

Tribal Perspectives on Health Equity

Rethinking How the US Approaches Health Equity for American Indians and Alaska Natives

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> National Indian Health Board

U.S. life expectancy

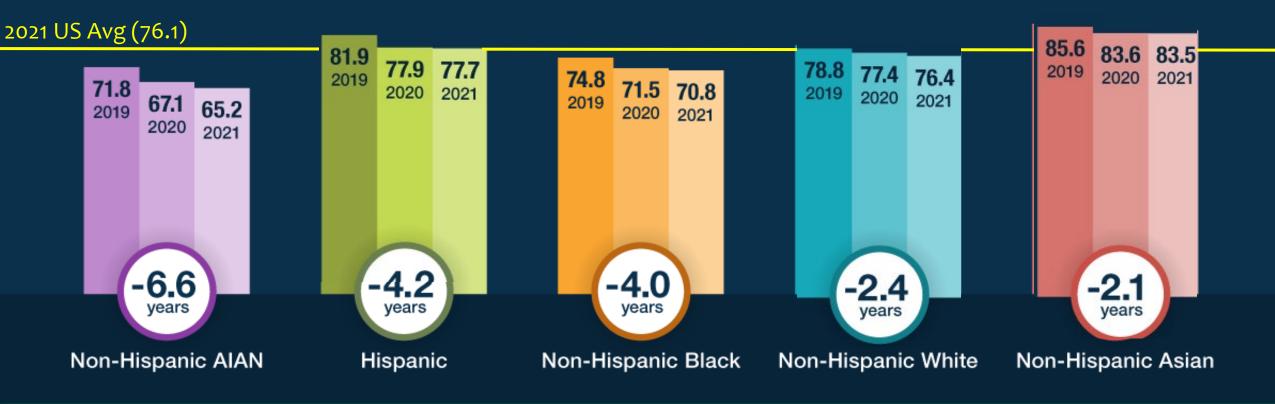
Life expectancy is a calculation of how long a baby born in a given year is expected to live on average.



Source: NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality

NCHS U.S. LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, PROVISIONAL MORTALITY DATA FOR 2021

The non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) population experienced the largest decline in life expectancy between 2019 and 2021

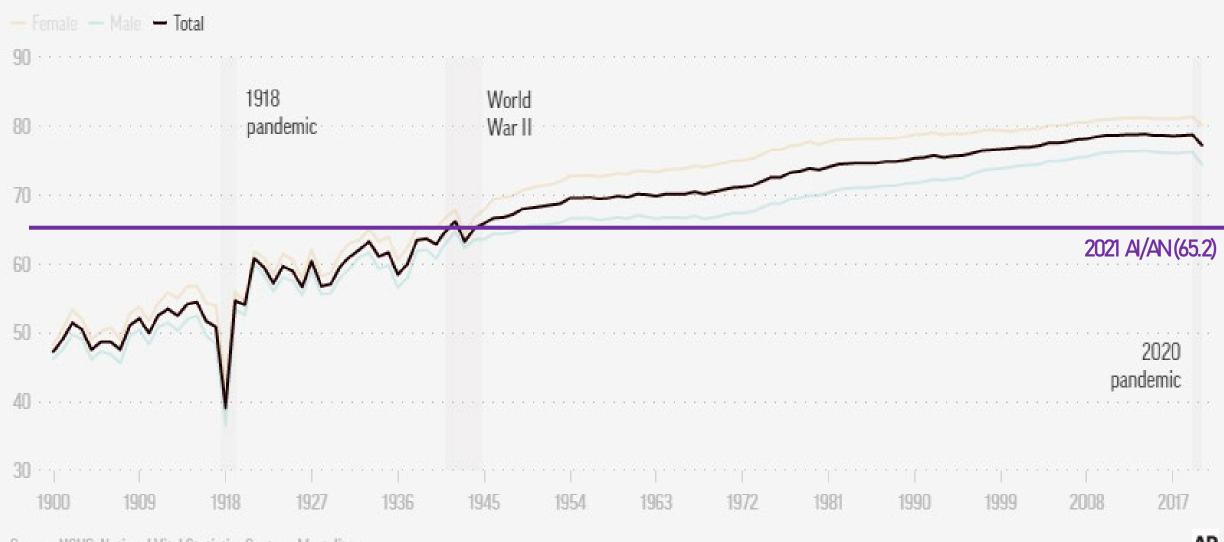


SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsrr/vsrr023.pdf.



