A recent report from the Urban Indian Health Institute summarizes the performance of the Urban Indian Health Organizations’ (UIHOs) diabetes programs using Indian Health Service (IHS) Diabetes Care and Outcomes Audit data.

One IHS Best Practice recommendation related to cardiovascular disease (CVD) is to assess and treat blood glucose. Risk for developing CVD increases as blood glucose control deteriorates. Figure 1 presents mean Hemoglobin A1c categories (a long-term measure of blood glucose levels) for urban American Indian/Alaska Native patients with diabetes served at UIHOs over a five-year period.

A1c levels under 7.0% indicate controlled blood glucose. In 2011, 37% of audited patients with diabetes had A1c values less than 7.0%, similar to previous years. This meets the 2011 IHS Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) goal to have 36% of diabetes patients with A1c values less than 7.0%, but does not meet the Healthy People 2020 objective.

Many UIHOs serve a mobile patient population, whose complex socioeconomic and health conditions can make diabetes management challenging. The relatively constant hemoglobin A1c values over five years reflect the UIHOs ongoing success in treating a unique group of patients with diabetes. View the full diabetes report at http://www.uihi.org/resources/reports/.

Figure 1: Mean Hemoglobin A1c Categories among Audited Urban American Indian/Alaska Native Patients with Diabetes