

American Indian Cancer Burden

Cancer Facts for American Indians and Alaska Natives

Cancer is the...

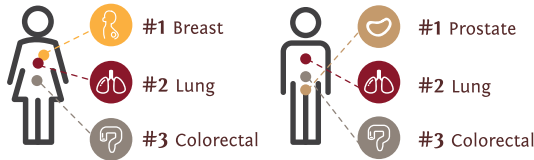
#1 Cause of Death
for Women

- #2 Heart Disease
- #3 Unintentional Injury

#2 Cause of Death
for Men

- #1 Heart Disease
- #3 Unintentional Injury

The most commonly
diagnosed cancers are...

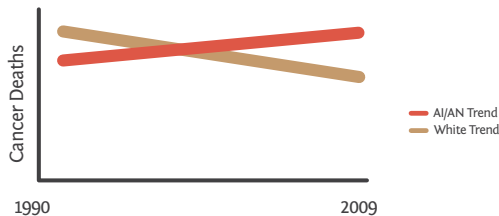


Lung cancer is the leading
cause of cancer death for
men and women.

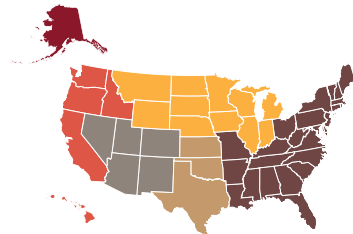
Other leading causes of cancer death are...



Cancer death rates for AI/AN
increased over a 20 year period,
while decreasing for Whites over
the same time frame.



Distinct patterns in AI/AN cancer
rates are observed across six
geographic regions defined by the
Indian Health Service.



Prevention

Culturally appropriate and comprehensive approaches are needed to reduce cancer risk for American Indian and Alaska Native people in these areas:

1

Identifying and addressing the social, physical and economic determinants of cancer risk in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

2

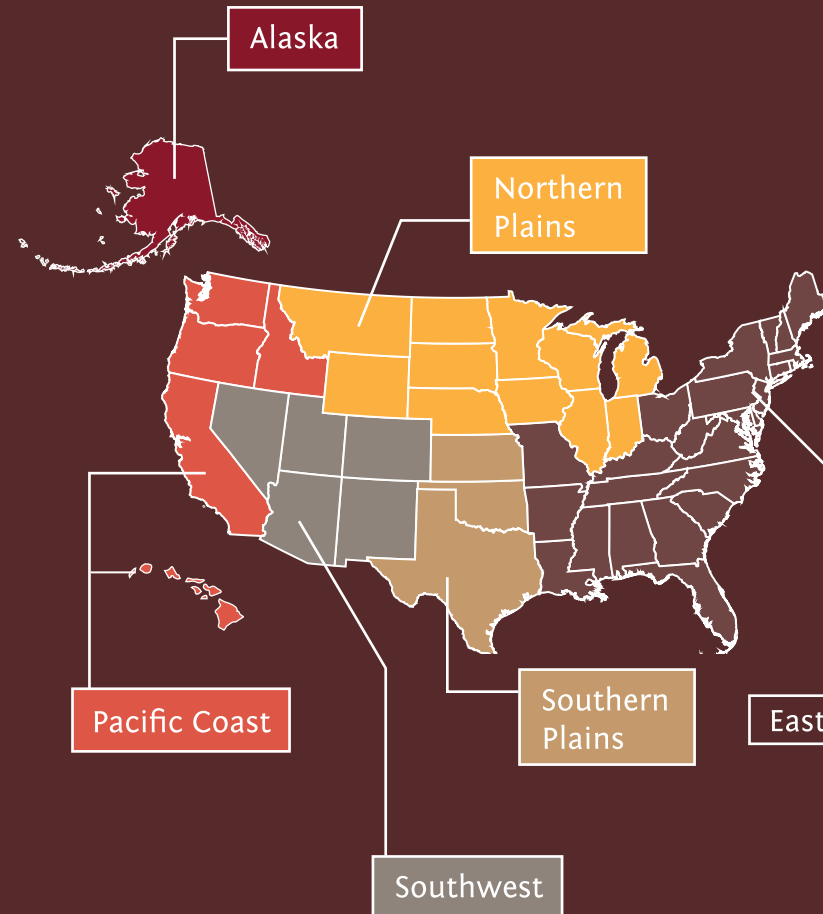
Improving access to quality health services for cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment for American Indian and Alaska Native people.

