Colorectal Cancer in the American Indian and Alaska Native Population, United States — 2011–2015 (Purchased/Referred Care Delivery Areas*)

*Purchased/Referred Care Delivery Areas (PRCDA) are counties that contain federally recognized tribal lands or are adjacent to tribal lands. Race classification for the American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) population is more accurate in these counties.

Colorectal Cancer (CRC) is a cancer that occurs in the colon and rectum. Common risk factors include:

- Age over 50 years.
- Alcohol consumption, cigarette smoking, lack of physical activity, a low-fiber and high-fat diet, a diet high in red and processed meats, and overweight and obesity.
- Inflammatory bowel disease, diabetes, or a personal or family history of CRC.

The AI/AN population experiences excess CRC in many regions. Early detection of CRC through screening can help to reduce mortality.

**Rates by Sex and Region**

*Figure 1. Age-Adjusted Colorectal Cancer Incidence Rates* by Region: PRCDA, 2011–2015

Rates for CRC include the following:

- Overall, rates of CRC were higher in the AI/AN population compared with the non-Hispanic white population (57.7 vs. 41.8 in males; 44.6 vs. 32.7 in females).
- Rates of CRC in the AI/AN population varied by geographic region with the highest rates being in Alaska for both genders.
- Rates of CRC were significantly higher in the AI/AN population compared with the white population in the Northern Plains, Alaska, Southern Plains, and Pacific Coast regions for males and females.
AI/AN Trends for CRC include the following:

- Overall, the CRC rates have declined significantly for AI/AN males, but there have not been any significant decreases seen for AI/AN females.
- In AI/AN males, rates of CRC decreased significantly in the Northern Plains (1999–2015 APC: -3.3) and Pacific Coast (1999–2015 APC: -2.1). (Data not shown in graphs.)
- In AI/AN females, rates of CRC decreased significantly in the Northern Plains (1999–2015 APC: -2.1) only, with a significant increase in the Southwest (1999–2015 APC: 4.0). (Data not shown in graphs.)

Data Source

Data are from the United States Cancer Statistics American Indian/Alaska Native Incidence Database (USCS AIAD). This database includes data from cancer registries participating in CDC’s National Program of Cancer Registries and National Cancer Institute’s Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results program that have been linked with the Indian Health Service patient registration database. The USCS AIAD and PRCDA counties have been described previously.

   Cancer 2008;113(5 Suppl):1120–1130.
2. See registry-specific data quality information.

More Information

Cancer Health Disparities Among American Indians and Alaska Natives
USCS Data Visualization Tool
Colorectal Cancer | CDC
National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (NCCCP): The NCCCP funds all 50 states, the District of Columbia, 6 US Associated Pacific Island and Puerto Rico, and 8 tribes or tribal organizations to establish coalitions, assess the burden of cancer, determine priorities, and develop and implement comprehensive cancer control programs.