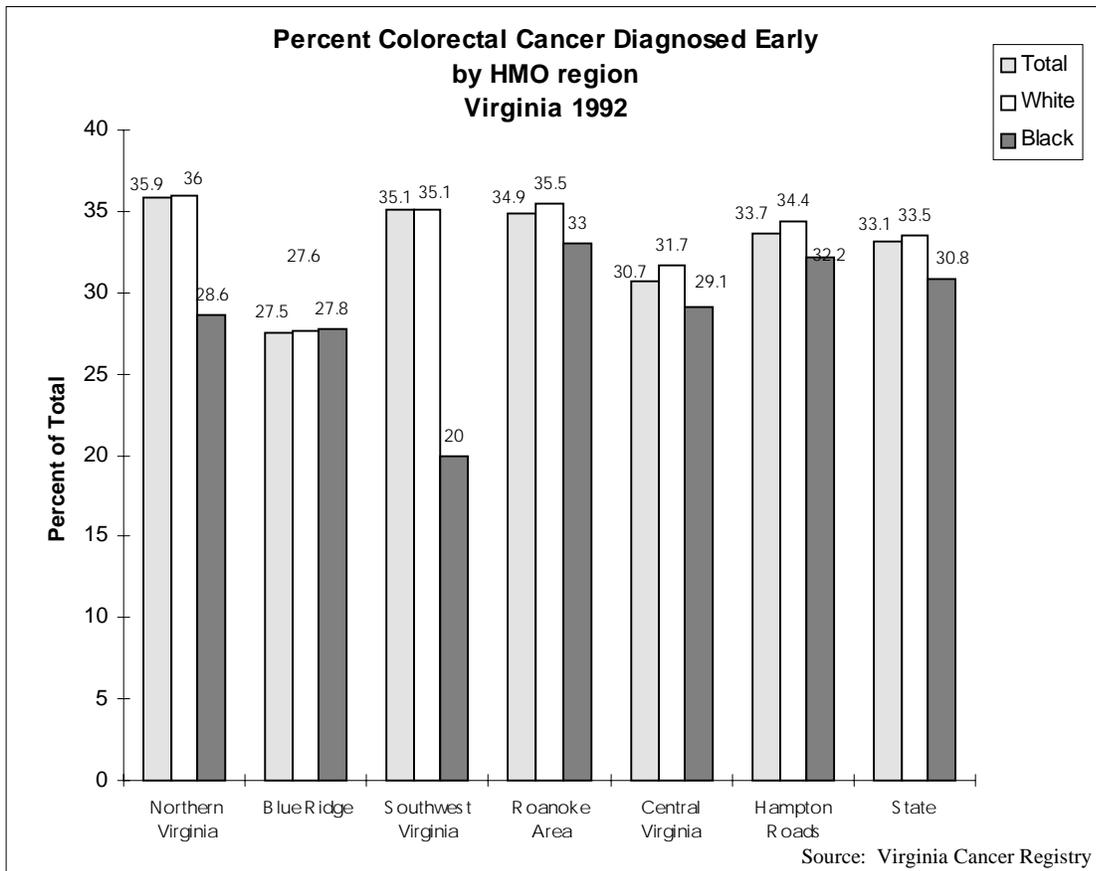


Stage of Colorectal Cancer at Diagnosis

Objective: *Increase the percent of colorectal cancer that is diagnosed in the early stage to at least 40.6%.*

According to the American Cancer Society, cancers of the colon or rectum account for about 9% of all cancer cases in the United States. People with colorectal cancers diagnosed in a localized stage can be treated with great success and have a 5-year survival rate of 91%. Unfortunately, only 37% of all colorectal cancers are discovered in the local stage, and the survival rate plummets as the cancer has the opportunity to advance. Early detection of colorectal cancers occurs through digital rectal exams at a physician's office, fecal occult blood testing, and sigmoidoscopy (fiberoptic inspection of the rectum and lower colon). Recommended guidelines suggest that these tests should be conducted annually beginning with age 40, annually beginning with age 50, and every 3 to 5 years after age 50, respectively. With only one-third of all colorectal cases in Virginia detected early in 1992, there is a marked need to improve screening efforts to significantly raise this percentage.



**Percent Colorectal Cancer Diagnosed Early
by Health District , Virginia 1992**

FIRST QUARTILE	Prince William	50.9	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Virginia 2000 Objective 40.8% </div>
	West Piedmont	50.0	
	Rappahannock	46.0	
	Chesterfield	44.0	
	New River	43.9	
	Peninsula	40.7	
	Portsmouth	40.6	
	Alexandria	40.4	
	Virginia Beach	37.8	
SECOND QUARTILE	Roanoke	36.8	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Virginia 1992 33.3% </div>
	Cumberland Plateau	36.4	
	Mount Rogers	35.0	
	Piedmont	34.6	
	Hampton	34.5	
	Norfolk	34.1	
	Pittsylvania/Danville	34.0	
	Lenowisco	33.3	
	Chesapeake	33.3	
THIRD QUARTILE	Lord Fairfax	32.8	
	Fairfax	32.6	
	Arlington	31.5	
	Alleghany	31.0	
	Central Shenandoah	30.5	
	Crater	30.4	
	Hanover	29.2	
	Henrico	28.0	
	Central Virginia	27.1	
FOURTH QUARTILE	Eastern Shore	26.9	
	Richmond	26.4	
	Rappahannock/Rapidan	25.0	
	Thomas Jefferson	24.1	
	Loudoun	23.8	
	Southside	20.8	
	Western Tidewater	17.9	
Three Rivers	15.6		