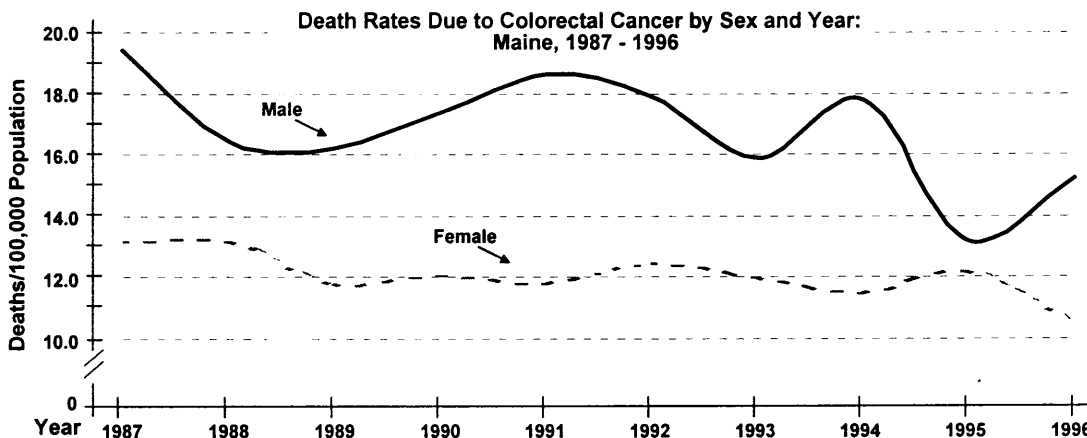
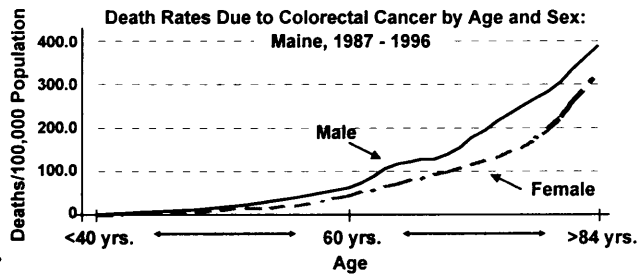


COLORECTAL CANCER

Data are from the
MAINE VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEM: 1987 - 1996 (Preliminary Data)

- ➔ Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States.¹ In Maine, 301 residents died from this cause in 1996; 3,217 residents have died from this cancer in the past 10 years.
- ➔ The 1996 death rate in Maine from colorectal cancer was 12.5 deaths/100,000; a rate comparable to the US rate of 11.8 deaths.²
- ➔ Well-established risk factors for colorectal cancer are age and male gender. The risk of developing this cancer increases dramatically after age 50 and continues to increase with age.¹ Maine men died from this cause at a *significantly greater* rate than women - 16.9 male deaths/100,000 population compared to 12.1 female deaths. The difference in death rates between the sexes in Maine (4.8 deaths) was comparable to what was observed nationally (5.1 deaths).²



- ➔ It is estimated that widespread screening for colorectal cancer could reduce the death rate by over 50%;³ yet less than 25% of Maine adults 40 years old and older have ever had a proctoscopic exam.⁴
- ➔ Nationally, Maine ranked 49th in the frequency of residents, over 40 years old, who reported ever having had a proctoscopic exam, and 40th in the nation for those reporting having had a digital rectal exam⁴ - two of the most common methods for colorectal cancer screening.

Notes: All rates are for underlying cause of death, for whites only and are age-adjusted to the US 1940 standard population; these are rates that have been standardized to eliminate differences due solely to variations in the age composition of the populations. Unless noted, differences in rates are not statistically significant, i.e., they could be accounted for by chance alone.

Footnotes: FN1-Colorectal Cancer At-A-Glance, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). FN2- CDC WONDER FN3- The American Gastroenterological Assoc. Public Service Announcement, Sept., 1998. FN 4- Maine Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 1995 data. Full citations will be provided upon request.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
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