3

Promoting healthy lifestyle choices while recognizing cultural values and practices:

- Avoiding harmful tobacco use
- Eating nutritious foods
- Being physically active
- Getting regular cancer screenings
- Limiting alcohol intake

Cancer Burden by Region









Data in this publication from: White MC, Espey DK, Swan J, Wiggins CL, Ehemann C, Kaur J. *Disparities in Cancer Mortality and Incidence Among American Indians and Alaska Natives in the United States*. *AJPH*: June 2014, Vol. 104, No. S3: S377–S387.

Alaska

AI/AN in Alaska have **higher cancer diagnoses and death rates** for many cancers compared to Whites.

Most Common Cancers: Alaska

Cancer Diagnosis	Women	Cancer Deaths
#1 Breast		#1 Lung *
* #2 Colorectal		#2 Breast *
* #3 Lung		#3 Colorectal *

Cancer Diagnosis	Men	Cancer Deaths
* #1 Lung		#1 Lung *
* #2 Colorectal		#2 Colorectal *
#3 Prostate		#3 Stomach *

* Indicates higher rates for AI/AN than Whites

Cancer Disparities for AI/AN vs. Whites: Alaska

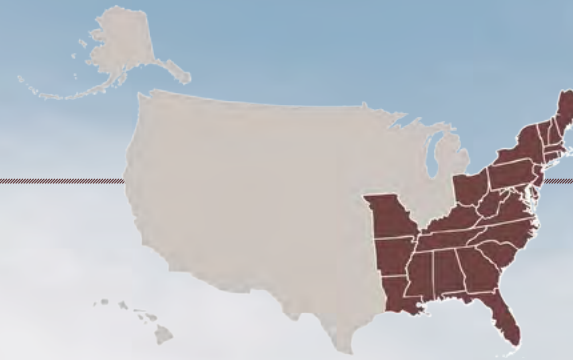


Prevention

Stomach cancer rates are highest in Alaska. Smoked and pickled foods, and salted meats and fish are risk factors. A diet high in fresh fruits and vegetables can lower risk.

East

AI/AN in the East have **lower cancer diagnosis rates** for the top three cancers compared to both Whites and other regions.



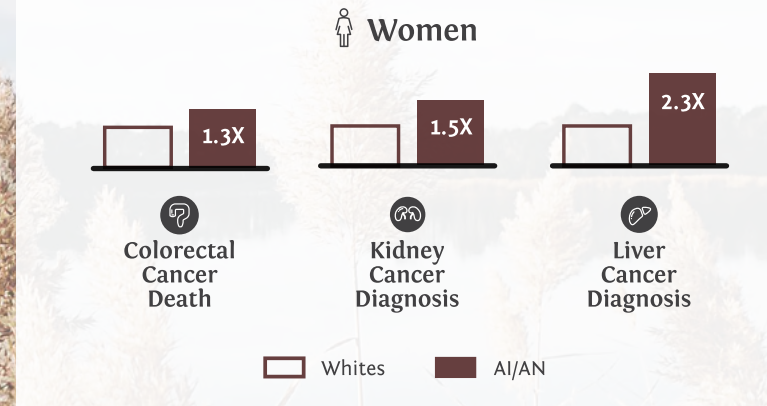
Most Common Cancers: East

Cancer Diagnosis	Women	Cancer Deaths
#1 Breast		#1 Lung
#2 Lung		#2 Breast
#3 Colorectal		#3 Colorectal *

Cancer Diagnosis	Men	Cancer Deaths
#1 Prostate		#1 Lung
#2 Lung		#2 Colorectal
#3 Colorectal		#3 Prostate

