Reclaiming Indigenous Health:

Embracing traditional values, culture, and history in cancer efforts

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Hi.





American Indian Cancer Foundation (AICAF)

A national non-profit established to address tremendous cancer inequities faced by American Indian and Alaska Natives.

Mission:

To eliminate cancer burdens on American Indian families through education and improved access to prevention, early detection, treatment and survivor support.





Our Vision

Our vision is a world where cancer is no longer a leading cause of death for American Indian and Alaska Natives.



Our Approach

We believe...

Native communities have the wisdom to find the solutions to health inequities, but are often seeking the organizational capacity, expert input and resources to do so.





NORTH DAKOTA Great Sioux Reservation 1888 reservation boundary Loat in 1889 Loat in 1889 Loat in 1910 Current tribal lands Cheyenne River SOUTH DAKOTA Pierre Crow Creek Pierre Rosebud NEBRASKA Santee

Historical Events

- 1862 Dakota 38+2 mass execution
- 1868 Laramie Treaty/Sioux Treaty of 1968
- 1869 Transcontinental Railroad completed
- 1874 Gold was discovered in the Black Hills
- 1879 Boarding school era begun
- 1886 Statue of Liberty was dedicated
- 1887 Allotment Act/Dawes Act
- 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre





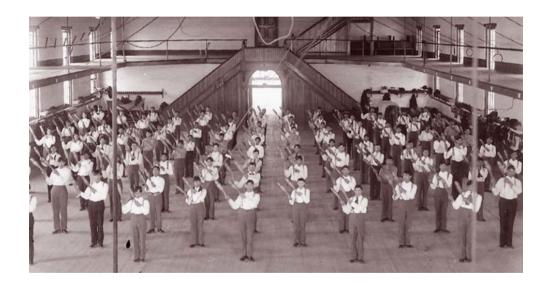
Government Policies, Systems & Environments

- Indian Removal Act
- Allotment Act (Dawes Act)
- Indian Reorganization Act (Indian New Deal)
- Indian Relocation Act
- Indian Religious Freedom Act
- Government food system
- Forced Sterilization
- Flood Control Act
- Boarding school era





Intergenerational Impact of Boarding Schools





Historical Trauma is CURRENT Trauma







We must keep unhealthy behaviors in the context of:

- Trauma: Both historical and current
- Stesses: Racism, poverty, other systemic inequities, cultural separation
- Historical genocide and colonization: The extermination and repression of AI/AN culture
- Living with the oppressor: AI/ANs still remain on this land base and are regulated / influenced in many ways by the federal government (for the past 500 years)

Root Causes of Chronic Disease



Adverse Social Determinants of Health

- Historical & Intergenerational Trauma: colonization, genocide, stress, disruption of childhood development
- **Poor Access To**: healthy foods, health & human services, employment, education, transportation

Adverse Childhood Experiences

- Household Dysfunction: divorce/separation, alcohol abuse, drug use, incarceration, mental illness, domestic violence
- Abuse: physical, sexual, verbal, emotional
- Neglect: physical, emotional

Behavioral Risk Factors

- . Behavior: lack of physical activity, unhealthy eating & commercial tobacco use
- Addiction: commercial tobacco, alcoholism, drug use, unsafe sex



Poor Health Outcomes

- Mental Health: depression, post traumatic stress disorder, suicide
- Physical Health: cancer, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, sexually transmitted diseases, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, HIV, Hep C, cirrhosis



Early Death





"Healthy equity is crucial for the well-being and vibrancy of communities"

- We know that health is a product of social determinants and health disparities
- Health inequities stem from structural racism, discrimination and poverty
- Solutions need to be tribally-led, community-based and rooted in culture



Tribal Sovereignty

Federally recognized tribes are recognized as possessing certain inherent rights of self-government and are entitled to receive certain federal benefits, services, and protections because of their special relationship with the United States. - US

Department of Interior Indian Affairs

It's time to utilize tribal sovereignty to advance health equity in tribal communities.



Importance of Building Partnerships

Authentically partner with AI/AN communities to:

- Trust the community has the wisdom and solutions to address health disparities which afflict their community
- Actualize positive change strategies that are conceived through community member engagement and conversation
- Change organizational practices to meet the community where they are at
- Cultivate community-driven coalition to influence policy & practice



Health Equity

Achieving full health potential



Balanced Health

- Physical: exercise, eat nutritious meals, get adequate sleep, avoid alcohol and processed foods
- Mental: practice mindfulness, seek help when needed, learn how to manage stress, maintain a healthy work and life balance
- **Emotional**: build healthy relationships, value yourself, stay connected with your community, express gratitude
- Spiritual: participate in ceremonies, offer prayers, learn your language, connect with elders

