EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION WITH AMERICAN INDIANS & ALASKA NATIVES IN CALIFORNIA





UC San Diego School of Medicine



INLAND DESERT TRAINING & RESOURCE CENTER UC SAN DIEGO

PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE

WELCOME!

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OBJECTIVE

Learn how to effectively outreach to American Indian and Alaska Native audiences and build cultural awareness in partnering with tribal organizations.





OVERVIEW

- Background of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIAN) in California
 - Cultural strengths
 - Existing community assets
- Importance of Partnerships
- Everything You Wanted to Know but Were Afraid to Ask
- Collective Wisdom: Group Discussion

NEOPB AIAN CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

- Established FFY 2014
- Public Health Institute staff @ NEOP
- Culturally competent materials
- Focus groups, pilot testing
- 3 Subcontractors
 - 5th Direction
 - Sacramento Native American Health Center
 - United Indian Health Services



CALIFORNIA INDIANS



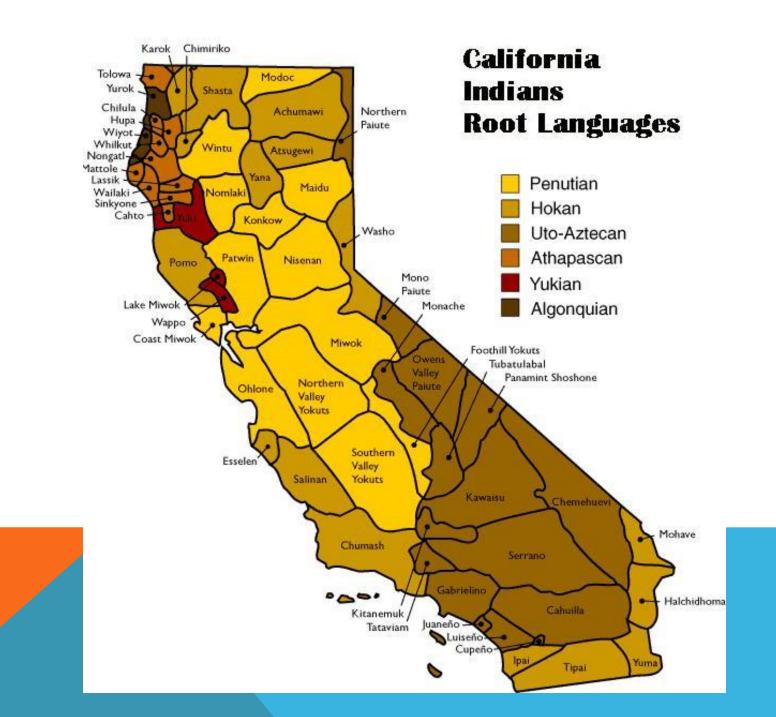
CALIFORNIA

- 723,225 AIAN (1.9%)
- 109 Federally Recognized Tribes
- 45 Tribes seeking reinstatement or recognition
- Tribal population: ranges from 5 to over 4,000









CALIFORNIA AIAN HISTORY

- ??? 1769 (Pre-Contact)
- 1769-1950's (Genocide, Assimilation, Relocation)
- 1950's Present



CALIFORNIA AIAN HEALTH STATUS

• ??? – 1769 (Pre-Contact):

Indigenous foods & healthy lifestyles

• 1769-1950's :

Food Insecurity & Malnutrition

• 1950's – Present:

Food commodities, diabetes, revitalization





WHAT'S UP WITH AIAN?

- Aren't we supposed to say Native American?
- Hey, Alaska Natives aren't they Indians, too?
- How about Indigenous groups from Mexico? Canada?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: AMERICAN INDIANS & ALASKA NATIVES (AIAN)



A Guide to Build Cultural Awareness

American Indian and Alaska Native

Available at: <u>www.samhsa.gov</u>

"Some spiritual principles are universal across all tribes in California: Being honest. Having courage and integrity. Forgiving self and others. Loving."

