



Urban Indian Health Institute

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FACT SHEET: Breast and Cervical Cancer Among Urban American Indian & Alaska Native Women



Weaving Resources for Urban Indian Women's Wellness



There are concerning breast and cervical health disparities for American Indian and Alaska Native women. These disparities include lower five year survival rates for breast and cervical cancer and higher risk for late stage breast cancer diagnosis.

Urban Indian Population

According to the 2000 US Census, more than half of the American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) population in the United States lives in urban areas. Approximately one million AI/AN live in urban Indian health organization (UIHO) service areas. Of this group, 573,225 identify as AI/AN alone, of whom¹:

- 195,890 (34%) are female ages 18 and older
- 47,654 (8%) are female ages 50-64
- 23% of females ages 18 and older are living in poverty¹

Cancer: A Leading Cause of Death

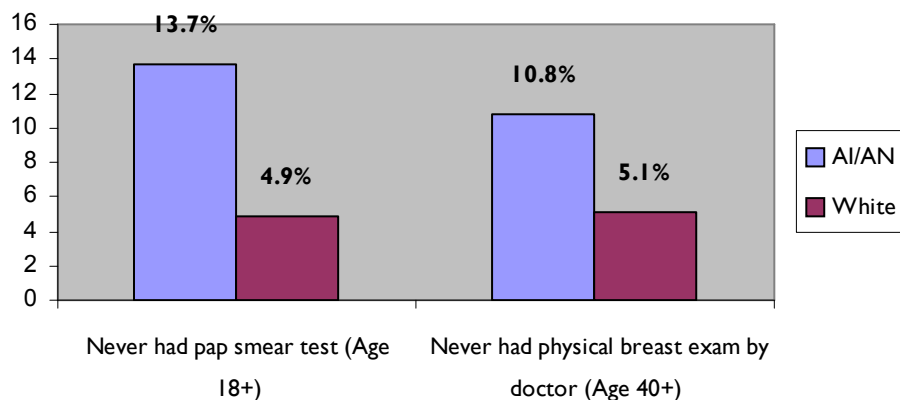
Cancer is the second leading cause of death among urban AI/AN.²

- New cases of breast cancer in AI/AN nationwide = 63.7/100,000 (2002-2004)³
- New cases of cervical cancer in AI/AN nationwide = 6.3/100,000 (2002-2004)³
- Breast cancer mortality in urban AI/AN = 10.87/100,000 (1995-2004)⁴
- Cervical cancer mortality in urban AI/AN = 1.86/100,000 (1995-2004)⁴

Notes: Few studies have addressed the health of urban AI/AN on a national level. As a result, non-urban specific AI/AN data must often be used to describe urban AI/AN health status. Problems with data accuracy such as racial misclassification likely underestimate true disease burden in the urban and national AI/AN populations alike, and should also be considered when reviewing data.

Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening

Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening, American Indian/Alaska Native and White, 2002-2007⁵

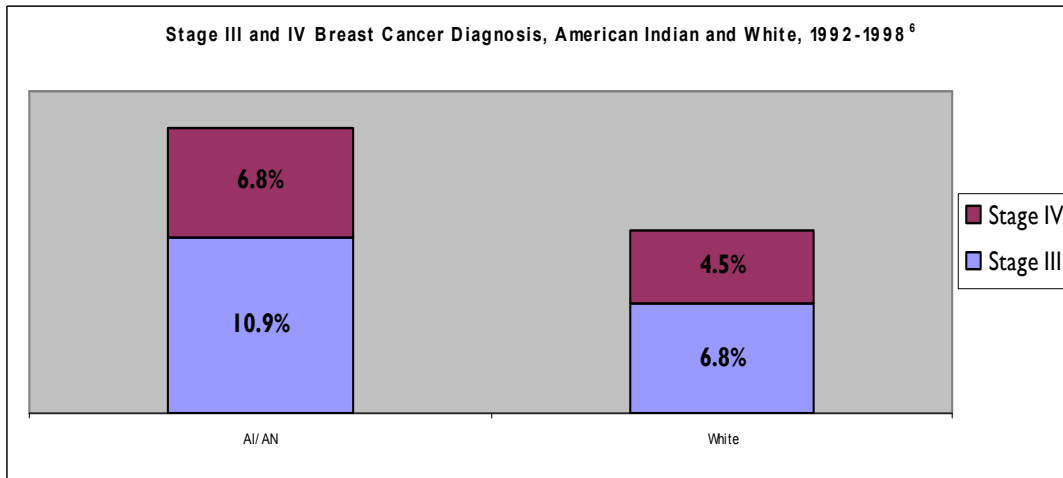


Among women residing in UIHO service areas:

