

San Carlos Apache Cancer Care Services and Burdens Community Survey Findings



Overview

With funding from the American Cancer Society, Northern Arizona University has been working with tribes to better understand the community's perception of cancer care services and burdens through community surveys. The goal of the cancer related community surveys is for tribal organizational leadership to understand their community members' cancer prevention and care experiences. The survey was distributed in San Carlos through physical surveys and a QR code from June 18 - September 30, 2024. A total of 382 surveys were collected.

All CA documents were approved by the NAU Institutional Review Board, the Office of Native American Initiatives' Tribal Consultation, and by the San Carlos Tribal Council on March 20, 2024.

Demographics

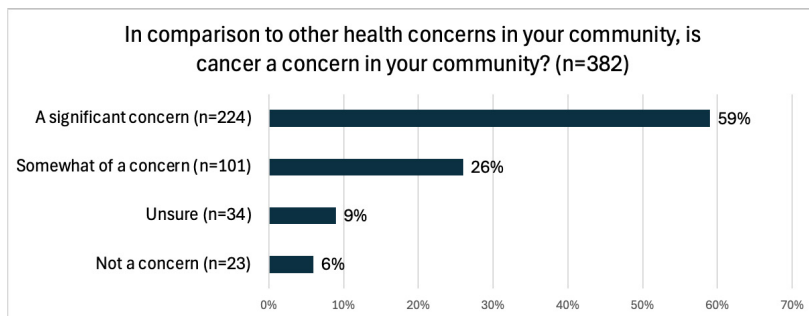
Respondents' self-reported age (n=376)

Response options	Number of respondents
18-38	123
39-59	136
60-80	115
81 plus	4

Respondents' self-reported gender (n=376)

Response options	Number of respondents
Female	253
Male	112
Two spirit	5
Prefer not to answer	4
Prefer to self-describe	2

Cancer Care Services/Burdens Survey Results



59% of respondents reported that **cancer was 'a significant concern'** in their community. 26% of respondents reported that cancer was 'somewhat of a concern' in their community

Respondents were asked **if they know of anyone affected by cancer**. Notably, **79%** of respondents reported **they did know someone affected by cancer** and 21% reported they did not know anyone affected by cancer.



Respondents were asked **if cancer screening was encouraged in their community**. **71%** of respondents reported **cancer screening 'was encouraged in their community'** with 29% reporting no.



The three **most common ways** respondents were **encouraged for cancer screening in their community**.



By a **health care provider, doctor, or nurse**



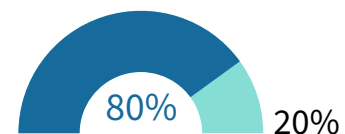
By **family, friends, or loved one**



By a **health educator**

Respondents were asked **if people in their community had access to cancer screening, would they use it?**

80% of respondents reported 'yes'



The top three **challenges people have when trying to receive cancer care:**



Insufficient funds for travel and lodging to nearby town/city



No or inadequate insurance coverage



Limited personal finances/financial resources

Respondents were asked **if they are aware of any healthcare facilities that screen for cancer in their area.** 60% of respondents reported they **'were aware.'**

60%

54%

Respondents were asked **'where do people with cancer in your community go to get care?'** The top 2 answers were:



Indian Health Service (IHS) clinic/hospital



Non-IHS clinic/hospital

The top answer for **how far people with cancer must travel to receive cancer care** was **over 100 miles.**

Considerations for increasing cancer prevention and care support in the community

Low-cost strategies to support cancer prevention and care

- Encourage community health representatives (CHRs) and health educators to increase their familiarity with risk factors and screening recommendations.
- The American Cancer Society site can be a helpful place to start

Consider talking to your local health care facility about opportunities for screening. Below are potential options to consider:

- Is a mobile mammography unit regularly available in the community for breast cancer screening?
- Do women 21 years of age or older receive an annual Papanicolaou or Pap test, a method for screening for cervical cancer?
- Can community members request an at home colorectal cancer test?
- Can community members request a test for *Helicobacter pylori*, a risk factor for stomach cancer?

Other strategies to support cancer prevention and care include:

- Having a full-time patient cancer navigator.
- Develop a cancer support fund to which families can apply to cover gas and lodging costs while a loved one receives treatment out of the community.
- Work with a regional provider of mammography services, establish a regular schedule when women in the community can be transported for screening and provide transportation for women who have a provider referral.