

Medical-Legal Partnerships: Promoting Health and Justice in Tribal Communities

15th National Indian Nations Conference:
Justice for Victims of Crime
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Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Reservation

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Practice Summary

- Primary Care
- Dental Care
- Pharmacy
- Optometry
- Wellness Program
- Traditional Healing Program
- Behavioral Health
- Substance Abuse Services
- Youth Services
- Physical Therapy
- Diabetes Education
- Fitness Center
- Educational Kitchen

Native Health Phoenix, AZ





Top Five Causes of Death in AK - 2013

Rank	Alaskan Native	Alaskan Non-Native
1	Cancer – 233.3	Cancer – 158.9
2	Heart Disease – 201.5	Heart Disease – 146.0
3	Unintentional Injury - 106.9	Unintentional Injury - 48.0
4	Suicide – 38.6	COPD – 38.7
5	COPD – 73.5	Stroke – 37.7

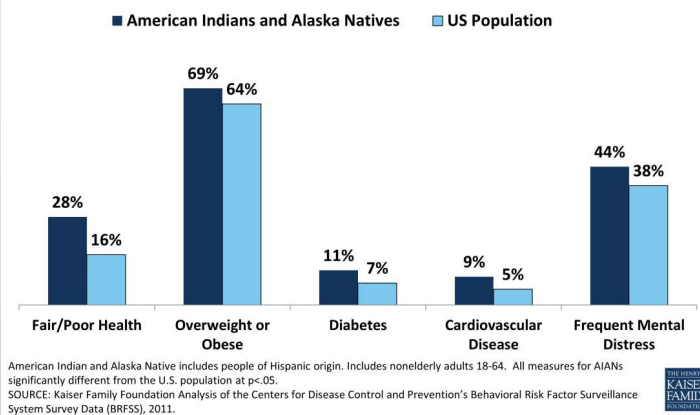
Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/ National Center for Health Statistics. At: http://anthctoday.org/epicenter/assets/data/statewide/leading_causes_of_death_statewide_12_31_13.pdf

Top Five Causes of Death in AZ - 2013

Rank	Asian or Pacific Islander	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	White non-Hispanic
1	Cancer 100.1	Diseases of heart 122.9	Diseases of heart 200.5	Cancer 129.8	Cancer 154.3
2	Diseases of heart 82.5	Cancer 118.2	Cancer 190.4	Diseases of heart 116.1	Diseases of heart 147.6
3	Stroke 30.7	Unintentional injury 104.5	Diabetes 60.2	Diabetes 40.7	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 49.3
4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 19.4	Diabetes 65.7	Stroke 54.4	Unintentional injury 38.5	Unintentional injury 47.9
5	Alzheimer's disease 18.2	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis 62.0	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 46.7	Alzheimer's disease 35.6	Alzheimer's disease 33.4

Leading Causes of Death, AZ Dept. of Health Svcs. At:
<http://azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/ahs2013/pdf/text2b.pdf>

Health Status and Rates of Selected Chronic Diseases for American Indian and Alaska Native Nonelderly Adults, 2011



Chronic Disease Risk Factors

- 80% reduction in death from chronic disease
 - Never smoking
 - Maintaining a healthy weight
 - Regular exercise
 - Healthy diet

Ford, ES, et.al. Healthy living is the best revenge. Findings from the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition Potsdam study
Arch Intern Med 2009;169;(15):1355-1362.

Social Determinates of Health

- “The circumstances in which people are born, grow up , live, work and age, and the systems put in place to deal with illness. These circumstances are in turn shaped by a wider set of forces: economics, social polices, and politics.” – WHO
- Scientific evidence suggests that social and economic conditions drive population health to an equal or greater degree as do individual choice, genetic make-up and access to health care.

Braveman, PA, Egerter SA, Mockenhaupt RE. Broadening the focus. The need to address the social determinants of health.
Am J Prev Med 2011;40(151)54-518.

Alaska Social Determinants of Health

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Population trends <input type="checkbox"/> Per capita income <input type="checkbox"/> Mean household income <input type="checkbox"/> Employment trends <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment rate <input type="checkbox"/> Percent living below federal poverty level <input type="checkbox"/> Diversity of economic base <input type="checkbox"/> Income sources <input type="checkbox"/> Cost of living indicators <input type="checkbox"/> Average monthly cost of home/apartment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Educational status <input type="checkbox"/> School dropout rates <input type="checkbox"/> Household size <input type="checkbox"/> Primary cultural group <input type="checkbox"/> Primary language spoken <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce rate <input type="checkbox"/> Percent of households participating in subsistence activities <input type="checkbox"/> Percent of residents with health care coverage <input type="checkbox"/> Initiation of prenatal care <input type="checkbox"/> Adequacy of prenatal care
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<http://www.epi.alaska.gov/hia/sdh.htm>

Who really makes the decisions?

1. Control – who makes the final decision influencing outcome?
2. Influences – family, friends, co-workers, religion, values, money
3. Real opportunity to influence health costs/outcomes – influence on the choices made – behavioral change
4. Current model – tests, diagnosis, treatment (meds or procedures)

Malcolm Baldrige
National Quality Award
2011 Award Recipient

Alaska Native People Shaping Health Care

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NH Medical Legal Partnership Community Legal Services, Inc.

- Employment including Agricultural Workers Law
- Housing
- Family Law
- Consumer Protection and Tax Matters
- AHCCCS, Social Security Disability, Cash and Nutritional Assistance

Traditional Leadership



“Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children.”

Sitting Bull, Hunkpapa Lakota

Wopila mi'tiwahe'
(Many great thanks)

