

# 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

- 152 American Indians on the Fort Belknap Reservation were diagnosed with cancer from 2010—2019. That is about 15 new case each year.
- Cancer incidence on the Fort Belknap Reservation was not significantly different than among white residents of the reservation counties (Figure 1).
- Five (5) kinds of cancer account for 65% of all cancers that occur on the Fort Belknap Reservation (Figure 2).
- Female breast cancer had significantly more cases diagnosed on the Fort Belknap Reservation than would be expected if the rate were the same as white residents.
- 54 American Indians on the Fort Belknap Reservation died because of cancer from 2010—2019. That is about 5 deaths each year.

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

### Montana Cancer Control Programs

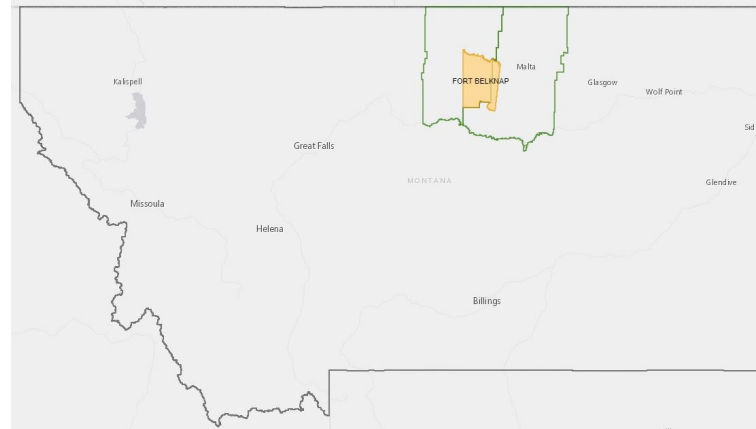
1400 E Broadway

Helena, Montana 59260-2951

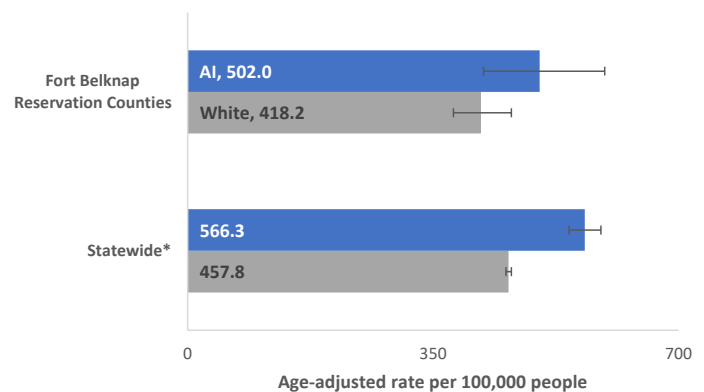
(406) 444-2732

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/Cancer/DataStatistics>

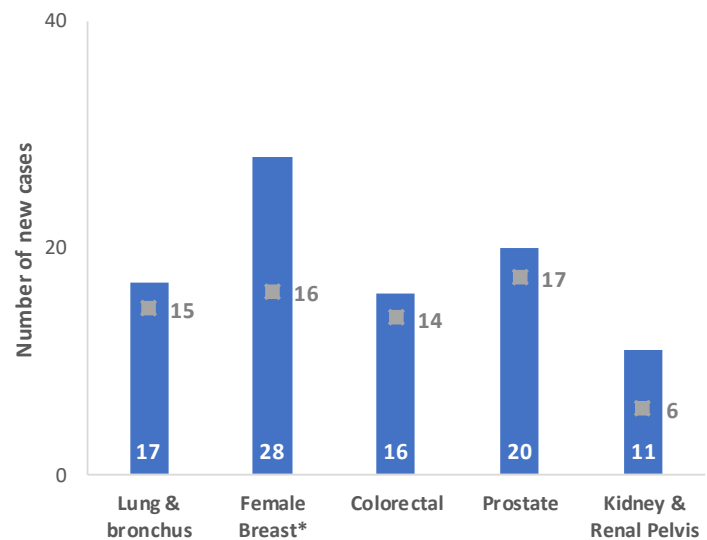
Updated July 2022



**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 Fort Belknap reservation counties, 2010—2019



Source: MT Tumor registry



- Cancer mortality on the Fort Belknap Reservation was not significantly different than among white residents of the reservation counties or 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.**

