

# Emergency Medicine for Rural and Indigenous Communities Conference September 15th - 17th, 2022

#### An Indigenous Rights-Based Approach to Emergency Medicine

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## AN INDIGENOUS RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO EMERGENCY MEDICINE



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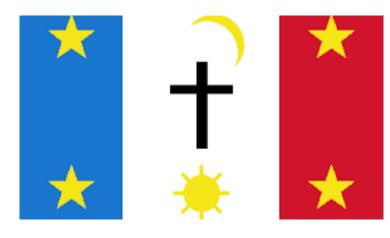
#### **OBJECTIVES**

#### Examine Gain Apply Learn Context on About the How the An Indigenous rights Indigenous Peoples' relationship between framework to your implementation of rights (including Indigenous rights clinical practice, the UNDRIP can Indigenous patients), and health improve Indigenous political advocacy, as per the UN disparities, including health and decrease and healthcare Declaration on the increased medical medical delivery. Rights of Indigenous emergencies. emergencies. Peoples (UNDRIP).

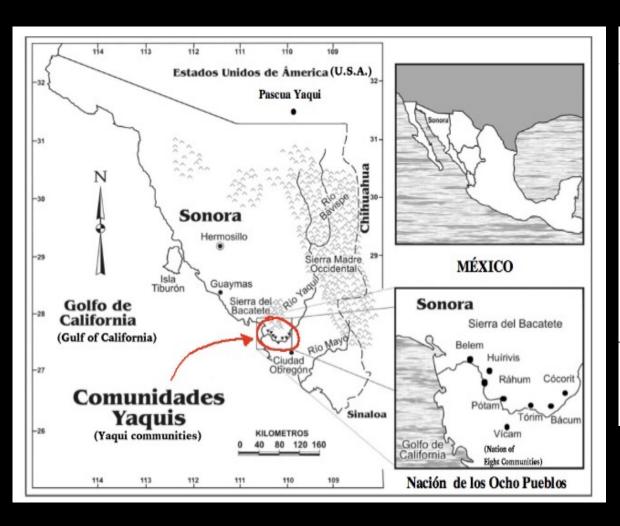
#### FIRST, A LITTLE ABOUT ME!

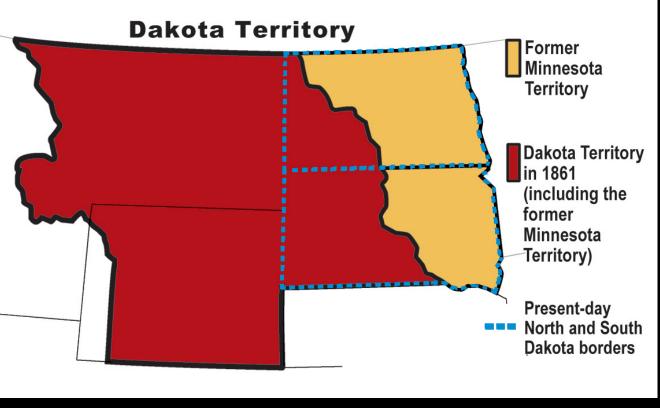
#### HUNKPATI DAKOTA AND YAQUI NATIONS





#### Lands of the Yaqui & Dakota Nations





## Family





# Indigenous Youth Engaging in the International Work



UN Indigenous Youth Caucus meeting with UN FAO, Rome, October 2017, Rome



#### **OBJECTIVE** #1:

GAIN CONTEXT ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS (INCLUDING INDIGENOUS PATIENTS), AS PER THE UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (UNDRIP).

#### Who are Indigenous Peoples?

My Definition: Indigenous Peoples belong to Indigenous Nations that have a pre-colonial continuity with their traditional lands since time immemorial. They consider themselves politically distinct from societies that colonized their lands & waters. Despite the ongoing detrimental impacts of colonization, they are determined to preserve, develop, and transmit to future generations their ancestral lands, waters, cultures, self-governance, individual rights & collective rights.





History was Made: General Assembly Adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on September 13th, 2007 "The United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and **Member States (e.g. IHS)** shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration."



# The Declaration is the "Minimum Standard"

• "The rights recognized herein constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the Indigenous Peoples of the world." --Article 43

#### Some UNDRIP Provisions

**Discrimination**: "Reaffirming that indigenous peoples, in the exercise of their rights, should be free from discrimination of any kind..."

Racism: "Affirming further that all doctrines, policies and practices based on or advocating superiority of peoples or individuals on the basis of national origin or racial, religious, ethnic or cultural differences are racist, scientifically false, legally invalid, morally condemnable and socially unjust"

**Self Determination**: "Indigenous peoples have the right of self-determination"

#### Lands, Territories and

Resources: "Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources."

