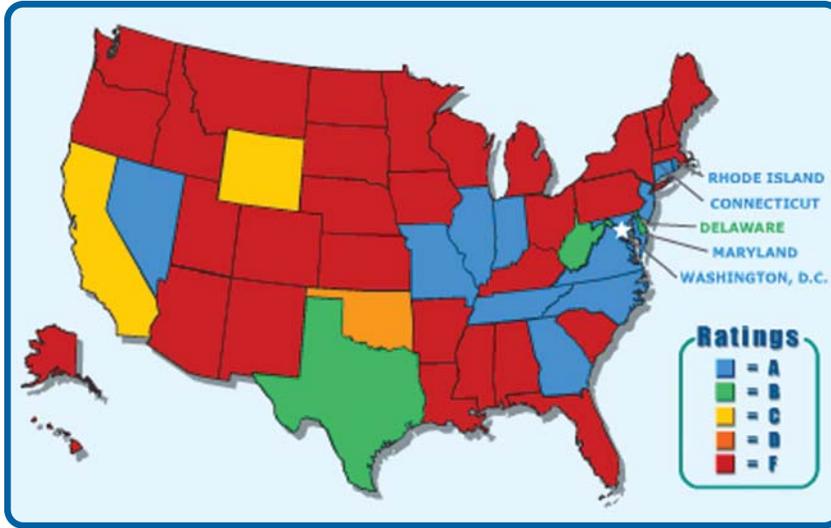
US figures estimated for 2004, American Cancer Society

*including Washington D.C.

STATES THAT MAKE THE GRADE **A** **B** **C**

- A total of 18 states* receive a passing grade for adopting preventative colorectal cancer screening legislation.

- In 2000, Virginia was the first state to adopt comprehensive colorectal cancer screening legislation that meets AGA's current screening guidelines, receiving an A in this report. Since then, 12 other states* have followed its outstanding example.



- Illinois was the first state to enact a law to provide some coverage for preventative screenings; this year the state raised its grade to an A with a revised law that meets AGA's current screening guidelines.

STATES THAT FALL SHORT **D** **F**

- Nearly two-thirds of states receive failing grades.
- Of the states that fail, Oklahoma is the only state that has passed some type of legislation, however the law recommends that insurance providers *offer* rather than *require* coverage.
- Although Alabama, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Pennsylvania received failing grades, these states all have legislation pending that, if passed, would require insurance providers to cover the cost of preventative colorectal cancer screenings.

GRADING CRITERIA

States with above average grades (A-B) generally cover all policyholders over the age of 50, and those under 50 at high risk. Coverage includes:

- Colonoscopy screenings every 10 years
- Flexible sigmoidoscopy and double contrast barium enema screenings every 5 years
- Fecal occult blood tests (FOBT) every year

A States receiving an A reference American Gastroenterological Association or American Cancer Society guidelines, which allows the legislation to include coverage of future advances in screening methods.

B States receiving a B do not reference current American Gastroenterological Association or American Cancer Society guidelines, thereby potentially falling short of providing coverage for future advances in screening methods.

C States receiving a C have passed legislation that covers preventative cancer screenings, but the legislation is vague and does not specifically mention which types of preventative colorectal cancer screenings are covered.

D States receiving a D have passed legislation that recommends insurance providers *offer* coverage, but does not *require* coverage.

F States receiving an F do not currently have any legislation that requires insurance providers to cover preventative colorectal cancer screenings.

STATE GRADES

A Connecticut
Georgia
Illinois
Indiana
Maryland
Missouri
Nevada
New Jersey
North Carolina
Rhode Island
Tennessee
Virginia
Washington D.C.

B Delaware
Texas
West Virginia

C California
Wyoming

D Oklahoma

F Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
Arkansas
Colorado
Florida
Hawaii
Idaho
Iowa
Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Montana
Nebraska
New Hampshire
New Mexico
New York
North Dakota
Ohio
Oregon
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
South Dakota
Utah
Vermont
Washington
Wisconsin

MEDICARE

Medicare provides coverage for preventive colorectal cancer screening in accordance with American Gastroenterological Association and American Cancer Society guidelines. Medicare recipients are entitled to: colonoscopy screenings every 10 years (every 2 years for those at high risk), flexible sigmoidoscopy and double contrast barium enema screenings every 4 years, and annual fecal occult blood tests.

MEDICAID

Medicaid coverage for colorectal cancer screenings varies by state. Check with your state's health and human services agency to learn the specific coverage options available to you.

PRIVATE INSURANCE

For specific questions about your personal healthcare coverage for colorectal cancer screenings, please contact your insurance provider.

TAKE ACTION: VISIT EIF.NCCRA.org

On EIF's NCCRA website, you can view the full report, including summaries of and links to the actual legislation in each state. For those states with failing grades, a letter stressing the importance of colorectal cancer screening legislation can be e-mailed to the state's Senate Health Committee Chair. By petitioning for quality legislation, we can remove colorectal cancer from the ranks of our nation's leading cancer killers.



Founded in 1897, the American Gastroenterological Association is one of the oldest medical specialty societies in the United States. Its members include physicians and scientists who research, diagnose and treat disorders of the gastrointestinal tract and liver. Representing almost 14,500 gastroenterologists worldwide, the AGA serves as an advocate for its members and their patients, supports gastroenterology practice and scientific needs, and promotes the discovery, dissemination and application of new knowledge, leading to the prevention, treatment and cure of digestive and liver diseases.



The NCCRA is dedicated to the eradication of colorectal cancer by promoting education about the importance of early medical screening and funding cutting-edge research to develop better tests, treatments and ultimately, a cure. The NCCRA was co-founded in March of 2000 by journalist Katie Couric, cancer activist Lilly Tartikoff, and the Entertainment Industry Foundation. As a result of the attention NCCRA and NBC's TODAY Show have focused on colorectal cancer, the number of colonoscopy screenings has increased almost 20% since March 2000. Researchers at the University of Michigan have referred to this as the "Couric Effect."



As the philanthropic heart of the entertainment industry, EIF has distributed hundreds of millions of dollars – and provided countless volunteer hours – to support charitable initiatives addressing some of the most critical issues facing society today.