

A Native American Social and Community Context to Understanding Public Health

Indigenous Women Rising

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Workshop Description

- Native American people are among the most vulnerable populations in this Country.
- Statistics show that they have a high incarceration rate, especially among the juvenile population.
- Civic engagement and participation can be difficult to achieve when there are little to no resources to keep up with the daily needs of Native American groups.
- Being able to get a job, secure housing, or obtain a quality education, among other needs are part of many struggles Native Americans experience.
- Bringing communities together to address social issues can be difficult but there is hope.

Workshop Description (Cont.)

The workshop is an extension of the social determinants of health (SDH) and will provide information on the elements of community participation and information needed to increase positive health outcomes for Native Americans.



Topic areas covered in this workshop will include:

1) civic
engagement and
participation,

2) institutional
racism,

3) incarceration,
and

4) social
cohesion.

Workshop Objectives

Review


Participants will review the social determinants of health and examples related to rural and urban Native American groups.

Review

Participants will review data related to Native American determinants of health

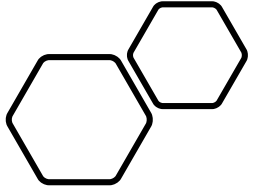
Learn

Participants will learn ways to begin conversations of empowerment with Native American communities



Social Determinants of Health (World Health Organization)

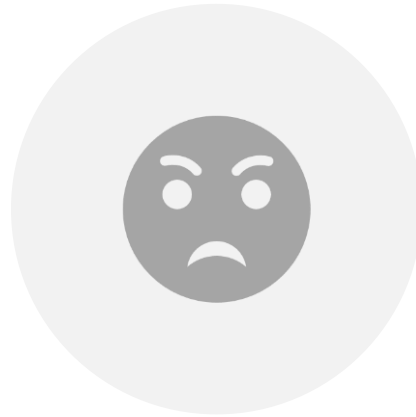
- The social determinants of health (SDH) are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. These forces and systems include economic policies and systems, development agendas, social norms, social policies and political systems.
www.who.int/social_determinants/en/



SDH Considerations to Action



INHERITANCE OF HISTORICAL
EVENTS AND ACTIONS



FAULT, BLAME, INACTION



UNDERSTANDING NEEDS OF
COMMUNITY

Cycle of Socialization



From book: Readings for Diversity and Social Justice By Maurianne Adams.

Paradox of Health

- When our values related to health are not in alignment with our outcomes.



Current Systems of
Health



Health Equity

Paradigm Shift



DISPARITIES



LIBERATING EVENTS



EQUITY



SDH: Health

- Among nonelderly adults, American Indians and Alaska Natives are significantly more likely than the overall population to report being in fair or poor health, being overweight or obese, having diabetes or cardiovascular disease, and experiencing frequent mental distress (Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured analysis of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data, 2011).

Common Disparities



Health



Employment



Poverty

Making the Economic Connection



MOST AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES HAVE A MAJORITY OF THE FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO HEALTH DISPARITIES WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES.



THE LACK OF JOBS IS IN CORRELATION TO THE POVERTY RATE AMONG THE AI POPULATION.



NATIVE AMERICANS HAVE THE LOWEST EMPLOYMENT RATE OF ANY RACIAL OR ETHNIC GROUP IN THE UNITED STATES (BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, 2013).

SDH: Discrimination & Stress



Immediate effects (Psychological & Physiological)

Hypervigilance/stress
Impaired working memory
Impaired self-regulation



Long-term effects

Withdrawal and avoidant behaviors

SDH: Structural Violence



A form of violence which corresponds with the systematic ways in which a given social structure or social institution kills people slowly by preventing them from meeting their basic needs.



