



Native American Health

Second Refugee Forum

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UC Davis Law and Medical Schools

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Political System (Global View)



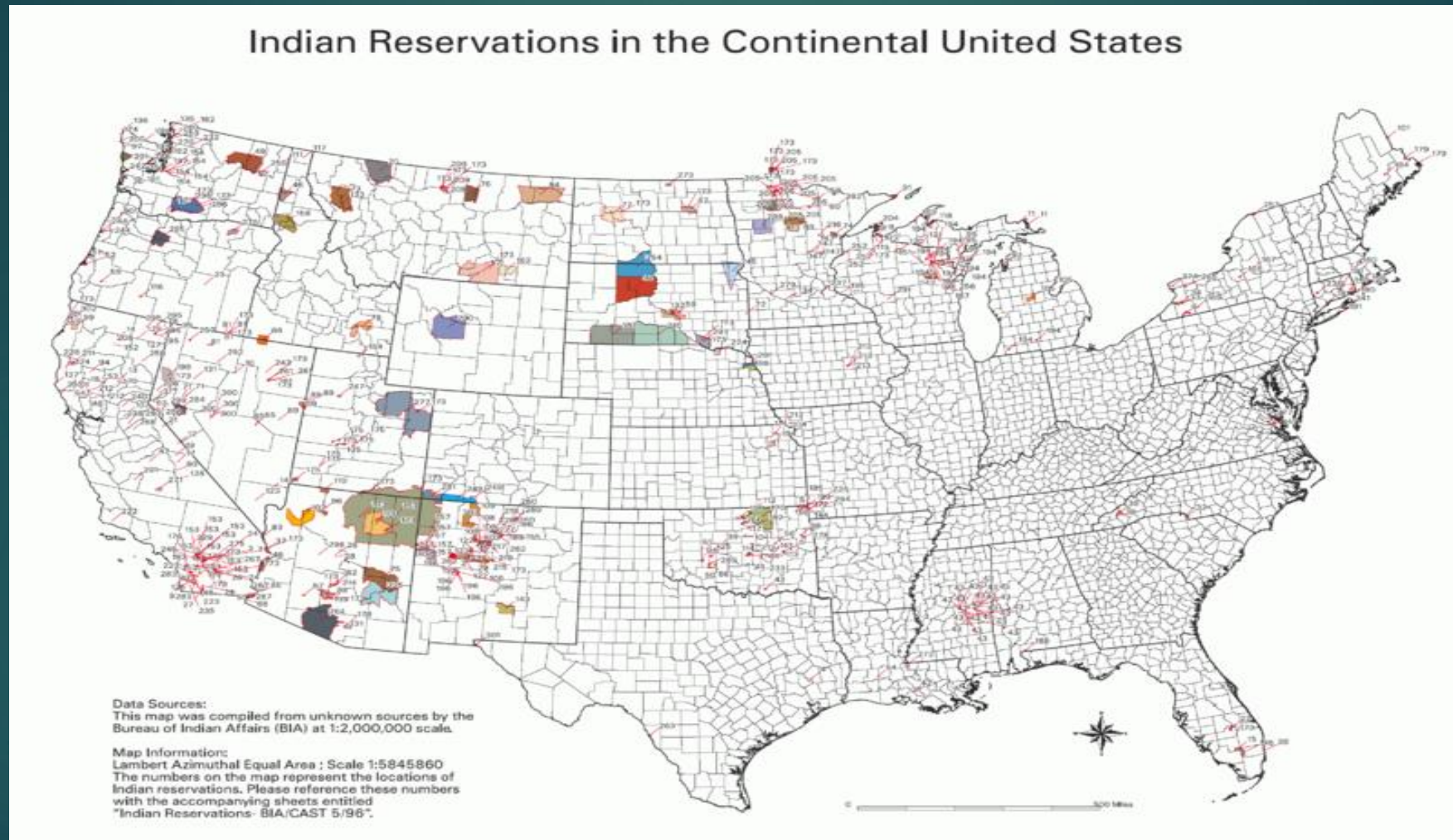
Indian Reservation System

- ▶ 310 AI reservations in the U.S., with:
 - ▶ 562 federally recognized tribes
 - ▶ 134 non-federally recognized tribes.
- ▶ Total land coverage: **55.7 million acres** (i.e. 2.3% of the entire U.S.).

