

# Cancer on the Blackfeet Reservation

This fact sheet provides information describing the burden of cancer among American Indians living on or near the Blackfeet Reservation. American Indian residents of Glacier and Pondera Counties were used to estimate the burden of cancer on the Blackfeet Reservation.

## Key Facts about cancer on the Blackfeet Reservation

- 384 American Indians on the Blackfeet Reservation were diagnosed with cancer from 2009—2018. That is about 38 new cases of cancer each year.
- Cancer incidence on the Blackfeet Reservation was not statistically different among American Indian and white residents (Figure 1).
- Five (5) kinds of cancer account for 61% of all cancers that occur among American Indians on the Blackfeet Reservation (Figure 2).
- Significantly more cases of lung, colorectal, and kidney cancer were diagnosed in American Indians on the Blackfeet Reservation than would be expected if the rate were the same as white residents.
- 139 American Indians on the Blackfeet Reservation died because of cancer from 2009—2018. That is about 14 deaths each year.

\*Statistically significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ )

### Montana Cancer Control Programs

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DataStatistics



Figure 1: All-site cancer incidence (new cases) rates among American Indian residents compared to White residents, Montana, 2009—2018

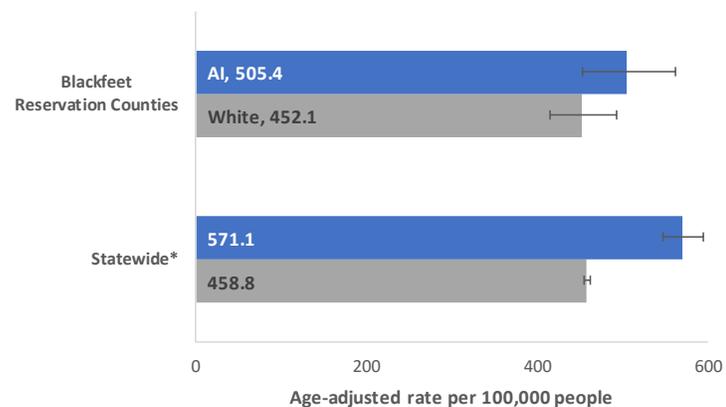
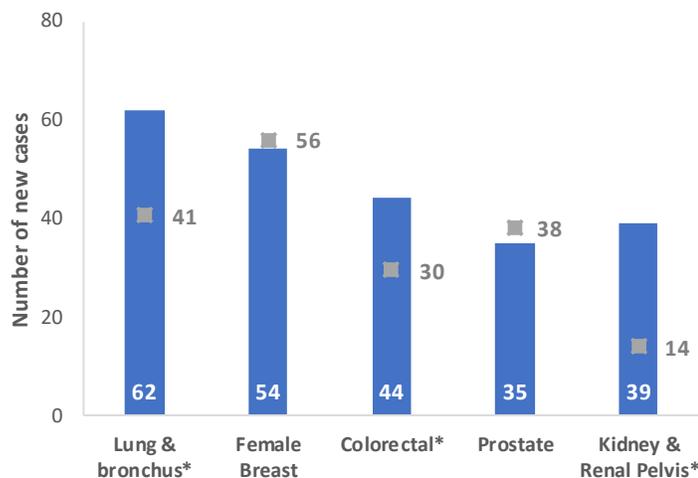


Figure 2: Observed compared to expected number of new cases of cancer by cancer site among American Indian residents of the Blackfeet reservation counties, 2009—2018



Source: MT Tumor registry



- Cancer mortality on the Blackfeet Reservation was greater than that among white Montanans statewide although cancer mortality was not statistically different between American Indian and white residents of the Blackfeet reservation counties (Figure 3).

**Key facts about cancer prevention and early detection**

- Less than half (47%) of Montana American Indian adults have been screened for colorectal cancer-- which was lower than White Montanans and the United States average (Figure 4).
- Smoking among Montana American Indians was high (Figure 5). Smoking greatly increases a persons risk for getting at least 13 types of cancer, including lung, colorectal, and kidney.
- Obesity was also high among Montana American Indians (Figure 5). Obesity increases the risk of several types of cancer including breast, colorectal, and kidney cancers.

**Reduce Your Risk for Cancer**

**Do not use commercial tobacco.**

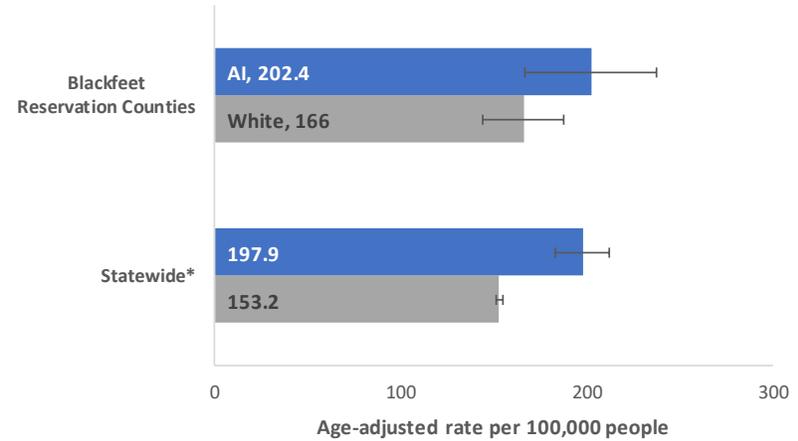
**Get screened regularly** for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers.

**Maintain a healthy weight** by getting regular physical activity and eating a diet with lots of fruits and vegetables.

**If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation.**

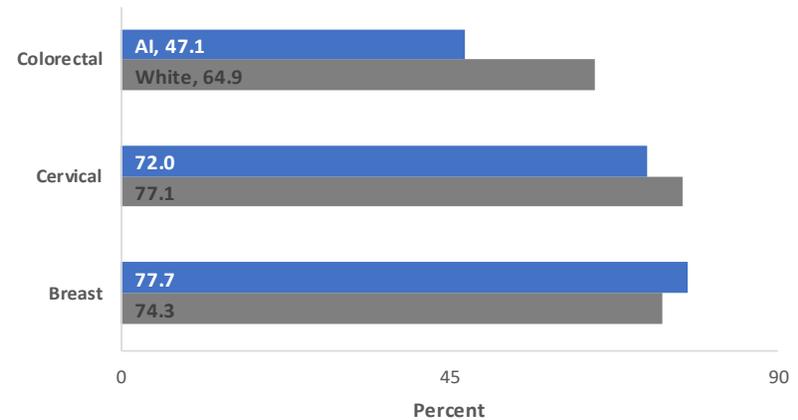
†Women aged 50+ who have had a mammogram within the past two years were up to date on breast cancer screening; women aged 21-65 years who have had a pap test within the past three years were up to date on cervical cancer screening; men and women aged 50-75 who have had colonoscopy in the past 10 years, flexible sigmoidoscopy in the past 5 years, or a blood stool test in the past 1 year were up to date on colorectal cancer screening.

**Figure 3:** All-site cancer mortality rates among **American Indian** residents compared to **White** residents, Montana, 2009—2018



Source: MT Vital Statistics

**Figure 4:** Proportion of adults who are up to date† on Colorectal, Cervical, and Breast Cancer screening among **American Indian** residents compared to **White** residents, Montana, 2018



**Figure 5:** Proportion of adults who are a current smoker or obese among **American Indian** residents compared to **White** residents, Montana, 2018



Source: MT Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

