

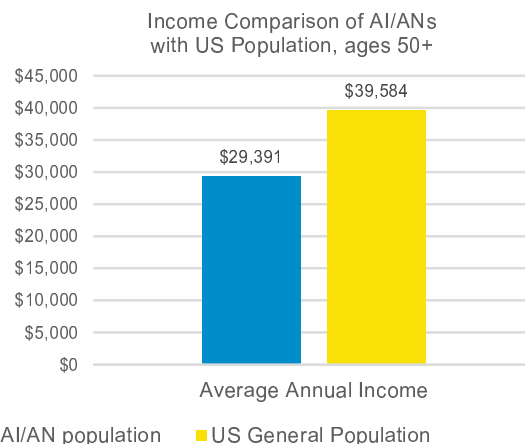


AARP REPORT SHOWS INCOME INEQUITIES FACED BY AI/AN ELDERS

February 29, 2016

The AARP Public Policy Institute published an extensive 2015 report entitled “Lifelong Disparities among Older American Indians and Alaska Natives.” The report shared sociodemographic information based on U.S. Census data from the American Community Survey. AARP thanked a panel of advisors who contributed to the report’s development and review including the Urban Indian Health Institute’s (UIHI) current Epidemiologist, Shira Rutman; former Executive Director, Ralph Forquera; and former Epidemiologist, Elizabeth Knaster. The report included UIHI’s analysis that showed a 34% increase among AI/ANs of all ages living in urban areas from 2000 to 2010.¹

The report authors noted significant income disparities faced by older AI/ANs. Little more than half (54%) of AI/ANs between ages 50 – 64 are employed compared to 66% among the same-age group in the U.S. population. For AI/ANs ages 50 and over, the average annual income is about \$10,200 less than the same-age group of the U.S. population, which equates to about \$850 less per month for elder AI/ANs.¹



Almost twice the percentage of AI/ANs ages 50 and over fall below the federal poverty level (FPL)* compared to the same-age U.S. population (18% versus 10%, respectively).¹ The FPL is used as a national guide for how poor or economically disadvantaged a person is.^{2,3} The 2015 FPL* for annual pretax income for a single person household is \$11,770 (or \$980 per month).^{4,5}

Highly respected as community leaders and role models, elders are valued as sources of wisdom and traditional knowledge. Given the disadvantages poor economic conditions present, these inequities point to the need for additional support systems tailored for AI/AN elders. The report authors recommended improving communication about available services and enrollment assistance for AI/ANs ages 50 and over.¹

Both the [In-Brief summary](#) of the AARP report and the [full report](#) are available to download for free.¹

References

1. Goins RT, et al. (2000). Lifelong disparities among older American Indians and Alaska Natives. AARP Public Policy Institute.
2. Institute for Research on Poverty. (2014). What are poverty thresholds and poverty guidelines? Accessed February 2, 2016 from <http://www.irp.wisc.edu/faqs/faq1.htm>
3. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. (2015). Frequently asked questions related to the poverty guidelines and poverty. Accessed February 2, 2016 from <https://aspe.hhs.gov/frequently-asked-questions-related-poverty-guidelines-and-poverty#collapseExample15>
4. HealthCare.gov. (n.d.). Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Accessed February 2, 2016 from <https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/federal-poverty-level-FPL/> *FPL mentioned here is at the 100% level.
5. Medicaid.gov. (2015). Federal Poverty Guidelines. 2015. Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services. Accessed January 28, 2016 from <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-topics/eligibility/eligibility.html>



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