

Impact of Policies on American Indian Health and Creating Health Equity for the Future

Presenters

Jackie Dionne, MDH Director of American Indian
Health/Tribal Liaison

Jacob Melson, Behavioral Health Epidemiologist Great
Lake Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center (GLITEC)





MN Tribes

- There are 11 Tribes in MN
 - 7 Ojibwe Tribes (in northern MN)
 - 4 Dakota Tribes (in southern MN)
 - There are 566 Federally recognized Tribes in the U.S.



MN Tribes Demographics

- The total A.I. population in the state is 101,900.
- Hennepin County's American Indian population is 21,206
- Ramsey County it's 9,276.
- 60% of all American Indian live off the reservation in the U.S.



MN Indian & Poverty

- Poverty rate for American Indian is 36%
- Poverty rate for White is 10.6%

American Indian Health Disparities in MN

- American Indians have the highest rate (73%) of being overweight or obese, of any single population group in Minnesota.
- American Indians have the highest rate (23%) of five or more ACES than any other single population in Minnesota.

American Indian Health Disparities in Minnesota

- The Infant Mortality Rate for American Indians is the second highest in the state at 9.4 compared to white at 4.5.
- American Indians have the highest rates of smoking in the state at 60%.
- American Indians have the highest rate of diabetes at 18.6%.



Policies that impact the health of Tribes throughout the country

- Federal and local water rights policies directly impacted two tribes in the Southwest and was a major contributing factor in the rise of diabetes in their community (show video).

Policies that impact the health of Tribes throughout the county

- Treaties between the Federal Government and American Indian Tribes - most of the land that is now Minnesota was ceded to the U.S by Ojibwe and Dakota people over a 30-year period (1837-1867).
- Many policies were made to terminate or assimilate American Indian, one that impacted the well-being of families the most, was the forced removal of Indian children into boarding schools.



Promises of the Treaties

- American Indians were starving on reservations, due to the lack of ability to hunt, fish and gather in the ceded territory.
- Treaties included promise (guarantee) of certain provisions, one of the major provisions was food.
 - War Department supplied rations and later commodities - high in fat and sodium; low in nutritional value
 - American Indians had to make due
 - Rise in diabetes and other chronic conditions related to commodities

Health care for American Indian is grossly underfunded.

2010 IHS Expenditures and Other Federal Health Care Expenditures, Per Capita

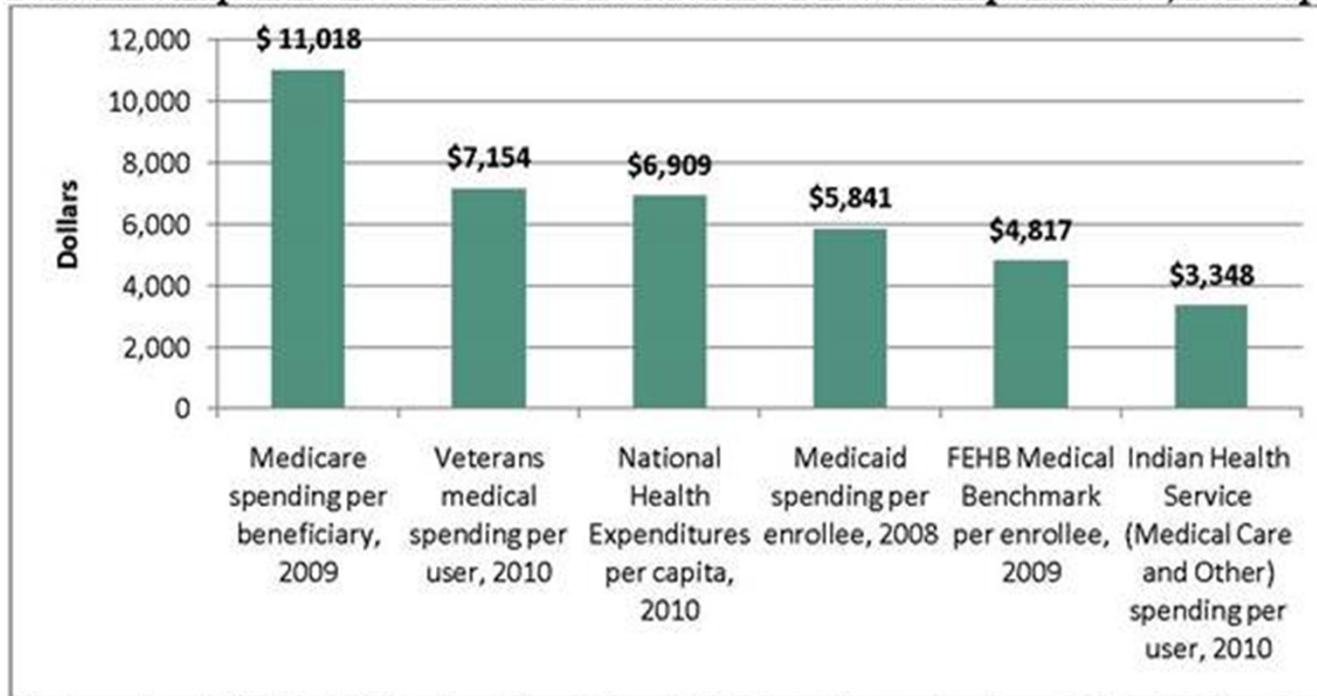


Chart reproduced, *Fulfilling U.S. Treaty and Constitutional Obligations: Honoring Promises of Justice, Health, and Prosperity*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Tribal Budget Recommendations for the Indian Health Service, Fiscal Year 2013 Budget

Indian Self-Determination and Education Act of 1975

- The **Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975** (Public Law 93-638) authorized the Secretaries of the Department of Interior, Health, Education and Welfare and some other government agencies to enter into contracts with, and make grants directly to, federally recognized Indian tribes. The tribes would have authority for how they administered the funds, which gave them greater control over their welfare. The ISDEAA is codified at Title 25, United States Code, beginning at section 450

Tribal Sovereignty and Self Governance

- Features of Tribal Governments
 - Elected officials, voted into office by the Tribes membership, and their own constitution
 - Civil and regulatory jurisdiction over their own lands and individuals who reside on tribally owned lands
 - Operate and regulate on their gaming and businesses on their reservations without state regulation

Example: The White Earth Nation is the process of under taking all the county human services for their population.