* Indicates higher rates for AI/AN than Whites

Cancer Disparities for AI/AN vs. Whites: East

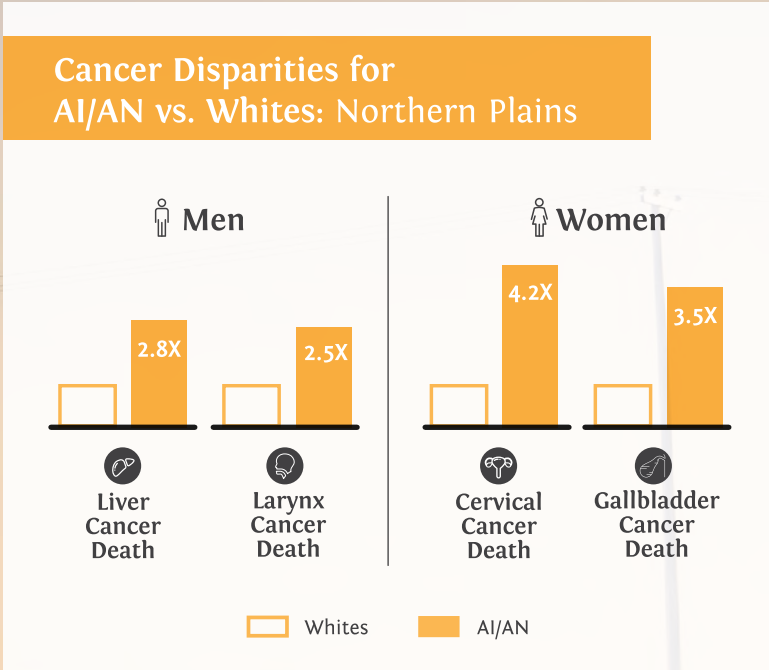
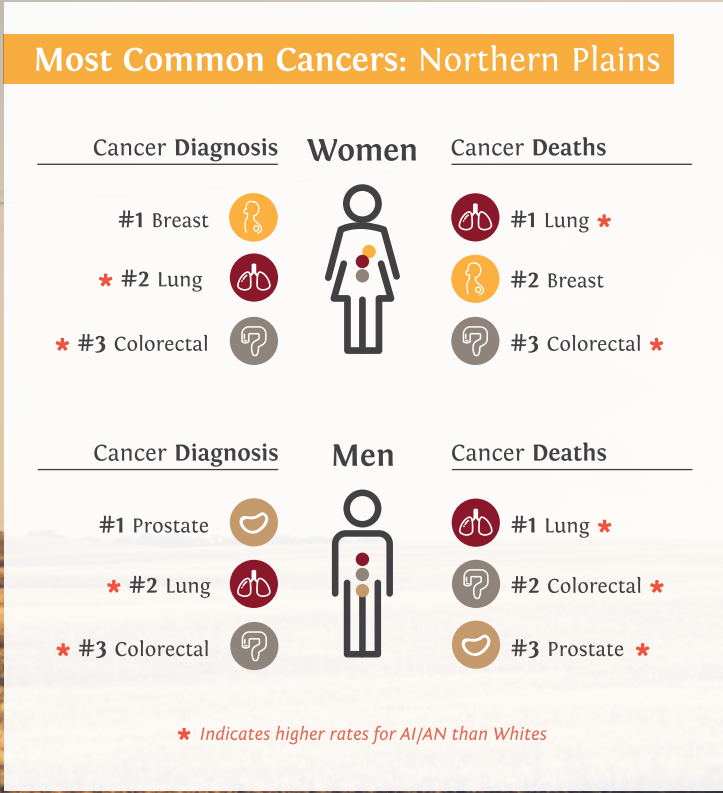
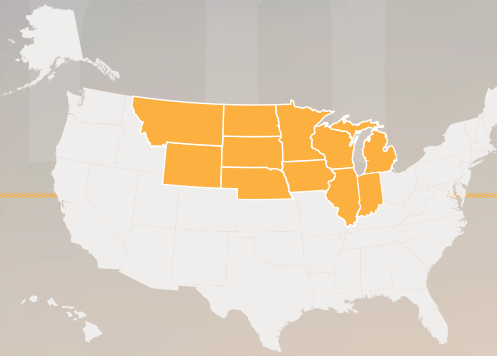


Prevention

Unlike other regions, AI/AN men and women in the East experience similar or lower rates for most cancers compared to Whites. More research is needed to understand why, but differences in factors such as lifestyle or screening access could provide clues about preventing cancer in other regions.

