

2015 Health Disparity Fact Sheet

American Indians/Alaska Natives in Colorado



This fact sheet provides information about some of the major health indicators for the American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) population in Colorado. American Indian and Alaska Native Coloradans experience some differences in health, disease risk factors and health behaviors in comparison to other racial and ethnic groups. The data presented show comparisons between the American Indian and Alaska Native population and the State's total population and identifies where there are statistically significant differences. The disparity column shows if the American Indian and/or Alaska Native rate or prevalence is statistically worse (red), better (green) or the same (white) as the state rate. If it is the same, that means there is no statistically significant difference.

There are about 56,010 American Indian and Alaska Natives in Colorado, which is 1.1 percent of the State's total population.¹

	American Indian/Alaska Native Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Demographics			
Median household income ¹	\$35,858	\$58,823	Worse
Percent of population living below poverty ¹	21.1%	13.0%	Worse
High school graduation rate ²	60.7%	77.3%	

- The median household income for American Indian/Alaska Native Coloradans is \$22,965 less than the Colorado median.
- More American Indian/Alaska Native Coloradans are living below the poverty level than the overall state population.
- Fewer American Indian/Alaska Native individuals graduate from high school than the overall population.

	American Indian/Alaska Native Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Maternal Child Health			
Infant mortality (<i>infant deaths per 1,000 live births</i>) ³	7.8	5.5	Same
Low birth weight births ³	9.1%	8.8%	Same
Unintended pregnancy ⁴	65.5%	37.6%	Worse
Births to teens ages 15-17 (<i>births per 1,000 population</i>) ³	14.3	15.0	Same
Women reporting 3 or more stressors during pregnancy ⁴	66.8%	26.7%	Worse
Women who drank during last three months of pregnancy ⁴	9.2%	10.7%	Same
Women who smoked during last three months of pregnancy ⁴	4.8%	8.5%	Same
Childhood obesity (ages 2-14) ⁵	27.4%	14.8%	Same

- Infant deaths and low weight births among AI/AN are not significantly different from the population as a whole.
- American Indian women have more unintended pregnancies and a greater number of American Indian mothers report having three or more stressors during pregnancy compared to the total population.
- American Indian teens have the same teen birth rate as the overall teen birth rate.
- The prevalence of obesity among AI/AN children is not statistically different from the overall, Colorado prevalence.

	American Indian/Alaska Native Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Health and risk behaviors⁶			
Cigarette smoking	31.6%	17.9%	Worse
Binge drinking (5 or more drinks in one sitting)	21.7%	19.2%	Same
No physical activity	22.1%	17.2%	Same
Eat fewer than 5 fruits and vegetables per day	79.5%	77.7%	Same
Obese (BMI>=30)	30.1%	20.8%	Worse
Overweight (BMI>=25)	65.0%	56.1%	Worse
Mental health was not good 8 or more days (in the past 30 days)	21.7%	13.7%	Worse

- Cigarette smoking is more prevalent (common) among American Indian/Alaska Native adults compared to the total population.
- Compared to the total population in Colorado, AI/AN adults are eating similar amounts of fruits and vegetables a day and levels of physical inactivity.
- More AI/AN adults are overweight or obese compared to all adult Coloradans.
- Poor mental health is more common among AI/AN adults than the total population.

	American Indian/Alaska Native Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Health care and access⁶			
No health insurance	24.4%	17.6%	Worse
Women 40+ who have not had a mammogram in last 2 years	44.8%	31.6%	Same
Women who have not had a pap test in last 3 years	35.8%	20.6%	Same
Have high blood pressure	21.6%	25.6%	Same
Have diabetes	11.4%	6.9%	Worse
Have asthma	12.1%	8.7%	Same

- More American Indian/Alaska Native Coloradans are uninsured compared to the total population.
- Diabetes is more prevalent among AI/AN adults compared to the total population.
- However, the prevalence of high blood pressure and asthma among AI/AN Coloradans is similar.

	American Indian/Alaska Native Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Infectious Diseases (Incidence rates per 100,000 population)			
Tuberculosis ⁷	1.4	1.3	Same
Gonorrhea ⁸	59.3	53.2	Same
HIV ⁸	7.8	7.5	Same

- American Indian/Alaska Native Coloradans have similar incidence rates of tuberculosis (TB), gonorrhea and HIV as the total population.

American Indian/Alaska Native Coloradans	All Coloradans
Cancer	Cancer
Heart Disease	Heart Disease
Unintentional Injuries	Unintentional Injuries
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	Chronic Respiratory Diseases
Suicide	Stroke
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	Alzheimer's Disease
Diabetes	Suicide
Stroke	Diabetes
Homicide/legal intervention	Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis
Influenza and Pneumonia	Influenza and Pneumonia

- The top three leading causes of death, cancer, heart disease and unintentional injuries, are the same for American Indians/Alaska Native Coloradans as they are for the State's population as a whole. Diabetes is ranked 7th for AI/AN, but 8th for the State. Suicide ranked higher among AI/AN (5th) leading causes of death compared to the total population (7th). Homicide/legal interventions were among the leading causes of death for AI/AN Coloradans but not for the population as a whole.

¹American Community Survey (tables S1903, S1701 from 2013 and DP-1 from 2010 found on American FactFinder)

²Colorado Department of Education, 2014

³Vital Statistics Program, 2009-2013, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁴Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 2009-2012, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁵Colorado Child Health Survey, 2010-2013, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁶Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011-2013, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁷Tuberculosis Program, 2012-2014, Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

⁸STI/HIV Section, 2009-13 (gonorrhea data) and 2015 (HIV data), Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

⁹Vital Statistics Program, 2009-2013 mortality data, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

Office of Health Equity
 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South | Denver, CO 80246
 Tel: 303-692-2087



COLORADO
 Department of Public Health & Environment