Examples of Outcomes:

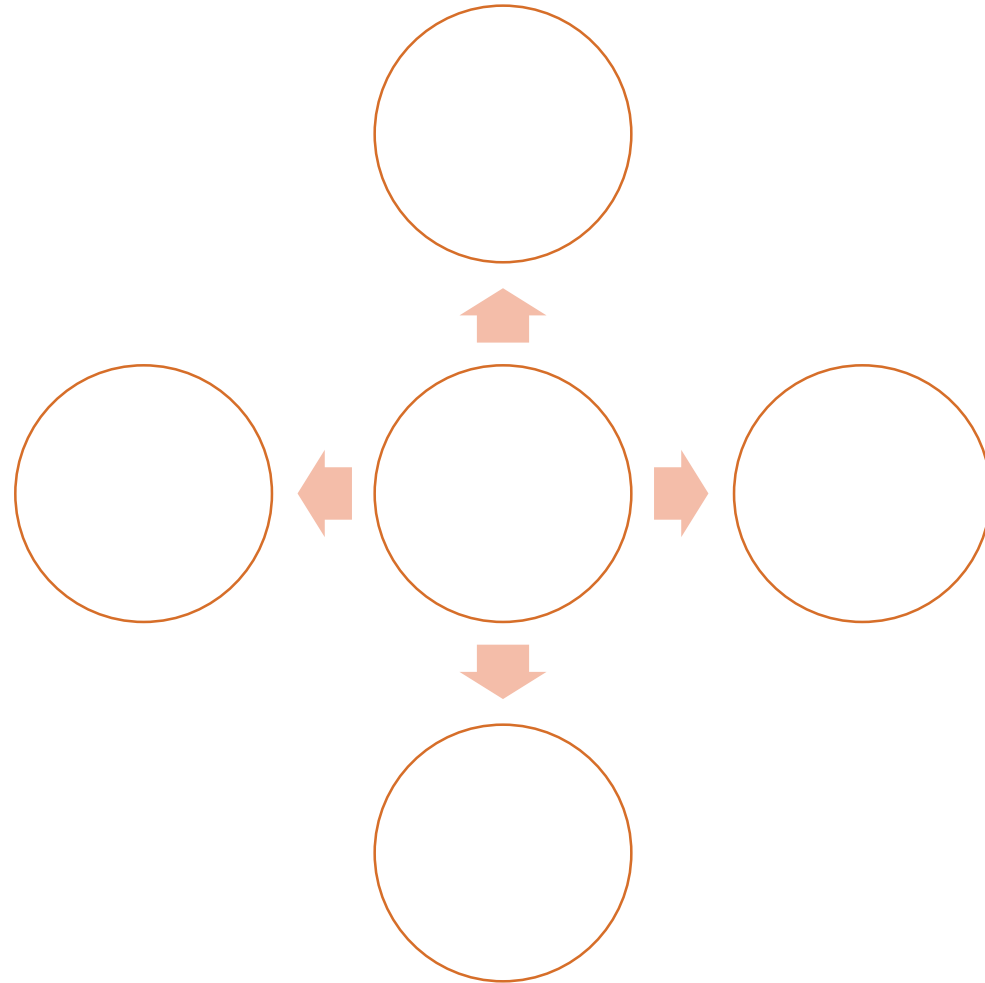
Life expectancy for Native Americans is about 4.4 years less than the general population in the U.S.

Tribes have some of the worst health disparities and economic conditions of all minorities



SDH: Environment

SDH: Food Insecurity



SDH: Food Insecurity (Cont.)

At least 60 reservations in the United States grapple with food insecurity.

The condition is common in what are referred to as “food deserts” – rural or urban areas that are void of fresh fruits and vegetables and other healthy whole foods.

