

# Colorectal Cancer in the Hispanic Community

## Fact Sheet

Colon cancer is a *preventable, treatable and beatable* disease, *but only with proper screening*. It is known as a silent killer because symptoms only show up in the later stages when the cancer has already spread.

Unfortunately, Hispanics in California trail behind the general population in screening rates. A few key facts<sup>1</sup>:

- Colon cancer has declined steadily over the past 23 years for non-Hispanic whites (32%), African Americans (21%) and Asian/Pacific Islanders (17%), but has declined only 8% among Hispanics.
- While 51 percent of Californians over age 50 have had a screening sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy over the past five years, only 38 percent of Hispanics have.
- The other effective colon cancer screening test is the sensitive fecal occult blood test. While 37 percent of Californians over age 50 have had this test, only 26 percent of Hispanics have.

### Hispanics: Most Common Cancers<sup>2</sup>

| MEN               | WOMEN             |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Prostate          | Breast            |
| <b>Colorectal</b> | <b>Colorectal</b> |
| Lung              | Lung              |

### Hispanics: Most Common Cause of Cancer Death<sup>2</sup>

| MEN               | WOMEN             |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Lung              | Breast            |
| Prostate          | Lung              |
| <b>Colorectal</b> | <b>Colorectal</b> |

(more)

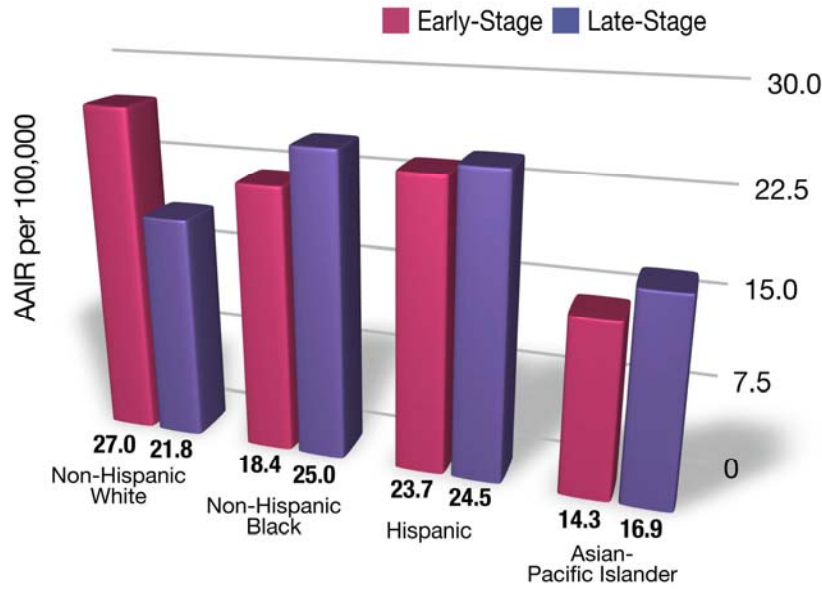
<sup>1</sup> Source: California 2013 Cancer Facts & Figures, p. 20, 15

<sup>2</sup> Source: CA A Cancer Journal for Clinicians

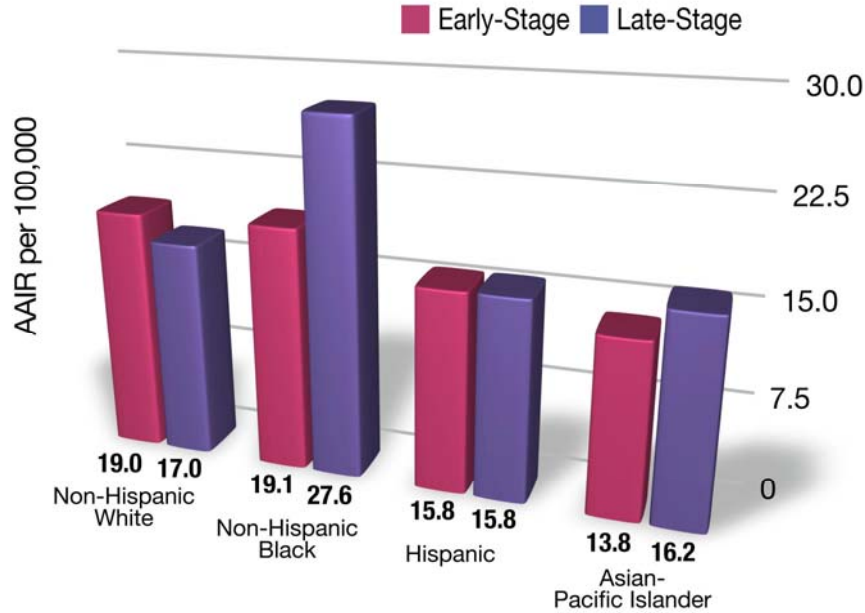
## Hispanics: Late-Stage Diagnosis

Hispanics are one of the ethnic groups more often diagnosed at a late stage.<sup>3</sup>

### Male African-Americans, Hispanic and Asian-Pacific Islanders are more often diagnosed at a late stage



### Female African-Americans, Hispanic and Asian-Pacific Islanders are more often diagnosed at a late stage



<sup>3</sup>Data and analysis provided by Monica Brown, Ph.D., epidemiologist with the California Cancer Registry. Data is for Sacramento area, which is reflective of the overall population of California. Stage at Diagnosis of Colorectal Cancer Cases by Sex and Race, 2001-2005-Sacramento Region.