

Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death for American Indian and Alaska Native people. Talk to your doctor about when you should start screening.

Alan Natachu (Zuni & Laguna)
colorectal cancer survivor



American Indian
Cancer Foundation.

SCREENING IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO PREVENT COLON CANCER IN INDIAN COUNTRY.

What is colon cancer?

Colon cancer is a disease in the colon, or large intestine. The colon is responsible for removing fluid and nutrients from the food you eat, then pushing the waste into the **rectum**, where it can be expelled from the body.

Rectal cancer is a disease that starts in the rectum. The term **colorectal cancer** includes disease that starts in either location.

The screening is the same for both: either a stool-based test or visual screening (colonoscopy).

Screening

Screening for average risk people should begin at age 45.

Those with a family history of polyps, colon, or rectal cancer should start 10 years prior to a loved one being diagnosed, or having a polyp found.

Talk to your health care provider about your family health history and any digestive symptoms you are experiencing.

Native men and women ages 45-75 should speak with their doctor about when screening is right for them.

1 IN 23

PEOPLE DEVELOP COLON CANCER



ColonCancerCoalition.org

AmericanIndianCancer.org



American Indian
Cancer Foundation.