Identifying Our Needs: A Survey of Elders

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The NRCNAA is one of three centers that are funded through the Administration for Community Living (ACL). The other two centers are:

- The National Resource Center for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Elders (Alaska)
- National Resource Center for Native Hawaiian Elders (Hawaii)

The NRCNAA was established in 1994
- Center for Rural Health, University of North Dakota, School of Medicine & Health Sciences.
Mission and Vision

**Mission**
Identify and increase awareness of evolving Native elder health and social issues.

**Vision**
To empower Native people to develop community based solution.

Honoring and helping to maintain cultural values.

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Identifying Our Needs: A Survey of Elders

- ACL funded project
  - Assesses the health and social needs of Native Elders in Tribal Communities
- 3 year cycles
- Opportunity to collect information for their communities
- Technical assistance and training
**Data Roadmap**

- Snapshot of Native elder population
- Who, what, when, and where
- Health and social needs trends
- Insight


**Tribal Diversity**

- NRCNAA research model addresses diversity between and within tribes.
  - Measurement of local needs
    - Unique fit to tribal community
  - Custom-fitting measure
    - ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL
Population

- Native elders residing primarily on reservations, Alaskan villages, and Hawaiian homesteads.
- Age 55 years and older
- Important to note:
  - Age 55 years and over for Native elders is considered comparable to non-Native elders 65 years and older in the general population.

Survey Needs Data

- General Health Status
- Diagnosis of Chronic Disease
- Falls
- Activities of Daily Living (ADL’s)
- Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL’s)
- Screening
- Vision, Hearing, & Dental
- Memory and Disability
- Health Care Access
- Tobacco and Alcohol Use
- BMI, Nutrition, and Exercise
- Social Support/Housing
- Social Functioning
- Now and Would Use
- Demographics
Identifying Our Needs: A Survey of Elders VII

NRCNAA Research Model

- Tribal Resolution
- Elder Count
- Send Surveys
- Guides
- Process Data
- Results
- Tribe Owns Data
- Administer the Surveys
- Trained Staff or Volunteer

nrcnaa.org
### Comparison Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response(s)</th>
<th>Tribal Data (55 and over)</th>
<th>Aggregate Tribal Data (55 and over)</th>
<th>National Data*(55 and over)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Would you say your health in general is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cycle VI Summary**

- Data collected in the time span of April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2017
- 18,134 AI/AN elders
- 164 sites
- 267 tribes
- Representation from:
  - 11 out of 12 Indian Health Service (IHS) Regions
  - 9 out of 10 Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regions
  - 28 out of 50 states

*Cycle VII began April 1, 2017 and will end March 31, 2020*
Needs Assessment Participation

Cycle VI
18,134 Elders
267 tribes
Cycle V
17,049 Elders
262 tribes
Cycle IV
18,089 Elders
214 tribes
Cycle III
15,565 Elders
268 tribes
Cycle II
10,743 Elders
342 tribes
Cycle I
9,403 Elders
190 tribes
Total N = 89,436 surveys

Participation by DHHS
Regions for Cycle VI

Region 1, 426, 1%
Region 2, 2,407, 2%
Region 3, 2,508, 10%
Region 4, 5,999, 15%
Region 5, 2,773, 13%
Region 6, 4,075, 12%
Region 7, 345, 1%
Region 8, 2,134, 12%
Region 10, 3,820, 10%
Region 7, 1,900, 5%
Region 8, 6,000, 10%
Top Chronic Diseases for Native Elders by Region and Tribal Aggregate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Diabetes</th>
<th>High Blood Pressure</th>
<th>Arthritis</th>
<th>Cataracts</th>
<th>Depression</th>
<th>Asthma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>55.2%</td>
<td>47.4%</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal Aggregate</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
<td>56.5%</td>
<td>45.3%</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 1</td>
<td>47.9%</td>
<td>55.2%</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 2</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 3</td>
<td>57.8%</td>
<td>64.3%</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 4</td>
<td>52.4%</td>
<td>57.2%</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 5</td>
<td>52.5%</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 6</td>
<td>61.7%</td>
<td>60.6%</td>
<td>58.2%</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 7</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
<td>55.1%</td>
<td>45.4%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 8</td>
<td>52.3%</td>
<td>57.1%</td>
<td>56.7%</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 9</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>47.2%</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trending Data for Top 5 Chronic Diseases among AI/AN elders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Cycle I</th>
<th>Cycle II</th>
<th>Cycle III</th>
<th>Cycle IV</th>
<th>Cycle V</th>
<th>Cycle VI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>46.3%</td>
<td>58.8%</td>
<td>56.9%</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Blood Pressure</td>
<td>50.1%</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
<td>56.9%</td>
<td>57.3%</td>
<td>58.2%</td>
<td>56.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
<td>44.9%</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
<td>45.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cataracts</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Utilization of Data for Tribal Communities

- Community Level
  - Renewal of Title VI Grants
  - Strengthen Grant Proposals
  - Document health and social disparities
  - Tribal planning and infrastructure
- National Level
  - Training for Native elder service providers
  - Advocating for resources and funding at the state, regional, and national level
  - Filling the research gap for Native elder information
  - Training Native researchers in aging field
  - Decision-making and policy
The NRCNAA Team

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Contact Information

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