

# SAN YSIDRO HEALTH

Increasing Colorectal Cancer Screenings Among Black Patients Ages 45 to 75



**SAN YSIDRO  
HEALTH**

## CONTACT

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## PRIMARY CONTACT

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## ABOUT SAN YSIDRO HEALTH

San Ysidro Health is a nonprofit organization committed to providing high quality, compassionate, accessible, and affordable health care services for the entire family. The organization was founded in 1969 by seven mothers in search of medical services for their children. Over 50 years later, San Ysidro Health cares for more than 160,000 patients through a vast and integrated network of 50 program sites across San Diego County, including medical and dental clinics, behavioral health centers, WIC nutrition centers, school-based health centers, the Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), and more.

## A CASE STUDY OF SAN YSIDRO HEALTH'S COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING WORK

The site of San Ysidro Health's Pulse of Change project is the Care View Health Center, a community-based clinic in a region of San Diego with a high density of Black patients. This outpatient clinic offers adult medicine services (e.g., preventive screenings, chronic disease management, immunizations) and diagnostic services (e.g., lab tests, x-rays).

The Care View Health Center will pilot a project to increase colorectal cancer screenings among Black patients ages 45 to 75. The project will use care coordination teams to identify barriers to colorectal cancer screening, gather input from patients about those barriers, and design and test processes to address those barriers. Patients who test positive for colorectal cancer will be quickly linked to a specialist for follow-up care and treatment.

## WHY THIS FOCUS?

The southeastern subarea of the City of San Diego, where Care View Health Center is located, is home to the largest Black population in San Diego County. The health center is the medical home for 316 Black patients, but less than one third of these patients ages 45 to 75 have completed colorectal cancer screening. San Ysidro Health aims to save more lives by educating the other two thirds of Care View Health Center's Black patients ages 45 to 75 about their colorectal cancer status and quickly connect patients with colorectal cancer to needed treatment.



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## GOALS

- San Ysidro Health understands common barriers that prevent Black patients at Care View Health Center from completing colorectal cancer screening.
- Colorectal cancer screening rates among the target patient population increase.
- Targeted patients understand the importance of colorectal cancer screening and have the resources to follow through with screening and/or treatment.
- Targeted patients with abnormal colorectal screening results are promptly linked to appropriate follow-up care (e.g., diagnostic services, therapies).

## STRATEGIES

- Employ care coordination teams to identify the barriers that prevent unscreened Black patients from completing the colorectal screening process.
- Gather input from Black patients on barriers to colorectal cancer screening via a survey and two in-person health fairs.
- Design and test process changes to address the identified barriers.
- Track changes in colorectal cancer screening rates among the target patient population.
- Link patients with abnormal test results to a provider for tailored follow-up care within 30 days of receiving their results.

## IMPACT METRICS

- Increased understanding of common barriers that prevent Black patients at Care View Health Center from completing colorectal cancer screening.
- Increased colorectal cancer screening rates among the target patient population (46.96% screening rate by the end of the project).
- 90% of targeted patients with abnormal colorectal screening results receive appropriate follow-up care within 30 days of receiving their results.

## SUPPORTED BY CHCF'S PULSE OF CHANGE INITIATIVE

In late 2023, California Health Care Foundation put out a call for projects that would improve clinical quality of care for Black Californians. Of the many community clinics, hospitals, and technology start-ups from across the state that responded to the call, CHCF awarded grants to eight organizations using a variety of strategies to create a safer, stronger, and fairer health system for Black Californians. Funded projects focus on topics ranging from culturally responsive prenatal care to hypertension management and colorectal cancer screening.

