

Cancer on the Flathead Reservation

This fact sheet provides information describing the burden of cancer among American Indians living on or near the Flathead Reservation. American Indian residents of Flathead, Lake, Missoula, and Sanders Counties were used to estimate the burden of cancer on the Flathead Reservation.

Key Facts about cancer on the Flathead Reservation

- 593 American Indians on the Flathead Reservation were diagnosed with cancer from 2010—2019. That is about 59 new cases each year.
- Cancer incidence on the Flathead Reservation was higher than among white Montanans living in the Flathead reservation counties and statewide (Figure 1).
- Five (5) kinds of cancer account for 56% of all cancers that occur on the Flathead Reservation (Figure 2).
- Significantly more cases of lung, female breast, colorectal, and kidney cancer were diagnosed in American Indians on the Flathead Reservation than would be expected if the rate were the same as white residents (Figure 2).
- 176 American Indians on the Flathead Reservation died because of cancer from 2010—2019. That is about 18 deaths each year.

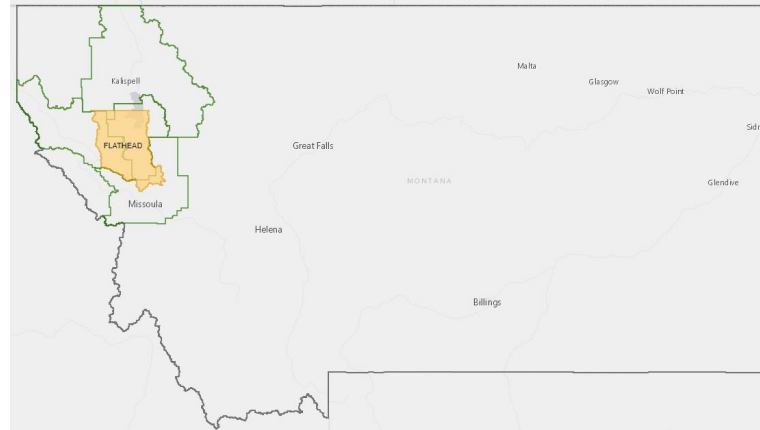


Figure 1: All-site cancer incidence (new cases) rates among **American Indian** residents compared to **White** residents, Montana, 2010—2019

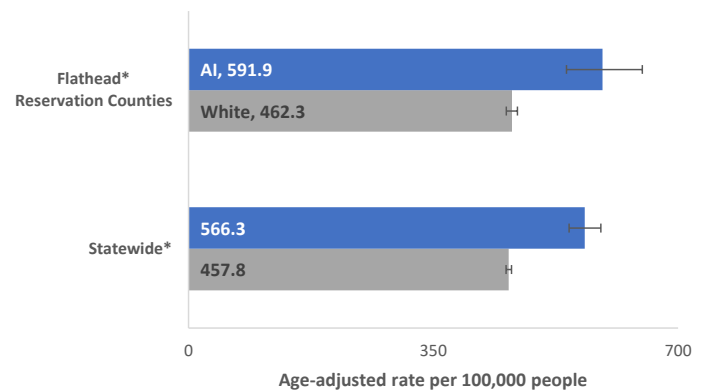
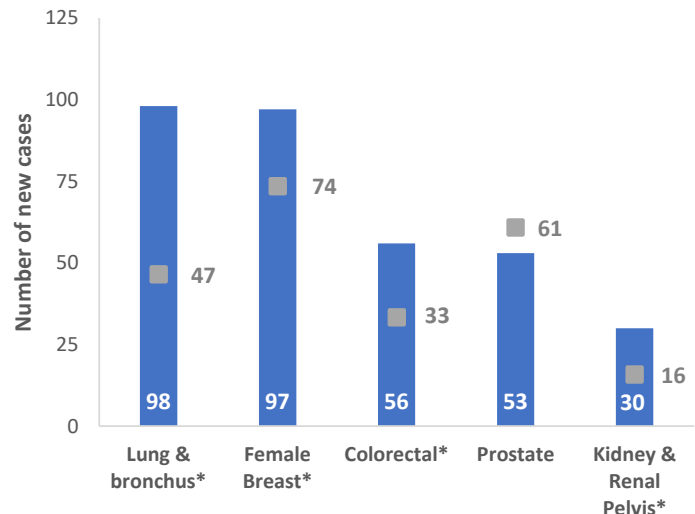


Figure 2: **Observed** compared to **expected** number of new cases of cancer by cancer site among American Indian residents of the Flathead reservation counties, 2010—2019



*Statistically significantly different (p < 0.05)

Montana Cancer Control Programs

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Source: MT Tumor registry



- Cancer mortality on the Flathead Reservation was greater than that among white Montanans in the reservation counties and statewide (Figure 3).