#### OBJECTIVE #2:

LEARN ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND HEALTH DISPARITIES, INCLUDING INCREASED MEDICAL EMERGENCIES.

#### Indigenous Health Disparities

American Indian and Alaska
Native Mississippians experience
higher rates of chronic conditions
for all measures with Indigenous
populations data, including
asthma, cardiovascular disease,
diabetes, and smoking.

American Indian and Alaska
Native patients nationally were
significantly more likely to die in
the hospital of COVID-19 than
patients of any other race at every
level of comorbidity risk.

AI/ANs were more likely to die of diabetes, chronic liver disease (ALDx10), accidents, and suicide than whites.

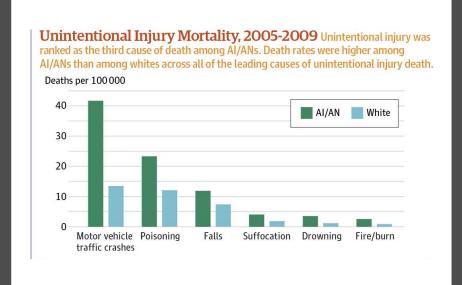
Accidents were the third leading cause of death for AI/ANs and the rate of motor vehicle traffic death, the highest among all other reported unintentional causes of death, was nearly 3 times that of whites.

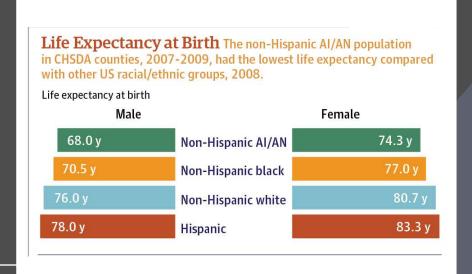
<sup>1)</sup> Lopez-Carmen, V. A., & Stamatopoulou, E. (Eds.). (2019). Global Indigenous Youth: Through Their Eyes. Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University 2) Musshafen LA, El-Sadek L, Lirette ST, Summers RL, Compretta C, Dobbs TE. In-Hospital Mortality Disparities Among American Indian and Alaska Native, Black, and White Patients With COVID-19. JAMA Netw Open. 2022;5(3):e224822. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.4822

Leading Causes of Death, 1999-2009 Regardless of sex, Al/ANs were more likely to die of diabetes, chronic liver disease, accidents, and suicide than whites.

AI/AN	Male	White	AI/AN	Female	White
1	Heart disease	1	1	Cancer	2
2	Cancer	2	2	Heart disease	1
3	Accidents	4	3	Accidents	6
4	Diabetes mellitus	6	4	Diabetes mellitus	8
5	Chronic liver disease	10	5	Stroke	3
6	Suicide	7	6	Chronic liver disease	12
7	CLRD	3	7	CLRD	4
8	Stroke	5	8	nfluenza & pneumonia	7
9	Assault (homicide)	19	9	Kidney disease	9
10	Influenza & pneumonia	8	10	Septicemia	10
11	Kidney disease	11	11	Alzheimer disease	5
12	Septicemia	13	12	Suicide	16

Abbreviation: CLRD, chronic lower respiratory diseases.





#### Colonization and Attacks on Indigenous Rights have Contributed to DM Disparities

The lack of self determination to live a traditional way of life is a direct result of US' colonization of AI lands and displacement of AI people.

The ability to preserve the traditional way of life serves as a protective factor against developing T2DM in AI communities.

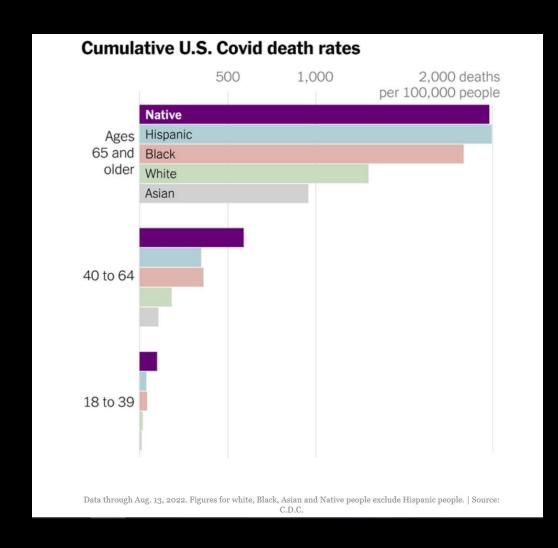
Colonization of AI lands and displacement of AI people have created a lack of suitable food options and destruction of food practices, which also play a significant role in both GDM and T2DM development.