<https://www.bia.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/public/pdf/idc013422.pdf>



Indian Reservation System (cont)



“reserved”?



Malcolm Wells



Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

- ▶ **War Department** (1789) → Department of Interior (1849)
- ▶ Office of Indian Affairs → BIA (1947)
- ▶ Initial responsibilities -AI health-care (1803) –promised to them as a condition of negotiated treaties.
- ▶ Underlying motive of health-care administration:
 - ▶ Genuine concern for the public's health?
 - ▶ a vigilant surveillance system to monitor/control demographics; as well as help mitigate the spread of communicable diseases to the surrounding **white** populations.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4035886/>

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) – cont...

- ▶ It is divided into 4 main offices:

- ▶ Office of AI Services:

- ▶ general assistance
 - ▶ disaster relief
 - ▶ child welfare
 - ▶ tribal government
 - ▶ AI self-determination
 - ▶ reservation roads.

- ▶ Office of Justice Services:

- ▶ law enforcement
 - ▶ tribal courts
 - ▶ detention facilities.
 - ▶ funding of 208 law enforcement agencies:
 - ▶ 43 BIA-operated police departments
 - ▶ 165 tribally-operated departments

- ▶ Office of Trust Services:

- ▶ Trust lands
 - ▶ assets
 - ▶ resources

- ▶ Office of Field Operations:

- ▶ 12 regional offices
 - ▶ 83 agencies.



Indian Health Service (IHS)

Facilities

	Hospitals	Health Centers	Alaska Village Clinics	Health Stations	School Health Centers
IHS	31	50	N/A	31	2
Tribal	15	254	166	112	18

Human Resources:

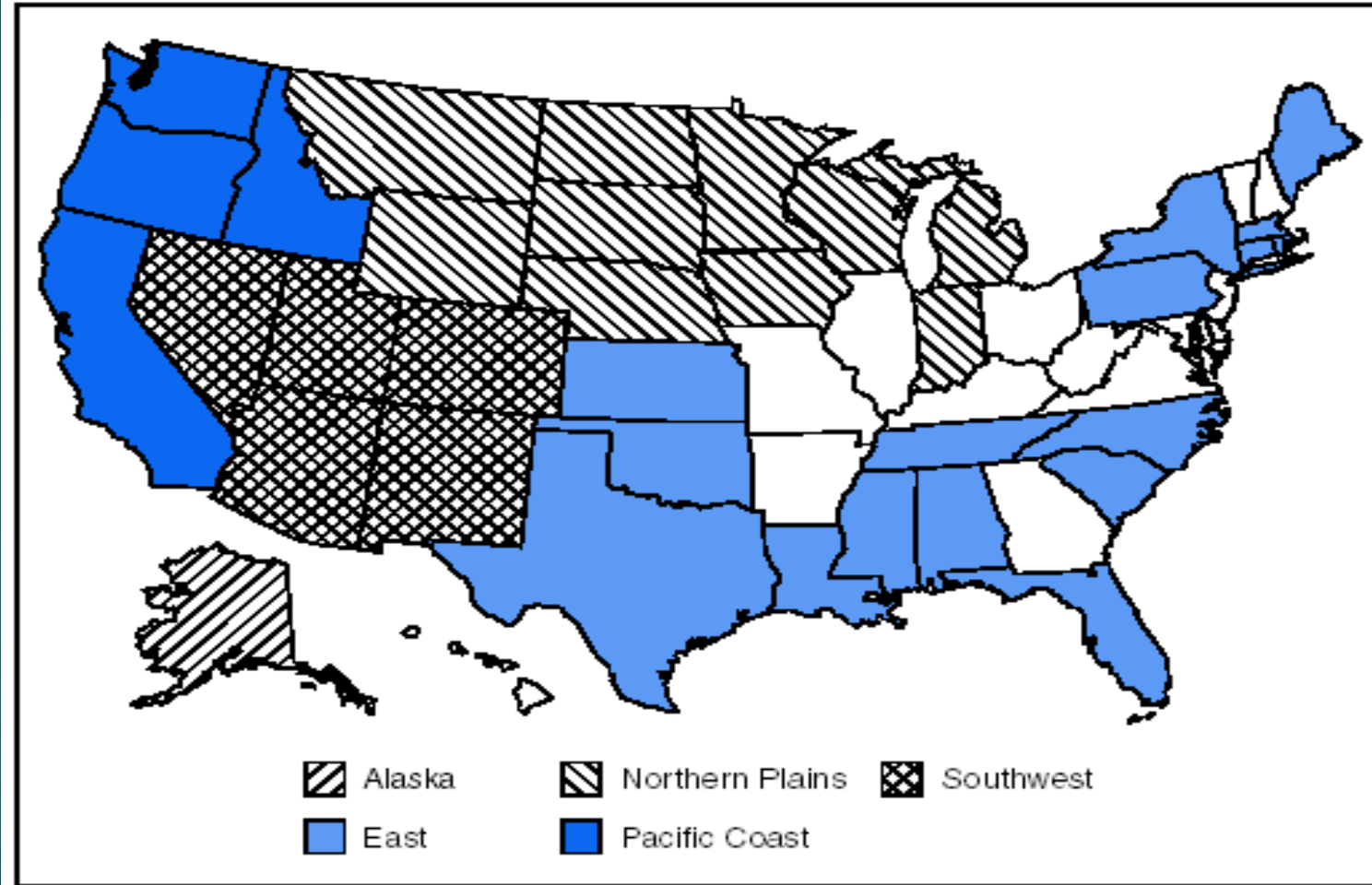
Total IHS employees: 15,378 (71% are Indian)

