

15 Leading Causes of Death for American Indians/Alaska Natives, 1999

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

| All American Indians/ Alaska Natives | American Indian/Alaska Native Women | American Indian/Alaska Native Men |
|---|---|---|
| 2,343 Heart Disease | 1,076 Heart Disease | 1,267 Heart Disease |
| 1,791 Malignant Neoplasm | 869 Malignant Neoplasm | 922 Malignant Neoplasm |
| 1,286 Unintentional Injury | 427 Unintentional Injury | 859 Unintentional Injury |
| 705 Diabetes Mellitus | 393 Diabetes Mellitus | 312 Diabetes Mellitus |
| 537 Cerebrovascular | 304 Cerebrovascular | 289 Liver Disease |
| 501 Liver Disease | 212 Liver Disease | 233 Cerebrovascular |
| 396 Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease | 203 Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease | 222 Suicide |
| 308 Influenza & Pneumonia | 164 Influenza & Pneumonia | 193 Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease |
| 276 Suicide | 111 Nephritis | 171 Homicide |
| 239 Homicide | 86 Septicemia | 144 Influenza & Pneumonia |
| 187 Nephritis | 68 Homicide | 81 Septicemia |
| 167 Septicemia | 63 Alzheimer's Disease | 76 Nephritis |
| 125 Perinatal Period | 61 Perinatal Period | 64 Perinatal Period |
| 100 Congenital Anomalies | 54 Suicide | 51 HIV |
| 86 Alzheimer's Disease | 52 Congenital Anomalies | 48 Congenital Anomalies |

The following sections are covered in greater detail throughout the next chapter of American Indian/Alaska Native Health: Heart Disease and Cerebrovascular – see Cardiovascular Disease/Stroke Section
Malignant Neoplasm – see Cancer section; Diabetes Mellitus – see Diabetes section; HIV – see HIV/AIDS section;
Influenza & Pneumonia – see Immunization section; Perinatal Period – see Infant Mortality

Cancer

Healthy People 2010 (HP2010) Cancer Goal

The HP2010 goal for cancer is to reduce the number of new cancer cases as well as the illness, disability, and death caused by cancer.

Cancer Disparities for American Indians/Alaska Natives

- While there are cancer disparities for American Indians and Alaska Natives, they currently have an overall cancer death rate that is both lower than the overall cancer rate and the 2010 target rate.
- Only 24 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives received colorectal cancer screening in the last 2 years, which is less than half goal of getting 50 percent of all people screened.

HP2010 Cancer Objectives

Reduce the overall cancer death rate by 21 percent—from 202.4 cancer deaths per 100,000 population to 159.9 deaths per 100,000 population.

- In 1999, the rate of overall cancer deaths among American Indians/Alaska Natives was 126.4 per 100,000, which was lower than the total rate of 202.4 cancer deaths per 100,000.

Reduce the lung cancer death rate by 22 percent—from 57.6 lung cancer deaths per 100,000 population to 44.9 deaths per 100,000 population.

- In 1999, the rate of lung cancer deaths among American Indians/Alaska Natives was 34.9 per 100,000 compared to the total rate of 57.6 per 100,000.

Reduce the breast cancer death rate by 20 percent—from 27.9 breast cancer death per 100,000 females to 22.3 deaths per 100,000 females.

- In 1999, the rate of breast cancer deaths among American Indians/Alaska Natives was 15.4 per 100,000 compared to the total rate of 27.9 per 100,000.

Reduce the colorectal cancer death rate by 34 percent—from 21.2 colorectal cancer deaths per 100,000 population to 13.9 deaths per 100,000 population.

- In 1999, the rate of colorectal cancer death among American Indians/Alaska Natives was 12.0 per 100,000 compared to the total rate of 21.2 per 100,000.

Reduce prostate cancer deaths by 10 percent—from 32.0 prostate cancer deaths per 100,000 males to 28.8 deaths per 100,000 males.