> Albert Titman Sr. (Miwok) Behavioral Health Manager Sacramento Native American Health Center

MYTH: AIAN ARE SPIRITUAL AND LIVE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

- Broad generalization
- Romantic stereotype

Stereotypes Ar Real Time-Save



OLLUTION

OF US.

NOW.

MYTH: YOU CAN IDENTIFY AIAN BY HOW THEY LOOK



MYTH: AIAN HAVE THE HIGHEST RATE OF ALCOHOLISM

- Control for socioeconomic status = no difference in rates
- AIAN have highest rate of complete abstinence from alcohol



MYTH: AIAN PEOPLE ALL GET "INDIAN MONEY" AND DON'T PAY TAXES.

 AIAN pay income and sales tax – just like the rest of us!



MYTH: THANKS TO CASINOS, AIAN ARE RICH!

- Of 560 Tribes across the nation, less than half operate gaming facilities
 - 75% reinvest \$ directly in to community
- Only 73 tribes distributed direct payments ("per capita") to tribal members



STRENGTHS OF AIAN COMMUNITY

- Role of elders; family, community
- Indigenous and generational knowledge/wisdom
- Survival skills and resiliency in the face of multiple challenges





STRENGTHS OF AIAN COMMUNITY

- Community pride
- Retention & reclamation of traditional language and cultural practices
- Ability to "walk in two worlds" (mainstream & AIAN culture)



Facebook Photo Caption: Cap+North Face Jacket = Modern Indian

WORKING WITH TRIBES AND AIAN ETIQUETTE DO'S

- Learn how the tribe refers to itself/its people
- Be honest , clear, respectful
- Establish rapport with casual conversation, self-disclosure, allow humor
- Allow storytelling and sharing
- Admit limited knowledge of AIAN culture
- Accept food/beverages
- Respect confidentiality
- Avoid jargon



WORKING WITH TRIBES AND AIAN ETIQUETTE DON'TS

- Stereotype
- Interrupt; Ask intrusive questions
- Impose your personal values/beliefs
- Touch people/objects without permission
- Take pictures without permission
- Use any information or pictures gained by working with the community for presentations/research/etc. without express written consent.
- Tell stories of distant AIAN relatives in your genealogy as an attempt to establish rapport unless you have maintained a connection with that community



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: WHERE TO START?

- Call, email, face-to-face
- Start with the Tribal Secretary
- Home field advantage
- Attend the meeting
- Tribal Health Councils
 - Board of Director Meetings
 - Health Program Councils



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: CLEAR INTENTIONS

Be <u>CLEAR</u> in Your Intentions

- History of distrust
- Give honest answers; admit when you don't know
- Be familiar with eligibility requirements.
- When tailoring resources: know your audience
 - North America California Region Tribal specific



SNAP VS. FDPIR PROGRAM

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

- Food packages for low-income households on Indian reservations
- Administered locally by Indian Tribal Organizations
 or State government
- Many households participate because they do not have easy access to SNAP offices or authorized food stores
- Households <u>may not</u> participate in FDPIR and SNAP in the same month.

United States Department of Agriculture		Food and Nutri Nutrition Program		1
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http://www.fns.usda.gov/

FOOD AND CULTURE



JACOB DUNLAP MINNESOTA OJIBWE

FOOD AND CULTURE

CALVIN HEDRICK MOUNTAIN MAIDU



FOOD AND CULTURE

REBECCA GARROW

PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE AIAN CAMPAIGN MANAGER



PANEL Q&A

{ 5 Minutes }

Everything you want to know (but might be afraid to ask!) about AIAN in California

Please submit questions
 via chat function or raise
 hand (both on side panel).

COLLECTIVE **WISDOM:** GROUP DISCUSSION { 5 Minutes }

We want to hear from you!

- Best Practices;
 Lessons Learned;
 Success Stories
- Take-away thoughts/inspirations?

THANK YOU! GET IN TOUCH:

ELLE MARI

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