	Physicians	Nurses	Dentists	Pharmacists	Engineers	Sanitarians
Number by health professional category	876	2,499	280	508	401	159
Health Professionals vacancy rates	17%	18%	31%	11%	6%	4%

<https://www.hrsa.gov/opa/eligibility-and-registration/health-centers/tribal-urban-indian/index.html>

Indian Health Service (IHS)

FIGURE 1. The 36 states and five geographic regions included in the Indian Health Service administrative areas



Federal Trust Responsibility...

- ▶ Federal obligation to **provide services** to all Als who ceded the vast majority of their landholdings to the colonialists.
 - ▶ protect tribal lands, assets, resources, treaty rights (BIA)
 - ▶ Administer **health-care** (IHS)
- ▶ The origin traced to historical cases:
 - ▶ *the Cherokee Nation v. Georgia* (1832)
 - ▶ *Worcester v. Georgia* (1832)

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4035886/>

American Indian Health Care Policy



AI Health Care Policy: The Origins

- ▶ Together, the Snyder Act and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) of 1976 form the basic legislative authority for today's IHS mandate.
 - ▶ The IHCIA establishes the basic programmatic structure for delivery of health services to AIs and authorizes the construction and maintenance of HC and sanitation facilities on reservations
 - ▶ The act had been amended and reauthorized several times, but was only extended through FY 2001.
 - ▶ Although it has expired and has not been reauthorized, it has been informally applied to date.

