

**TITLE:** Lower Neighborhood-Level Socioeconomic Status Is Associated with Lower Colorectal Cancer Screening Uptake in the Southern Community Cohort Study

**JOURNAL:** Cancer Prevention Research (Philadelphia, PA) 2025; 18(6):355-363

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This is attributed to the CEECR grant: U24CA265813

**LAY ABSTRACT**

Colorectal cancer is a type of cancer that starts in the colon or the rectum. Most colorectal cancers start as a growth on the inner lining of the colon or rectum. These growths are called polyps. Screening for these polyps can include colonoscopy or stool-based tests. With regular screening, colorectal cancer can often be prevented. However, many people do not get screened regularly. Financial resources, education, and where someone lives can affect someone's ability to get regular screening. This study looked at how neighborhood conditions - such as poverty, education levels, and employment - may affect screening for colorectal cancer.

The researchers used data from the Southern Community Cohort Study. They found that people living in neighborhoods with the most economic disadvantages were also less likely to have been screened for colorectal cancer. This was true regardless of race, education, income, sex and insurance status. To reduce colorectal cancer in underserved communities, we need to address neighborhood-level challenges to getting screened.