Breaking the Cycle of Trauma

- Protective Factors: cultural connection, belonging, resilience, safety, healthy coping skills
- Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences: nurturing stable relationships, culturally tailored family education, breastfeeding, connecting families to community system resources

Social Determinants of Health

- Social and Economical: supportive government, financial institutions, safe transportation routes, cultural activities
- Increased Access to: healthy foods, safe physical activity spaces, sacred medicines, health care, education, housing, modes of transportation, internet









Indigenous Worldview

an understanding of the world









Cancer Prevention from an Indigenous Lens

- Mainstream: Often only focuses on individual behavior
- Indigenous lens: Interconnectedness and guiding principles for ways of living
 - o Respect for elders
 - o Listening to understand
 - o Show compassion, have empathy





Programs Overview





Cancer Programs



- Clinic System Improvement
 - National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
 - National Breast and Cervical Early
 Detection Program
 - Sage and Sage Scopes
- Cancer Screening & Early Detection
 - Campaign Awareness Months





Women's Screenings and Vaccinations by Age

Women 40-49



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Prevention & Policy

Policy, systems & environmental change strategies



POLICY

Changes in rules that encourage or discourage a certain behavior

INDIGENOUS LENS:

The guiding principles for ways of living.

Example: Respecting our elders, never taking more than needed, and showing appreciation and respect for all living things



SYSTEMS

Changes in processes or procedures within an organization

INDIGENOUS LENS:

The building blocks of a community that allow it to function as a whole.

Example: Family, clan, band; food & medicine systems; tribal government systems



ENVIRONMENTAL

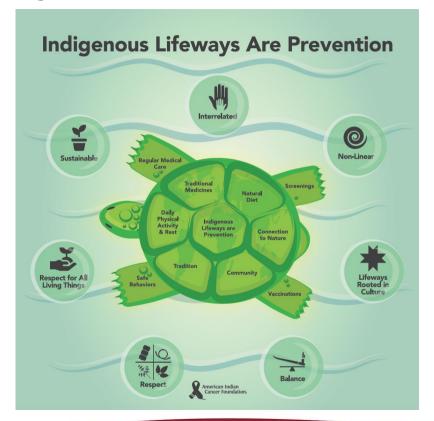
Changes in the places you live, work, play, shop and go to school

INDIGENOUS LENS:

The natural and built world around us and how we interact with it.

Example: Planting gardens, fertilizing the land, harvesting food, seasonal practices; and changing infrastructure, such as sidewalks and playgrounds









Research & Evaluation

- Honoring traditional tobacco
- Culturally tailoring commercial tobacco cessation strategies and resources
- Identify and assess facilitators and barriers to cancer screening
- Health systems improvement & training









Article

Tribal Tobacco Use Project II: Planning, Implementation, and Dissemination Using Culturally Relevant Data Collection among American Indian Communities

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Tribal Tobacco Use Project II:

Abstract: American Indians have substantially higher commercial tobacco-related cancer rates when compared to the general population. To effectively combat commercial tobacco-related cancer, it is important that tribal nations obtain current and accurate community-specific data on commercial tobacco use and exposure-related attitudes and behaviors. With the goal to collect, synthesize, and disseminate data on tobacco use, including the role traditional tobacco plays among American Indian people, the American Indian Cancer Foundation (AICAF) and various stakeholders developed and implemented the Tribal Tobacco Use Project II (TTUP II) during 2018-2021. Building upon its predecessor, the Tribal Tobacco Use Project I (TTUP I), TTUP II used principles of communitybased participatory research and culturally appropriate methods, such as Reality-Based Research, in partnership with tribal nations. We describe the TTUP II rationale, methods for participant recruitment and data collection, emphasizing the importance of using culturally relevant survey items to disentangle commercial tobacco use from traditional tobacco use. American Indian traditional tobacco is viewed as medicine in these communities with a unique socio-cultural context that must be addressed when engaging in commercial tobacco control efforts in American Indian communities. This approach may be useful to other tribal nations who are interested in conducting culturally relevant tobacco surveillance efforts.



The Stories Behind the Data





SmokefreeNATIVE



Tools & Tips / Smokefree Text Messaging Programs / Quit for Good Programs / SmokefreeNATIVE

SmokefreeNATIVE

Who is this program for?

American Indian and Alaska Native adults and teens in the United States who are ready to quit smoking commercial tobacco. This program is offered through a collaboration between the National Cancer Institute's Smokefree.gov Initiative (SFGI) and the Indian Health Service (IHS). SFGI and IHS worked with experts from the School of Public Health, University of Minnesota and the American Indian Cancer Foundation to develop a program that is aligned with the culture and needs of American Indian and Alaska Native communities and honors the significance of traditional tobacco.

How does it work?

Sign up with the form below or text NATIVE to 47848.