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Health Equity is now a federal priority.

CMS Framework for Health Equity 2022–2032

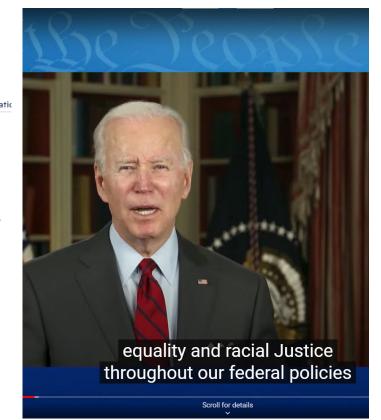


BRIEFING ROOM

Administratio

Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government

JANUARY 20, 2021 • PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS



But dominant perspectives of Health Equity don't tell the whole story.

Social Determinants of Health



CMS Definition of Health Equity

"Health equity means the attainment of the highest level of health for all people, where everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their optimal health regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, preferred language, or other factors that affect access to care and health outcomes."



Tribal reactions to federal Health Equity initiatives:

- Making health equity a priority is a huge step forward
- > Many of the focus areas are important
- Federal plans don't resonate
- Tribes feel excluded
- The elements most essential to achieving health equity in Indian Country are missing
- A mindset shift is required a different way to think about health equity



NIHB's Health Equity Project

How we are amplifying Native voices in national Health Equity discourse

National Indian Health Board

Key Questions

Why are these inequities happening?

What is unique about working towards Health Equity in Indian Country?

What role can federal agencies play in advancing Health Equity for American Indians and Alaska Natives?

3 Tribal Health Equity Events in 2022

May: Inter-Tribal World Café on Health Equity

- Foundations of health equity in Indian Country
- Key Drivers of health inequities for AI/AN

August: National Tribal Health Equity Summit

- What does health equity mean from a Tribal perspective?
- How do we advance health equity in Indian Country?

September: CMS Listening Session

- Specific feedback on the CMS Framework for Health Equity
- Rethinking how CMS approaches health equity for AI/AN

What are the root causes of AI/AN health inequities?

outcomes for American Disconnection from, culture community, and identity Indians and Alaska Natives: Disruption, distrust, and disempowering of Tribes Colonization Erasure AI/AN life expectancy is now II years less than for the general Systemic, American population self-perpetuating barriers

Foundations of Health Equity in Indian Country

Tribal sovereignty

Resilience through culture

Strong Tribal institutions

Tribal empowerment in state & federal governance

Federal trust responsibility

9 ESSENTIAL PRIORITIES

Indigenous Knowledge

Honor

Focus on Relationships and Connectedness

> Heal Backwards and forwards

> > Increase Visibility of American Indians & Alaska Natives

Disrupt Structures of Inequity and Shift the **Balance** of Power

Center Tribal

Sovereignty and the Nation-to-

Nation

Relationship

A Path to AI/AN

Health Equity:

Recommendations for

Federal Agencies

Recognize that Tribes Hold the Answers to **Tribal Health** Equity

Prioritize

Fulfillment of

the Federal

Trust Responsibility

> Support Tribal Institutions

equal opportunities to achieve optimal health Next steps in defining Tribal Health Equity all people are treated according to their restoratior Aual opportunity sovereignty Indigenous Models of Health Equity • Special Workshop Sessions Thursday Morning to land and water everyone gets what they need Indigenous Determinants of quality healthcare for all Health Panel The ability to obtain optimal healthy and fulfilled life for all What does health equity mean to you? National Indian Health Board (Participant responses)