Cancer on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation

This fact sheet provides information describing the burden of cancer among American Indians living on or near the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. American Indian residents of Big Horn and Rosebud Counties were used to estimate the burden of cancer on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

Key Facts about cancer on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation

- 416 American Indians on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation were diagnosed with cancer from 2009—2018. That is about 42 new cases of cancer each year.
- Cancer incidence on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation was about the same as white Montanans statewide and in the reservation counties (Figure 1).
- Five (5) kinds of cancer account for 58% of all cancers that occur on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation (Figure 2).
- Significantly more cases of lung cancer were diagnosed on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation than would be expected if the rate were the same as white residents.

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 Northern Cheyenne reservation counties, 2009—2018

*Statistically significantly different (p < 0.05)

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• 122 American Indians on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation died because of cancer from 2009—2018. That is about 12 deaths each year.

• Cancer mortality on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation was about the same as among white Montanans statewide and in the 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 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.