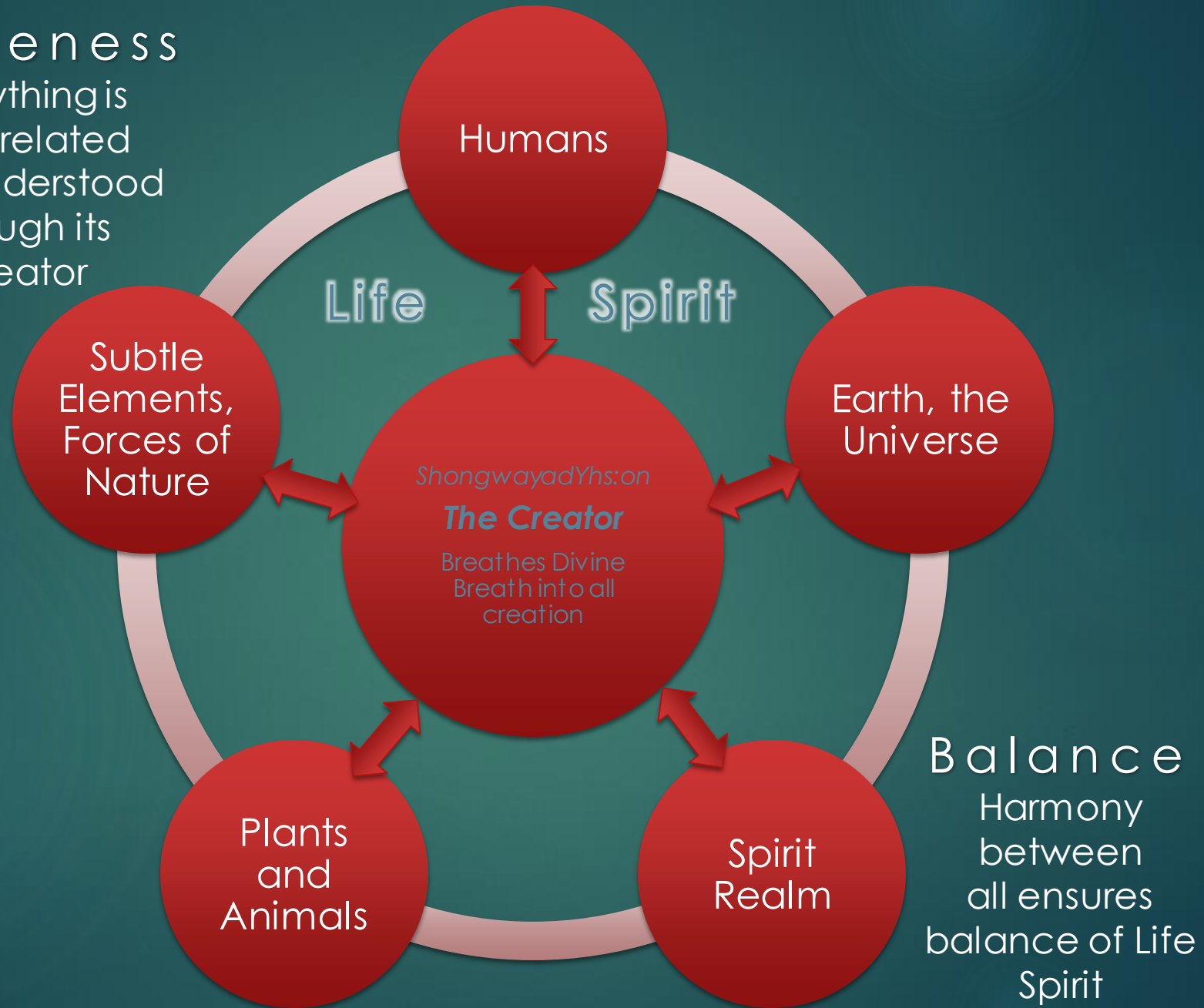
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4035886/>

AI Health Care Policy: Today

- ▶ Als are still eligible to apply for low-income health care coverage provided by state and local governments (e.g. Medicaid).
 - ▶ However, 35% remain uninsured;
 - ▶ In fact, Als rank 2nd (only to Hispanics) in **lacking health insurance**.
- ▶ In one study, Als had the highest percentage of “**delayed medical care due to cost**” than any other race:
 - ▶ **Als - 9.0**
 - ▶ whites - 7.6
 - ▶ blacks - 7.3
 - ▶ Asians - 3.7.
- ▶ They also had the 2nd highest percentage of persons who “**did not get medical care due to cost**”:
 - ▶ blacks - 6.4
 - ▶ **Als - 6.2**
 - ▶ whites - 5.1
 - ▶ Asians - 2.8

Wholeness

Everything is
inter-related
and understood
through its
Creator



AI Healing Principles

- ▶ Native American concepts of health and the methods employed for healing are **holistic**
 - ▶ Intertwine the physical body with emotions, spiritual wellbeing, family, society, nature, the environment, the cosmos, ancestors, spirits, and the Divine
- ▶ Principles of healthy living and prevention tie into daily cultural and spiritual practices
- ▶ Healing is individualized and involves **introspection**, guidance from a **healer**, and the support of family and the entire **community**
- ▶ The goal is to **restore balance**, the natural order, and set every element back on course as intended by the Creator in its due time
- ▶ ***Alignment with western biomedicine?***

