

Colorectal Cancer Screening: A method for improving outcomes

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Context:

Lucas County, OH has some of the highest percentage of late stage diagnosis of colorectal cancer in the entire state. Patients incur increased morbidity and mortality compared to other counties in Ohio.

Design, Setting, and Participants

- June 2009 – OAFP, ODH and ACS sponsored a conference in Columbus, OH to improve identification of at risk patients for colorectal cancer. Five members of the FHFMR attended this event. Three other practices in the state of Ohio were also present.

As a result of the conference, an office policy was developed to:

- 1) increase the percentage of guideline appropriate patients receiving colorectal cancer screening recommendations to 85%.
- 2) increase the percent of colorectal cancer screening rates from a baseline rate of 30% to a rate of 70% in guideline appropriate patients.

Methods

- Phase I: Random survey of patient charts revealed a screening rate for colorectal cancer of 30%.
- Phase II: Patient Survey
 - Patient self-reported history and prior screening.
 - Physician recommendation
- Phase III: Validation and Follow-up
 - Screening verified by medical record review
 - Those recommended for screening were followed using new protocol: 8 week reminder letter, 16 week reminder phone call, and 24 week notice to PCP.

Results from Survey: Demographic Distribution of the Sample

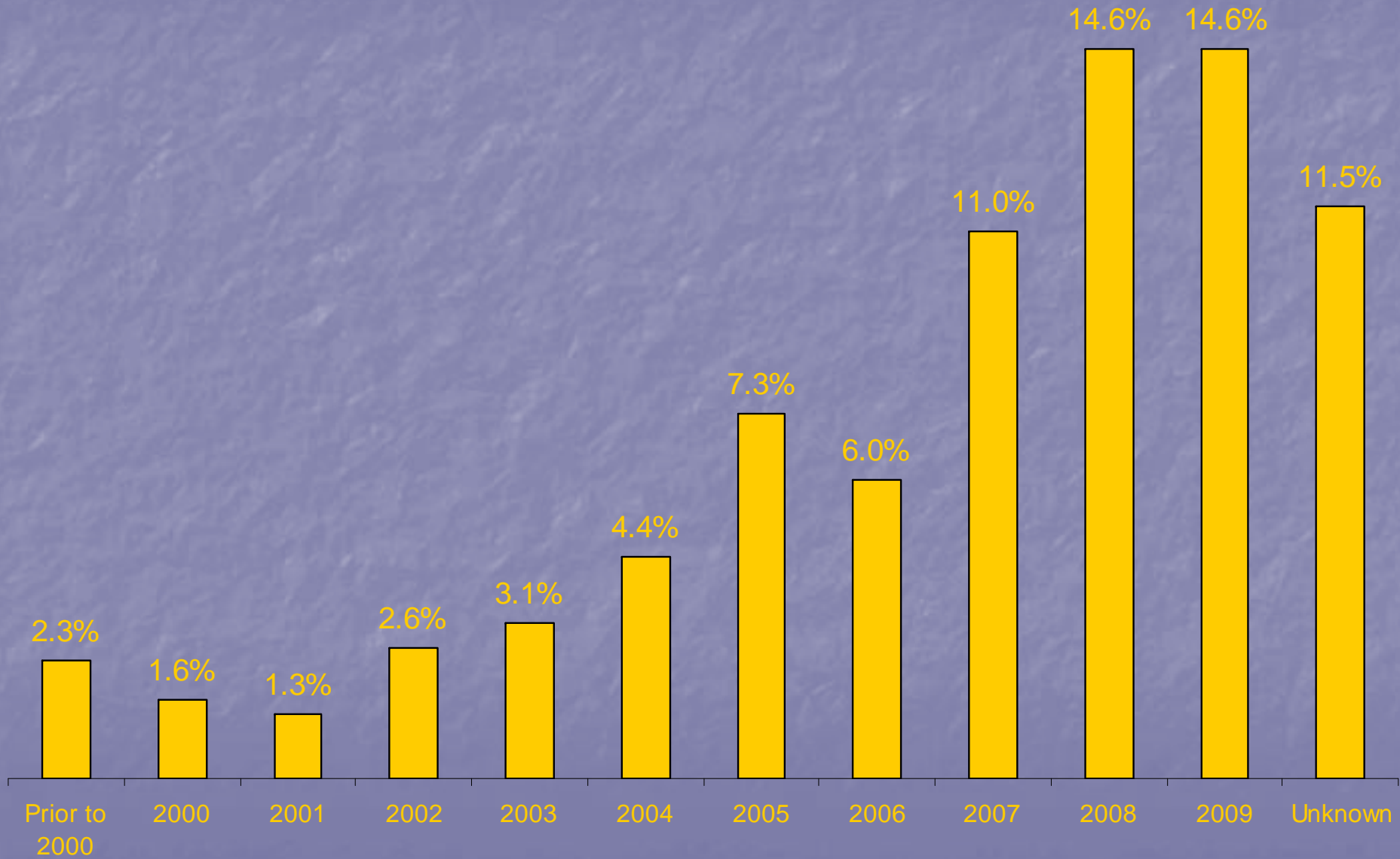
Total Sample Size = 383

	n	%
Female	248	67.8%
Male	118	32.2%
African-American	29	7.6%
Asian	6	1.6%
Hispanic	2	0.5%
Mid-Eastern	2	0.5%
Native American	6	1.6%
Caucasian	282	73.6%
Unknown	56	14.6%