- In 1999, the rate of prostate cancer deaths among American Indians/Alaska Natives was 12.5 per 100,000 population compared to the total rate of 32.0 per 100,000.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS):

- An estimated 1,284,900 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed and 555,500 people will die from cancer in the United States in the year 2002.
- Cancers most common in men are prostate, lung and bronchus, and colon and rectum, comprising 55 percent of all new cancer cases. Prostate cancer will account for 30 percent (189,000) of new cancer cases in men in 2002.

- Cancers most commonly diagnosed in women are breast, lung and bronchus, and colon and rectum, accounting for about 55 percent of new cancer cases. Breast cancer alone is expected to account for 31 percent (203,500) of all new cancer cases among women in 2002.
- For men, the most cancer deaths occur from lung and bronchus, prostate, and colon and rectum.
- For women, the most cancer deaths occur from lung and bronchus, breast, and colon and rectum in women. While there is more public awareness about breast cancer, lung cancer is the number one cause of cancer death in women, not breast cancer.

Information Sources:

Healthy People 2010

*Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201
800-367-4725*

<http://www.health.gov/healthypeople>

To read the entire section of cancer objectives, go to

<http://www.health.gov/healthypeople/document/HTML/Volume1/03Cancer.htm>

Note: Death rates are age-adjusted to the year 2000 standard population. Data source: DATA2010...the Healthy People 2010 Database-February 2002 Edition

American Cancer Society

*1599 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329
800-ACS-2345 (800-227-2345)
<http://www.cancer.org>*

The incidence and mortality data for this 2002 information were age-adjusted to the 2000 population standard of the United States.

Cardiovascular Disease/Stroke

Healthy People 2010 (HP2010) Cardiovascular Disease/Stroke Goal

The HP2010 goal is to improve cardiovascular health and quality of life through the prevention, detection, and treatment of risk factors; early identification and treatment of heart attacks and strokes; and prevention of recurrent cardiovascular events.

Cardiovascular Disparities

- Among American Indians aged 65 to 74 years the rates (per 1,000) of new and recurrent heart attacks are 25.1 for males and 9.1 for females.

Stroke Disparities

- The rates (per 1,000) of new and recurrent strokes in American Indians aged 65 to 74 years are 15.2 for males and 7.9 for females.

HP2010 Heart Disease and Stroke Objectives

Reduce the number of coronary heart disease deaths from 204 deaths per 100,000 population in 1999 to 166 deaths per 100,000 population.

- In 1999, the rate of coronary heart disease deaths among American Indians or Alaska Natives was 128 per 100,000 population, which was below the total rate of 204 per 100,000 population.

Reduce stroke deaths from 62 deaths per 100,000 population in 1999 to 48 deaths per 100,000 population.

- In 1999, the rate of stroke deaths among American Indians or Alaska Natives was 40 per 100,000 population compared to the total population rate of 62 per 100,000 population.

According to the American Heart Association:

- Cardiovascular disease accounted for 25.2 percent of all deaths for American Indian and Alaska Native men.
- Cardiovascular disease accounted for 27.0 percent of all deaths for American Indian and Alaska Native women.
- In 1999, the overall death rate for stroke was 61.8 per 100,000 population-the same death rate for American Indians/Alaska Natives was 39.7 per 100,000 population.

Information Sources:

Healthy People 2010

Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20201

800- 367-4725

<http://www.health.gov/healthypeople>

For the detailed list of cardiovascular and stroke objectives, go to

<http://www.health.gov/healthypeople/document/HTML/Volume1/12Heart.htm>

Note: Death rates are age-adjusted to the year 2000 standard population.

Data source: DATA2010...the Healthy People 2010 Database-February 2002 Edition

American Heart Association

National Center

7272 Greenville Avenue

Dallas, TX 75231

800-242-8721

<http://www.americanheart.org>

American Stroke Association

National Center

7272 Greenville Avenue

Dallas, TX 75231

888-478-7653

<http://www.strokeassociation.org>

Diabetes

Healthy People 2010 (HP2010) Diabetes Goal

The overall HP2010 goal for diabetes is, through prevention programs, reduce the disease and economic burden of diabetes, and improve the quality of life for all persons who have or are at risk for diabetes.

