

Colorectal Cancer Screening

2024 Alaska Native Health Fact Sheet | Preventive Care



Definition

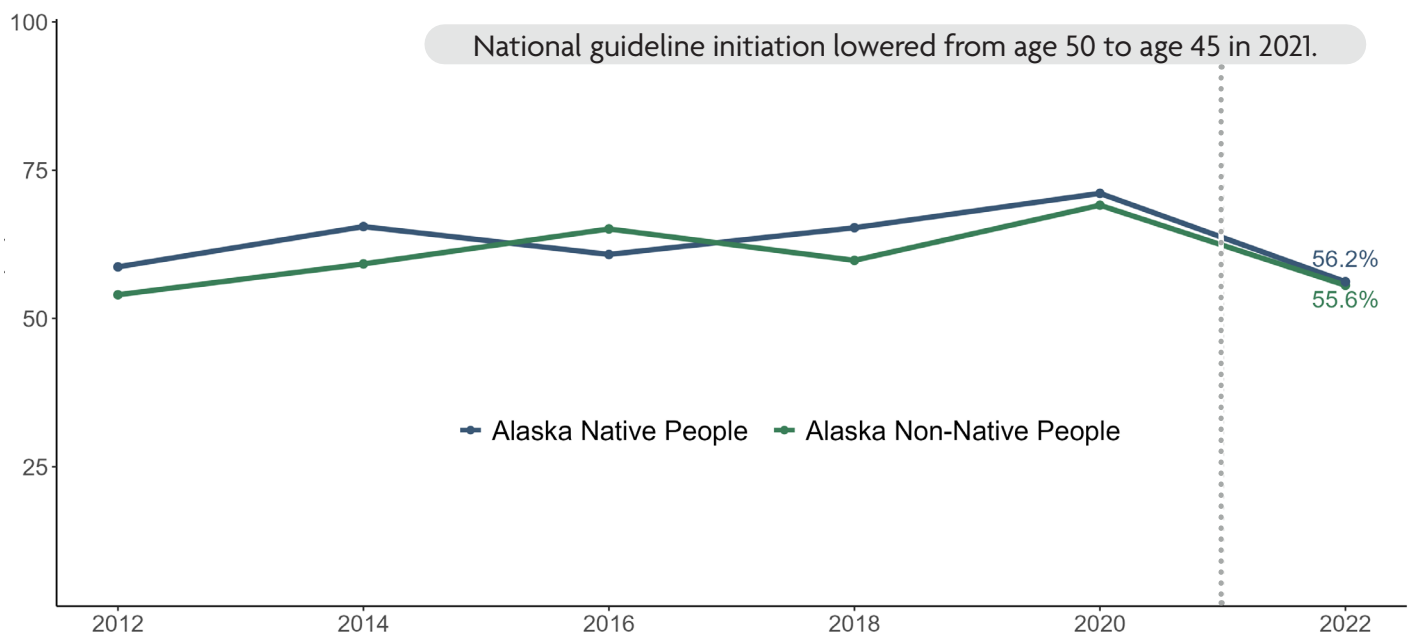
Colorectal cancer screening is measured among adults aged 50-75 years (through 2020) or aged 45-75 (2021 and later) as those who report having a fecal occult blood test within the past year, or a flexible sigmoidoscopy within the past five years, or a colonoscopy within the past ten years. The recommended testing schedule depends on which test is performed.¹

In this report, we use the term Alaska Native adults to refer to Alaska Native and American Indian adults living in Alaska.

Summary

- » During 2022, 56.2% of Alaska Native people aged 45-75 years reported having been screened for colorectal cancer.
- » During 2022, there was no statistically significant difference in colorectal cancer screening rates between Alaska Native people and Alaska non-Native people.
- » A statistically significant decline was observed from 2020 to 2022 among both Alaska Native people and Alaska non-Native people. For Alaska Native people, the 2020-2022 decline was statistically significant even for adults aged 50 and older. This indicates that the decline observed in 2022 was not due solely to the lowered screening age under the 2021 USPSTF national guidelines. This decline in screening coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic in Alaska.
- » During 2018-2022, the percent of Alaska Native adults who received colorectal cancer screening varied by Tribal health region, ranging from 54.1% (Bristol Bay) to 73.9% (Norton Sound).

