The Urban Indian Health Institute recently released the 2011 Community Health Profile National Aggregate report. This report uses national surveillance data to provide an overview of the health status of urban American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) in counties served by Urban Indian Health Organizations (UIHO).

Poverty status and unemployment are two of the social determinants of health described in the 2011 Community Health Profile. These indicators were calculated for a five year time period for the AI/AN population and compared with the all race (general) population. (US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005-2009)

A higher percentage of AI/ANs in all UIHO service areas combined live below the federal poverty level (23.3%) compared with the general population (13.6%) (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Income below the federal poverty level, 2005-2009, combined UIHO service areas

Data note: Federal poverty thresholds are used to determine poverty status. Federal poverty thresholds are not intended as a comprehensive description of families’ needs, but rather as a statistical indicator that can be tracked over time. Federal poverty thresholds are also used to determine qualification for many low income assistance programs.

Also, in all UIHO service areas combined, AI/ANs age 16 and older experience higher rates of unemployment (12.7%) compared with the general population (7.5%). These rates do not include individuals in the military or individuals who are institutionalized.

The disparities in income and unemployment noted in this report are statistically significant and highlight critical socioeconomic risk factors that contribute to poor health outcomes in the urban AI/AN population.

To view the additional sociodemographic and health indicators included in this profile please see the full report at: http://www.uihi.org/urban-indian-health-organization-profiles/.