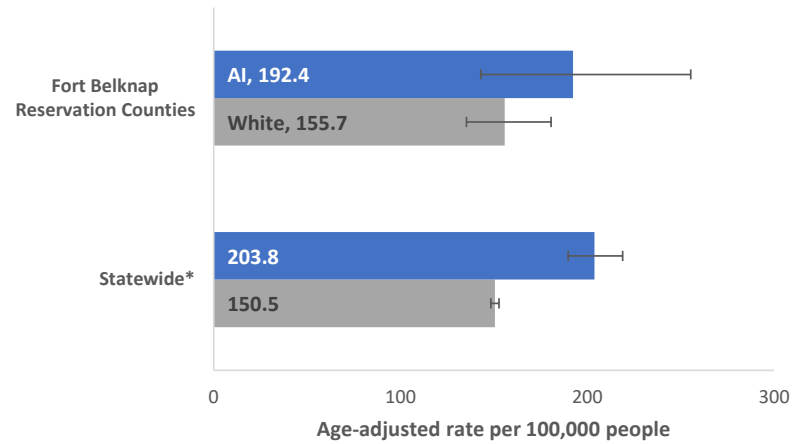
**Get screened regularly** for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers.

**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.**

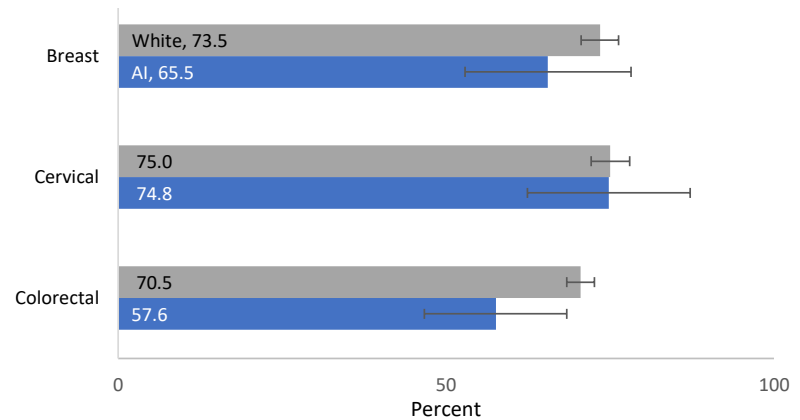
†Women aged 50+ who have had a mammogram within the past two years were up to date on breast cancer screening; women aged 21-65 years who have had a pap test within the past three years were up to date on cervical cancer screening; men and women aged 50-75 who have had a colonoscopy in the past 10 years, 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

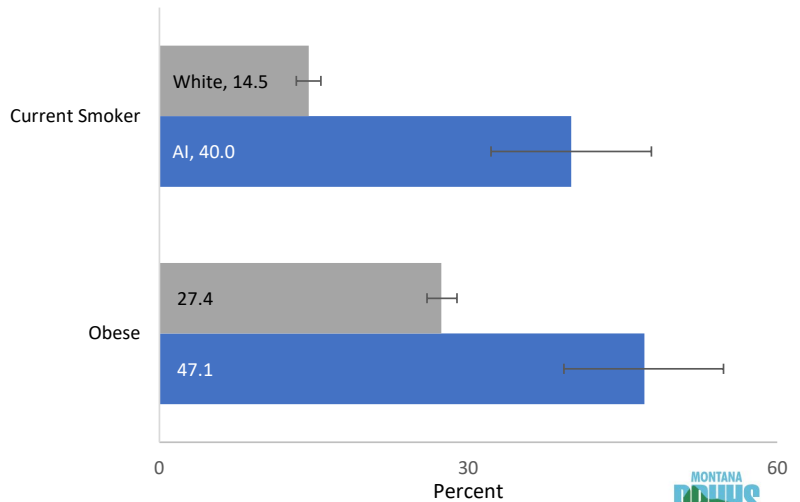


Source: MT Vital Statistics

**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