Nearly three times as many AI/AN women reported never having a pap smear test than did white women.⁵

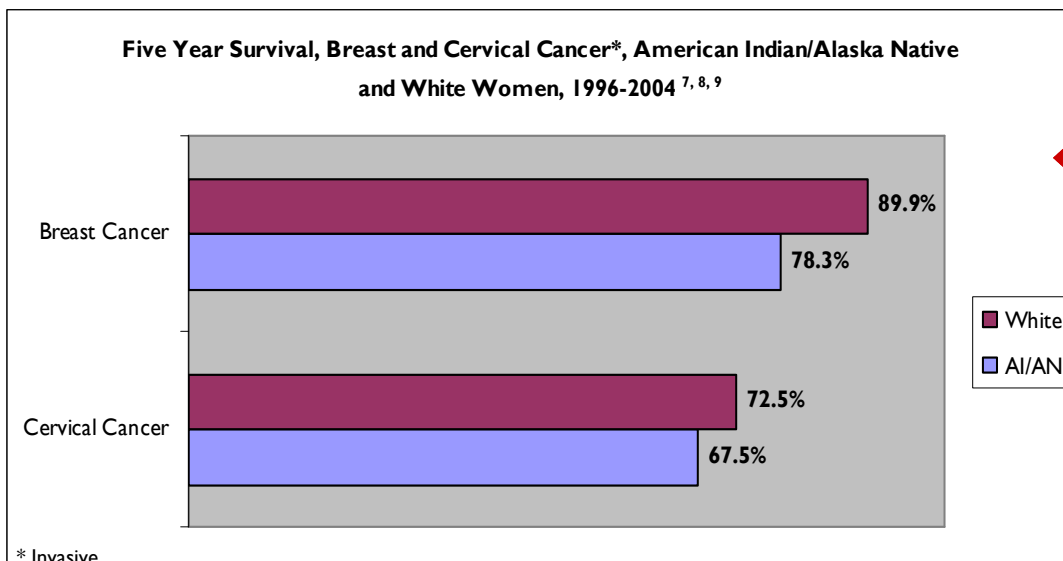
Twice as many AI/AN women reported never having a physical breast exam by a doctor than did white women.⁵

Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnosis and Survival



National data indicate:

AI/AN women have a higher risk of late stage (Stage III and Stage IV) breast cancer diagnosis than non-Hispanic white women.⁶



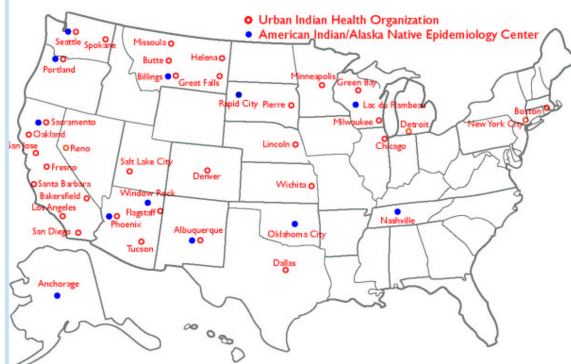
National data indicate:

Fewer AI/AN women survived five years from the time of their breast or cervical cancer diagnosis than did white women.^{7, 8, 9}

About The WEAVING Project

- The WEAVING Project is working to increase breast and cervical cancer screening among urban American Indian and Alaska Native women by supporting partnerships and collaboration between urban Indian health organizations and state Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Programs (BCCDED). Please visit the WEAVING Project website for more information: www.uihi.org/the-weaving-project

About Urban Indian Health Organizations (UIHO)



Urban Indian Health Organizations (UIHO) are a network of 34 independent, not-for-profit health organizations, established through Title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, and funded through the Indian Health Service (IHS). UIHO services range from comprehensive primary medical to outreach and referral. Collectively, UIHO receive only 1% of the IHS budget, but serve approximately 150,000 clients each year.

For a complete list of factsheet references, please visit www.uihi.org/the-weaving-project