Percentage of Alaska Native Adults Who Met CRC Screening Guidelines, 2012-2022



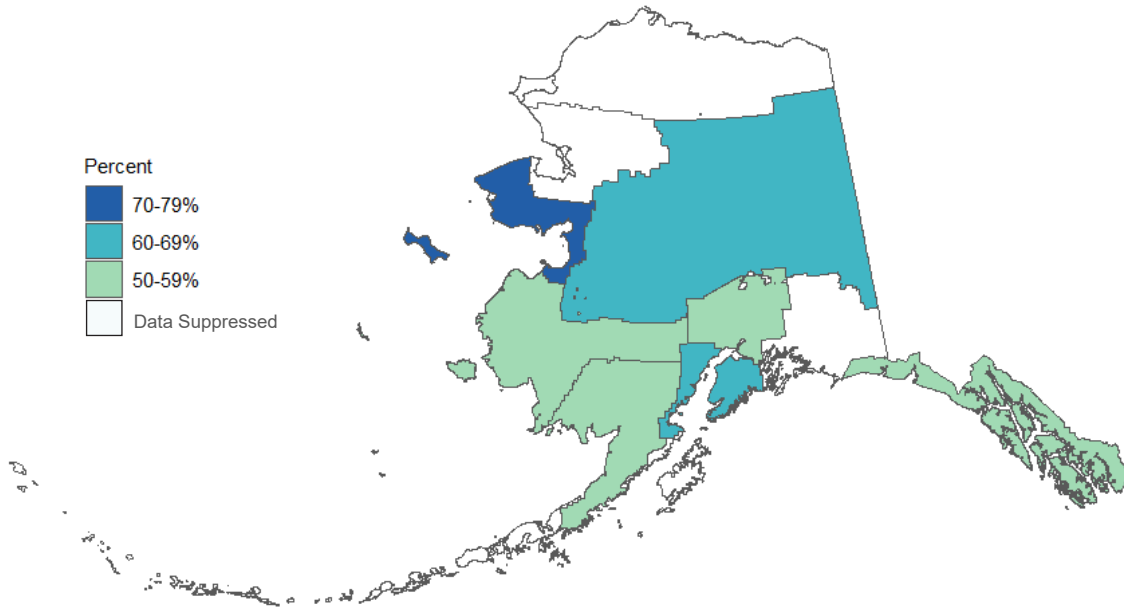
Data Source: Alaska Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

¹U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. (2021). Colorectal Cancer: Screening. Retrieved from www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/colorectal-cancer-screening.

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Percentage of Alaska Native Adults Who Met CRC Screening Guidelines by Tribal Health Region, 2018-2022



Data Source: Alaska Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Note: Data are not shown for regions where the count is less than 5 and the total number of respondents is less than 50.

Percentage of Adults Who Met Colorectal Cancer Screening Guidelines, by Year 2012-2022

	Alaska Native People % (95% Confidence Interval)	Alaska Non-Native People % (95% Confidence Interval)
2012	58.7 (51.7, 65.5)	54.0 (50.4, 57.5)
2014	65.5 (57.2, 72.9)	59.2 (55.9, 62.5)
2016	60.8 (48.0, 72.3)	65.1 (60.5, 69.5)
2018	65.3 (56.9, 72.8)	59.8 (55.8, 63.6)
2020	71.1 (62.9, 78.2)	69.1 (65.3, 72.7)
2022	56.2 (49.6, 62.6)	55.6 (53.0, 58.1)

Percentage of Alaska Native Adults Who Met Colorectal Cancer Screening Guidelines, by Tribal Health Region, 2018-2022

	% (95% Confidence Interval)
Anchorage/Mat-Su	59.7 (49.4, 69.3)
Bristol Bay	54.1 (33.4, 73.4)
Interior	63.8 (53.7, 72.8)
Kenai Peninsula	66.1 (50.9, 78.7)
Norton Sound	73.9 (55.3, 86.6)
Southeast	57.4 (47.9, 66.4)
Yukon-Kuskokwim	54.2 (42.7, 65.2)

Note: Data are not shown for regions where the count is less than 5 and the total number of respondents is less than 50.