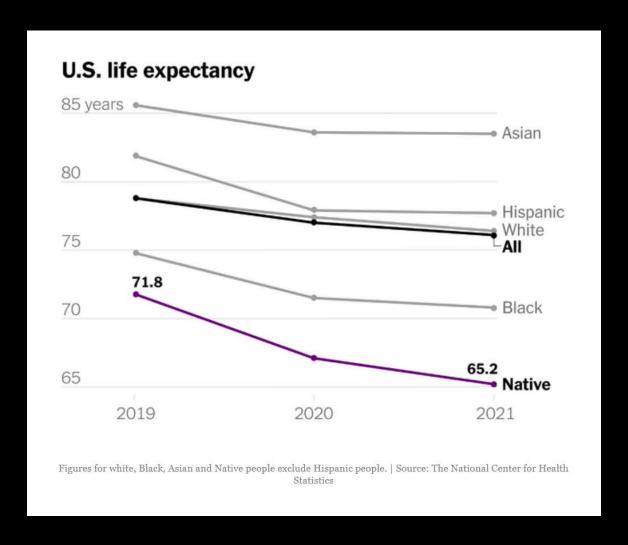
The IHS' failure to properly fund and staff clinics prevent many AI from receiving proper health education regarding their risk, preventative screenings, and counseling on lifestyle modifications, glucose monitoring, and pharmacological management.

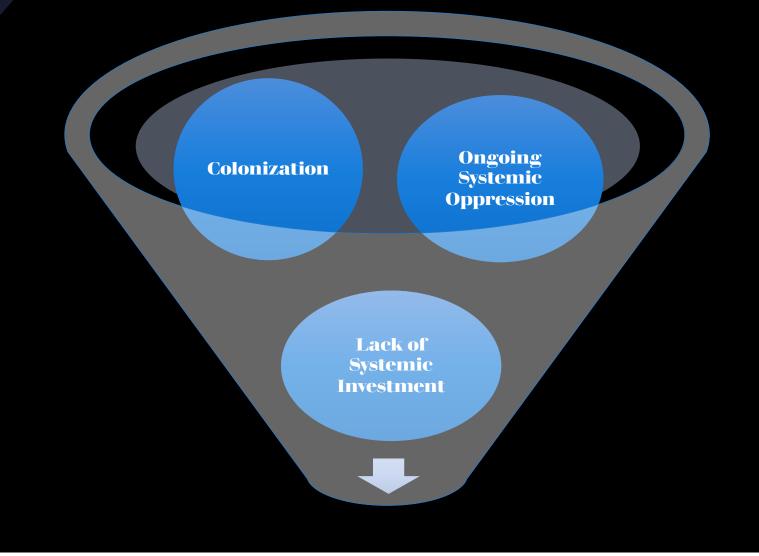
<sup>1)</sup> Huttlinger, K. W. (1995). A Navajo perspective of diabetes. Family and Community Health, 18(2), 9–16. http://www.jstor.org/stable/44955615

<sup>2)</sup> Sharon Levy, To Combat Diabetes, Native Peoples Rediscover Traditional Plants: Ethnobotanists partner with indigenous communities, *BioScience*, Volume 69, Issue 9, September 2019, Pages 689–696, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biz081">https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biz081</a>

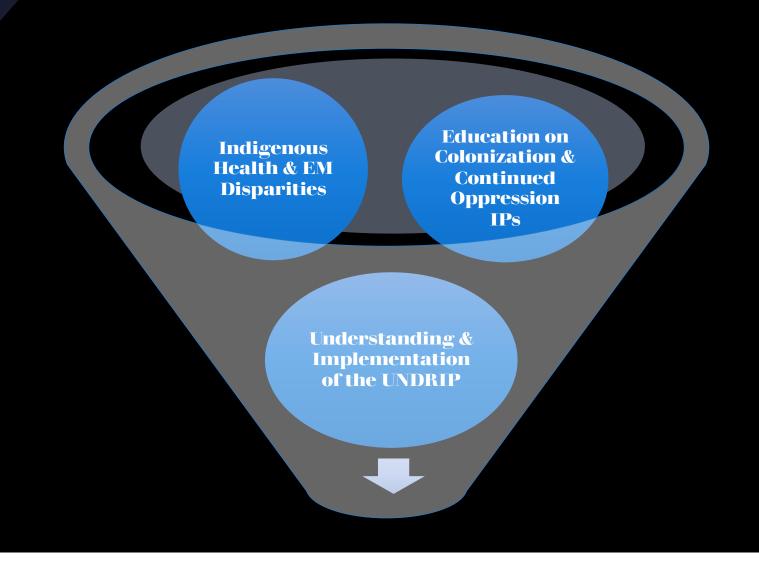
"Among them: Native Americans have some of the highest rates of health conditions, such as obesity and diabetes, that make a person much more likely to die from Covid." – NYT







Disparities in Indigenous Health & Medical Emergencies



Reduced Indigenous Health Disparities & Medical Emergencies

#### OBJECTIVE #3: EXAMINE

HOW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNDRIP CAN IMPROVE INDIGENOUS HEALTH AND DECREASE MEDICAL EMERGENCIES.

