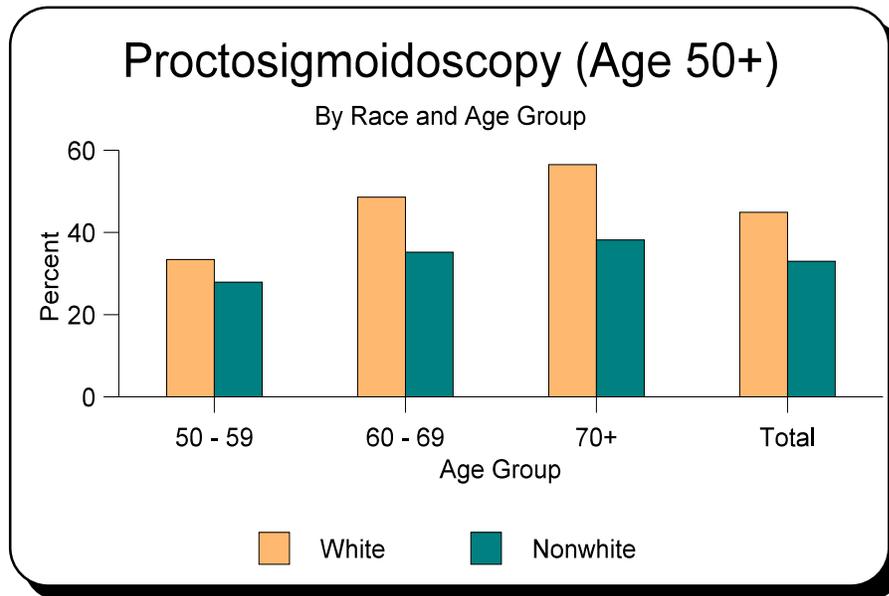


## Colorectal Cancer Screening

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States. An estimated 130,200 cases (66,600 females and 63,600 males) of CRC and 56,300 deaths (28,500 females and 27,800 males) from CRC were expected to occur in 2000. When cancer-related deaths are estimated separately for males and females, however, CRC becomes the third leading cause of cancer death behind lung and breast cancers for females and behind lung and prostate cancers for males.

Risk factors for CRC may include age, personal and family history of polyps or



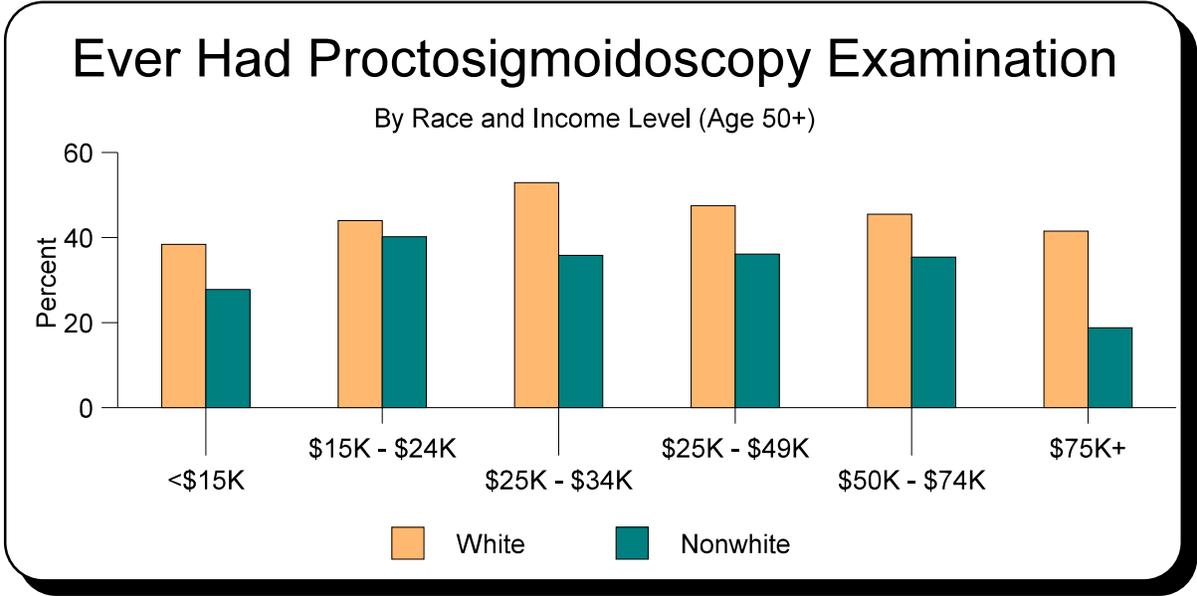
colorectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, inherited syndromes, physical inactivity (colon only), obesity, alcohol use and a diet high in fat and low in fruits and vegetables. Detecting and removing precancerous colorectal polyps and detecting and treating the disease in its earliest stages will reduce deaths from CRC. Fecal Occult Blood Testing and

**Figure 31**

sigmoidoscopy are widely used to screen for CRC, and barium enema and colonoscopy are used as diagnostic tests.

In 2001, the death rate for colorectal cancer in Mississippi was 54.6 per 100,000 among people age fifty-five and older. Digital rectal examinations (DRE) and proctosigmoidoscopic examinations are designed to detect colorectal cancer and other problems at an early stage to enhance the success of medical intervention. The American Cancer Society recommends a DRE annually after age forty and a proctoscopy every three to five years after age fifty.

The 2002 BRFSS data for Mississippi indicates that 41.5 percent of those surveyed had ever had sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy examination. For persons aged 50-59 the rate was 31.8 percent compared to 31.2 percent in 2001, for those 60-69 it was 44.8 percent an increase from 39.7 percent in 2001 and for those more than 70 the rate was 51.5 percent compared to 48.4 percent in 2001 (Figure 31).



**Figure 32**

### Ever Had Sigmoidoscopy or Colonoscopy (Persons Age 50+)

Groups	White		Nonwhite		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	212	43.7	37	25.9	249	39.1
Female	431	45.9	133	38.1	565	43.5
<b>Age Group</b>						
50-59	172	33.4	60	27.9	233	31.8
60-69	214	48.6	59	35.2	273	44.8
70+	257	56.5	51	38.2	308	51.5
<b>Education</b>						
< High School or GED	92	33.6	76	36.5	168	34.8
GED	218	46.0	33	22.6	252	40.6
Some College or Technical School	166	47.3	28	33.8	194	44.7
College Graduate	165	48.7	32	43.2	197	47.7
<b>Income</b>						
< \$15,000	104	38.4	49	27.8	153	33.4
\$15-\$24,999	96	44.0	35	40.2	131	42.7
\$25-\$34,999	101	52.9	17	35.8	118	49.2
\$35-\$49,999	94	47.5	16	36.1	111	45.8
\$50-\$74,999	65	45.5	8	35.4	73	43.9
\$75,000+	59	41.5	2	18.8	61	39.7
<b>Employment Status</b>						
Employed	186	36.5	45	26.7	231	34.2
Not employed	12	28.1	7	18.2	19	22.5
Student/Homemaker	48	44.2	5	23.1	54	40.5
Retired/Unable to work	397	52.2	113	38.3	510	47.8
<b>Total</b>	643	44.9	170	33.0	814	41.5

\* Sample size less than 50