

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

Alan (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.

AI/AN people ages 45-75 should talk to their doctor about colorectal cancer screening options.

Colon cancer may have no symptoms in the early stages.



American Indian
Cancer Foundation.

ColonCancerCoalition.org | AmericanIndianCancer.org

Screening

Screening options for colorectal cancer include: a stool-based test, newly available blood-based tests, or visual screening like colonoscopy.

Screening for most AI/AN people should start at age 45.

People with a **family history** of polyps, colon, or rectal cancer should **start screening earlier**.

Seek screening **10 years earlier** than when your relative had a polyp or received colorectal cancer diagnosis.

Michaela (Isleta Pueblo)
colorectal cancer survivor

