



### What Is “80% by 2018”?

- “80% by 2018” is a National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (NCCRT) initiative in which organizations have committed to eliminating colorectal cancer as a major public health problem and are working toward the shared goal of 80% of adults aged 50 and older being regularly screened by 2018.
- Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer death in both men and women in the United States and a cause of considerable suffering among more than 140,000 adults diagnosed with it each year. Screening can detect the cancer early when treatment is most likely to be successful, and in some cases, prevented through the detection and removal of precancerous polyps. About 1 in 3 adults between 50 and 75 years old – about 23 million people -- are not getting tested as recommended.
- Colon cancer incidence rates have dropped 30 percent in the U.S. in the last 10 years among adults 50 and older, because more people are getting screened. The percentage of the population up-to-date with recommended colorectal cancer screening increased from 56 percent in 2002 to 65 percent in 2010. In addition, barriers to screening are breaking down and more people now have coverage than ever before. Top health systems already are achieving 80% screening rates and Massachusetts is screening over 76% of its eligible population - the highest screening rate in the nation.
- The people less likely to get tested are Hispanics, American Indians or Alaska Natives, rural populations, men, those 50 to 64, and those with lower education and income. Screening saves lives, but only if people get tested. There are several recommended screening test options, including: colonoscopy, stool tests (guaiac fecal occult blood test [gFOBT] or fecal immunochemical test [FIT]), and sigmoidoscopy. The best test is the one that gets done.

