



**Alaska Native
Tribal Health Consortium**

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Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium receives \$800,000 grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for colorectal cancer screening

ANCHORAGE, AK — The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium received \$800,000 in grant funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to enhance colorectal cancer screening efforts for Alaska Natives through ANTHC's Alaska Native Epidemiology Center. Two regional tribal health corporations, the Arctic Slope Native Association and Southcentral Foundation, also received awards from the CDC for improving colorectal cancer screening.

Alaska Native people have substantially higher rates of colorectal cancers compared to other ethnic groups. Because we don't understand what causes colorectal cancers, healthy lifestyles and screening are the best prevention methods. Colonoscopies can detect and remove pre-cancerous growths, known as polyps, and prevent cancer from developing. Screening can also find colorectal cancer at an early stage, which greatly improves the chances of successful treatment.

"Simply put, screening saves lives," said ANTHC CEO Don Kashevaroff. "Just like with other types of cancer, people can reduce the risk of colorectal cancer by eating right, getting exercise, avoiding tobacco and getting regularly screened. We are looking forward to expanding our colorectal cancer screening efforts so we can help people live long, healthy lives."

These efforts will lead to increased colorectal cancer screening rates and, ultimately, help to decrease the excess morbidity and mortality caused by colorectal cancer experienced by Alaska Native people.

About the ANTHC Alaska Native Epidemiology Center:

The Alaska Native Epidemiology Center (EpiCenter) is part of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's Division of Community Health Services. It is one of 12 tribal epidemiology centers established by the Indian Health Service. The mission of the EpiCenter is to contribute to the wellness of Alaska Native people by monitoring and reporting on health data, providing technical assistance and supporting initiatives that promote health.

For more information, please contact the EpiCenter at anepicenter@anthc.org.

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