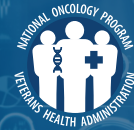


VA COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING AND MINORITY VETERANS



SHOULDER to SHOULDER
Every Step of the Way

Screening For Colorectal Cancer Improves Outcomes

Colorectal cancer is a common but largely preventable cancer when screening is done regularly and consistently.

American Indians and Alaska Natives serve in the U.S. Armed Services at a higher rate than any other group. Almost three-quarters of American Indian/Alaska Natives who are service-connected utilize VA health care.

Key Facts

- There are approximately **140,000** American Indian Veterans.
- American Indian and Native Alaskan Veterans have the lowest colorectal screening rates of all minority Veterans by about **6%**.
- The odds of Native Alaskan and Native American Veterans being up-to-date with their screening is **23%** less likely than their white peers.

What Does This Mean For You?

Screening can begin at age 45 for both men and women. Screening for colorectal cancer means if polyps are found, they can be removed. By removing the polyps, the risk of colorectal cancer goes down.

There are 2 main screening options available through VA:

- Colonoscopy
- Fecal Immunochemical test (FIT)

In general, colonoscopy is performed every 10 years and FIT is performed every year. Screening should begin at age 45 for average-risk individuals at age 40 for individuals with a family history of colorectal cancer.

Delays in screenings mean delays in timely diagnoses. This is why it is so important to get your screening scheduled.

Available Resources

The Center for Minority Veterans works to ensure Veterans receive equal services regardless of race, origin, religion, or gender.



To learn about VA benefits specific to American Indian Veterans, go to the American Indian Veterans benefits website:



If you have question about cancer care at VA, email cancer@va.gov or visit cancer.va.gov.