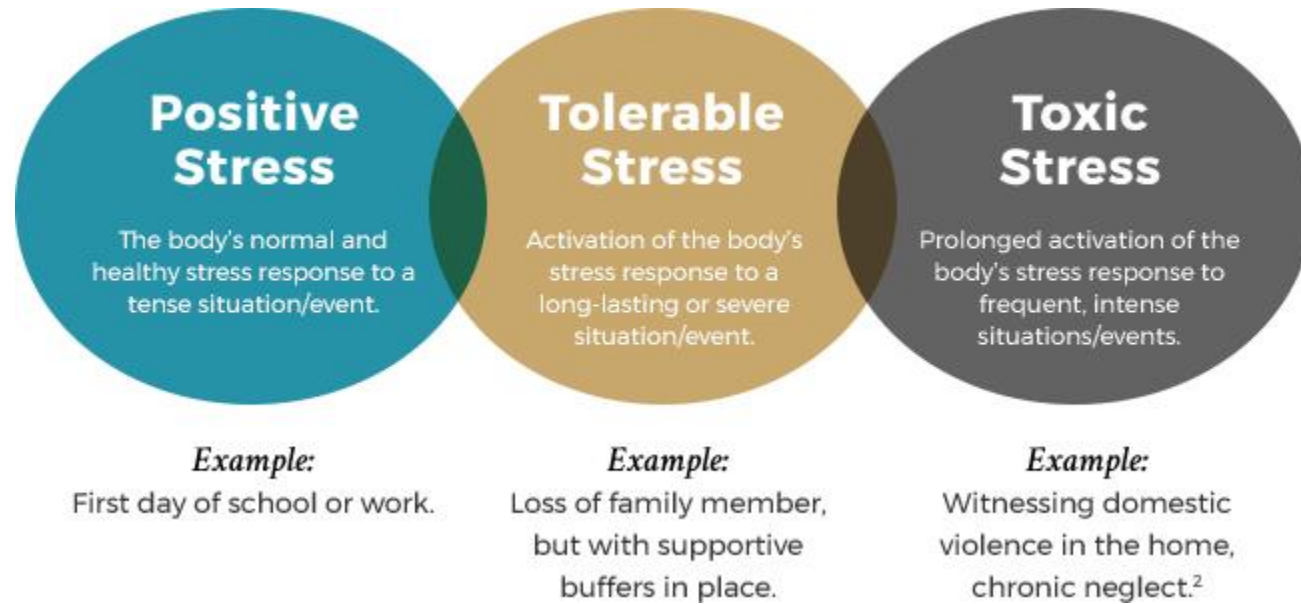
These food deserts offer more convenience stores and fast-food restaurants than supermarkets and grocery stores – thus contributing to communities of people with poor diets and higher levels of obesity and diet-related diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.

Food deserts are prevalent on many American Indian reservations. This is coupled with the reality of Native Americans enduring one of the highest rates of poverty in the U.S., with 35 percent of Native American children living in poverty.

Households of Native American families are 400 percent more likely than other U.S. households to report not having enough to eat, largely as a result of living in remote, isolated locations where food supplies and jobs are scarce.

nativeamericanpartnership.org

Stress



(joinforcesforchildren.org)

ABUSE

NEGLECT

HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION

SDH: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)

Physical

Physical

Mental Illness

Incarcerated Relative

3 Types of ACEs

Emotional

Emotional

Mother treated violently

Substance Abuse

SDH: ACEs



According to the Center for Disease Control:



ACEs are common. About 61% of adults surveyed across 25 states reported that they had experienced at least one type of ACE, and nearly 1 in 6 reported they had experienced four or more types of ACEs



Preventing ACEs could potentially reduce a large number of health conditions. For example, up to 1.9 million cases of heart disease and 21 million cases of depression could have been potentially avoided by preventing ACEs



Some children are at greater risk than others. Women and several racial/ethnic minority groups were at greater risk for having experienced 4 or more types of ACEs



ACEs are costly. The economic and social costs to families, communities, and society totals hundreds of billions of dollars each year

Youth Incarceration

People under the age of 21 make up 42% of American Indian/Alaskan Native populations in the United States

The detention rate of 255 per 100,000 in 2015, indicates that Native youth are approximately three times more likely to be confined than white youth (83 per 100,000)

Indian country jails represent approximately 6% of the confined population was 17 or younger in 2016

The number of youths held in other adult prisons and jails is not broken down by race/ethnicity

The Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement reports data on Native youth in juvenile justice facilities across the U.S., most recently for 2017, including details about offense type, facility type, sex, age, and more

Contributing to these confinement rates is disproportionate police contact

Native youth are arrested at a much higher rate than white youth

The 2018 arrest rate for Native youth was 2,251 per 100,000 while white youth were arrested at a rate of 1,793 per 100,000.

Prisons & Jails



IN 2010, THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 37,854 AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVES IN ADULT CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES, INCLUDING 32,524 MEN AND 5,132 WOMEN (AND 198 WHO WERE 17 OR YOUNGER).



TOTAL INCARCERATION RATE OF 1,291 PER 100,000 PEOPLE, MORE THAN DOUBLE THAT OF WHITE AMERICANS (510 PER 100,000). IN STATES WITH LARGE NATIVE POPULATIONS, SUCH AS NORTH DAKOTA, AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE INCARCERATION RATES CAN BE UP TO 7 TIMES THAT OF WHITES.



