Chronic pain, missing teeth, infections, and even life-threatening oral health emergencies are realities for American Indians/Alaska Natives. The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board is working hand in hand with our member tribes to improve oral health outcomes through our Dental Support Center and our Native Dental Therapy Initiative. Despite the slow and steady improvements in the Portland Area, profound disparities continue to exist between AI/AN and non-AI/AN populations. It is clear that AI/AN people carry a disproportionate burden of oral disease. Lack of access to culturally competent, routine and preventive care stands in the way to improving oral health outcomes.

76% of AI/AN children by the age of 5 have experienced dental decay.

Over 2.4 MILLION AI/AN’s live in counties across the United States with dental health care professional shortages—half of AI/AN youth live in these dental healthcare professional shortage areas.

1 in 4 AI/AN people aged 35 to 44 have fewer than 20 of their natural teeth

&

2 out of 3 have untreated decay

The U.S. Indian Health Service spent an average of only $99 per person on dental care in 2009, compared with average per capita spending of $272 nationwide.

1 The Oral Health of American Indian and Alaska Native Children Aged 1-5 Years: Results of the 2014 IHS Oral Health Survey (Kathy R. Phipps and Timothy L. Ricks, Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, 2015)

2 Oral Health, and Native American Youth, Center for Native American Youth, the Aspen Center, September 2014


### Oral Health of AI/AN Preschool Children: 2014 ORAL HEALTH IHS Survey

#### AI/AN Children Have More Tooth Decay Than Other Populations

**Mean Number of Decayed and Filled Primary Teeth (dft) Among Children 2-5 Years of Age**

*Data Source: NHANES 1999-2002*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Decayed Teeth</th>
<th>Filled Teeth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al/AN</td>
<td>1.99</td>
<td>1.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic*</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black*</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White*</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AI/AN children have 3 times more disease than white children

#### Percent With Untreated Decay Among Children 3-5 Years of Age

*Data Source: NHANES 2009-2010*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percent of Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al/AN</td>
<td>43.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic*</td>
<td>19.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black*</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White*</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AI/AN children have 4 times more untreated decay than white children

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**The Portland data refers to the Portland area of the Indian Health Service (IHS) which includes Washington, Oregon and Idaho**

*PORTLAND AREA DATA*

**Decay Experience**

- Percent Al/AN Children 1-5 Years With Decay Experience, 2014
  - Portland: 53.2%
  - IHS Overall: 54.1%

**Untreated Decay**

- Percent Al/AN Children 1-5 Years With Decay Experience, 2014
  - Portland: 31.0%
  - IHS Overall: 36.8%

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