After you confirm your enrollment, you will receive daily text messages to support you in quitting smoking commercial tobacco from the short code **47848** (message and data rates may apply). The program lasts for 6-8 weeks.

You can opt out at any time by texting **STOP**. Text **HELP** at any time for information on the program. Learn more about the program, its unique, on-demand keywords for support, and find answers to Frequently Asked Questions here. Read our privacy policy and text-arranged-rems and conditions.



Tailored Primary Library Text Message Examples

SFTXT: Try this: Take 10 deep breaths when you feel stressed or emotional this week. Check in with your craving level when you're done.

STOP to end

SFNATIVE: Your breath is sacred. Take 10 deep breaths when you feel stressed or emotional this week. Check in with your craving level when you're done. STOP2end



Keywords

Original

- CRAVE can be texted when a user is having a strong craving and needs a reminder to stay strong
- MOOD can be text when a user is having a bad day and needs encouragement
- SLIP can be texted when a user slipped up and smoked commercial tobacco and can either continue on or restart the program

New additions

- MIND user can text to help find balance in their day
- HONOR user can text to learn about Native culture including traditional tobacco
- CONNECT user can text when they need a reminder of ways to engage with family and community



Tailored Keyword Examples

Mind

SFNATIVE: Mindfulness is an Indigenous practice. Try activities like beading and weaving and listening to traditional stories. Reply MIND for more.

SFNATIVE: Reflect on this: your true self keeps tobacco sacred. Your true self doesn't use commercial tobacco products. You're a nonsmoker. Reply MIND for more.

SFNATIVE: Your breath is sacred. Practice taking a few deep breaths and let go of any negative thoughts that are trying to control you. Reply MIND for more.



Honor

SFNATIVE: "Mni Wiconi - Water is life." Keep water close to stay hydrated and help with cravings. Take a sip! Want another tip? Reply HONOR for more.

SFNATIVE: Word of the day for sacred tobacco in Ojibwe is Asemaa. Reply HONOR for more.

SFNATIVE: Land, water, animals, and people are all connected. We are all related. Your life is sacred. You belong here. Reply HONOR for more.

Connect

SFNATIVE: Find out whose ancestral homelands you reside on! http://lil.ms/moz7 Text TERMS for linking policy. Reply CONNECT for more.

SFNATIVE: Work on building relationships with elders or knowledge holders and learn from their wisdom. Reply CONNECT for more.

SFNATIVE: Traditional tobacco supports a good life and a healthy community today and for future generations to come. Reply CONNECT for more.



Indigenous Evaluation





Activities Logic Model

Resources

- 1. Indigenous Cancer Survivor Leaders to guide program
- A. Survivors have the lived experience, and they are who we are creating resources and programs for.
- 2. Survivor Circles
- 3. AICAF: leadership, staff, Mission Statement, Urban Indigenous Cancer Plan
- 4. Funded by San Manuel Band sharing their wisdoms. of Mission Indians B. inviting survivors

Seeds

Nurture

Planning Objectives

- Survivor-led Advisory
 Council convenes 6 times.
- 2. Grow relationships between AICAF and cancer survivor leaders in Indian Country
- A. including current [relationships]
- B. and develop new 3. Intentionality.
- A. inviting survivors who have worked with AICAF to honor the service they have done already as advisors sharing their wisdoms.
- B. inviting survivors who have not worked with AICAF to bring new perspective, grow relatiohnships,
- C. seed, planting, nurturing, harvesting framework
- D. invitations through AICAF and partnerships first then through social media, self directed approach to AICAF: who was telling us they wanted to be a leader?
- i. Stopped recruiting at 10 11 people.

Outcomes

- 1. Survivor-led Advisory Council convened 6 times.
- 2. Social Media Reach
- 3. Intentionality: Belonging,
- 1:1s, guiding principles, inviting AICAF across teams over time; Generosity, gifts for their knowledge, gifts for their stories; Ceremony, prayer before meetings begin, framework around Culture and Kinship.
- 4. Acknowledging their [survivors] creation story.
 - A. CIL campaign
 - B. Resources
 - C. Informational hub
 - C. Ribbon Work
- i. Artists recruitment reach

Gather

Implementing S.T. Outcomes L.