The Reality

- ▶ Relative to the general US population:
 - ▶ 770% more likely to die from **alcoholism**
 - ▶ 650% more likely to die from **TB**
 - ▶ 420% more likely to die from **DM**
 - ▶ 280% more likely to die from **unintentional injuries**
 - ▶ 52% more likely to die from **PNA** or **influenza**
- ▶ **Life expectancy = 71 years**

<https://www.ihs.gov/newsroom/factsheets/disparities/>

Perceived Health

TABLE 1. Percentage of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) who reported “fair” or “poor” health status, by sex and region — Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 1997–2000

	Both sexes			Men			Women		
	% [*]	(95% CI) [†]	No.	%	(95% CI)	No.	%	(95% CI)	No.
Total non-AI/AN (36 States)	14.6	(14.4, 14.7)	424,621	14.0	(13.7, 14.2)	175,580	15.1	(14.8, 15.3)	249,041
Total AI/AN (36 States)	23.8	(21.7, 25.9)	7,797	23.7	(20.5, 26.9)	3,376	23.9	(21.3, 26.4)	4,421
Alaska	20.7	(17.7, 23.8)	1,475	19.7	(15.5, 23.8)	653	21.4	(17.0, 25.7)	822
East	25.6	(22.4, 28.7)	1,897	24.0	(19.2, 28.9)	796	26.9	(23.0, 30.7)	1,101
Northern Plains	24.1	(20.5, 27.6)	2,076	23.8	(18.7, 28.9)	883	25.4	(20.6, 30.3)	1,193
Pacific Coast	21.8	(16.3, 27.3)	907	24.9	(16.7, 33.1)	406	18.2	(11.5, 24.9)	501
Southwest	21.9	(18.0, 25.7)	1,442	20.0	(15.2, 24.9)	638	23.2	(17.8, 28.6)	804

^{*} Weighted and standardized to the 2000 U.S. projected population.

[†] Confidence interval.

Infant Mortality

American Indian/Alaska Native	Non-Hispanic White	All Races	American Indian/Alaska Native /Non-Hispanic White Ratio
7.6	4.9	5.8	1.6

Cause of Death (By rank)	# American Indian/Alaska Native Deaths	American Indian/Alaska Native Death Rate	#Non-Hispanic White Deaths	Non-Hispanic White Death Rate	American Indian/Alaska Native/Non-Hispanic White Ratio
(1) Congenital malformations	71	154.4	2,443	114.7	1.3
(2) Low-Birthweight	44	95.7	1,585	74.4	1.3
(3) Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)	36	78.3	854	40.1	2.0
(4) Accidents (unintentional injuries)	22	47.8	583	27.4	1.7

Obesity

Age-adjusted percentage of persons 18 years of age and over who are obese, 2015. (Persons are considered obese if they have a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 or greater.)

American Indian/Alaska Native	Non-Hispanic White	American Indian/Alaska Native/ Non-Hispanic White Ratio
43.7	28.5	1.5

Source: CDC 2017. Summary Health Statistics: National Health Interview Survey: 2015. Table A-15

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/shs/tables.htm>

Diabetes Mellitus

Age-Adjusted Percentage of persons 18 years of age and over with diabetes, 2014

American Indian/Native American	Non-Hispanic White	American Indian/Native American/Non-Hispanic White Ratio
17.6	7.3	2.4

Source: CDC 2016. Summary Health Statistics: National Health Interview Survey: 2014. Table A-4.
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/shs/tables.htm>

Age-Adjusted end stage renal disease (ESRD) due to diabetes, 2010 (rate per million)

American Indian/Native American	Non-Hispanic White	American Indian/Native American / Non-Hispanic White Ratio
317.5	119.4	2.7

Source: National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Reports. Data Query: Table 6_4_3_6_1.1 [Accessed 05/05/2016]
<http://nhqrnet.ahrq.gov/inhqrdr/data/query>

