

American Indian Health

<http://americanindianhealth.nlm.nih.gov>

Background

This web portal provides links to health and medical resources for this diverse population. The 4 million people in the U.S. with American Indian ancestry are scattered across the U.S. in over 500 tribes, on over 300 reservations and speak over 300 different languages. Nevertheless they share a common philosophical and cultural history, emphasizing spirituality, respect for all living things, and respect for the natural world. They also share health risks. American Indians are 2.6 times more likely to develop diabetes mellitus, tuberculosis, pneumonia and influenza, and are highly prone to alcoholism. (Paraphrased from Website).

Focus:

All aspects of Indian health: physical, mental, socio/cultural, and environmental . Links are provided for consumer health issues, research in health related topics, and community health issues. Includes sites directed at children, at elders, at the average Indian citizen and at the researcher. Links direct you to databases, research journal articles, web pages, documented studies in various Indian populations, and even include pre formulated Pub Med/NLM searches on many topics.

Arrangement - four main divisions

Health Topics – Clicking on this brings you to a list of topics to select. Under each are four divisions. **“Our health”** links to articles/research on this topic in American Indian populations. Many articles are sponsored by NLM. **Our stories** links to stories told by those who have experienced each particular disease or health problem and how they obtained treatment. **Organizations and Programs** links to study groups dealing with that health issue among American Indians (such as Native American Cancer Research sponsored by NIH). **General health information** directs you to other studies on that health problem in general, not necessarily linked to American Indians.

People and Traditions – takes you to information on tribal web sites, tribal *health* web sites, traditional healing links, and other indigenous peoples web sites.

Programs and Services links you to sites by the Indian Health Service, by DHHS, to programs on Indian health, as well as links to web sites by other American Indian Groups who have a health focus (over 25 organizations). There is also a link to NLM programs on Indian Health.

Research and Data takes you to statistical publications on both American Indian Health and General Health topics, as well as to References for more information such as the Native Health Databases at the Univ. of New Mexico, and other specialty databases created by universities, etc.