Northern Plains

AI/AN in the Northern Plains experience some of the **highest** cancer diagnoses and death rates in the United States.



Prevention

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the Northern Plains. Improved access to tobacco cessation services like quit lines, medications, and counseling can help AI/AN people quit commercial tobacco and reduce their risk for lung cancer.

Pacific Coast

AI/AN in the Pacific Coast have fewer cancer disparities than in other regions, but show similar or worse rates for some of the top cancers when compared to Whites.

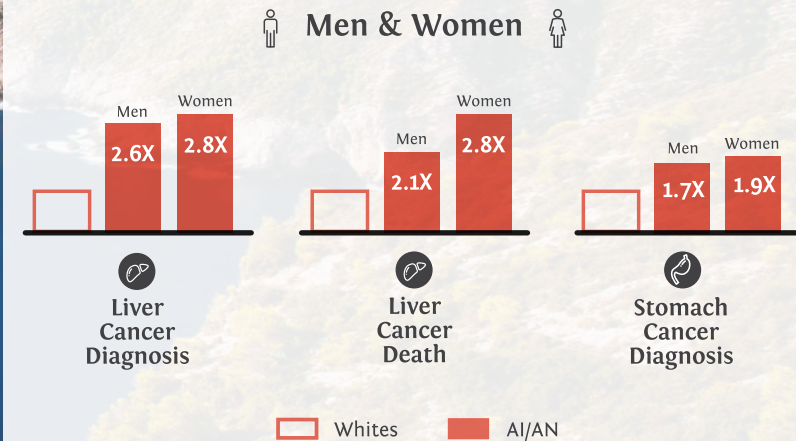
Most Common Cancers: Pacific Coast

Cancer Diagnosis	Women	Cancer Deaths
#1 Breast		#1 Lung *
#2 Lung		#2 Breast
* #3 Colorectal		#3 Colorectal *

Cancer Diagnosis	Men	Cancer Deaths
#1 Prostate		#1 Lung
#2 Lung		#2 Colorectal *
#3 Colorectal		#3 Prostate

* Indicates higher rates for AI/AN than Whites

Cancer Disparities for AI/AN vs. Whites: Pacific Coast

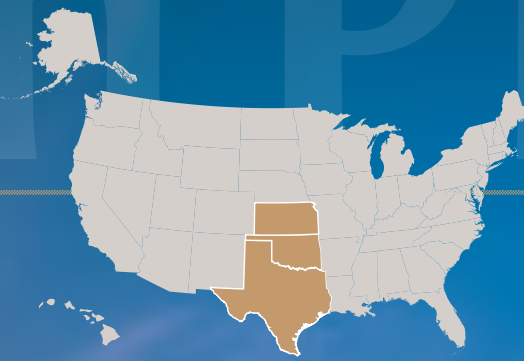


Prevention

Breast cancer is the most common cancer and the second leading cause of cancer deaths among AI/AN women in the Pacific Coast. Improved access to screening and quality, timely care can help reduce breast cancer mortality.

Southern Plains

AI/AN in the Southern Plains have higher cancer diagnoses and death rates for the top three cancers compared to Whites.