DM: Economic Impact

- ▶ Average annual economic burden for one person with DM is \$13,243 (IHS FY 2005 Budget Justification).
 - ▶ \$1.46 billion per year (i.e. 40% of the total IHS budget).
- ▶ NIDDK estimates that 15% of the total population receiving IHS-sponsored health-care has DM.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4035886/>

Hepatitis C

HEPATITIS C

Hepatitis C, Acute (Cases per 100,000 population), 2015

American Indian/Alaska Native	White	American Indian/Alaska Native / White Ratio
1.00	0.77	1.3

Source: CDC, 2017. Summary of Notifiable Diseases - United States, 2015. MMWR 2017; v. 64, no. 53. Table 6.
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/64/wr/pdfs/mm6453.pdf> [PDF | 2.93MB]

Death Rate (Hepatitis C):

Rate per 100,000 of Hepatitis-C-Related Deaths, 2016

American Indian/Alaska Native	Non-Hispanic White	American Indian/Alaska Native /Non-Hispanic White Ratio
10.75	3.97	2.7

Source: CDC 2018. Viral Hepatitis Surveillance - United States, 2016. Table 4.5.
<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Statistics/2016Surveillance/index.htm>

Liver Disease

Age-adjusted percentage of persons 18 years of age and over who have been told by a doctor that they have chronic liver disease, 2015

American Indian/Alaska Native	Non-Hispanic White	American Indian/Alaska Native/ Non-Hispanic White Ratio
3.7*	1.5	2.5

* Estimates have a high relative standard error and should be used with caution as they do not meet the standards of reliability set by the CDC.

Source: CDC 2017. Summary Health Statistics: National Health Interview Survey: 2015. Table A-4a.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/shs/tables.htm>

Age-Adjusted Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis Death Rates per 100,000 (2014)

American Indian/Alaska Native	Non-Hispanic White	American Indian/Alaska Native/Non-Hispanic White Ratio
24.2	10.6	2.3

Source: CDC 2016. Deaths: Final Data for 2014. Table 16 and Table 17.

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr65/nvsr65_04.pdf [PDF | 4.37MB]

HIV/AIDS

HIV Infection Cases and Rates (Adults)

Estimated number of diagnosed cases and rates (per 100,000) of HIV infection, 2016

	# Cases	Rate	AI/NA / White Ratio
American Indian/Alaska Native males	198	20.9	2.0
White males	8,879	10.6	
American Indian/Alaska Native females	45	4.5	2.6
White females	1,450	1.7	
American Indian/Alaska Native (total, all ages)	243	10.2	2.0
White (total, all ages)	10,345	5.2	

Source: CDC 2017. HIV Surveillance Report: Diagnoses of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2016, v.28. Table 3a.

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-report-2016-vol-28.pdf> [PDF | 5.77MB]

Substance Use Disorders (SUD)

- ▶ Relative to all other racial groups, Als are more likely to have had:
 - ▶ an **etoh abuse disorder** within <1 year (10.7 vs. 7.6%)
 - ▶ nearly 2x more likely to report **abuse of illicit drugs** - 5.0 vs. 2.9%
 - ▶ 19.8% of Als >12 years reported using illicit drugs at some point that year (without necessarily abusing), compared with 11.9%.
- ▶ Als had the highest prevalence rates of marijuana and cocaine use.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3042549/>

SUD

TABLE 6. Percentage of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) who reported binge drinking,* by sex and region — Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 1997 and 1999

	Both sexes			Men			Women		
	%†	(95% CI)‡	No.	%	(95% CI)	No.	%	(95% CI)	No.
Total non-AI/AN (36 States)	14.6	(14.4, 14.9)	197,891	22.0	(21.6, 22.5)	82,056	7.4	(7.2, 7.7)	115,835
Total AI/AN (36 States)	16.7	(14.2, 19.2)	3,595	23.9	(19.8, 27.9)	1,571	8.8	(6.2, 11.4)	2,024
Alaska	20.4	(16.4, 24.4)	706	30.7	(23.9, 37.4)	306	11.1	(6.5, 15.6)	400
East	13.4	(10.0, 16.9)	831	19.0	(13.5, 24.4)	354	6.4	(3.8, 9.0)	477
Northern Plains	18.7	(14.4, 22.9)	903	24.9	(18.5, 31.4)	387	10.4	(6.7, 14.1)	516
Pacific Coast	20.6	(14.1, 27.2)	489	27.2	(18.4, 36.0)	231	11.2	(4.6, 17.8)	258
Southwest	19.2	(13.3, 25.0)	666	30.5	(21.6, 39.5)	293	9.3	(2.8, 15.7)	373

* Consumption of ≥ 5 alcoholic drinks on at least one occasion during the preceding month.

