-HIV in our Community

-Strategies for Good Health through Spirituality

Neal Rzepkowski, M.D.

Greeting in our (local) Community

- Seneca Sgëno
- Cayuga Sgé:no
- Onondaga Sge:no
- Mohawk She:kon
- Oneida Shekó:lih
- Tuscarora Chwe’n
- Nyawë Sgëno
HIV ... in our Community

- Some slides from:
  - Mose Hern, MPH, MS (IHS)
  - Rod K Robinson (SAMHSA)

American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN)

- 5.2 million = 1.7% of US population
- In 2011, 212 new HIV infections (<1%) of about 47,500 total infections
- Asians < Whites < AI/AN < Latinos < Black
- Pacific Islands, Hawaii, mixed race < AI/AN
American Indian/ Alaskan Native (AI/AN)

- 161 men (76%)
  - 120 MSM
- 51 women (24%)
  - 32 heterosexual risk
- 146 diagnosed with AIDS (about the same since 2008)
- (the leading cause of death ages 25-34)

*Estimated Diagnoses of HIV Infection among Adult and Adolescent American Indians/Alaska Natives by Transmission Category and Gender, United States, 2011*

*Because of rounding, the percentages do not equal 100%. Because the estimated total (N) was calculated independently of the values of the subpopulation, the subpopulation values do not sum to the total.*
Challenges

• Highest rates of syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia after the Black population
• Cultural bias/stigma for “Two Spirits”
• Cultural Diversity
  – ~566 tribes
  – ~200 languages/ more dialects

...Drugs and Alcohol
• “Our people walk in two worlds, and we dance disastrously with alcohol, drugs, poverty and lack of education.”
• “Our girls and women must embrace a sexual strength we have never before had or needed.”

• Shana Cozad,
• Native American married mother of 4, HIV speaker, activist, writer and bloger
Disparities in Psychological Distress by Race and Gender

The AI/AN population experience some of the greatest disparities in health status and general well-being.


Disparities in Psychological Well Being by Gender

“Feel Hopeless”

“Feel Worthless”

Strategies for Good Health through Spirituality

Disparities in Psychological Well Being by Gender

“Feel Hopeless”

“Feel Worthless”

Stories

• Cattaraugus Rez lodges
• Ft. Peck lodges and sings
• Sun Dance
• Haŋbléčeya
• Lily Dale
• Attitudes
  – “Chip on His Shoulder”
  – Milky Way