

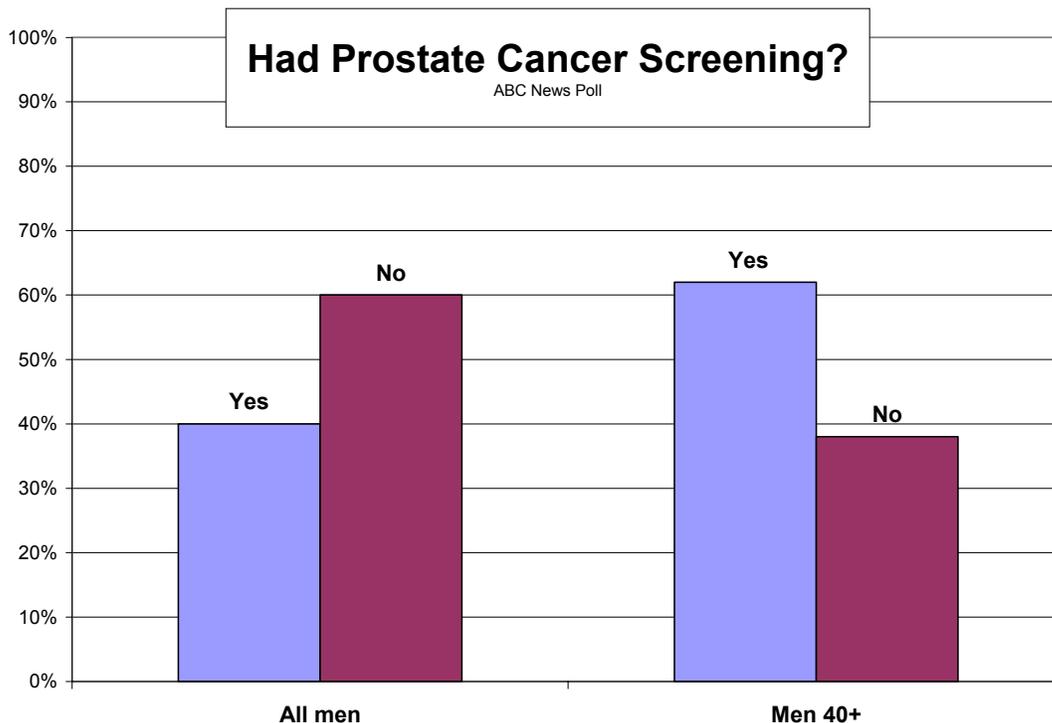
Fewer Have Cancer Tests Than Doctors Recommend

Most men over 39 have been screened at least once for prostate cancer, but far fewer Americans are undergoing a recommended test to diagnose colon cancer – and many aren't having either test done as often as doctors suggest.

Sixty-two percent of men 40 or older – the recommended age for testing to start – have been screened for prostate cancer. But of those who do go, just four in 10 say they go in for screening every year, as doctors recommend. That means that among all 40+-year-olds, just 25 percent report having annual prostate cancer screening exams.

Similarly, about six in 10 men and women who are at least 50 say they've been screened for colon cancer. But fewer, four in 10, have had a colonoscopy, the diagnostic test used to detect polyps or tumors in the colon. Doctors recommend a colonoscopy once every five years for people 50 and up.

These figures from a new ABC News poll mean large numbers of people are going entirely unchecked for these diseases – in the case of prostate cancer, 38 percent of men over 39; and in the case of colon cancer, 41 percent of men and women over 49 – in addition to the numbers who have been checked, but less often than recommended.



Prostate cancer screening	
All men	40%
Men 40+	62%
Men 40+, annually+	25%

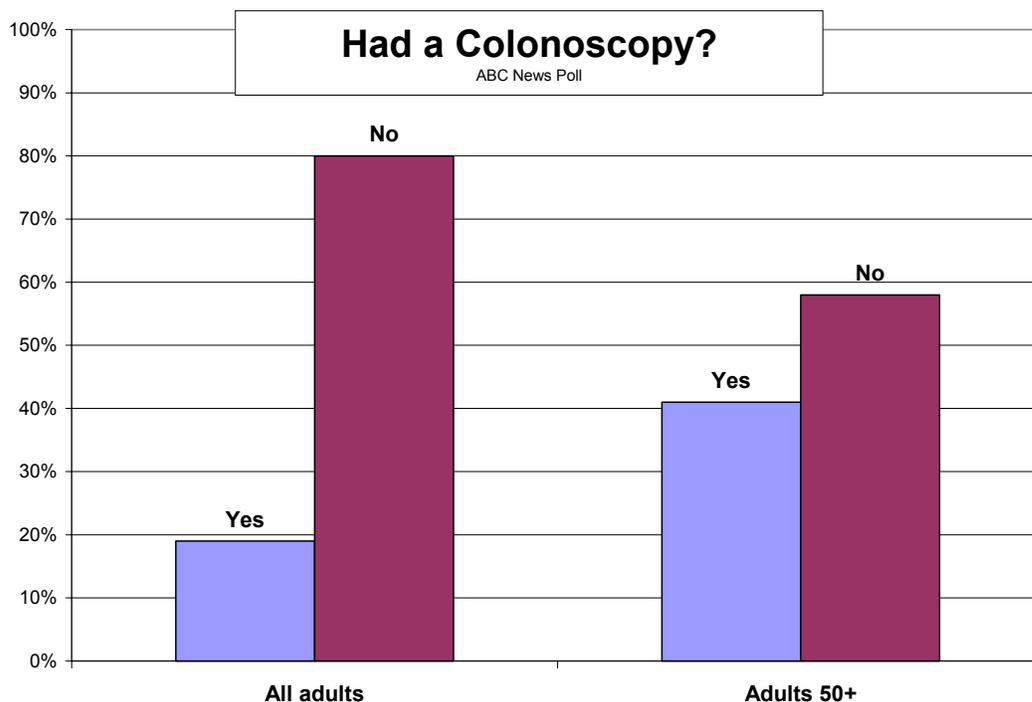
Colon cancer screening	
All adults	29%
Adults 50+	58%
Adults 50+, colonoscopy	41%
Adults 50+, colonoscopy every 5 years	15%