# Example #1: Environmental Violence via Poison



#### Violence Against Indigenous Women and Children, UNDRIP Article 22

• States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.



### The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Article 29

- 2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.
- 3. States shall also take effective measures to ensure, as needed, that programs for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of indigenous peoples, as developed and implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented.

The UN Rotterdam Convention and many National laws allow States to export pesticides whose use they prohibit, as long as they inform the importing country of their status



"Just because something is not illegal, it may still be immoral. Allowing the export of products recognized to be harmful is immoral"

-- UN Special Rapporteur on the Adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights, Ms. Fatma-Zohra Ouhachi-Vesely on her 1st country visit to the US, December 2001

Victor A. Lopez-Carmen, Timothy B. Erickson, Zara Escobar, Anpotowin Jensen, Alexandria E. Cronin, LaShyra T. Nolen, Marcos Moreno, Amanda M. Stewart, United States and United Nations pesticide policies: Environmental violence against the Yaqui indigenous nation, The Lancet Regional Health - Americas, Volume 10, 2022, 100255, ISSN 2667-193X, https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2667193X22000722

Name of Community Member, age, gender (if provided)	Yaqui Pueblo	Role in Community	Date Collected	Affected Individuals	Health Issues or symptoms described	Pesticide transmission	Medical Specialists Seen	Medical specialist opinion	Mortality
Jose Mario Alvarez E., 42 years old, male	Potam	Field worker	October 10, 2003	Brother	Leukemia	Did field work with a broken back- pack that carried pesticides with- out protections or education	Doctor	Doctor related the illness to an accident in which the individual's backpack broke, soaking him in the pesticides that he worked with	Passed away after a year of hospitaliza- tion, chemo- therapy, and several blood and platelets donor attempts
Grandma (unnamed), female	Not specified	Grandmother	January, 2013	Juan Antonio Rodriguez Coronado, grandson	Liver cirrhosis, sick and swollen at birth	Mother performed field work while pregnant	Doctor	Not specified	Passed away in 2016 from cir- rhosis of the liver
Alejandra Mariela Espinoza, female	Not specified	Mother, wife to field worker	January 18, 2014	Son	Myelomeningocele, born with a pro- tuberance at the coccyx requiring surgery, malfor- mation in the lower lip	Home contamina- tion, mother fell on contaminated field while pregnant	Doctor	Not specified	No
Luisa Anguis, female	La Loma de Bacum	Mother	August 20, 2013	5-year-old child in community named Lucio Juarez	Leukemia, marks on skin, loss of appetite, weight- loss, cancers in community	Living in an area considered dan- gerous due to pesticide use	Doctor	Doctors said trans- fusion treat- ments were not available to the boy	Passed away while hospitalized
Ramon Valencia Amarillas, male	Not specified	Cousin	January, 2014	Younger cousin	Leukemia, frail body, respiratory problems, fatigue,	Proximity to agri- cultural plots and a pesticide application air- craft field	Doctor	Doctors did not have the neces- sary resources to provide medical care and save the child	Passed away at age of 13

Victor A. Lopez-Carmen, Timothy B. Erickson, Zara Escobar, Anpotowin Jensen, Alexandria E. Cronin, LaShyra T. Nolen, Marcos Moreno, Amanda M. Stewart, United States and United Nations pesticide policies: Environmental violence against the Yaqui indigenous nation, The Lancet Regional Health - Americas, Volume 10, 2022, 100255, ISSN 2667-193X, https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2667193X22000722