UPDATED INFORMATION IS DEPENDENT ON 2020 CENSUS.

Civic Engagement – What does it look like?

- Individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern.
- It can take many forms, from individual voluntarism to organizational involvement to electoral participation.
- It can include efforts to directly address an issue, work with others in a community to solve a problem or interact with the institutions of representative democracy.
- Encompasses a range of specific activities such as working in a soup kitchen, serving on a neighborhood association, writing a letter to an elected official or voting.
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Civic Engagement

- Voting
 - Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, many Native Americans living on reservations continued to be excluded from the democratic process.
 - 1948, Native Americans in New Mexico and Arizona successfully litigated their right to vote.
 - Utah and North Dakota became the last states to afford on-reservation Native Americans the right to vote in 1957 and 1958, respectively.
 - Voter suppression laws kept Native Americans from voting and seeking elected office.
 - Supreme Court upheld the ban against using literacy tests (Oregon v. Mitchell, 400 U.S. 112 (1970)).
 - Right to vote continues to be challenged through the passage of new laws and practices that either fail to consider, disregard, or intentionally target Native American voters

Civic Engagement (Cont.)

- Youth
 - Education
 - Prevention & intervention services
 - LGBTQ
 - Juvenile Justice
 - Health & Wellness
 - Mentoring
 - Women & Girls

What Can We Do About Inequities?

Be an ally

Listen

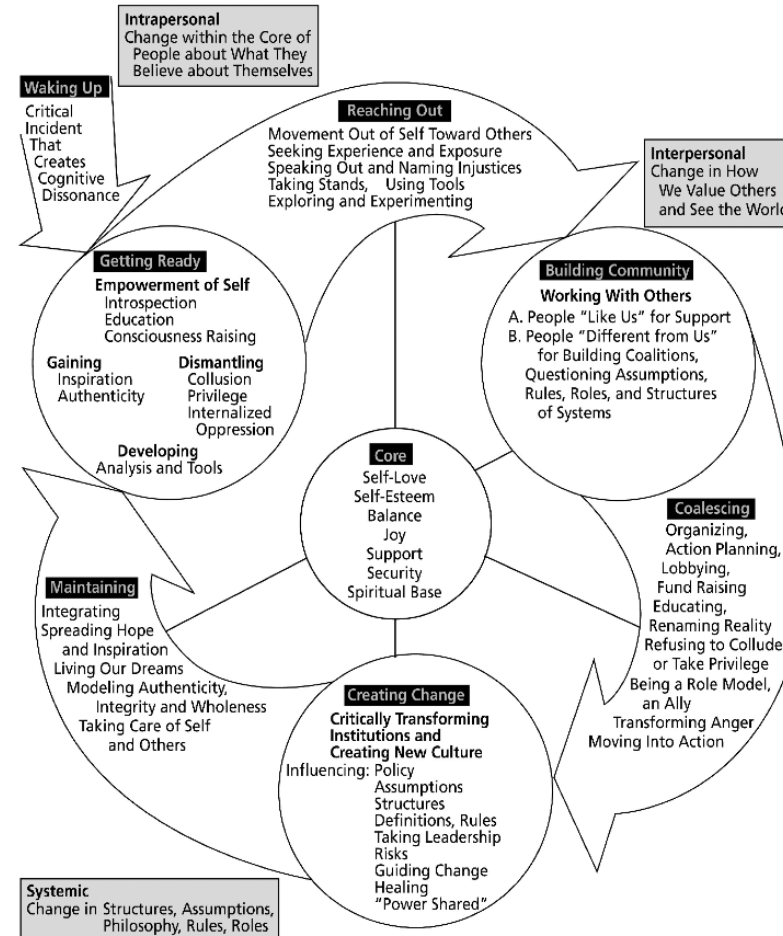
Self-reflection

Accept feedback

Experiential reality

Cultural competence moving towards cultural
humility

Cycle of Liberation



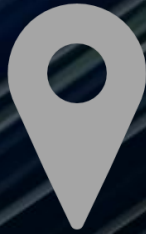
Source: Developed by Bobbie Harro

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Questions



For more information:



**Visit Indigenous Women Rising's
website at iwrising.org**



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Thank You