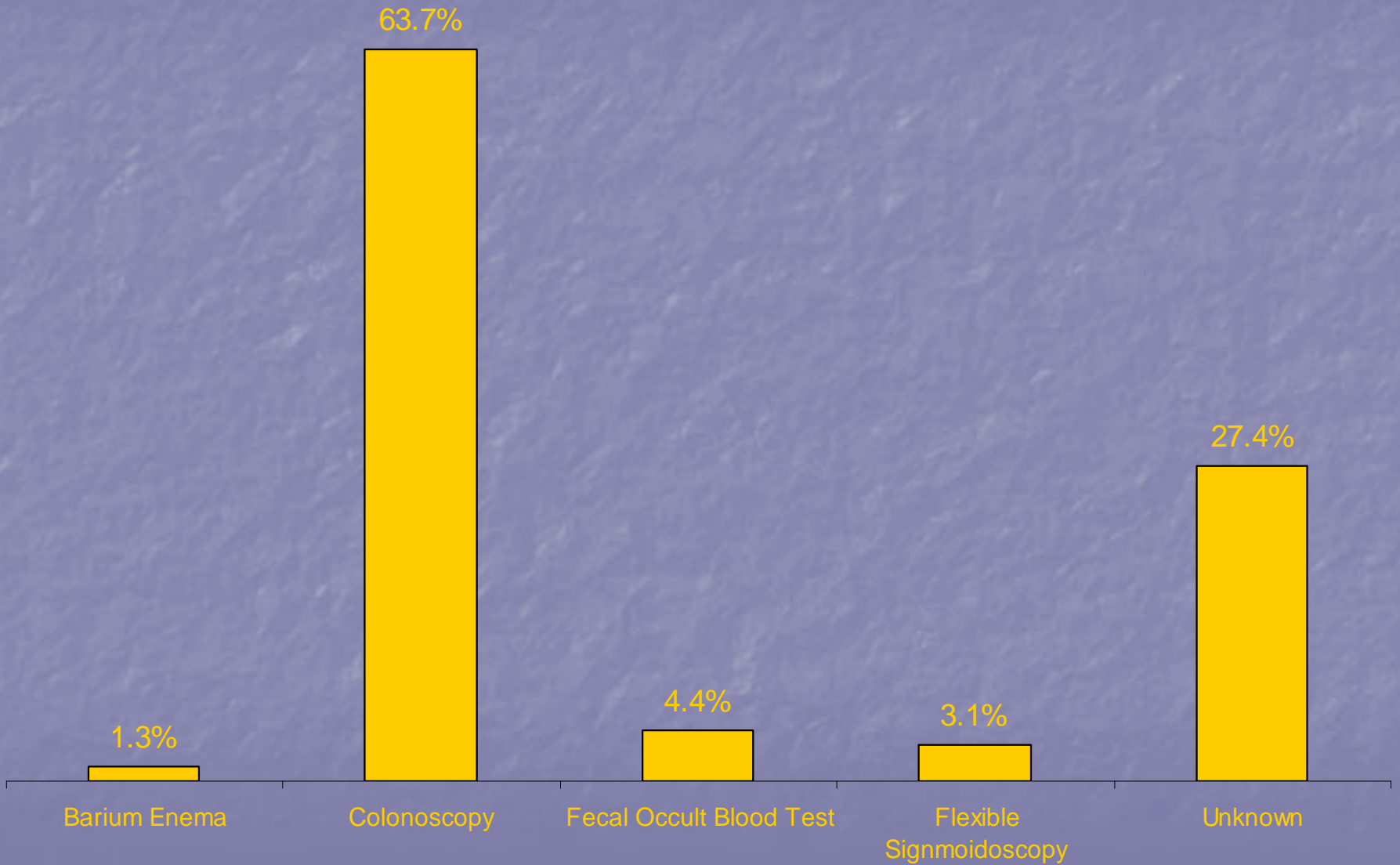
Patient History

	n	%
Has anyone in your family had colon/rectal cancer?	59	15.4%
Has anyone in your family ever had polyps of colon or rectum?	125	32.6%
Do you currently have or have you ever had colon or rectum cancer?	7	1.8%
Do you have Ulcerative Colitis or Crohn's Disease?	7	1.8%
In the past 6 months have you had any problems with your bowels?	57	14.9%
Have you ever been tested for Colorectal cancer?	308	80.4%

Last Year of Screening



Type of Screening



Patients who had never been screened (n = 75):

- MD discussed screening with 43 (57%).
- Thirty-seven (49%) were recommended for screening.
- Of those who were recommended, 6 were actually screened.

Conclusions

- Patient self-report is much higher than expected, however many may not be current.
- A significant proportion of patients (20%) have NEVER been screened and should be encouraged to do so.
- Validation and follow-up in progress.