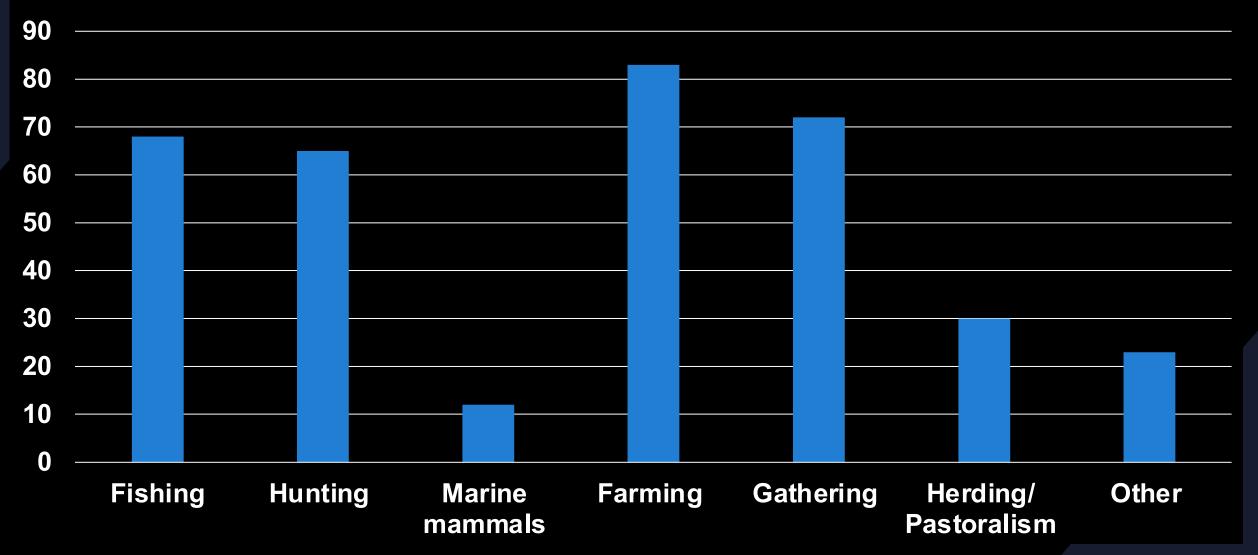
# Statement presented to the UNPFII 17<sup>th</sup> Session, April 16, 2018

"...Indigenous peoples such as the Yaqui have suffered grave adverse impacts on their health and dignity from of the ongoing use of highly hazardous pesticides. These pesticides are often imported from countries that have banned their use domestically because of uncontrollable and unreasonable risks."



Former UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics, Baskut Tuncak

## What is the traditional means of subsistence for your community/ tribe/ nation/ peoples?



Preliminary Report on the Indigenous Peoples Global Consultation for the UN Food Systems Summit "Ensuring the Resiliency of Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems", International Indian Treaty Council Survey. https://iitc.org/program-areas/food-sovereignty/#UN\_Food\_Systems\_Summit\_September\_2021



#### The UN Stockholm Convention

"Arctic ecosystems and Indigenous communities are particularly at risk because of the biomagnifications of POPs and that contamination of their traditional foods is a public health <u>issue</u>"

-- preamble, adopted 2001



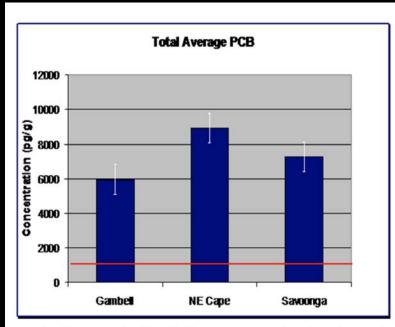
#### Indigenous Women and Girls are Disproportionately Impacted

• Indigenous women and girls have a central role in traditional food gathering/preparation and cultural practices, and a higher body fat ratio, increasing their exposure to acute, chronic, and acute on chronic medical emergencies due to poisoning from environmental contaminants

#### **UNDRIP Article 30**

- 1. Military activities shall not take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples, unless justified by a relevant public interest **or** otherwise freely agreed with or requested by the indigenous peoples concerned.
- 2. States shall undertake effective consultations with the indigenous peoples concerned, through appropriate procedures and in particular through their representative institutions, prior to using their lands or territories for military activities.





Levels of PCBs in the blood of St. Lawrence Island Yupik people are **6-9 times higher** than the average in the continental United States populations (indicated by the red line).

## Environmental Violence and Indigenous Arctic Communities

- The Yupik Indigenous People of St. Lawrence Island, Alaska have been harmed and displaced by the formerly used military bases in the Arctic region.
- The US Department of Defense routinely dumped toxic waste on the Island until 1972 after reports of high birth defects and cancers halted the practice. The US government never cleaned up the military bases, which continue to leak pollutants in the soil and groundwater and cause health problems.
- This has been exacerbated by climate change, leading to a rise of Arctic temperatures, melting of ice caps and spreading of contaminants

#### Environmental Violence and Other Indigenous Nations

The **Tewa Pueblo community** (New Mexico) are surrounded by uranium mines and factories that leak polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other toxic wastes into to the region. These areas have PCB levels 25,000x the standard for health, and contribute to increasing **risks of cancer, renal disease** and **birth defects**.

The **Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne** (New York) rely on the St. Lawrence river and its tributaries for fish. Aluminum foundries contaminated the river with PCB and hydraulic fluids, leading to high PCB levels in fish. These elevated levels are associated with early onset puberty and **elevated rates of heart disease**, **thyroid disease**, **diabetes**, and **hypertension**.