† Weighted and standardized to the 2000 U.S. projected population.

‡ Confidence interval.

Mental Health

Serious psychological distress in the past 30 days among adults 18 years of age and over, percent, 2015-2016

American Indian/Alaska Native*	Non-Hispanic White	American Indian/Alaska Native / Non-Hispanic White Ratio
9.2	3.7	2.5

Source: CDC, 2018. Health United States, 2017. Table 46.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/hus17.pdf> [PDF | 10.22MB]

Age-adjusted death rates for suicide, by sex, race and Hispanic origin, 2017

	American Indian/Alaska Native	Non-Hispanic White	American Indian/Alaska Native / Non-Hispanic White Ratio
Male	33.8	28.2	1.2
Female	11.0	7.9	1.4
Total	22.1	17.8	1.2

Source: CDC, 2019. National Vital Statistics Report. Vol. 68, No. 09. Table 10.

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr68/nvsr68_09.pdf [PDF | 2MB]

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

In national studies, rape and sexual assault for AI women are generally **2-3.5x** higher than for all other races.

A recent study on IPV among AIs:

- **45%** of the women reported being physically assaulted
- **14%** raped

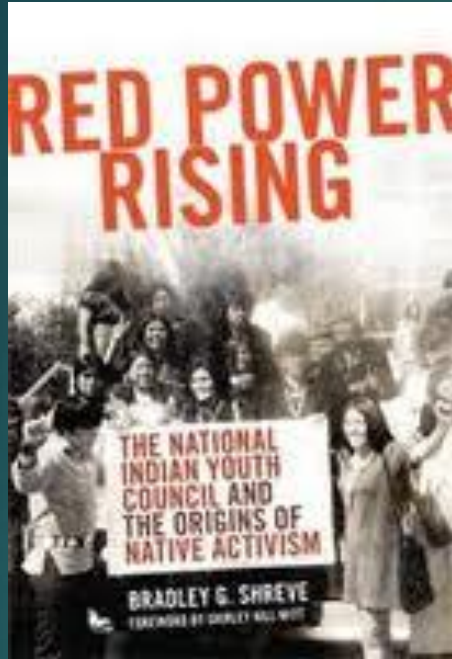


VERBAL ABUSE CAN BE JUST AS HORRIFYING. BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO SUFFER IN SILENCE. CALL THE AIAA HELPLINE FOR ADVICE AND SUPPORT, MONDAY TO FRIDAY FROM 3PM TO 8:30PM ON 800 774 5935.

Historical Afflictions...

- ▶ Health Disparities
- ▶ Loss of Culture
- ▶ Dying Language
- ▶ Socio-economic deterioration
- ▶ Education

The Emergence of “Red Power”



The AI Seizure of Alcatraz (1969-71)



The Indian Seizure of Alcatraz: Chronology

- ▶ First seizure attempt in 1964 – failed.
- ▶ 2nd attempt: November 1969 – January 1971 – success?
 - ▶ Organized by the United Bay Area Als along w/ several university students
 - ▶ calling for funds for the establishment of a **major all-Indian university and cultural center**.
 - ▶ Sparked >200 instances of civil disobedience reported among Als across the country.
- ▶ Turning point in the history of AI activism, as Alcatraz became a symbol for many **young disillusioned Als** – and thus, a cultural revival.

<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/nativevoices/timeline/520.html>

The Trail of Broken Treaties (1972)



Wounded Knee – 1890 vs 1973



"Sioux War" 1890-91 "Wounded Knee" Battlefield - Burial of the Dead

Path forward...?



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