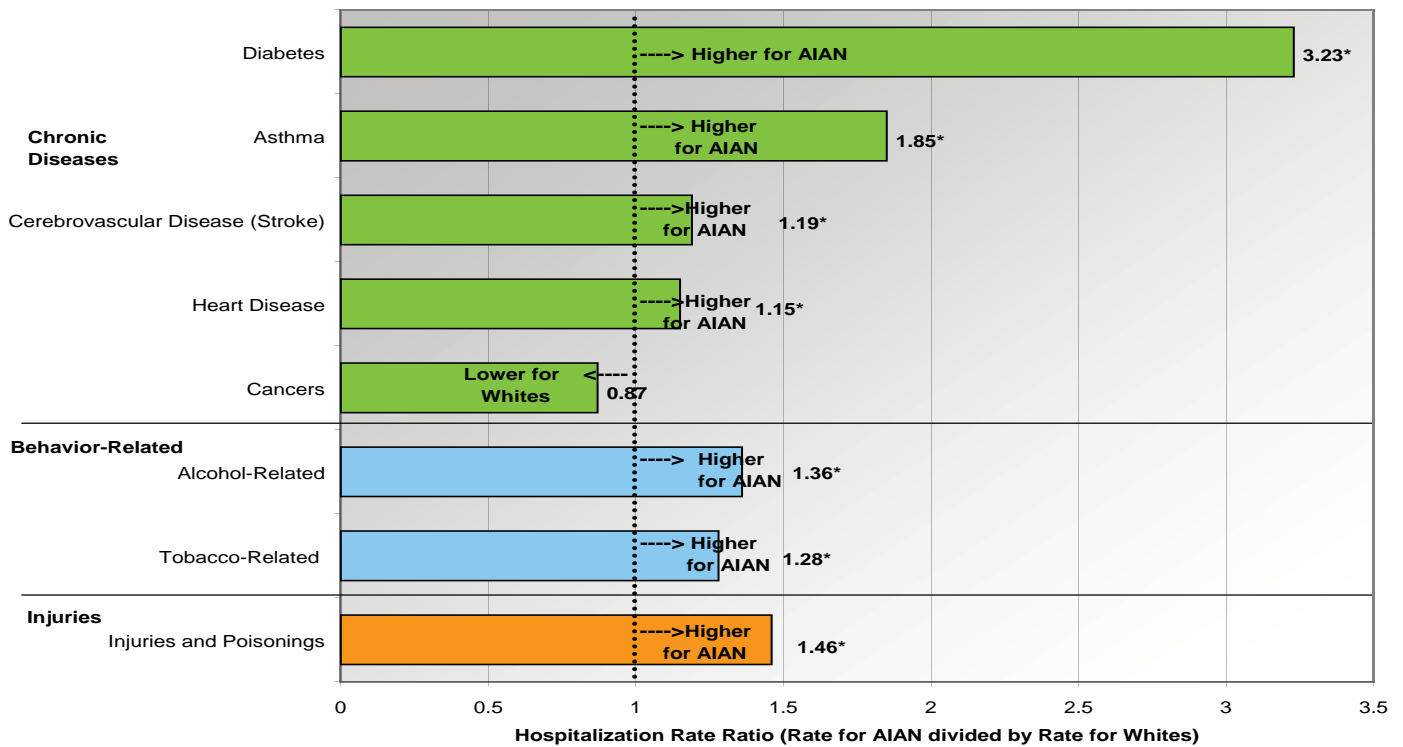




It is important to know about the health needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIAN) living in California so Native communities and others can make plans to overcome the overwhelming health issues that are being experienced by Natives. The bar pictures below show that AIAN have more health problems than Whites who live in similar areas of rural California. The greater health problems or “health disparities” for AIAN are shown by dividing the rate at which the AIAN are hospitalized for chronic diseases, behavior-related conditions, and injuries by the rates for the Whites (the Hospitalization Rate Ratio).

The AIAN described here are users of Tribal Health Programs that are owned by California tribes. They are either enrolled in federally recognized tribes or have been documented as California Indians or their descendants through federal legal authority.



Note: The rates are the same for AIAN and Whites when the bar graphs touch the dashed line at 1.

**IN CALIFORNIA AMERICAN INDIANS/ALASKA NATIVES
HAVE GREATER HEALTH PROBLEMS THAN WHITES,
BUT THEY CAN BE OVERCOME**

- The greatest health problems for AIAN compared to Whites in California were for diabetes, asthma, and injuries and poisonings.
- AIAN Go to the Hospital More for Chronic Diseases
 - Diabetes -3.23 times higher rate
 - Asthma -1.85 times higher rate
 - Cerebrovascular Disease (Stroke) -1.19 times higher rate
 - Heart Disease -1.15 times higher rate
 - Colon Cancer -1.24 times higher rate, but not statistically significant
- AIAN Go to the Hospital More for Behavior-Related Conditions
 - Alcohol-Related -1.36 times higher rate
 - Tobacco-Related -1.28 times higher rate
 - Alcohol and Drug-Related -1.68 times higher rate
- AIAN Go to the Hospital More for Injuries
 - Injuries and Poisonings -1.46 times higher rate
 - Poisonings alone -1.71 times higher rate
 - Fractures alone -1.27 times higher rate

The health information in this fact sheet can be used by Native communities to help determine which health issues they believe they need to pay more attention to. They may find that they want to focus more effort on dealing with a particular health issue, such as asthma. The community can then determine what plans they will make to overcome the health problem, such as by creating an educational program or talking circles for families that are affected. They can also decide to work with health entities such as the California Tribal Epidemiology Center to apply together for funding for their community-based prevention activities, or to create health laws that bring more funds and other resources to California tribal health programs.

From Garcia, Kao, Crouch and Korenbrot. "Disparities in Causes of Severe Morbidity: Hospitalizations of American Indian and Alaska Natives who use Tribal Health Programs," American Indian Health in California Report Series Volume 1, Report 3, June 2007.

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