IMPLEMENTING THE UN DECLARATION TO REDUCE INDIGENOUS HEALTH DISPARITIES & EMERGENCIES





Indigenous Peoples' advocacy at the Stockholm Convention COPs from 2008 – 2015 have resulted in international bans on Lindane, Endosulfan, Pentachlorophenol and other highly toxic POPs used in Indigenous communities





## EXAMPLE #2: TREATIES

#### International Standing of Treaties

Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements and other



-- UNDRIP Article 37

### The U.S. is obligated by treaty-precedent to provide quality healthcare services to Indigenous Peoples

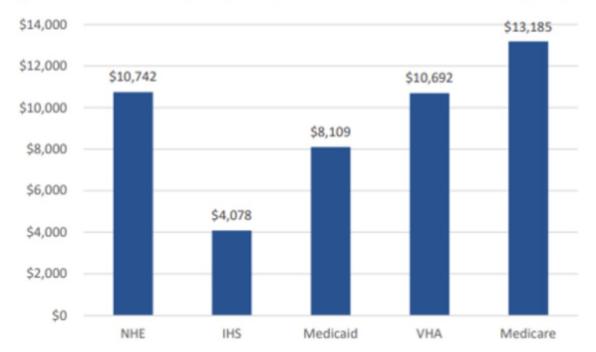
"The trust responsibility of the US government to provide health services for AI/AN people who are enrolled members of a federally recognized Tribe is based on numerous treaties, laws, and Supreme Court decisions. The Indian Health Service (IHS), a federal health program for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) groups, has served as the primary mechanism by which to fulfill the legal responsibility of the US government, based on treaty obligation, to provide quality health services to AI/AN populations."

#### UNDRIP Article 24

Article 24: Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services. Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.

#### IHS and Budget: Less funding = more medical emergencies

Figure 7. Estimated Per Capita Spending for Select Federal Health Care Programs, 2017



**Note:** IHS collects payments from various payers such as Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance, which are captured in the per capita spending estimate for IHS listed above. For 2017, per capita funding for Medicaid (\$411/user), Medicare (\$126/user), Private Insurance (\$78/user), and VA reimbursement (\$4/user) are included in the \$4,078 IHS per capita calculation.

Sources: U.S. Government Accountability Office. Indian Health Service: Spending Levels and Characteristics of IHS and Three Other Federal Health Care Programs. December 2018 (GAO-19-74R); Keehan SP, Cuckler GA, Poisal JA, et al. National Health Expenditure Projections, 2019-28: Expected Rebound in Prices Drives Rising Spending Growth. Health Affairs, 39(4), March 2020.

- The discretionary funding model established by the Snyder Act persists today and contrasts with entitlement health care funds like Medicare.
- Korenbrot et al. observed a 9–11% increase in the rate of hospitalizations for each 10% increase in the disparity between health care funding for federal employees and funding for the TOHP.
- 1) The Indian Health Service and American Indian/Alaska Native Health Outcomes. Gina Kruse, Victor A. Lopez-Carmen, Anpotowin Jensen, Lakotah Hardie, Thomas D. Sequist. Annual Review of Public Health 2022 43:1, 559-576
- 2) 2) Korenbrot C, Kao C, Crouch JA. 2009. Funding of Tribal health programs linked to lower rates of hospitalization for conditions sensitive to ambulatory care. Med. Care 47:88–96

# Example #5: Representation in Medicine



The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms the Right to Participate in Decision-Making

Article 18: "Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own Indigenous decision-making institutions."

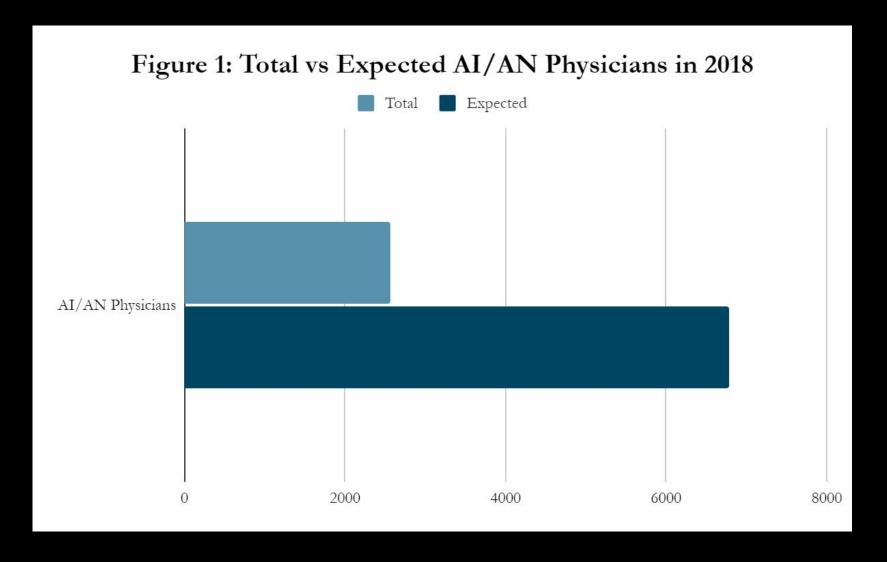
#### UNDRIP Article 23

Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programs affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programs through their own institutions.

