

Asian Profile Series:

Malaysian Community

Culture



Malaysia has a multi-ethnic, multicultural, and multilingual society. The original culture of the area stemmed from indigenous tribes that inhabited it, along with the Malays who later moved there. Substantial influence exists from Chinese and Indian culture, dating back to when foreign trade began. Other cultural influences include the Persian, Arabic, and British cultures. The many different ethnicities that currently exist in Malaysia have their own unique and distinctive cultural identities, with some crossover. In 1971, the government created a "National Cultural Policy", defining Malaysian culture. It stated that Malaysian culture must be based on the culture of the indigenous peoples of Malaysia, that it may incorporate suitable elements from other cultures, and that Islam must play a part in it.

Health

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Colorectal Cancer or Colon Cancer is a cancer that starts in the colon or rectum. It is 2nd leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States. In Malaysia, colorectal cancer is the second most common cancer in males and the third most common cancer in females. Luckily, colon cancer is preventable by screening and screening can also detect colorectal cancer early, when it's most curable. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends that adults age 45 to 75 be screened for colorectal cancer. Screening can be done easily with a take home stool based test. If you are within the screening age guidelines ask your health care provider how you can get screened.

Veettil SK, Lim KG, Chaiyakunapruk N, Ching SM, Abu Hassan MR. Colorectal cancer in Malaysia: Its burden and implications for a multiethnic country. *Asian J Surg.* 2017 Nov;40(6):481-489.



NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Center for Asian Health Equity (CAHE)



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO
MEDICINE



**Center for Asian
Health Equity**

The Center for Asian Health Equity (CAHE) was established in response to the unmet health needs of the diverse Asian American communities living in the Chicago metropolitan area. CAHE is a unique academic and community partnership between the University of Chicago and Asian Health Coalition (AHC), a community-based organization dedicated to the study of primarily Asian American health and disparities. The center has cancer screening and prevention research projects that are designed to increase colorectal cancer screening rates among a defined target population of person 45-75 years of age within partner health systems and disparate populations.

CAHE Staff

Madeline Morelock joined the Center for Asian Health Equity in 2020 after completing her service as a Health Education Peace Corps Volunteer in Panama. She serves as the Community Outreach Specialist on the Cancer Prevention Team, where she works collaboratively with community-based organizations to plan and implement colorectal cancer education events. Madeline especially enjoys developing health education materials and the opportunities she gets to connect with community members. In her free time, Madeline likes exploring Chicago's live music venues.

