

Cancer on the Rocky Boy Reservation

CANCER BURDEN FACTS

This fact sheet provides information describing the burden of cancer among American Indians living on or near the Rocky Boy Reservation. American Indian residents of Chouteau and Hill counties were used to estimate the burden of cancer on the Rocky Boy Reservation.

- **167 American Indians on the Rocky Boy Reservation were diagnosed with cancer from 2012–2021. Therefore, there are on average 17 new cases of cancer each year.**
- **Cancer incidence on the Rocky Boy Reservation was not significantly different than among White Montanans in the Reservation counties or statewide (Figure 1).**
- **Five (5) kinds of cancer account for 62% of all cancers that occur on the Rocky Boy Reservation (Figure 2).**
- **Significantly more cases of lung, and colorectal cancer were diagnosed in American Indians on the Rocky Boy Reservation than would be expected if the rate were the same as White residents (Figure 2).**
- **74 American Indians on the Rocky Boy Reservation died because of cancer from 2012–2021. That is on average 7 deaths each year.**

Montana Cancer Control Programs

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

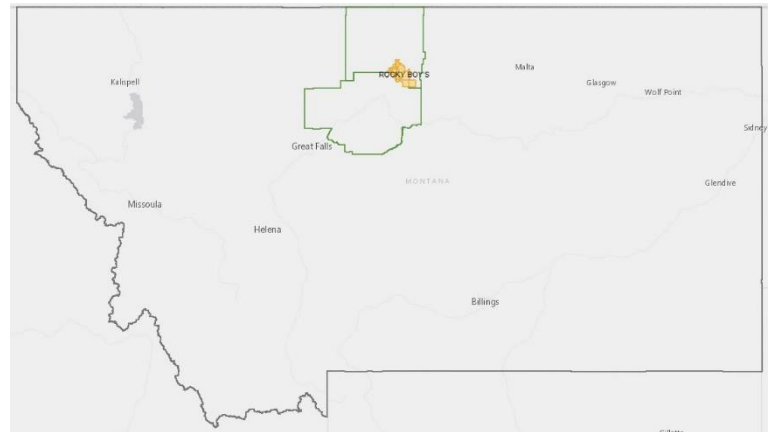


Figure 1: All-site cancer incidence (new cases) rates among **American Indian** residents compared to **White** residents, Montana, 2012–2021

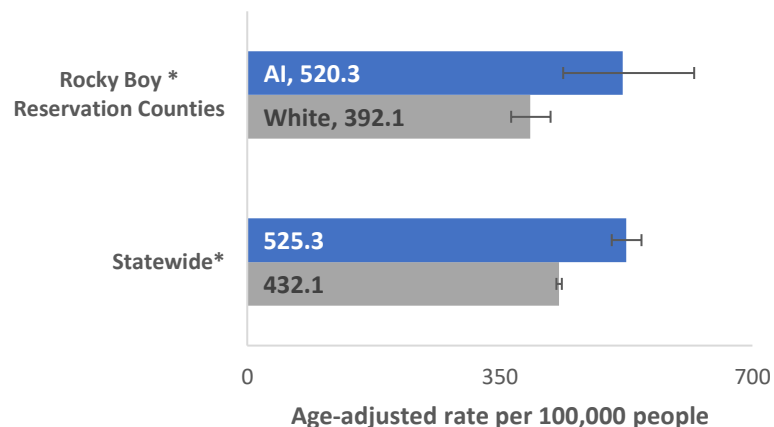
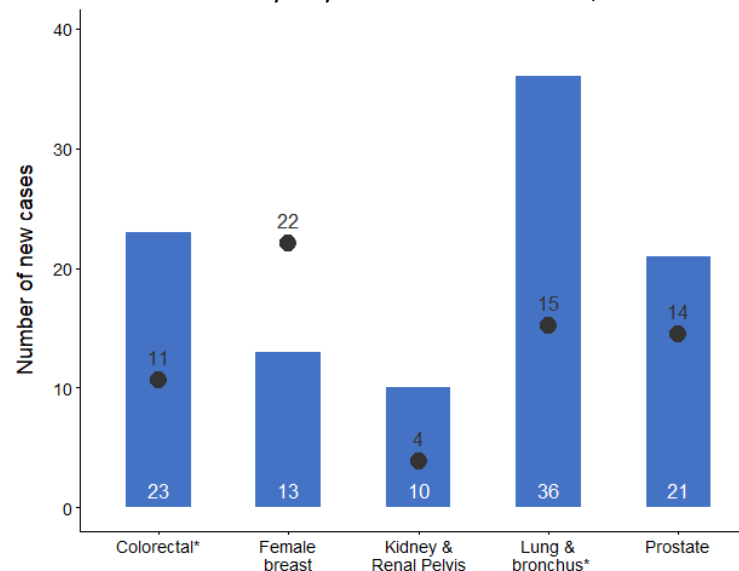


