Visibility Through Data: Health Information for Urban American Indian & Alaska Native Communities

A new report released by the Urban Indian Health Institute, Seattle Indian Health Board provides an analysis of data collected from numerous sources about health disparities facing American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) living in urban areas. Funding for the study was provided by the Office of Minority Health. The report summarizes health disparities affecting urban AI/AN compared to both Healthy People 2010 (HP 2010) Objectives and to the general population. This is a chart of those indicators that had the largest measured difference between the rate among AI/AN living in areas served by a urban Indian health organization and the Healthy People 2010 Target rate.

Print copies of the report have been mailed to all 34 urban Indian health organizations. To access the full Visibility Through Data report, please visit www.uihi.org/publications.

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The disparity ratio is calculated by dividing the rate among urban AI/AN by the HP 2010 Target rate. For example, the rate of adolescent steroid use among urban AI/AN is 7.9% and the HP 2010 Target rate is .4%. 7.9% divided by .4% is 19.8.

In using this information you can say, for example, that the mortality rate from SIDS among urban AI/AN is 6 times higher than the HP 2010 Target rate. Or that approximately 5 times more urban AI/AN women have never had a pap test than what was called for in HP 2010.