Prostate cancer is the most common form of cancer among American men, and colon cancer is the second-deadliest type of cancer in the United States.

MEN'S HEALTH – Medical authorities recommend that all men have annual digital rectal examinations, a form of prostate cancer screening, starting either at age 40 or at age 50; and have an annual blood test for prostate-specific antigens starting at age 50.

Among all men, 40 percent say they have been screened for prostate cancer, similar to the number in a 1996 ABC News poll. A third of them say it was a one-time thing; two-thirds say they go for repeat checkups.

Specifically among men 40 and older, among the 62 percent who've been screened, seven in 10 say they go for repeated checkups – but that leaves 28 percent who say it was a one-time thing. Also, among those who have been screened, 57 percent say they go less often than annually.



Three-quarters of men say they have had a prostate exam mainly on their own initiative, compared with fewer than five percent who say they've gone mainly at the urging of a wife or partner.

COLON SCREENING – Among all Americans, 29 percent say they've had a medical check-up or screening for colon cancer, and 19 percent say they've had a colonoscopy. Among those 50 and older, twice as many – 58 percent – have been screened, and 41 percent say they've had a colonoscopy. Still, just 15 percent say they have one at least every five years.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News poll was conducted by telephone July 30-Aug. 3, 2003, among a random national sample of 1,021 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by David Morris.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at: http://abcnews.go.com/sections/us/Poll_Vault/Poll_Vault.html

Media contact: Cathie Levine, (212) 456-4934, or Lisa Finkel, (212) 456-6190.

Results follow:

1. (MEN ONLY) Have you ever had a medical check-up or screening for prostate cancer, or not?

		Yes	No	No opinion
8/3/03	All men	40	60	*
	Men 40+	62	38	*
7/21/96	All men	43	56	*

2. (MEN WHO HAVE HAD A PROSTATE CANCER CHECK-UP) Was that a one-time thing or do you do that on a regular basis?

		One-time thing	Regular basis	No opinion
8/3/03	All men	33	66	2
	Men 40+	28	70	2
7/21/96	All men	37	63	0

3. (MEN WHO HAVE REGULAR PROSTATE CANCER CHECK-UPS) How often do you go in for prostate screening? (DO NOT READ)

		More than once a year	Once a year	Every 1-2 years	Less than every two years	No opinion
8/3/03	All men	9	47	29	14	1
	Men 40+	9	49	30	11	1
7/21/96	All men	13	60	22	5	0

1/2/3 NET (ALL MALE RESPONDENTS)

-----Had checkup----- Not

		NET	One-time	-----Regular basis-----					had	No
				NET	>1 yr.	1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	<2 yrs.	check-up	opin.
8/3/03	All men	40	13	26	2	12	8	4	60	*
	Men 40+	62	18	43	4	21	13	5	38	*
7/21/96	All men	43	16	27	3	16	6	1	56	1

4. (MEN WHO HAVE HAD A PROSTATE CANCER CHECK-UP) Have you had a prostate check-up (mainly on your own initiative), or (mainly at the urging of a spouse or partner)?

		On own Initiative	At urging of spouse/partner	At urging of someone else (vol.)	No op.
8/3/03	All men	75	4	18	3
	Men 40+	75	5	18	2

5. Have you ever had a medical check-up or screening for colon cancer, or not?

		Yes	No	No opinion
8/3/03	All	29	71	*
	50+	58	41	*

6. (IF HAD A COLON CANCER CHECK-UP) Have you ever had a colonoscopy, or not?

		Yes	No	No opinion
8/3/03	All	66	34	*
	50+	71	29	*

7. (IF HAD A COLONOSCOPY) Was that a one-time thing, or do you do that on a regular basis?

		One-time thing	Regular basis	No opinion
8/3/03	All	55	44	2
	50+	48	50	2

8. (IF HAVE REGULAR COLONOSCOPIES) How often do you go in for a colonoscopy?

		About every five years	More often	Less often	No op.
8/3/03	All	41	33	23	3
	50+	45	29	24	3

5/6/7/8 NET (ALL RESPONDENTS)

		-----Had checkup-----									
		-----Colonoscopy-----									
		NET	Had	One-time	-----Regular basis-----			Not had	No		
					NET	5 yrs	More often	Less often	had	check-up	op.
8/3/03	All	29	19	10	8	3	3	2	10	71	*
	50+	58	41	20	21	9	6	5	17	41	*

END