- 1. Connection: Kinship is reciprocol.
- 2. Conversations to Action:
 Resources, Programs, Webinars,
 the work that AICAF does is built
 upon, revised, innovated, in.
 response to Advisory Council
 guidance and story sharing
 3. Sharing and discussing with all
- 4. Advocacy grew among Advisory Council Leaders 5. New AICAF collaborators through sharing about this

of AICAF

i.e. Wisconsin Cancer Collaborative

Advisory Council

L.T. Outcomes

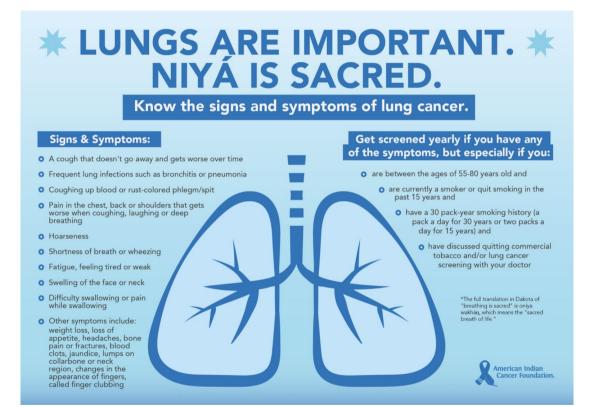
- 1. Continue Advisory Council.
- 2. Continue relationships with our relatives and connecting with Indigenous Cancer Survivors.
- 3. Survivorship is in each [AICAF] program.

Fruits and Seeds

Harvest









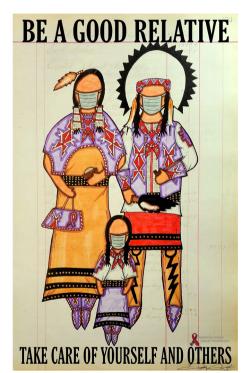


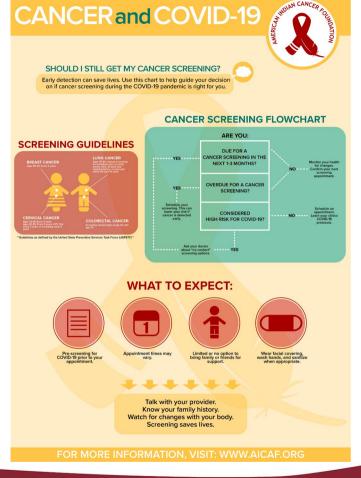




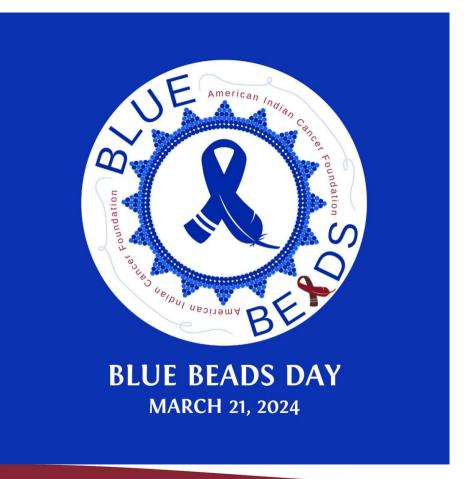
Cancer & COVID-19













Our ancestral traditions keep us healthy.

Use traditional medicines



Consume natural nonprocessed foods



Maintain daily physical activity & rest



Engage with the community in traditional activities



Connect with nature



Maintain regular medical care



Schedule screenings



Stay up to date on vaccinations

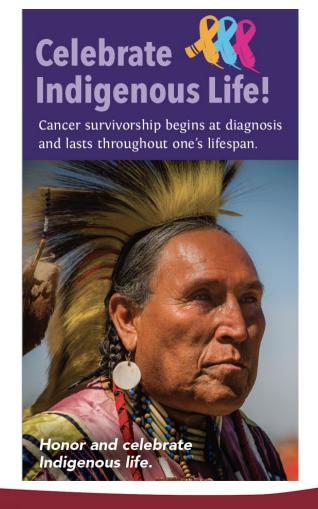


Practice safe behavior

Support and celebrate the strength and resilience of Indigenous cancer survivors everywhere!

#CelebrateIndigenousLife







Powwow for Hope: Dancing for Life, Love & Hope

- 1. Strengthening our Survivorship efforts to offer support to loved ones facing cancer
 - a. During the Covid-19 Pandemic we received funding and provided gift cards so anyone with a cancer diagnosis did not have to worry about any financial burden
- 2. Build larger cancer awareness campaigns to address the inequities faced by our communities
 - a. Culturally tailored resources and education materials were sent to various tribal and urban clinics to host education/screening events
- 3. Overall proceeds benefit AICAF's mission to eliminate the cancer burdens on Native people through improved access to prevention, early detection, treatment and survivor support

https://powwowforhope.org/



Reclaiming Indigenous Health

- Solutions need to be tribally-led, community-based and rooted in culture
- Recognize, respect and honor tribal sovereignty
- Establish long term relationships/partnerships
- Center the needs and priorities of the communities
- Invest in the communities
- Strength based approach
- Continual support and resources
- Seek historical context information and resources



Reclaiming Indigenous Health

It's a way of life

www.aicaf.org

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

- @americanindiancancer
- @americanindiancancer
- @AICAF_Org
- American Indian Cancer Foundation
- American Indian Cancer Foundation



Pidamaya (Thank You)

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