

Celebrating 10 Years

OF THE BC CANCER COLON SCREENING PROGRAM

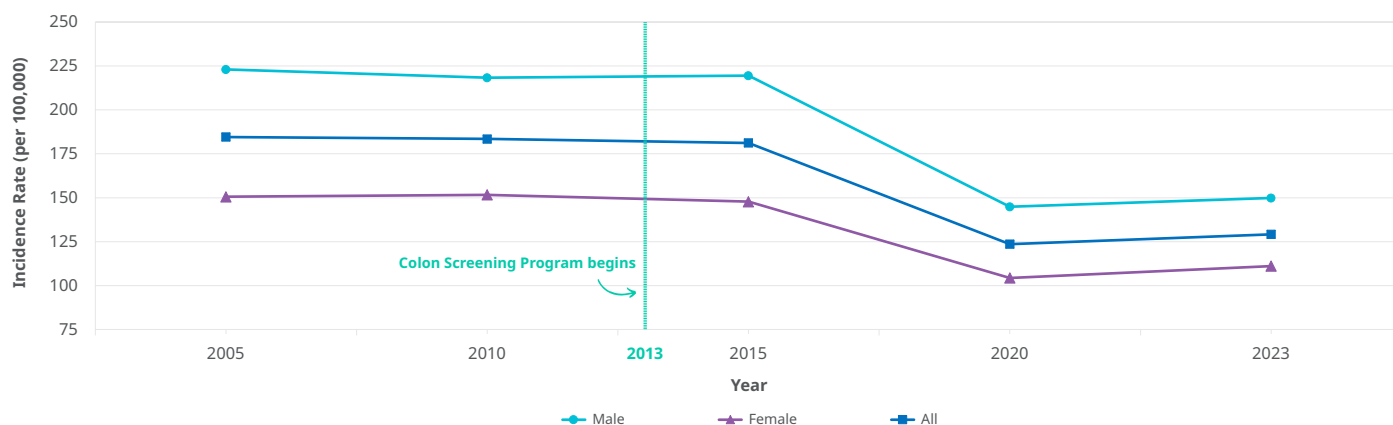
In 2013, BC launched an organized colon screening program to prevent and detect colorectal cancer (CRC). In the past 10 years, the program has **screened 1.3 million+ British Columbians** and **detected colorectal cancer in 4,000+ people**. As well, **40,000+ people** have had high-risk precancerous lesions found and removed, contributing to a decrease in the incidence rate of colorectal cancer:

More than 1.3 million British Columbians screened for colorectal cancer since 2013

CRC Incidence Rate for **Eligible Male Population** over 10 Years: **32% decrease**

CRC Incidence Rate for **Eligible Female Population** over 10 Years: **25% decrease**

Decreased incidence rate of colorectal cancer in BC (age-eligible population)



Increased adoption of colon screening



Decrease in FIT and colonoscopy volumes in 2020 due to COVID-related suspension of screening.

Colon screening outcomes

From 2013-2023:

4,000+ people had colorectal cancer found

36,000+ people had high-risk polyps found

Screening for colon cancer saves lives. The outcomes from the past 10 years of colon screening demonstrate the effectiveness of an organized screening program.

The BC Colon Screening Program, implemented in November 2013, offers biennial fecal immunochemical testing (FIT) to average-risk individuals and provides a follow-up colonoscopy for abnormal results. BC Cancer provides oversight for organized cancer screening in BC, and delivers the Colon Screening Program in partnership with regional health authorities, laboratory service providers, primary care providers and specialists.

The benefits of the BC Colon Screening Program include:

- ✓ Automatic recall in 2 years, with mailed laboratory requisition for FITs;
- ✓ Facilitated referral for surveillance colonoscopy when due;
- ✓ Patient navigation;
- ✓ Audit of outcomes; and
- ✓ Quality assurance initiatives.

2,492,180

FITs have been completed since 2013

312,412

colonoscopies have been completed in the program since 2013

Who should get screened?

Generally, anyone between
ages 50 to 74
and **not** experiencing symptoms

People with a personal history of adenomas **or** a significant family history of colorectal cancer may need to start screening earlier.

What are the screening tests?

Fecal immunochemical test (FIT)
for those at average risk



Colonoscopy
for those at higher risk



How often should someone get screened?

People at **average risk**:
get a FIT every
2 years

People with a **personal history of adenomas**: get a colonoscopy every
3, 5 or 10 years*

People with a **high-risk family history of colorectal cancer**: get a colonoscopy every
5 years

*Findings at colonoscopy will determine the timing of further colonoscopies or whether the individual returns to screening with FIT.