Diabetes Disparities for American Indians/Alaska Natives

- The relative number of persons with diabetes in African American, Hispanic, and American Indian communities is one to five times greater than in White communities.
- Certain racial and ethnic communities, including African Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, and certain Pacific Islander and Asian American populations as well as economically disadvantaged or older people, suffer disproportionately compared to White populations.
- The relative number of persons with diabetes in African American, Hispanic, and American Indian communities is one to five times greater than in White communities.

HP2010 Diabetes Objectives

Reduce diabetes-related deaths to 45 deaths per 100,000 population.

- In 1999, the diabetes-related death rate among American Indians or Alaska Natives was 112 per 100,000 population

Reduce cardiovascular disease deaths among persons with diabetes to 309 per 100,000 population.

- In 1999, the cardiovascular disease death rate among American Indians or Alaska Natives with diabetes was 231 per 100,000 population

Increase the percent of annual dilated eye examinations in persons with diabetes who are ages 18 years and over to 75 percent.

- In 1999, the percentage of diabetic American Indians or Alaska Natives who received an annual dilated eye examination was determined to be DSU-data was statistically unreliable.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services:

- Nearly 16 million Americans are pre-diabetic (their blood sugar levels are high, but not high enough to be classified as diabetic), which sharply raises the risk for developing type 2 diabetes and increases the risk of heart disease by 50 percent.
- HHS-supported research shows that most people with pre-diabetes will likely develop diabetes within a decade unless they make modest changes in their diet and level of physical activity, which can help them reduce their risks and avoid the debilitating disease.
- Based on population changes in the most recent U.S. census, an updated HHS estimate shows 17 million Americans suffer from diabetes-an increase of 8 percent from the most commonly used previous estimate.
- In the United States, nearly 60 percent of adults are now considered significantly overweight, and in adolescents the prevalence of obesity has nearly tripled in the past 20 years.

According to National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases:

- Of the 2.3 million self-identified American Indians/Alaska Natives who receive care from the Indian Health Service (IHS), about 70,000 had diabetes in 1998.
- In 1997, the prevalence of diagnosed diabetes among American Indian/Alaska Native men ages 20-44 was 3.2 per 100 population compared to a rate of just 0.6 for Whites (non-Hispanic) in the same gender and age group.
- In 1997, the prevalence of diagnosed diabetes among American Indian/Alaska Native women ages 20-44 was 4.1 per 100 population compared to a rate of just 1.3 for Whites (non-Hispanic) in the same gender and age group.
- Diabetes is particularly common among middle-age and older American Indians and Alaska Natives.
- Pima Indians have a 50 percent incidence rate of diabetes--50 percent of the Pima women who are between the ages of 30 and 64 have type 2 diabetes.
- About 9 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives have been diagnosed with diabetes--on average, they are 2.8 times as likely to have diagnosed diabetes as Whites (non-Hispanic) of a similar age.
- 40 to 70 percent of American Indian adults age 45 to 74 were found to have diabetes in a recent screening study in three geographic areas.
- Type 2 diabetes is becoming increasingly common in youth. Researchers studying 5,274 Pima Indian children from 1967 to 1996 found that the prevalence of type 2 diabetes in girls age 10 to 14 increased from 0.72 percent in the period 1967 to 1976 to 2.88 percent in the period 1987 to 1996.

Alaska Natives

The prevalence of type 2 diabetes in Alaska Natives varies by subgroup:

- Eskimo groups (Inupiaq Eskimos in the northern and northwestern coastal areas and Yup'ik Eskimos in the southwestern coastal regions and St. Lawrence Island) had a prevalence of 12.1 per 1,000 in 1993.
- Indian groups (Athabascan in the interior region; Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian in the coastal areas) had a prevalence of 24.3 per 1,000 in 1993.
- Aleut groups (residents of the Aleutian Islands, the Pribilof Islands, the western tip of the Alaska Peninsula, the Kodiak area, and the south central coastal areas) had a prevalence of 32.6 per 1,000 in 1993.

