North Carolina American Indian Health Disparities Infographics (2017)
Overview of North Carolina American Indian Health Board (NCAIHB)

- Formed in 2009 by the North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs

- Mission: promoting quality health care and healthy lifestyles within American Indian (AI) families and communities in North Carolina

- Vision: to eliminate health disparities for AI communities in North Carolina so that AI communities can reach their full potential

- We have a strong partnership with the Maya Angelou Center of Health Equity (MACHE) at the Wake Forest School of Medicine with Dr. Ronny Bell of East Carolina University serving as executive director.
Infographics

- Partnership developed with the North Carolina Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (OMHHD)

- Purpose: to further the NCAIHB vision of eliminating American Indian health disparities in North Carolina by providing educational materials for communities
  ◦ Using culturally sensitive and understandable language to display health information for the general public
  ◦ All data was received by the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics (NC SCHS) 2011-2015 population health report

- Infographics were developed by MACHE student intern, Jonathan Bell, and NCAIHB Program Coordinator, Charlene Hunt, and have been approved for publication by OMHHD
Al Cancer Disparities

- Currently, cancer is the leading cause of death for AI’s living in North Carolina
- There is a very low rate of cancer screenings for early detection in AI communities
- Many AI’s are using tobacco outside of ceremonial contexts
- AI men are TWICE as likely than white men to die from prostate cancer

NC AMERICAN INDIAN Cancer Disparities

**Cancer is the leading cause of death in American Indians**

**Breast**
- 1/3 of American Indian women are not screened for breast cancer

**Lung**
- 20% of American Indians smoke which greatly increases risk of lung cancer

**Prostate**
- American Indian men are 50% more likely to die from prostate cancer than white men

**Colon**
- 1/2 of American Indian men are not screened for colon cancer

**BUT THERE IS HOPE**

The impact of cancer can be significantly reduced through:
- early detection
- avoiding harmful tobacco use
- living a healthy lifestyle (exercising, eating healthy foods, and maintaining a healthy weight)

For more information go to:
- www.schs.state.nc.us
- www.cancer.org
In North Carolina, AI’s currently have the highest rates of unintentional opioid overdoses than any other race.

High school-aged AI males are most at risk for overdose.

Many AI’s are not aware of the helpfulness of Naloxone.

For more information go to:
www.NaloxoneSaves.org
www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov
AI Diabetes Disparities

- Diabetes is currently the #4 leading cause of death in AI’s.
- AI’s have the 2nd highest rate of diabetes amongst racial populations.
- Many AI’s are unaware that type 2 diabetes can be prevented by living a healthy lifestyle.
AI Maternal & Child Health Disparities

- A significant percentage of AI pregnant mothers are not aware of the dangers of smoking while pregnant
- Teenage pregnancy rates are almost double than whites
- Almost 12% of AI infants are born with a low birthweight
AI Social Determinants of Health

- 1/4 of the AI populations live under the poverty line
- 18% of AI’s live without any form of health insurance
- Many children and elders live under the poverty line

Statistics collected from 2011-2015 in North Carolina

**NC AMERICAN INDIAN Social Determinants of Health**

- Almost 20% of elders (65+ years of age) live under the poverty level
- 3 out of 10 children (under the age of 18) live in poverty
- 1/4 of all American Indians of all ages in NC live in poverty

Due to these high poverty rates among American Indians...

18% of AI’s are without Health Insurance

Median Household Income for Whites: $53,273
Median Household Income for American Indians: $35,521

For more info, go to: www.schhs.state.nc.us
AI Mortality Rate Disparities

- AI’s are more likely to die from diabetes than any other racial group
- AI’s also have the highest mortality rates from Alzheimer’s and Chronic Liver Disease

NC AMERICAN INDIAN Death Rate Disparities

Deaths per 100,000 AI’s from 2011-2015 in NC:

- American Indians are the most likely race to die from Alzheimer’s Disease...
  - 42.8 deaths
- ...as well as Chronic Liver Disease
  - 12.7 deaths

It’s not just diseases...

- American Indians are the most at risk race to die from...
  - Homicide: 52% more at risk than whites
  - Unintentional Injuries: 12% more at risk than whites

For more information go to: www.schs.state.nc.us
AI Mental Health Disparities

- AI’s living in NC have disproportionately higher rates of mental health condition diagnoses than whites.
- AI’s are most at risk for developing mental conditions and suicide during youth.
- Mental illness is affecting AI’s not only in NC but around the U.S. as well.

American Indian Mental Health

- Nearly 1/3 of American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) in the U.S. have been diagnosed with a mental illness (28%).
- More than 1 out of every 3 AI/ANs in North Carolina (39%) have been diagnosed with a mental illness.
- Mental illness is a leading risk factor for suicide.
- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for AI/AN youth, and the 8th leading cause of death for all AI/ANs.
- In North Carolina, 1 out of every 10 AI/AN youths die from suicide each year.
- 2x+ AI/AN youth are more than twice as likely to commit suicide than other racial/ethnic groups.
- But there is HOPE. Mental illness is a treatable health condition.

**But there is HOPE. Mental illness is a treatable health condition.**

North Carolina Hopeline: 1-877-235-4525
Native Youth Crisis Hotline: 1-800-273-8255
We Are Native: www.wernative.org

“Waka Forest Baptist Health”
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