Cancer on the Fort Peck Reservation

This fact sheet provides information describing the burden of cancer among American Indians living on or near the Fort Peck Reservation. American Indian residents of Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, and Roosevelt Counties were used to estimate the burden of cancer on the Fort Peck Reservation.

Key Facts about cancer on the Fort Peck Reservation

- 274 American Indians on the Fort Peck Reservation were diagnosed with cancer from 2009—2018. That is about 27 new cases of cancer each year.
- Cancer incidence on the Fort Peck Reservation was not significantly different than among white Montanans on the reservation counties or statewide (Figure 1).
- Five (5) kinds of cancer account for 61% of all cancers that occur on the Fort Peck Reservation (Figure 2).
- Significantly more cases of lung, colorectal, and kidney cancer were diagnosed in American Indians on the Fort Peck Reservation than would be expected if the rate were the same as white residents.
- 108 American Indians on the Fort Peck Reservation died because of cancer from 2009—2018. That is

*Statistically significantly different (p < 0.05)

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about 11 deaths each year.

- Cancer mortality on the Fort Peck Reservation was greater than that among white Montanans in the reservation counties and 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 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.