

## ELDER'S INITIATIVE: LESSONS LEARNED

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Panel presentation: Daniel Kennedy, LDT, Swinomish  
Randal Bennett, Elder, Lower Elwha Tribe



Sponsored by ARCORA and The Northwest Tribal Dental Support Center

## How would YOU define successful aging?



## SUCCESSFUL AGING

- "Successful aging among AIAN elders was defined as having taught or passed on something to the next generation"



## WHAT IS THE TRIBAL ELDERS ORAL HEALTH COLLABORATIVE?

- The Tribal Elders Collaborative is co-led by Arcora Foundation and the Northwest Tribal Dental Support Center. The collaborative's goal is to improve the oral health status of American Indian/Alaska Native elders through:
- Outreach to and engagement of elders
- Increased dental care for elders both in the clinic and the community
- Engaging elders as teachers and leaders to address their Tribes'/Urban Indian Communities' oral health



## WHO PARTICIPATES?

- IHS/Tribal and Urban Indian Dental Teams
- Elders Coordinators, and Community Members from Tribal and Urban Indian communities in Portland Area
- Currently, 9 Tribal Dental Clinics and staff are engaged in this effort and more will be joining this fall.

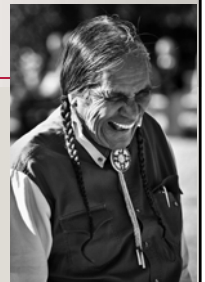
Chehalis      Port Gamble      Swinomish      Lake Roosevelt  
Muckleshoot      Grand Ronde      Lower Elwha      Lummi      Siletz



## ELDERS FACTS

- AI/AN elders are keeping their teeth longer than ever before.
- Since 1999, the oral health of AI/AN adult dental patients has improved but AI/AN adults still suffer from more dental caries, more gum disease, and more untreated dental caries than the U.S. general population.

Source: IHS 2015 Oral Health Survey



## DENTISTRY HAS CHANGED!

- Less pain with improved anesthesia techniques
- Use of minimally-invasive dentistry
- Philosophy that sometimes in dentistry "less is more", especially as we age



## ELDERS AS LEADERS

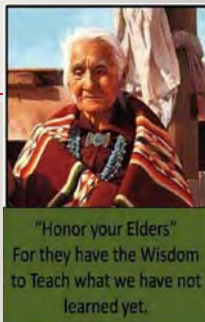
- Since we know elders are leaders in their communities, we want to improve their oral health but also engage them to improve the oral health of the entire community.



## PANEL PRESENTATION

Randal Bennett, Elder, Lower Elwha Tribe

Daniel Kennedy, LDT, Swinomish



"Honor your Elders"  
For they have the Wisdom  
to Teach what we have not  
learned yet.