Gestational Diabetes

The prevalence of gestational diabetes in certain groups of American Indians and Alaska Natives is as follows:

- 14.5 percent of pregnancies in Zuni Indians
- 3.4 percent of deliveries in Navajo Indians
- 5.8 percent of deliveries in Yup'ik Eskimos.

Follow-up studies of American Indian women with gestational diabetes found a high risk of developing subsequent diabetes:

- 27.5 percent of Pima Indian women developed diabetes within 4 to 8 years, and
- 30 percent of Zuni Indian women developed diabetes within 6 months to 9 years after pregnancy.

Information Sources:

Healthy People 2010

*Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

200 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20201

800- 367-4725

<http://www.health.gov/healthypeople>

For the detailed list of diabetes objectives, go to

<http://www.health.gov/healthypeople/document/HTML/Volume1/05Diabetes.htm>

Note: Death rates are age-adjusted to the year 2000 standard population. Data source: DATA2010...the Healthy People 2010 Database-February 2002 Edition.

National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse (NDIC)

1 Information Way

Bethesda, MD 20892-3560

800-860-8747

301-654-3327

301-907-8906 Fax

<http://www.niddk.nih.gov/health/diabetes/pubs/amindian/amindian.htm>

HIV/AIDS

Healthy People 2010 (HP2010) HIV Goals

The overall HP2010 goal is to prevent human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and its related illness and death.

HIV Disparities

- From 1999 to 2000, the estimated number of persons living with AIDS increased 7.9 percent.
- CDC estimates that about 339,000 persons were living with AIDS as of December 2000: 41 percent were black, 38 percent were White, 20 percent were Hispanic, 1 percent were Asian/Pacific Islander, and <1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native.
- The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives living with AIDS doubled in 7 years—from 572 in 1993 to 1,185 in 2000—a trend that was completely disproportional to the increase in the overall American Indian/Alaska Native population.
- In 1993, the American Indian and Alaska Native population was approximately 1.3 million and grew to 1.5 in 2000—an increase of approximately 16 percent.

HP2010 HIV/AIDS Objectives

Reduce the number of new cases of AIDS to 1.0 per 100,000 population in people ages 13 years and older—in 1999 there were 18.6 per 100,000 population.

- In 1999, new AIDS cases among American Indians or Alaska Natives was 10.9 per 100,000 population in people ages 13 years and older.

Increase HIV testing in adults (ages 25-44 years) with tuberculosis (TB) to 85 percent—up from the 55 percent getting tested in 1998.

- Only 39 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native adults with TB got tested for HIV in 1998-less than half of 85 percent target.

Reduce the number of HIV-infection deaths to 0.7 per 100,000 population-in 1999 there were 5.4 HIV-infection deaths per 100,000 population.

- In 1999, the number of HIV-infection deaths among American Indians or Alaska Natives was 3.1 per 100,000 population-nearly 4 times the target of 0.7 per 100,000 population.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of AIDS cases reported in American Indian/Alaska Native men, women, and children under the age of 13 through June 2001, in the United States were as follows:

- 1,971 cases in American Indian/Alaska Native men;
- 460 cases in American Indian/Alaska Native women; and
- 31 cases in American Indian/Alaska Native children.

The number of American Indians and Alaska Natives living with AIDS more than doubled in a 7-year period:

- An estimated 572 American Indians/Alaska Natives were living with AIDS in the United States in 1993.
- An estimated 809 American Indians/Alaska Natives were living with AIDS in the United States in 1996.
- An estimated 1,185 American Indians/Alaska Natives were living with AIDS in the United States in 2000.