#### UNDRIP Article 29

• Article 29: "....States shall also take effective measures to ensure, as needed, that programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of indigenous peoples, as developed and implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented."

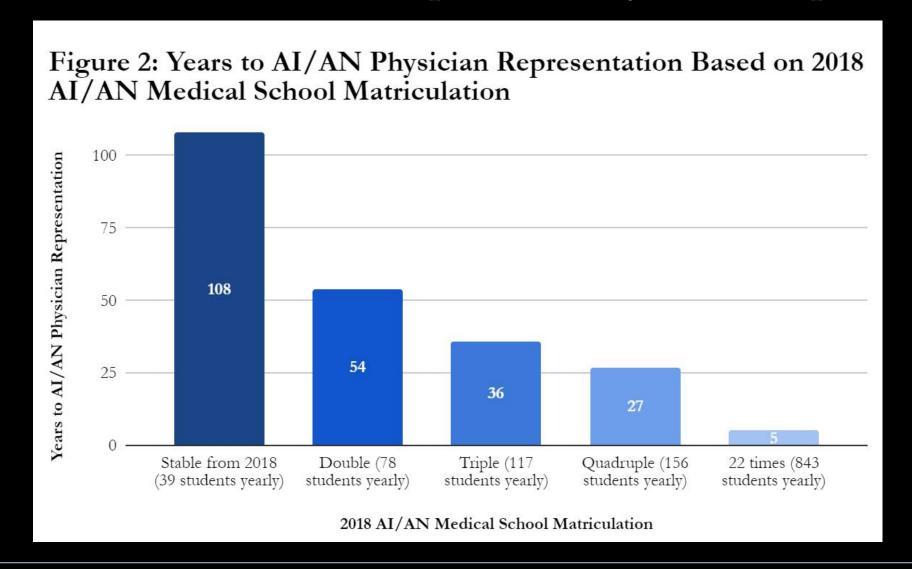
#### American Indian and Alaska Natives Physician Shortage



<sup>1)</sup> Association of American Medical Colleges. Diversity in Medicine: Facts and Figures 2019. Association of American Medical Colleges website. Published July 2019. Accessed June 16, 2022.https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/workforce/interactive-data/figure-18-percentage-all-active-physicians-race/ethnicity-2018

<sup>2)</sup> US Census Bureau. 2018 Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin. Census.gov. Last revised June, 2018. Accessed June 16, 2022. https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2019/detailed-estimates.html

#### AI/ANs are 108 Years from Equitable Physician Representation



<sup>1)</sup> Association of American Medical Colleges. Diversity in Medicine: Facts and Figures 2019. Association of American Medical Colleges website. Published July 2019. Accessed June 16, 2022.https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/workforce/interactive-data/figure-18-percentage-all-active-physicians-race/ethnicity-2018

<sup>2)</sup> US Census Bureau. 2018 Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin. Census.gov. Last revised June, 2018. Accessed June 16, 2022. https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2019/detailed-estimates.html

#### EM BACKGROUND

- 2019-20 AAMC Data: 52 AI/AN EM Residents (.9%)
- AI/AN percentage of 2020 U.S. population: 3%
- Highest levels of homelessness per capita
- Increased ER Utilization

1) Jensen A, Lopez-Carmen VA (2022) The "Elephants in the Room" in U.S. global health: Indigenous nations and white settler colonialism. PLOS Glob Public Health 2(7): e0000719.

- 2) Zook HG, Kharbanda AB, Puumala SE, Burgess KA, Pickner W, Payne NR. Emergency Department Utilization by Native American Children. Pediatr Emerg Care. 2018 Nov;34(11):802-809. doi: 10.1097/PEC.0000000000001289. PMID: 28953102; PMCID: PMC5867199.
- 5) https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/students-residents/interactive-data/report-residents/2020/table-b5-md-residents-race-ethnicity-and-specialty



#### **Equal Participation**

- "If we are not at the table, we are on the menu"
- To participate in medicine, we need representation in medicine.

