



Urban Indian Health Institute
A Division of the Seattle Indian Health Board

UIHI Communication Broadcast

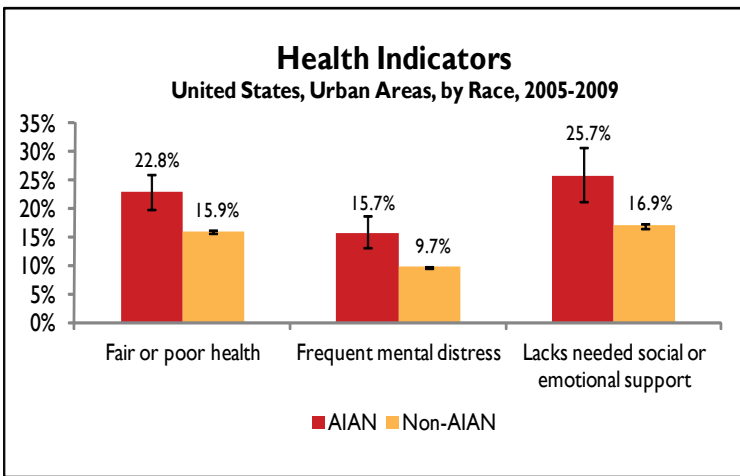
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Beyond Socioeconomic Factors to Health Equity for Urban American Indians and Alaska Natives

A new Urban Indian Health Institute fact sheet describes findings from national survey data for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) in urban Indian health organization service areas (US BRFSS, 2005-2009). The study examined the impact of socioeconomic status (SES) as measured by poverty, education, employment and health insurance on a range of health indicators.

Urban AI/ANs reported higher rates of fair or poor health, frequent mental distress and gaps in needed social and emotional support compared with non-AI/ANs (See graph). Looking at these three health indicators among people of the same age, sex and marital status, rates remain higher by as much as 50% for urban AI/ANs with *the same poverty, education and employment status* as non-AI/ANs.

Factors beyond SES as measured in these data may play a significant role in the health of urban AI/ANs. In addition to discrimination and chronic stress, shown to impact health disparities, the unique cultural and historical experience of urban AI/ANs should be considered by health care professionals, program providers and policy-makers to address health inequities in this population.



More information about these study findings plus strategies for achieving health equity among urban AI/ANs are included in the UIHI fact sheet available at: <http://www.uihi.org/resources/fact-sheets/>

If you have any questions, please email info@uihi.org.

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