AI/AN & Homelessness in Los Angeles County

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UAI - Seven Generations Child and Family Services
Indigenous Peoples

Three Tribal Groups:

• Gabrieleño/Tongva - Yangna Village
• Fernandeño Tataviam
• Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation
AI/AN Demographics

- AI/AN (156,000 - 220,000) 2017
- Diversity of AI/AN
- >100 Federally Tribes
- >60 Unrecognized
- Large Population Areas: Palmdale; East LA, City of LA, South Bay, Long Beach
AI/AN Demographics

AI/AN (156,000 - 220,000) 2017

- **Income:** median $35,429 or $20,000 * note: unknown (suppressed due to unreliable)

  Low income & high rates of unemployment 37%* Educated population:

- **Education:** (25y+): 16.6% >; 56.6% HS  
  16.5% - 26.8% BS; 10.3% Graduate;

  - Ages: 3-24 years: 66.7% enrolled (lowest enrolled ethnic group in LAC)

  - Index: 3.77 (0-10 Scale)

- **Housing:** not specified

- **Health Index:** 4.54 (0-10 Scale)  
  Life expectancy: 76.9 years

- **Low SocioEconomics:** Palmdale; East LA, City of LA, S. Bay, LB

Measure of America - A portrait of LAC 2017-2018  * Healthy LA Study
Epidemics Today

- Diabetes
- Heart Disease
- Substance Abuse
- Cancer
- Poverty
- Lack of Adequate Housing
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Loss of Culture
- Loss of ‘Connections’
- SI
- DV/IPV
Federal Policies Impacting: AI/AN Health, Housing, & Well-Being

- **Relocation (6% AI/AN Urban):**
  - 1950 Navajo-Hopi Law: LA, Salt Lake City, Denver
  - 1951-1952: BIA expand to OK, NM, CA, AZ, Utah, CO
  - 1955: Cleveland, Dallas, Minneapolis, Oklahoma City, St. Louis, SF/Bay area, San Jose, Seattle, & Tulsa
  - 1954: 6,200 AI/AN relocated
Federal Policies Impacting: AI/AN Health, Housing, & Well-Being

- Effects: dissolved reservations; isolation from communities, racial discrimination & segregation
  - Instability: low paying jobs - higher expenses - low cost housing terminated with urban renewal (commercial buildings/offices; freeways)
  - Children difficulty enrolling in public schools (social discrimination)
  - Pan Indian Communities developed

- LA: 2010 Census 146,000 AI/AN
  2017: 156,000 - 220,000
Risk Factors for Homelessness

- Human Development Index: 4.64 (0-10 scale, 10)
- Low Education: Index 3.77 (2nd to last)
- Low Employment Rates/LOW SES
- Wages and Wage GAPS (median $35,429)/LOW SES
- Lack of Access to Services
- DV/IPV
- Loss of Culture/Community Connection
- ACES STUDY
- Mental Health/Behavioral Health
Healthy LA Natives Study

...and an important risk factor for homelessness
Mental Health Stats

50% 50% of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14 and 75% by age 24.¹

10 yrs The average delay between onset of symptoms and intervention is 8-10 years.¹

37% 37% of students with a mental health condition age 14 and older drop out of school—the highest dropout rate of any disability group.¹

70% 70% of youth in state and local juvenile justice systems have a mental illness.¹

Prevalence of Adult Mental Illness by Race

- 16.3% Hispanic adults living with a mental health condition.
- 19.3% White adults living with a mental health condition.
- 18.6% Black adults living with a mental health condition.
- 13.9% Asian adults living with a mental health condition.
- 28.3% AI/AN* adults living with a mental health condition.

*American Indian/Alaska Native

Suicide

3rd Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death in youth ages 10-24.¹

90% 90% of those who died by suicide had an underlying mental illness.¹

Mental Health Facts

Fact: Mental health affects everyone regardless of culture, race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.

1 in every 5 adults in America experience a mental illness.

Nearly 1 in 25 (10 million) adults in America live with a serious mental illness.

One-half of all chronic mental illness begins by the age of 14; three-quarters by the age of 24.
Barriers: AI/AN Data

• Conflicting data on AI/AN Homelessness in LA County.

• Lack of Reliable Sources

• Greater LA Homeless Count 2018: 545 AI/AN alone (not in combination w/ other races); 0.03% of AIAN population
  • Healthy LA Natives Study: 14% of sampled AIAN population (alone and in combination with other races)
  • Los Angeles Department of Mental Health: 300 homeless AIAN clients since 2016 (alone or in combination with other races)
  • United American Indian Involvement: 298 homeless AI/AN clients since 2015
  • Southern California Indian Center: 20% of client population based on survey; total clients unknown
Why Should WE Care?

- Needs for Our People and Future:
  - Normalize
  - Access/Quality of Care
  - Respect
  - Tx of ‘Whole Self’
    - Improve Functioning
    - Decrease Impairments
Barrier: AI/AN vs ‘Homelessness’

• Homelessness:

  • Statistics

    Under Represented & Under Reported, why?

  • AI/AN vs LAC Definition

  • Stigma: Respect vs Shame

• ‘Faces’ of AI/AN Homelessness

We are Resilient!

We ARE Rising!
AI/AN Service Agencies

• American Indian Changing Spirits
• American Indian Counseling Services (LAC DMH)
  • FSP
  • Outpatient Clinic
• Native American Indian Commission
• Pukuu
• RED Circle Project
• SCIC
• Tribal TANF: Torres-Martinez
• UAII
  • Robert Sundance Family Wellness Center
  • Medical Clinic
  • Seven Generations Child and Family Services
Cultural Considerations

- AI/AN providers & Allies
- Access/Quality of Care: Office/Field
- Respect
- Pre-Engagement
- Engagement
- Cultural and Community Involvement
- Whole-Person Treatment

AICS
American Indian Changing Spirits
Whole Person Tx/Wellness

- Exercise
- Balanced Eating
- Social Engagement
- Spiritual
- Sleep
- Health
- Community
Continue Making Meaningful Progress

- Trainings by Our People, For Our People
- RESPECT and Normalization
- Awareness
  - Social Media
  - Walks
- Legislation Defined by AI/AN
- Court/Tribal Courts
- AI/AN Specific Services
- AI/AN Mental/Behavioral Health Org.
- Native Shelters & Housing Linkage Providers
  - ER; Transitional Living; Permanence


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