Key facts about cancer prevention and early detection

- More than half (58%) of Montana American Indian adults have been screened for colorectal cancer--but that was still lower than White Montanans and the United States average of 74% (Figure 4).
- Smoking prevalence 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.

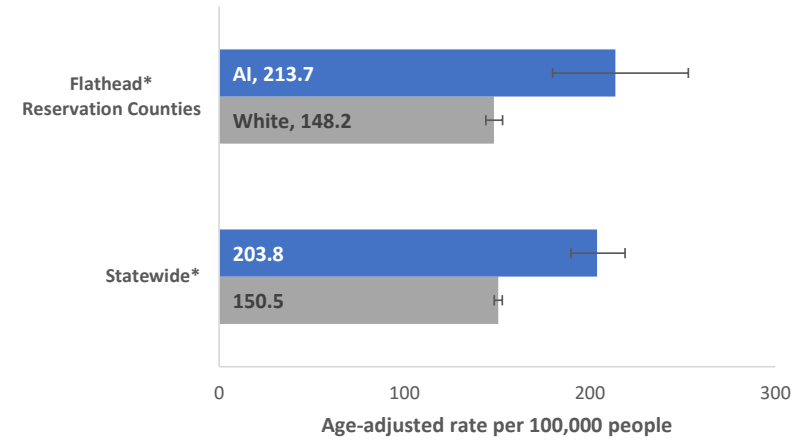
Get screened regularly for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers.

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 a 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, 2010–2019



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, 2020

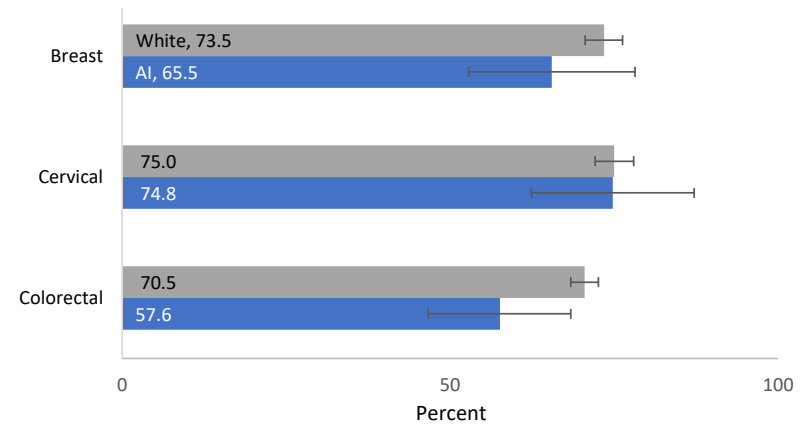
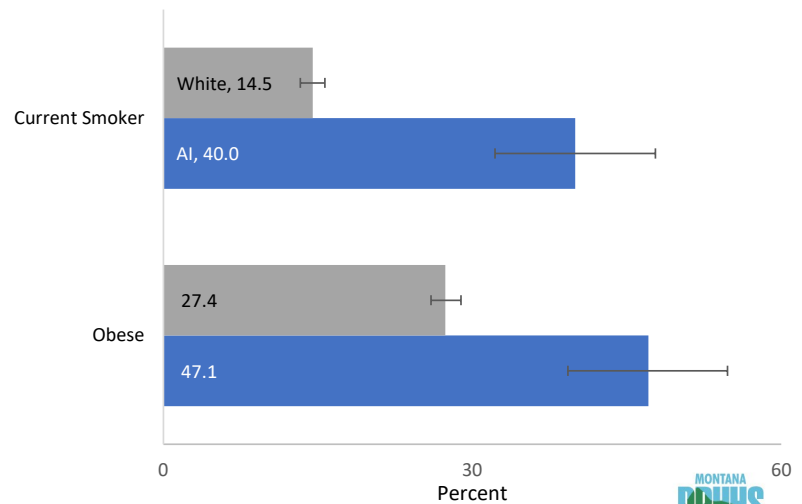


Figure 5: Proportion of adults who are a current smoker or obese among **American Indian** residents compared to **White** residents, Montana, 2020



Source: MT Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System