Information Sources:

Healthy People 2010

Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20201

800- 367-4725

<http://www.health.gov/healthypeople>

For the detailed list of HIV objectives, go to <http://www.health.gov/healthypeople/document/HTML/Volume1/13HIV.htm>

Note: Death rates are age-adjusted to the year 2000 standard population.

Data source: DATA2010...the Healthy People 2010 Database-February 2002 Edition

HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, Vol. 13, No. 1

Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention

National Center for HIV, STD and AIDS Prevention

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Mail Stop E-49

Atlanta, GA 30333

404-639-2007 Fax

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/stats/hasr1301.htm>

Immunization

Healthy People 2010 (HP2010) Immunization Goal

The HP2010 goal is to prevent disease, disability, and death from infectious diseases, including vaccine-preventable diseases.

HP2010 Immunization Objectives

Increase the 73 percent rate of children ages 19 to 35 months getting fully immunized to 80 percent.

- In 2000, 67 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native children were fully immunized.

Increase the rate of non-institutionalized adults over the age of 65 years receiving influenza and pneumococcal vaccines from 60 and 50 percent, respectively, to a 90 percent immunization rate for both.

- In 1999, the data for American Indian or Alaska Native in this group who received influenza and pneumococcal vaccines was statistically unreliable.

Increase the rate of non-institutionalized adults ages 18 to 64 years receiving influenza and pneumococcal vaccines from 27 and 14 percent, respectively, to 60 percent immunization rate for both.

- In 1999, among American Indians or Alaska Natives in this group, 28 percent received both a pneumococcal and influenza vaccine.

Reduce new tuberculosis (TB) cases from 6.8 per 100,000 population 1.0 per 100,000 population.

- In 1998, the new TB case rate among American Indians or Alaska Natives was 11.2 per 100,000 population.

According to the CDC's Division of Tuberculosis Elimination:

- In 2000, there were 16,377 cases of tuberculosis, and of those, 236 cases were found in American Indians/Alaska Natives.

Information Sources:

Healthy People 2010

Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20201

800- 367-4725

<http://www.health.gov/healthypeople>

For the entire list of immunization objectives, go to

http://www.health.gov/healthypeople/document/HTML/Volume1/14Immunization.htm#_Toc494510242

Note: Death rates are age-adjusted to the year 2000 standard population.

Data source: DATA2010...the Healthy People 2010 Database-February 2002 Edition

Infant Mortality/Maternal Child Health

Healthy People 2010 (HP2010) Maternal Child Health Goal

The HP2010 goal is to improve the health and well-being of women, infants, children, and families

Maternal Child Health Disparities

- American Indians or Alaska Natives and African Americans account for a disproportionate share of fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) deaths.
- In 1990, the rates of FAS among American Indians or Alaska Natives and African Americans were 5.2 and 1.4 per 1,000 live births, respectively, compared with 0.4 per 1,000 among the population as a whole.

HP2010 Maternal Child Health Objectives

Reduce all infant deaths (within 1 year) from 7.0 per 1,000 live births to 4.5 per 1,000 live births.

- In 1999, the death rate among infants born to American Indian or Alaska Native mothers was 9.3 per 1,000 live births, compared to the national rate of 7.0 per 1,000 live births.

Reduce deaths from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) from 0.67 deaths per 1,000 live births to 0.25 deaths per 1,000 live births.

- In 1999, the SIDS death rate among infants born to American Indian or Alaska Native mothers was 1.47 per 1,000 live births, compared to the national rate of 0.67 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Increase the women receiving early and adequate prenatal care from 75 percent to 90 percent.

- In 1999, 58 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native women received early and adequate prenatal care.

Information Sources:

Healthy People 2010

Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20201

800- 367-4725

<http://www.health.gov/healthypeople>

For the detailed list of maternal and child health objectives, go to

<http://www.health.gov/healthypeople/document/HTML/Volume2/16MICH.htm>

Note: Death rates are age-adjusted to the year 2000 standard population. Data source: DATA2010...the Healthy People 2010 Database-February 2002 Edition