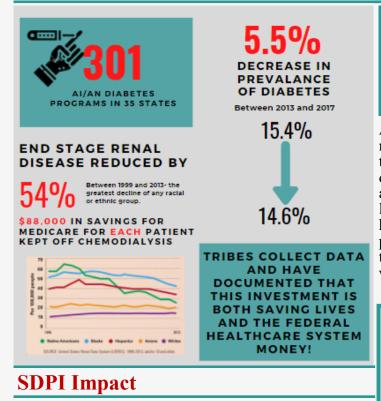# National Indian Health Board

Oklahoma

Special Diabetes Program for Indians:
Saving lives in Oklahoma 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

301 AI/AN DIABETES PROGRAMS IN 35 STATES

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

5.5% DECREASE IN PREVALANCE OF DIABETES Between 2013 and 2017

15.4%
↓
14.6%

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

Diabetes in Oklahoma

FY 2023 SDPI funding in Oklahoma totaled $23,396,634 for 26 Community Directed Grant Programs

According to the American Diabetes Association, approximately 373,824 people in Oklahoma – 12.4 % of the population – have diagnosed diabetes, and many suffer rom serious diabetes-related conditions such as heart disease, neuropathy, and eye, foot and skin complications. An additional 1.04 million—34.9% of adults– have prediabetes. In addition to the human toll diabetes places on the people of Oklahoma, it also places a large financial burden on the state's healthcare system. The staggering estimate of cost of diabetes in Oklahoma was approximately $3.8 billion.

Prevalence of Diabetes in Oklahoma*

AI/AN: 16.7%
White: 12.4%

*Data from America's Health Rankings, CDC, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2020
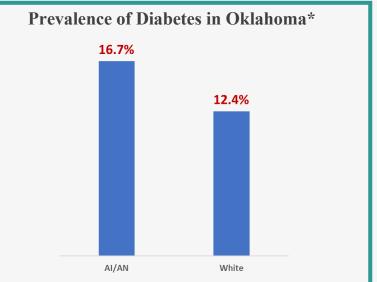
SDPI Impact

SDPI provides a strong return on federal investment and is saving lives in Oklahoma. 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. Nationwide 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/