
American Indians & Alaska Natives in New York City

Region II Infertility Prevention Project Meeting
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Cicatelli Associates Inc. 505 Eighth Avenue [20th Floor]
New York, New York 10018



Do Native Americans live in cities?



- TOTAL U.S. NATIVE POPULATION (2000 US Census data) :
 - >4.1 million American Indian/Alaska Natives in United States
 - >2.8 million live in or near cities, and that number is growing
- Nearly 7 out of every 10 American Indians and Alaska Natives are in urban areas^[1].

^[1] 2007 Urban Indian Health Commission report *Invisible Tribes: Urban Indians and Their Health in a Changing World*.

Native Americans in NYC

- NYC is home to the largest urban Indian population in the United States
- 87,241 American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIAN) live in New York City ^[2].
 - Queens County:** 27,370
 - Kings County:** 20,729
 - Bronx County:** 20,324
 - New York County:** 16,082
 - Richmond County:** 2,736



^[2] 2000 U.S. Census data on AI/ANs alone or in combination with other race

Service area for American Indian Community House

- NYC counties: Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, Richmond
 - Additional counties: Essex, Nassau, Westchester
 - Total Population=10,305,132
 - AI/AN Population=98,922
 - Total Population Below Poverty Level=18 %
 - AI/AN Population Below Poverty Level*=30 %
- *Data for one race AI/AN's.
- And: Suffolk, Putnam, Rockland, 4 northern NJ counties

Source: 2000 US Census SF1 P7, SF1 P9, SF3 P87, SF3 P159C

Health Disparities for NYC AI/ANs

- 2008 UIHI BRFSS
 - **OVERALL HEALTH:** Approximately twice as many urban AIAN as non-AIAN rated their own health as "poor"
 - **OBESITY:** Nearly one-third of urban AIAN were obese (had a body mass index >30 based on reported height and weight), compared with 20% of non-AIAN



cont. Health Disparities for NYC AI/ANs

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that, from 1999 to 2004:
 - **SUICIDE:**
 - The suicide rate for American Indians/Alaska Natives was 10.84 per 100,000, higher than the overall US rate of 10.75.
 - Suicide ranked as the second leading cause of death for AI/ANs ages 10 to 34.
- 2007 UIHC Invisible Tribes Report
 - **DEPRESSION:** up to 30 percent of all AI/ANs adults suffer from depression (1999 SAMHSA)
 - **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH:** AI/ANs suffer disproportionately from depression and substance abuse and are generally overly represented in in-patient care relative to Caucasians. (OMH Web site, 2007)

cont. Health Disparities for NYC AI/ANs

- 2007 UIHC Invisible Tribes Report
 - **DIABETES:** AI/ANs have a
 1. higher prevalence of diabetes
 2. greater mortality rate from diabetes and
 3. earlier age of diabetes onset.
 - An estimated 15 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives age 20 years or older who receive care from the Indian Health Service have type 2 diabetes. (CDC, 2005) This prevalence exceeds that of the nation as a whole (9.6 percent).

cont. Health Disparities for NYC AI/ANs

- Office of Minority Health 2008 AI/AN Profile
- **Stroke:** In general, American Indian/Alaska Native adults are 60% more likely to have a stroke than their White adult counterparts.
 - **Immunization:** In 2005, American Indian/Alaska Native adults ages 18 to 64 years were slightly more likely than their non-Hispanic white counterparts to have received the influenza (flu) shot in the past 12 months.
 - **Cancer:**
 - American Indian/Alaska Native men were twice as likely to be diagnosed with stomach and liver cancers as white men.
 - American Indian Women were 20% more likely to die from cervical cancer compared to white women.

Barriers to AI/AN Health Care

- **Poverty:**
 - Half of all non-elderly American Indians and Alaska Natives are poor or near-poor, with family incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- **Poor Health Coverage:**
 - More than 25 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives are eligible for Medicaid, yet only 17 percent report that they are covered by it or another public program.

2007 Urban Indian Health Commission report *Invisible Tribes: Urban Indians and Their Health in a Changing World*

cont. Barriers to AI/AN Health Care

- Data collection challenges:
 - “Hindering our nation’s ability to understand and address health inequities among AI/ANs is a woeful lack of data, especially for First People living in cities and other urban areas.

–“...All too often, ‘no data’ can be twisted to mean ‘no problem’—as opposed to realizing that inadequate data just about always hide just how big the problem is!”

February 22, 2008 Harvard School of Public Health letter to Urban Indian Health Institute and interested parties



cont. Barriers to AI/AN Health Care

- Under-funded services
- Inadequate number of culturally competent providers



Recommendations

- Contact and build collaborations with local AI/AN agencies
 - See your NICWA state fact sheet for details
 - Approach with openness and willingness to LISTEN and learn, and with respect
 - Collaboration can be fun!
- Increase awareness and focus on this population’s needs



cont. Recommendations

■ Review & Update State & City Data on local AI/ANs, in collaboration with local AI/AN facilities:

- NYS reports an approximate total state population of AI/ANs as 82,500 (*A Proud Heritage*, rev. 2001, NYS OCFS)
 - This # is closer to US Census data for AI/ANs alone
- Mixed race AI/ANs count also
 - In Census 2000, 4.3 million people, or 1.5 percent of the total U.S. population, reported that they were American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination.
 - This number included 2.4 million people, or 1 percent, who reported only American Indian and Alaska Native as their race.
 - Federal trust responsibility includes these mixed race AI/ANs when they are enrolled or eligible for enrollment in their tribe

cont. Recommendations



■ cont. Review & Update State & City Data on AI/ANs:

- "Although federal Indian policy favors resources for Indian tribes and those living on Indian reservations, shifts in populations and findings from health disparities research confirm that public and private sector efforts to improve health care quality and reduce disparities must assist and recognize Indians living cities."

2007 Urban Indian Health Commission report *Invisible Tribes: Urban Indians and Their Health in a Changing World*.

Resources

- 2007 Urban Indian Health Commission report *Invisible Tribes: Urban Indians and Their Health in a Changing World*. Found at http://www.uihi.net/Public%20Files/UIHC%20Publications/UIHC_Report_FINAL.pdf
- 2008 Harvard School of Public Health letter to UIHI; found at http://www.uihi.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/health_health-influencing_behaviors_among_urban_indians.pdf
- 2008 Urban Indian Health Institute report: *Reported Health and Health-Influencing Behaviors Among Urban American Indians and Alaska Natives: An Analysis of Data Collected by the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System* (found at same site as 2008 Harvard letter)

cont. Resources

- 2008 Office of Minority Health American Indian/Alaska Native Profile, found at <http://www.omhrc.gov/templates/browse.aspx?lvl=2&lvlID=52>
- *We the People: American Indians and Alaska Natives in the United States*; US Census Bureau, 2006. Found at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/censr-28.pdf>
- State fact sheets, National Indian Child Welfare Association, 2005. Found at <http://www.nicwa.org/states/>
- A PROUD HERITAGE: Native American Services in New York State, Rev. 2001. NYS Office of Children & Family Services. Found at <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications/Pub4629ProudHeritage.pdf>

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