



Colonoscopy Screening Capacity in Montana

Colorectal cancer is almost entirely preventable with aggressive screening but current screening participation are low in Montana. We estimate that 140,000 Montana adults age 50 and older are not current for colorectal cancer screening by any modality. At current rates of participation in fecal occult blood testing (25%) or endoscopy (50%), the number of unscreened adults will *increase* to 160,000 in 2020.

Montana has the capacity to meet moderately increased demand for screening colonoscopy but could meet only 17% of demand in 2009 if all eligible adults chose colonoscopy once every 10 years as their primary form of screening. The capacity to meet demand for fecal occult blood testing is essentially unlimited. It is feasible to develop campaigns to increase screening colonoscopy participation now but a systematic combination of colonoscopy and other screening modalities may be better able to meet Montana's long-term needs.

- 44 institutions have colonoscopy capacity
 - 13 urban[†]
 - 30 rural
- 83 physicians perform colonoscopies
 - 37 urban
 - 46 rural
- 55% of total colonoscopy screening capacity is unused
 - 25% unused in urban institutions
 - 80% unused in rural institutions
- Average delay for colonoscopy appointment is 3.5 weeks
 - 7 weeks urban
 - 2 weeks rural

[†] Urban areas are Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell, and Missoula.

Colonoscopy Screening Capacity Survey
Estimated Maximum Annual Screening Colonoscopy Capacity and Communities With Colonoscopy Facilities

Region 1:	1,700	1 week † ‡	Region 7:	3,000	14 weeks
Libby			Great Falls		
Kalispell			Region 8:	4,200	3 weeks
Polson			Billings		
Ronan			Columbus		
Whitefish			Hardin		
Region 2:	5,600	3 weeks	Red Lodge		
Hamilton			Region 9:	750	1 week
Missoula			Havre		
Superior			Malta		
Region 3:	3,200	6 weeks	Region 10:	1,200	1 week
Helena			Lewistown		
White Sulphur Springs			Region 11:	75	3 weeks
Region 4:	5,800	1 week	Glasgow		
Anaconda			Wolf Point		
Butte			Region 12:	140	4 weeks
Deer Lodge			Forsythe		
Dillon			Miles City		
Region 5:	400	3 weeks	Region 13:	200	1 week
Chester			Baker		
Conrad			Glendive		
Cutbank			Sidney		
Shelby					
Region 6:	3,600	3 weeks			
Big Timber					
Bozeman					
Livingston					

† Weighted regional average waiting time for appointment

‡ Urban facilities (Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell, Missoula) have longer waiting times (average 7 weeks) than rural facilities (average 2 weeks).