



The Wingspan

ScreeND Newsletter

February 2026

WELCOME TO SCREEND!

We are excited to **welcome four new FQHCs and reconnect with two Tribal communities** who worked with us during the previous contract period, to the ScreeND Program for CRC Screening Improvement. In addition, there are currently 6 clinics who work on breast and cervical cancer screening improvement. Your commitment strengthens our shared efforts to advance screening, early detection, and health equity across North Dakota.

Wingspan is our “almost monthly” newsletter designed to keep you connected and informed and to assure consistency in our messaging. Here we will celebrate clinic achievements, highlight featured resources, share relevant news articles and data points, and keep you up to date on upcoming events. We’re glad you’re here and look forward to the work ahead together.

CRC AWARENESS MONTH

Start planning now for Colorectal Cancer Awareness month in March!

Turn ND Blue

The North Dakota Cancer Coalition is once again hosting the 10th Annual Turn ND Blue Photo Contest, sponsored by Exact Sciences! Please consider participation. Winners of each division will be presented with a canvas print of their photo at the NDCC Annual Meeting in April! Deadline for submission is Friday, March 13. Details are available here: [Turn ND Blue](#)

Flag Kits: Bring Fight CRC’s United in Blue to your neighborhood with an at-home Flag Kit, which are perfect for front yards or community sites. Each kit includes everything your community needs to display a blue flag in support of raising awareness of early-onset CRC. Learn more [here](#).

Wall of Champions: Advocates can honor a loved one with a photo or short message as part of Fight CRC’s United in Blue event (March 1-2). Tributes will be shown beside the flags, personalizing the statistics and recognizing the people behind them. To add a name, visit this [link](#).

Check out these resources:

- [Fight Colorectal Cancer 2026 Awareness Month Toolkit](#)
- [Colorectal Cancer Alliance CRC Awareness Month Toolkit](#)
- [Amazon CRC Awareness Swag](#)
- [Oriental Trading Awareness Swag](#)

Quality Health Associates of North Dakota (QHA) is in the process of joining [Mountain Pacific](#).

Quality Health Associates of North Dakota (QHA) is in the process of joining Mountain Pacific, strengthening a shared mission to improve health care quality and access while continuing to serve North Dakota. ([Full press Release](#))

As part of the transition, some QHA staff and contracts have already moved to Mountain Pacific, with additional transitions expected over the coming months.

Throughout this process, QHA and Mountain Pacific remain fully dedicated to ensuring no interruption in services or ongoing work. Both organizations are working closely to provide continuity and maintain strong relationships with partners and stakeholders. Contact information will be updated as changes occur, and clear communication will be shared throughout the transition.

WHY THE DRAGONFLY?

The dragonfly is used in ScreeND as a **symbol of awareness, prevention, and timely action**. Much like screening, a dragonfly’s life depends on paying attention early and emerging at the right moment. It also relies on a healthy environment to thrive—reflecting how self-care and preventive actions, such as staying up to date on recommended screenings, support long-term health. Known for adaptability and wide perspective, the dragonfly reminds us that screening is not a one-time event, but an ongoing practice that helps people stay informed, take action early, and protect their health over time.

FEATURED RESOURCE

Key updates in CRC stats (Cancer Facts & Figures, 2026)



In North Dakota, colorectal cancer is the **3rd most diagnosed cancer and 2nd leading cause of cancer-related deaths** among cancers affecting both men and women. (ACS, 2026)

IN NORTH DAKOTA

360 → Estimated new cases of colorectal cancer this year

110 → People will die from colorectal cancer this year (ACS, 2026)



Colorectal Cancer is now the **#1 cancer killer among people younger than 50** in the US, increasing by 1.1% every year since 2005. (ACS, 2026)



Estimates indicate that people **born around 1990 have twice the risk of colon cancer and four times the risk of rectal cancer** than those born around 1950. (ACS, 2024)

NEWS

2026 ACS Cancer Facts and Figures Published

This is the 75th Yearly Cancer Statistics Report Published By the ACS. Last week, the ACS published [Cancer Statistics, 2026](#), a scientific paper in CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians, and [2026 Cancer Facts and Figures](#), an educational companion for the paper. Both report annually on cancer facts and trends and have for 75 years. The new findings show, for the first time, the five-year relative survival rate for all cancers combined reached 70% for people diagnosed during 2015-2021 in the United States. Of note, the five-year survival rate for distant-stage rectal cancer has improved from 8% to 18% since the mid-1990s, showing survivorship gains from early detection and screening. However, there is still plenty of work to do with specific groups, including the increasing incidence and mortality rates for those under age 55 and with, for example, Alaskan Natives, who are 2-3 times more likely to be diagnosed and/or die from colorectal cancer (CRC) than any other ethnic group in the US. Read more high-level takeaways in the [press release](#) or visit the article or report below to explore more data specifically related to CRC as well as other cancers.

[Read 2026 Cancer Facts & Figures](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Addressing the Needs of People Living with Metastatic Breast Cancer
February 10, 2026 | 6:00-7:30 pm ET; 5:00 to 6:30 pm CT
[Register](#)

National Dress in Blue Day for CRC Awareness | Friday, March 6th.

2026 National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month Webcast
Wednesday, March 18 | 1:00-2:00 pm CT/ 12:00-1:00 pm MT
[Register](#)

Every Screen Counts: A Practical 3-part Webinar Series to Improve Colorectal Cancer Screening
March 10, 17, and 24 | 12:00 pm-1:00 pm CT
[Register](#)

ND Cancer Coalition and ND Colorectal Cancer Roundtable Meetings
April 29-30, 2026 | Fargo, ND
[Register](#)

OTHER

The North Dakota Colorectal Cancer Roundtable’s CRC Awareness Month T-shirts Available Now!

The NDCCRT storefront for CRC Awareness t-shirts will be open until Monday, February 16th. The theme this year is “Let’s Wipe Out Colon Cancer” as the slogan.

Short and long-sleeve t-shirts and a hoodie are options this year. \$5 from the sale of each shirt supports the efforts of the Roundtable. Flat rate shipping is \$6.75 – so consider bundling your orders! The shirts will be produced and shipped in time for the beginning of CRC Awareness Month.
[Purchase T-Shirt](#)