Figure 2: **Observed** compared to **expected** (●) number of new cases of cancer by cancer site among American Indian residents of the Rocky Boy Reservation counties, 2012–2021





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- **Cancer mortality on the Rocky Boy Reservation was greater than among White Montanans in the Rocky Boy Reservation counties and statewide (Figure 3).**

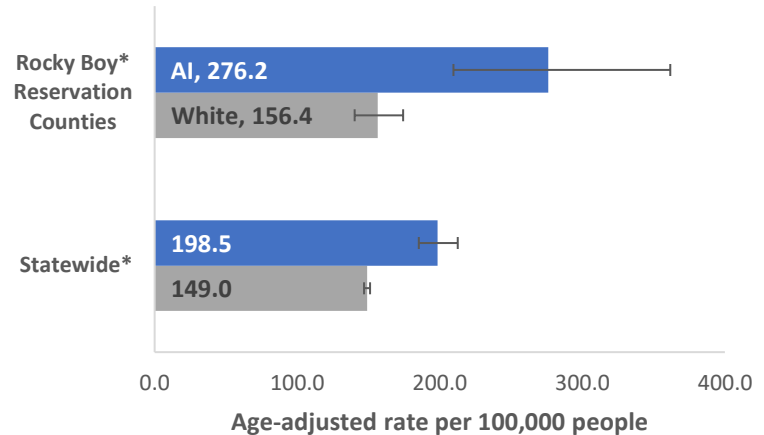
Key facts about cancer prevention and early detection

- **More than half (58%) of Montana American Indian adults have been screened for colorectal cancer. This was lower than the percentage of White Montanans (Figure 4).**
- **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.**
- **Percent of American Indian adults who report themselves as a current cigarette smoker fell from 31% in 2021 to 25% in 2023 (Figure 5). This indicates an important, positive trend, which must continue as smoking greatly increases a person's risk for getting at least 13 types of cancer, including lung, colorectal, and kidney. Smoking among Montana American Indians remains higher than in White Montanans (Figure 5).**

†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.

¹Colorectal and Breast data are from 2022, cervical cancer data is from 2020

Figure 3: All-site cancer mortality rates among **American Indian** residents compared to **White** residents, Montana, 2012–2021



Source: MT Vital Statistics

Figure 4: Percent of adults who are up to date† on Colorectal, Cervical, and Breast Cancer screening among **American Indian** residents compared to **White** residents, Montana¹.

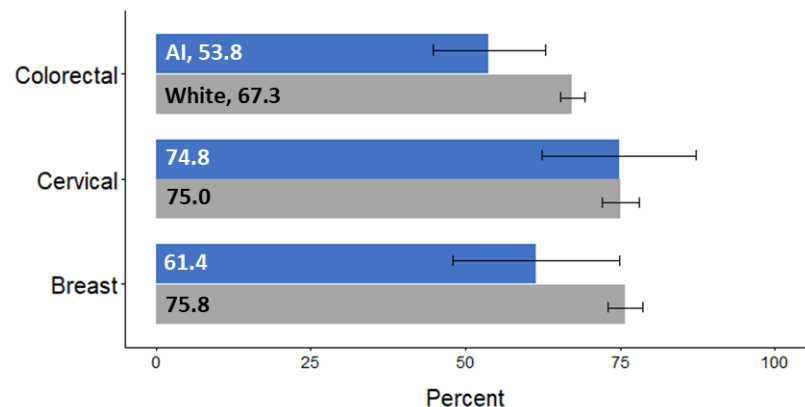
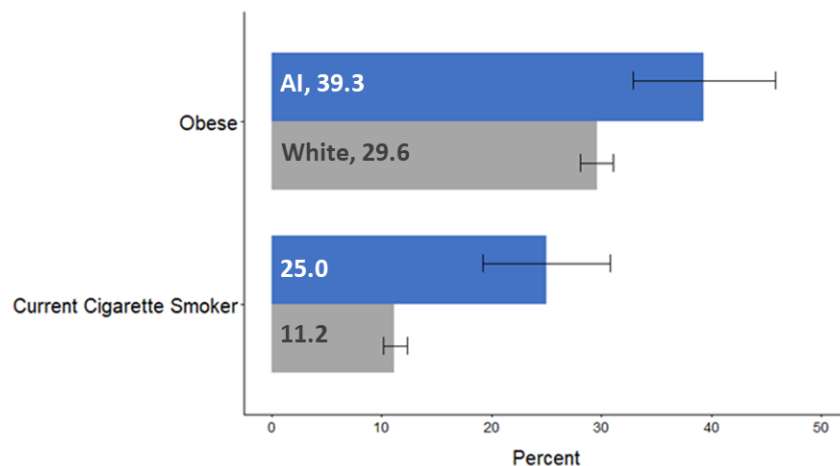


Figure 5: Proportion of adults who are a current smoker or obese among **American Indian** residents compared to **White** residents, Montana 2023



Source: MT Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System