

Colorectal Cancer:



Prevention, Detection, and
Education in Crawford County
Illinois



Needs Assessment

- To determine the topic of a COPC project, I interviewed several county physicians who indicated areas of community health care need.
- Many of these physicians stated that they had recently noticed an increase in the number of colon cancer diagnosis and were frustrated that many of these cases presented at late stages.



Objectives

- To educate the community about colorectal cancer in order to ensure proper prevention and detection
- To provide proper screening by way of fecal occult blood testing and encouraging, when appropriate, screening colonoscopy



Education

- Three lectures were given to three groups of women.
- Emphasis was given to the following areas:
 - Basic information about colorectal cancer, symptoms and when to see a physicians, risk factors, recommendations for screening, and information about colonoscopy



Procedure for screening

- Crawford County Health Department funded fecal occult blood testing for the group of women as well as extra tests for spouses or close family member
- Participants were instructed on proper preparation and collection for screening and given tests
- Tests were to either be returned to the health department to be tested or take them to their primary care physicians
- Tests that were returned to the health department were tested and results sent to primary the care physician



Outcomes

- Thirty-one tests were returned to the health department. Many other participants reported returning theirs to their primary care physicians.
- Of these twenty-nine were negative and two were positive and were scheduled to follow up with their primary care physician.
- Participants at the lectures had many questions which were either answered or referred on to appropriate sources.



Conclusion

- According to local physicians, there is a need for colorectal cancer education and screening in Crawford County, Illinois.
- Screening by fecal occult blood testing is in place and participants were encouraged to do this yearly.
- Participants were also educated about and encouraged to have screening colonoscopy when appropriate.

The Presentation

