



“Walk in my Moccasins”

An insider's view on engaging American Indian communities in efforts to improve health outcomes on children and families living in rural areas

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“Health Outcomes Among Children and Families Living in Rural Communities”

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American Indian/Alaska Native Population

- ★ In U.S. ~ 4.1 million AI/AN (approx. 2% of U.S. pop.)
- ★ In U.S. ~ 565 federally recognized tribes
- ★ In U.S. ~ 328 AI reservations and land trusts
- ★ In NM ~ 22 tribes with approx. 250 from other tribes residing in the state
- ★ Across U.S. ~ 17 states do not have a federally recognized tribe in their state.



American Indian/Alaska Native Population

- ★ Approx. 870,000 AI/ANs reside in rural counties (Probst, Moore, Glover & Samuels, 2004).
- ★ Although tribal groups may live in close proximity to one another:
 - differences among tribes
 - differences among members of the same tribe (Wittig, 2004)

Health Disparities

- ★ Indian life expectancy (72.6 years) is 5.2 years < that for US all races population
- ★ Tuberculosis (500% higher)
- ★ Alcoholism (514% higher)
- ★ Diabetes (177% higher)
- ★ Unintentional injuries (140% higher)
- ★ Homicide (92% higher)
- ★ Suicide (82% higher) (I.H.S., 2011)
- ★ Youth Suicide – Native American/Alaskan Native and Hispanic youth have the highest rates of suicide-related fatalities.(CDC, 2009)

A Medicine Wheel



Resources

- Ms. Beverly Becenti-Pigman, Board Chair, Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board,
<http://www.nnhrrb.navajo.org>
- Jordan Lewis, M.S,W, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Alaska Native Studies, UAF, (rural social work and issues of resiliency), and NIH COPR member, dr.jordan.lewis@gmail.com

Resources

- ★ “*Whose Data Is it?*” A Guide for Research and Evaluation in Native Communities (brochure), Nadine Tafoya and Associates,
nayanet2426@gmail.com
- ★ Ahmed, S.M., & Palermo, A.S. (2010). Community engagement in research: framework for education and peer review. *American Journal of Public Health*, 100(8), 1380-1387.

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- ★ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Suicide Prevention, http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pub/youth_suicide.html
- ★ Indian Health Services (2011). *IHS Fact Sheets, Indian population*, <http://www.ihs.gov/PublicAffairs/IHSBrochure/Population.asp>

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- ★ Probst, J., Moore, C., Glover, S., & Samuels, M. (2004). Person and place: the compounding effects of race/ethnicity and rurality of health. *American Journal of Public Health*, 94(10), 1695-1703.

References

- ✱ Wittig, D.R. (2004). Knowledge, skills and attitudes of nursing students regarding culturally congruent care of Native Americans. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, 15(1), 54-61. doi: 10.1177/1043659603260036.