




Special Diabetes Program for Indians:

Saving lives in Montana and providing a strong return on federal investment

History

Congress established the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) in 1997 to address the growing epidemic of diabetes in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Nations. By allowing Tribes to determine their own approach, the program has become the nation’s most effective federal initiative to combat diabetes and serves as a useful model both for diabetes programs nationwide and public health programs in Indian Country. SDPI is currently authorized through Fiscal Year 2023.

SDPI Outcomes



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AI/AN DIABETES PROGRAMS IN 35 STATES

5.5%

DECREASE IN PREVALENCE OF DIABETES
Between 2013 and 2017

15.4%

↓

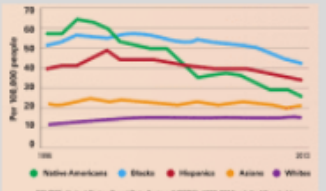
14.6%

END STAGE RENAL DISEASE REDUCED BY

54%

Between 1999 and 2013- the greatest decline of any racial or ethnic group.

\$88,000 IN SAVINGS FOR MEDICARE FOR EACH PATIENT KEPT OFF CHEMODIALYSIS

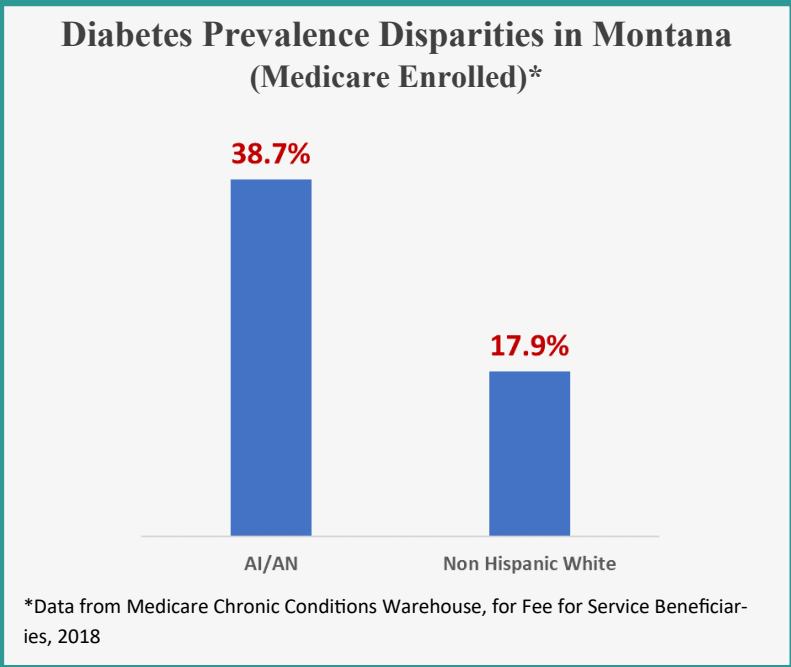


TRIBES COLLECT DATA AND HAVE DOCUMENTED THAT THIS INVESTMENT IS BOTH SAVING LIVES AND THE FEDERAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM MONEY!

Diabetes in Montana

FY 2023 SDPI funding in Montana totaled \$6,869,529 for 13 Community Directed Grant Programs

According to the American Diabetes Association, in 2017, approximately 66,000 people in Montana – 8.1% of the population – had diagnosed diabetes, and many suffered from serious diabetes-related conditions such as heart disease, neuropathy, and eye, foot and skin complications. In addition to the human toll diabetes places on the people of Montana, it also places a large financial burden on the state’s healthcare system. According to the American Diabetes Association, in 2017, the staggering estimate of cost of diabetes and prediabetes in Montana was approximately \$820 million.



SDPI Impact

SDPI provides a strong return on federal investment and is saving lives in Montana. Since the beginning of SDPI, blood sugar levels have decreased, risk factors of cardiovascular disease have been reduced, diabetes-related kidney disease has been cut by more than half, and primary prevention and weight management programs for Native youth have increased. Nation-wide AI/AN diabetes prevalence decreased from **15.4%** to **14.6%** between 2013 and 2017. National data reflect the excellent outcomes in Native Nations resulting from innovative local level programs.

For more information, visit <https://www.nihb.org/sdpi/>

Montana Tribal Case Study

Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes

Background

The Diabetes Program is federally funded under the Department of Health and Human Services. The collaboration by the Indian Health Service and Tribal Health is successful in providing diabetes care and education on the Fort Peck Reservation.

Overview of Fort Peck Tribe:

Enrolled Members: 13,248
Reservation Population: 7,112
Economic Activity: Electronics Manufacturing, Farming, Natural Resources Extraction
Current SDPI Funding Level: \$815,808



Programs

The Tribe currently has 1,112 registered diabetics.

Foot Exam Comprehensive: Diabetic Foot Clinics are held once a month at Wolf Point and Poplar Indian Health Services. A foot nurse who is contracted does a complete and comprehensive foot check; trims toe nails; and will make a referral to the patient's primary provider. All diabetic clinics are well attended and documentation is provided for each clinics.

Community Screenings: The Outreach Technician completes screenings for Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar in 4 communities. We screen at Senior Citizen Sites, Adult Corrections, Tribal Courts; Wellness Centers, the local college, and the Tribal and BIA buildings.

Community Education: Classes are scheduled in 5 communities. Information is presented on diabetes that includes the Heart; Blood Pressures; Blood Sugars; A1C; Feet; Eyes; Kidneys; and Nutrition. Class includes a healthful meal.



Shoes for Diabetics: SDPI provide shoes from a local vendor for diabetics who are 50 years and older.

Breakfast for Diabetics: The program provides a breakfast once a week in the Wolf Point and Poplar Indian Health Services, during the Diabetic day. Usually have 20 to 40 patients participate in the breakfasts, which include buffalo breakfast sausage. All staff are certified Food Handlers. During this time the Indian Health Dental department and WIC Nutritionist present educational information to the participants.

Dental Services:

SDPI provides dental services to the Tribe's diabetics that are 18 years and older. The local Indian Health Service Dentist does a referral to the Diabetes Program which approves the referral for dentures or partials.

Established by the Tribes to advocate as the united voice of federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes, NIHB seeks to reinforce Tribal sovereignty, strengthen Tribal health systems, secure resources, and build capacity to achieve the highest level of health and well-being for our People.

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