

New reports show high disparity in mortality rates

Records show that Native American death rates were nearly 50 percent greater than rates among non-Hispanic whites during 1999-2009.

This rate was for both men and women combined.

The new findings were announced through a series of Center for Disease Control reports released online last week by the American Journal of Public Health.

The center's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control led the project, and collaborated with CDC's National Center for Health Statistics and other CDC researchers, the Indian Health Service, partners from tribal groups, universities, and state health departments. Key findings:

• Among Native American people, cancer is the leading cause of death followed by heart disease. Among other races, it is the opposite.

• Death rates from lung cancer have shown little improvement in Native American populations. Native people have the highest prevalence of tobacco use of any

population in the United States.

• Deaths from injuries were higher among Native American people compared to non-Hispanic whites.

• Suicide rates were nearly 50 percent higher for Native American people compared to non-Hispanic whites, and more frequent among Native American males and persons younger than age 25.

• Death rates from motor vehicle crashes, poisoning, and falls were two times higher among Native American people than for non-Hispanic whites.

• Death rates were higher among Native American infants compared to non-Hispanic whites infants. Sudden infant death syndrome and unintentional injuries were more common. Native American infants were four times more likely to die from pneumonia and influenza.

• By region, the greatest death rates were in the Northern Plains and Southern Plains. The lowest death rates were in the East and the Southwest.

“The new detailed exami-

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nation of death records offers the most accurate and current information available on deaths among the American Indian and Alaska Native populations,” said Dr. David Espey, acting director of CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control.

“Now, we can better characterize and track the health status of these populations—a critical step to address health disparities.”

Accurate reporting

Correct reporting of Native American death rates has been a persistent challenge for public health experts.

Previous studies showed that nearly 30 percent of people who identified themselves as Native American when living, are classified as another race at the time of death.

The new studies address race misclassification in two ways. First, the authors linked U.S. National Death Index records with IHS registration records to more accurately identify the race of Native American people who had died. Second, the authors focused their analyses on the IHS's Contract Health Service Delivery Area counties, where about 64 percent of Native American persons live. Fewer race misclassification errors occur in CHSDA data than in death records.

The authors reviewed trends from 1990 through 2009, and compared death rates between Native American people and non-Hispanic whites by geographic regions for a more recent time period (1999-2009).

Influencing factors

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strongly influenced by the high incidence of diabetes, smoking prevalence, problem drinking, and health-harming social determinants.

Many of the observed excess deaths can be addressed through evidence-based public health interventions.

“The Indian Health Service is grateful for this important research and encouraged about its potential to help guide efforts to improve health and wellness among American Indians and Alaska Natives,” said Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, acting IHS director.

“Having more accurate data along with our understanding of the contributing social factors can lead to more aggressive public health interventions that we know can make a difference.”

For more information, the articles from the report are in the AJPH “First Look” early online section. Visit:

ajph.aphapublications.org

For information on CDC's efforts in cancer prevention and control, visit:

cdc.gov/cancer/.

The Affordable Care Act, also known as the health care law, was created to expand access to coverage, control health care costs, and improve health care quality and coordination. The ACA also includes permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, which extends current law and authorizes new programs and services within the Indian Health Service.

Visit healthcare.gov or call 1-800-318-2596 (TTY/TDD 1-855-889-4325) to learn more.

Mothers Day Powwow at U of O

The Forty-Sixth Annual Mothers Day Powwow at the University of Oregon in Eugene is May 9-11. The powwow will be at the Mathew Knight Arena.

Grand entries are Friday

at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 1 and 7 p.m.

Dinner on Saturday is from 5-6:30. And the Salmon Bake at the Many Nations Longhouse will be Sunday at noon.

OSU Day offering workshops

Oregon State University Day will offer a variety of workshops for all ages.

OSU will be on Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Central Oregon Agriculture Research Center in Madras.

You can sign up and learn about the different classes being offered by calling 541-475-7107. You can also follow the link:

oregonstate.edu/dept/coarc/events

Business class at COCC Madras

Central Oregon Community Council's Small Business Development Center is giving a workshop for people contemplating business ownership:

Class I is on Tuesday, May 20 at COCC Madras Campus from 6-8 p.m.

The two-hour “Business Start-Up” session covers all


the basic steps needed to open a business. Cost is \$29. Pre-registration is required. Call 541-383-7290 to register.

First VegFest at COCC in Bend


The first annual Bend VegFest, a day-long celebration to promote plant-based foods and other animal-free products will take place on Saturday, May 31. Bend

VegFest will be held at the Cascade Culinary Institute on the COCC campus from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information see:

BendVegFest.org



High Lookee Lodge
Assisted Living Facility



2321 Ollallie Lane (PO Box 6)
Warm Springs, OR 97761
Call 541-553-1182

Indian Fair at Newport

The Siletz Indian Fair will be on Saturday, May 10 at the National Guard Armory in Newport.

Everyone is invited to attend this free event from noon to 5 p.m. There will be food and crafts for sale, displays of regalia and artifacts and presentations about the Siletz Tribe.

Salena Sahme is entering the Portland Marathon in October and is fundraising now to purchase a hand cycle for her to compete with.

Salena has been a paraplegic for three years. All donations small or large will be appreciated. You can contact Salena at 541-325-1838.

Blood drive

An American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on May 21 from noon to 5.

To schedule a time call 1-800-RED-CROSS or online: redcrossblood.org.



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