#### OBJECTIVE #4: APPLY

# AN INDIGENOUS RIGHTS FRAMEWORK TO YOUR CLINICAL PRACTICE, POLITICAL ADVOCACY, AND HEALTHCARE DELIVERY.

#### AN INDIGENOUS RIGHTS FRAMEWORK FOR EMERGENCY MEDICINE: ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Know the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
- 2. Understand the rights of your Indigenous patients per the UNDRIP
- 3. Understand the historical and ongoing systemic impacts to Indigenous Rights, and how they affect your patients
- 4. Ask yourself what specific systemic attacks on Indigenous rights are potentially increasing medical emergencies in Indigenous Nations
- 5. Find ways to support Indigenous Peoples in advocating for those protection of those rights
- 6. Ask yourself how care be improved to consider Indigenous rights and the historical abuses to them
- 7. Ask yourself what you can do in EM partnerships to take Indigenous rights into account
- 8. Understand that Indigenous rights are at the core of Indigenous health and Indigenous emergency medicine disparities.





"Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals..." ---UNDRIP Article 24



#### Education and Language: Article 14

"Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning."





We partner with Indigenous Peoples, Nations, and organizations to provide medically accurate and culturally relevant COVID-19 info in Indigenous languages across the world.



TRANSLATIONS

BEMBA

CHATINO

ENDOROIS/SWAHILI

**GREENLANDIC** 

**IDEAS** 

#### Harvard medical student knocks down a big barrier to COVID-19 info

Indigenous communities are some of the hardest hit by the pandemic, but until recently, many were largely without public health guidance in their languages.

By Julia Sklar Updated September 26, 2020, 4:00 a.m.













#### Language Examples



Questions

form for more information or to offer your services.

esponses



Convocatoria de traducción para la preparación de traducción para dar respuestas sobre COVID19 en las comunidades Indígenas

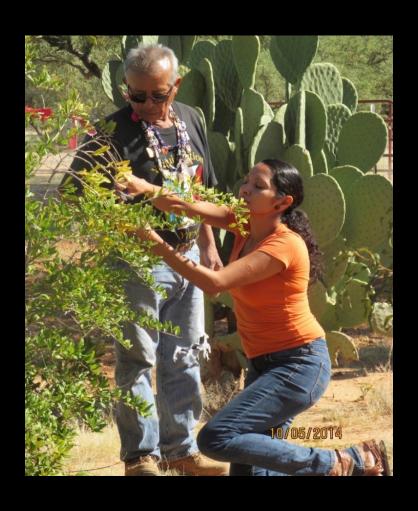
A medida que el mundo se prepara y reacciona a COVID-19, estamos pidiendo a nuestra familia global que solicite ayuda para traducir documentos clave a idiomas indígenas de materiales en inglés y español. Los traductores recibirán crédito de su autoría y trabajarán junto a un equipo compuesto por líderes indígenas, médicos indígenas, estudiantes de medicina de Harvard y colegas de otras instituciones, expertos en salud pública y medicina clínica y agencias de la ONU. Complete este formulario para obtener más información o para ofrecer sus servicios.

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EXAMPLE
VIDEO
(KHWEDAM
LANGUAGE,
NAMIBIA)

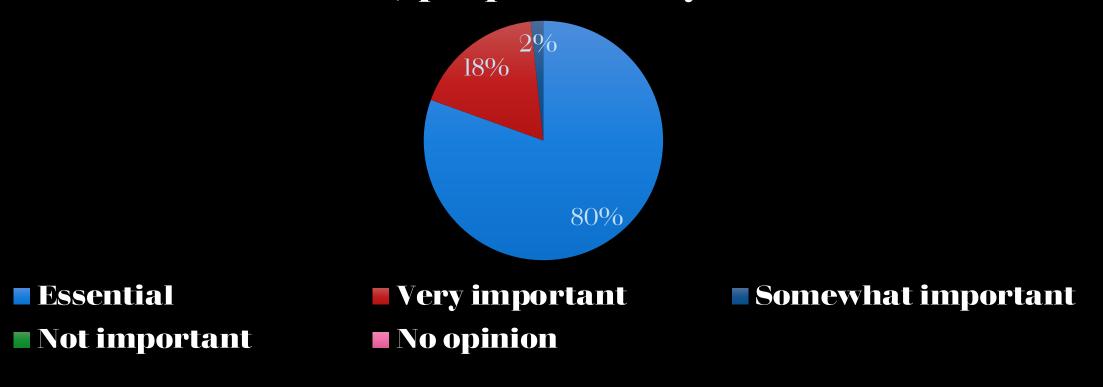


#### Traditional Knowledge: Article 31



1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines...

How important are traditional/ Indigenous knowledge, cultural practices and cultural heritage (including seeds, sacred places and medicines) for the resiliency and vitality of your community/ tribe/nation/ peoples' food systems



#### And Now It's Up To You!



#### Thank you!

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