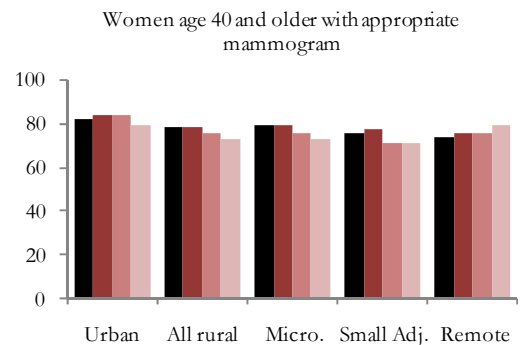


Progress in Women's Cancer Screening, But Colon Cancer Lags

Cancer is a major cause of death in the United States, second only to heart disease. African American men and women are more likely to die from cancer than white adults. Screening can reduce death rates for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer by allowing prompt treatment. However, many rural residents do not receive age-appropriate cancer screening, according to data from the 2006 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

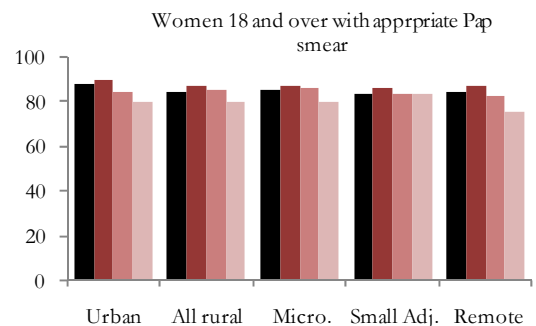
Screening for Breast Cancer

- Rural women over age 40 were less likely than urban women to have received a mammogram in the past three years (82% urban, 78% rural). Within rural women, screening declines as the county of residence becomes more rural.



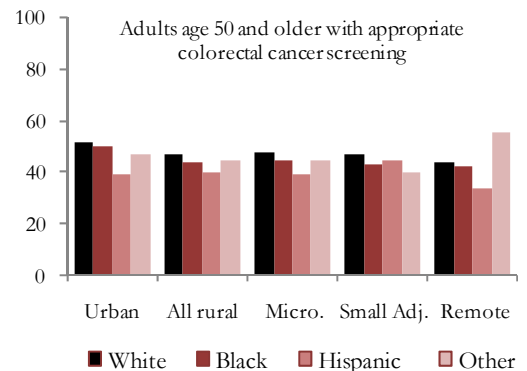
Screening for Cervical Cancer

- Rural women age 21 and older were slightly less likely to have received a Pap test in the past three years (87% urban versus 84% rural).



Screening for colon cancer

- Both rural and urban residents fall short of Healthy People 2010 goals for colorectal cancer screening. Overall, 49% of urban and 46% of rural adults report an age-appropriate sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy. The proportion of rural adults screened declines to 43% in the most rural counties.



A full copy of the report can be obtained from the SC Rural Health Research Center website: <http://rhr.sph.sc.edu>

