

Indian Health Service (IHS)

Agency under the Department of Health and Human Services

reservations and are members of 573 federally recognized

□ Serves 2.2 million AI/AN people who live on or near

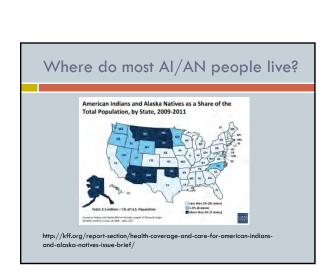
tribes. There are 645 IHS/Tribal facilities (322 dental programs) More than 80% of the total facilities are tribally run

Officially established in 1955

A Little History The provision of health services to members of federally-recognized tribes grew out of the special government-to-government relationship between the federal government and Indian tribes.







Health Disparities

- Leading causes of death are heart disease and cancer
- More than twice the rate of diabetes of US all populations
- □ Three times chronic liver disease
- Death from unintentional injuries and motor vehicle crashes almost double



Disparities Specific to Children

- □ Infant Mortality
- □ SIDs
- Injuries and death from accidents
- □ Youth Suicide
- Overweight



The Indian Healthcare System

- Indian Health Service (IHS) direct health care services
- IHS services are administered through a system of 12 Area offices and 168 IHS and tribally managed service units.
- Tribally-operated health care services
 - Today, over half of the IHS appropriation is administered by Tribes through self-determination contracts or self-governance compacts.
- Urban Indian health care services
 There are 33 urban programs.



Healthcare Providers

Healthcare providers who work in direct IHS and tribal programs can be employed as officers in the USPHS (uniformed), civil servants, tribal employees, or under contract with the tribes.

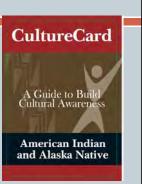


The Cross-Cultural Dance



The Culture Card

http://store.samhsa.gov/product/American-Indian-and-Alaska-Native-Culture-Card/SMA08-4354



The Culture Card: Some Highlights

- □ Handhugs instead of handshakes
- Humor (laugh at yourself)
- Respect for elders and veterans
- □ Strong kinship and extended family systems
- Shared sense of collective community responsibility vs. individual competition

The Cross Cultural Dance...

- Retention and reclamation of traditional language/culture
- □ Following" instead of directing children. Letting children learn through experience and observation
- □ Value of Storytelling
- □ Relationships are everything! Trust is built slowly

To Learn More: Ask Open-Ended Questions

- Tell me about your family's involvement in your tribal culture and traditions.
- Tell me about any cultural or health beliefs or past experiences that will help us work with your family.
- Can you describe the role you play in your child's health (or "your own health")?

Resources



- □ <u>www.ihs.gov</u>
- Dental Support Centers, located in 8 of 12 IHS Areas
- You can google individual tribes and most have great websites talking about their culture, listing their health programs and usually the name/number for the Health Director and often the full healthcare staff.

Local Community Involvement



- Ask for a copy of the Organizational Chart for the tribe you serve. Meet some leaders.
- Read any tribal newsletters and listen to local radio stations.
- Attend cultural events.
- □ Try some local foods and maybe even learn how to join in on some circle dances[©]

"People don't care what you know until they know that you care."