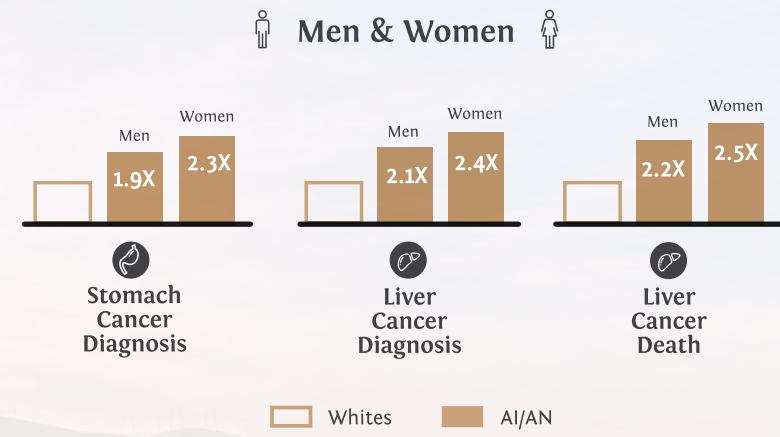


Most Common Cancers: Southern Plains

Cancer Diagnosis	Women	Cancer Deaths
* #1 Breast		#1 Lung *
* #2 Lung		#2 Breast *
* #3 Colorectal		#3 Colorectal *
Cancer Diagnosis	Men	Cancer Deaths
* #1 Prostate		#1 Lung *
* #2 Lung		#2 Colorectal *
* #3 Colorectal		#3 Prostate *

* Indicates higher rates for AI/AN than Whites

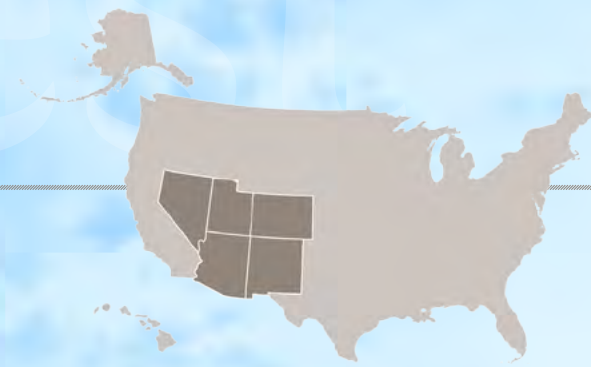
Cancer Disparities for AI/AN vs. Whites: Southern Plains



Prevention

Colorectal cancer diagnoses and deaths are common in the Southern Plains. Improved access to screening, especially for those in rural areas, can help detect this cancer early when treatment is most effective and can save lives.

AI/AN in the Southwest have **lower cancer diagnoses and death rates** for many of the most common cancers compared to Whites.



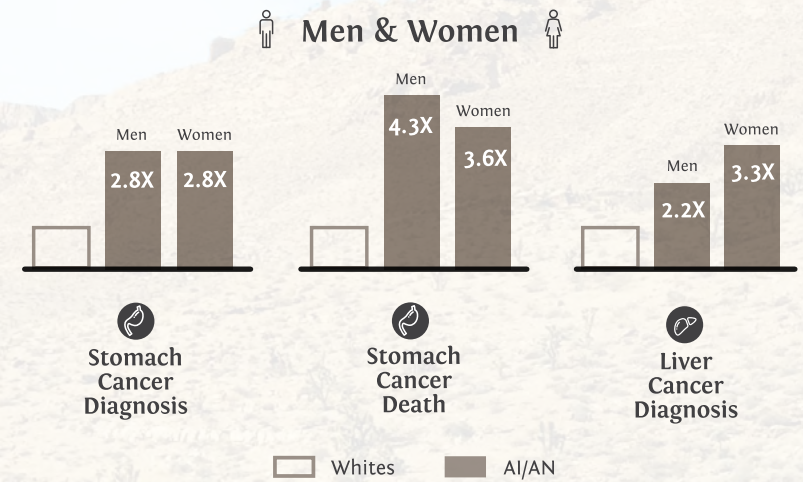
Most Common Cancers: Southwest

Cancer Diagnosis	Women	Cancer Deaths
#1 Breast		#1 Breast
#2 Colorectal		#2 Lung
#3 Uterus		#3 Colorectal

Cancer Diagnosis	Men	Cancer Deaths
#1 Prostate		#1 Lung
#2 Colorectal		#2 Prostate
* #3 Kidney		#3 Colorectal

* Indicates higher rates for AI/AN than Whites

Cancer Disparities for AI/AN vs. Whites: Southwest



Prevention

Like in other regions, AI/AN people in the Southwest have higher rates of liver cancer compared to Whites. Increasing vaccination rates for the hepatitis B vaccine can prevent new liver cancer cases and new hepatitis C treatments may decrease liver cancer deaths.

The American Indian Cancer Foundation's mission is to eliminate the cancer burdens on American Indian families through education, prevention, early detection, treatment and survivor support.

