Improving colorectal cancer screening in the Alaska Tribal Health System through patient navigation and community outreach

Land Acknowledgement

Thank you to the Dena’ina people, on whose traditional lands I live. Thanks for their past and present stewardship of the waters, plants, animals and spiritual practices of this place.
Diana Redwood, Improving CRC screening in Alaska Tribal Health System through patient navigation and community outreach

Presented to Indigenous Peoples Navigation Network (IPNN), August 4, 2022
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CRC Mortality Rates Among U.S. Counties

Mokdad et al., JAMA, 2017
USPSTF screening recommendations for average risk adults

Starting at age 45 (ANMC guidelines: age 40 for Alaska Native people)
- Screening colonoscopy every 10 years
- Annual screening with high-sensitivity stool tests (FIT)
- Sigmoidoscopy every 5 years, with high-sensitivity FOBT every 3 years

Data Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

2020 BRFSS Data
Alaska Native people: 71.1%
Alaska non-Native people: 69.6%

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Why don’t people get screened?
Personal factors

- Fear
- Discomfort/unpleasant procedure
- Feel healthy/don’t know it’s important
- Don’t want to travel/too expensive
- Too busy

System factors

- Screening not available in community
- No tracking system for screening
- Provider didn’t know patient was due
- No strong recommendation from provider
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Colorectal Cancer Control Program 2020-2025

Funding source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention #1NU58DP006748

Patient Reminders

- Reminder letters
- Text messaging campaign
Reducing Structural Barriers

Take home stool test outreach campaigns

Provider Reminders

- Provider reminder badge cards
- Alaska Native Medical Center CRC Screening Guidelines
- Electronic health record tools

*Have to clean up data first!*
Provider Assessment and Feedback

- Motivate providers with internal score cards or financial incentives
- Quarterly review with providers teams of electronic health record dashboard

Patient Navigation
CRC Screening Patient Navigators & First Degree Relative Outreach

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The cancer you can prevent. alaskacolonhealth.org

Redwood et al. Prev Chronic Dis 2013

Photo courtesy of Norton Sound Health Corporation
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Polyp people in the parade

Social media content
OUR VISION:
Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world.
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