

Native Dental Therapy Initiative

ORAL HEALTH IN INDIAN COUNTRY

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.

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.²

76%

of AI/AN children by the age of 5 have experienced dental decay¹.



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



&

2 out of 3 have untreated decay³



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.⁴

¹The 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)

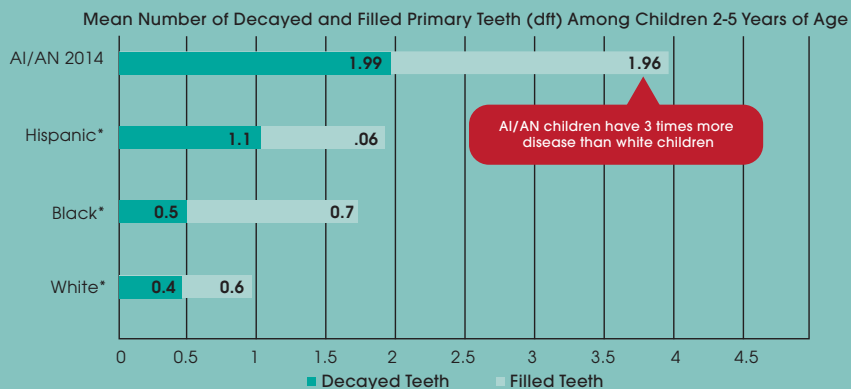
²Oral Health, and Native American Youth, Center for Native American Youth, the Aspen Center, September 2014

³An Oral Health Survey of American Indian and Alaska Native Dental Patients: Findings, Regional Differences and National Comparisons (Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, 1999)

⁴The 2010 Indian Health Service Oral Health Survey of American Indian and Alaska Native Preschool Children (Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, 2014). These figures refer to IHS fiscal year 2011 data and Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household Component Data, 2009.

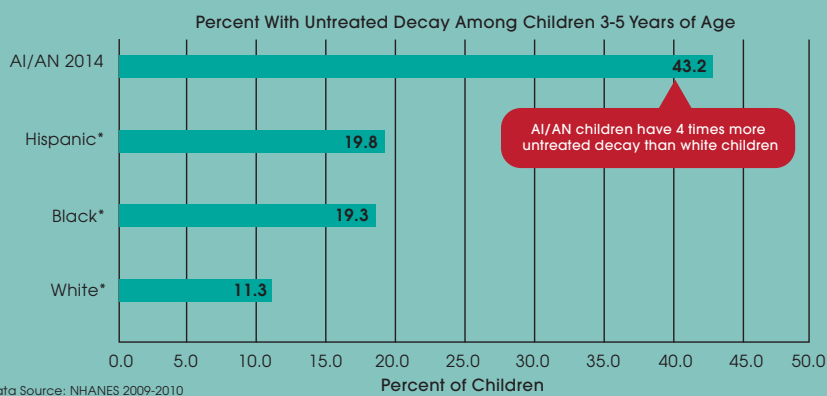
ORAL HEALTH OF AI/AN PRESCHOOL CHILDREN: 2014 ORAL HEALTH IHS SURVEY

AI/AN CHILDREN HAVE MORE TOOTH DECAY THAN OTHER POPULATIONS



*Data Source: NHANES 1999-2002

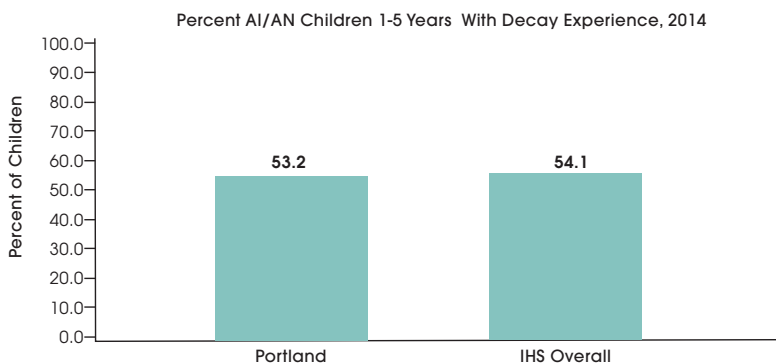
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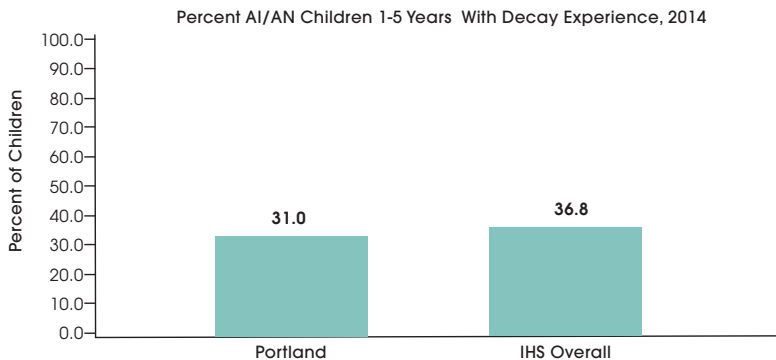
*Data Source: NHANES 2009-2010

*PORTLAND AREA DATA

DECAY EXPERIENCE



UNTREATED DECAY



*THE PORTLAND DATA REFERS TO THE PORTLAND AREA OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS) WHICH INCLUDES WASHINGTON, OREGON AND IDAHO