

ELDER'S INITIATIVE: LESSONS LEARNED

Dr. Bonnie Bruerd, NTDSC

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.

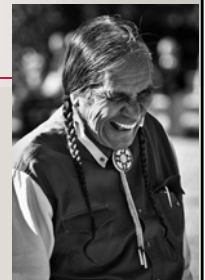
Chehalis Port Gamble Swinomish Lake Roosevelt
Muckleshoot Grand Ronde Lower Elwha Lummi Siletz



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

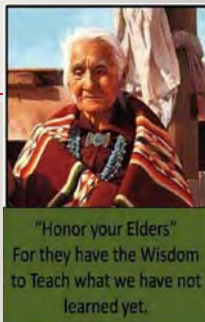
- Since we know elders are leaders in their communities, we want to improve their oral health but also engage them to improve the oral health of the entire community.



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.