Cancer on the Fort Belknap Reservation

This fact sheet provides information describing the burden of cancer among American Indians living on or near the Fort Belknap Reservation. American Indian residents of Blaine and Phillips Counties were used to estimate the burden of cancer on the Fort Belknap Reservation.

Key Facts about cancer on the Fort Belknap Reservation

- 147 American Indians on the Fort Belknap Reservation were diagnosed with cancer from 2008 — 2017.
- Cancer incidence on the Fort Belknap Reservation was greater than among white Montanans statewide (Figure 1).
- Five (5) kinds of cancer account for 70% of all cancers that occur on the Fort Belknap Reservation (Figure 2).
- However none of the 5 most common types of cancer had significantly more cases on the Fort Belknap Reservation than would be expected if the rate were the same as white residents.
- 52 American Indians on the Fort Belknap Reservation died because of cancer from 2008—2017. That is about 5 deaths each year.

*Statistically significantly different (p < 0.05)

Montana Cancer Control Programs
1400 E Broadway
Helena, Montana 59260-2951
(406) 444-2732
https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/Cancer/DataStatistics

Updated September 2019
• Cancer mortality on the Fort Belknap Reservation was greater than that among white Montanans statewide (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 person’s 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.