



Indian Health Priority Results

2008—2010

The California Tribal Epidemiology Center (CTEC) has been seeking input from American Indian community members, as well as Indian Health Clinic staff, as to what the most important health concerns are in their respective communities. In a survey, people were asked to rank their top 10 health concerns from a list of 27 health topics. An ‘other’ option was provided for people to fill in if a concern was not listed.

CTEC priorities are a combined result of the 594 surveys collected as of August 2010, at consultations with CTEC-member tribal health programs, and at various California Indian conferences and gatherings. People could choose more than one category: 219 respondents stated they were clinic staff, 109 were health board members, 62 were tribal council members, and 300 were community members.

The health issues of highest concern in the community for CTEC to focus on in the coming years:

- 1. Diabetes**
- 2. Drug Abuse**
- 3. Alcohol Abuse**
- 4. Eating Healthy, Exercise, and Controlling Obesity**
- 5. Mental Health**
- 6. Heart Disease and Stroke**
- 7. Dental Health**
- 8. Elder Care and Support**
- 9. Getting or Paying for Medications**
- 10. Cancer or Tumors**

Comments made by people on why the health issues are of highest concern in the community:

Drug abuse is killing our Native People and our young children are learning it.

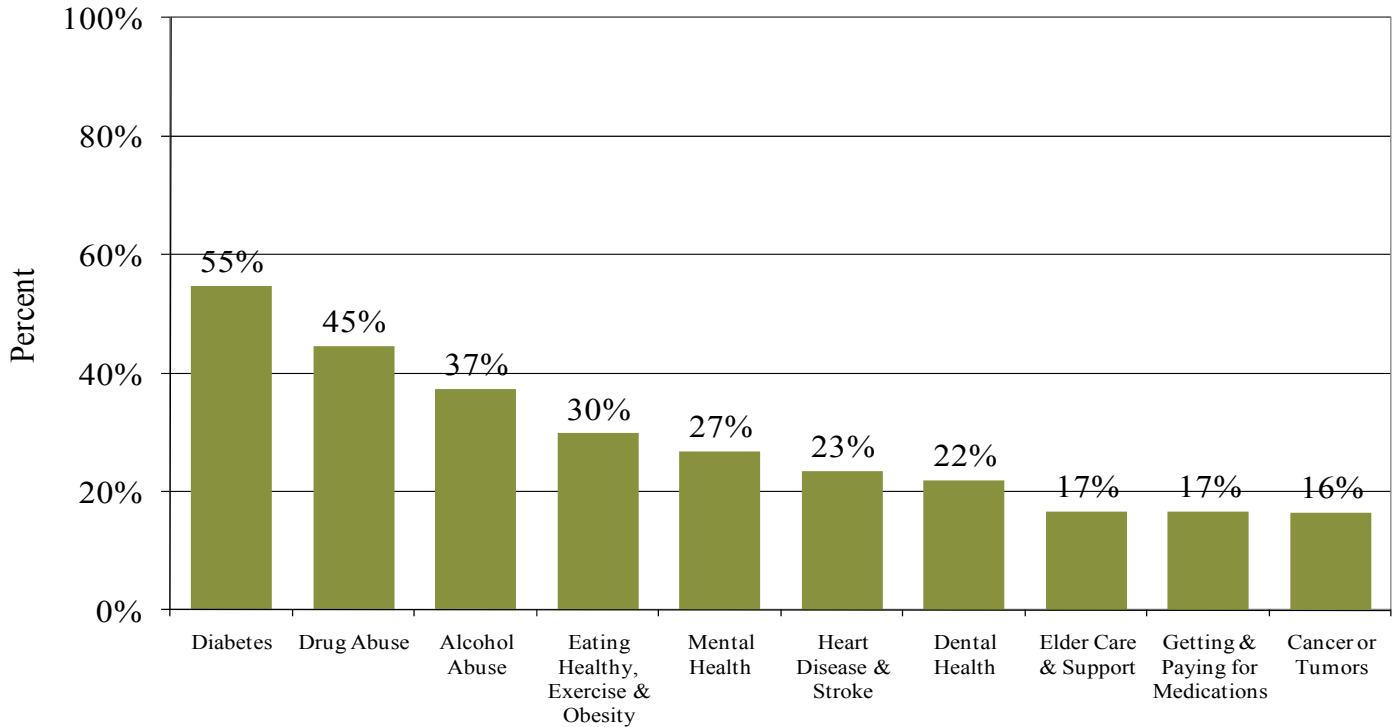
Many of our elders suffer and die from diabetes, now it is hitting our young. We need to educate our young on caring for and respecting our bodies.

Being fit and healthy prevents many of other medical related problems. Prevention!

Alcohol use is endemic in our community. We need to help our families and youth to prevent the cyclical nature of this disease.



Percent of People Ranking Health Concern in Top 5 (n=594)



The graph shows Diabetes was ranked as the highest concern in communities. More than half (55% or 325) of people surveyed ranked Diabetes in their top 5 health concerns in their community. Diabetes is an important health issue as it is the fourth leading cause of death for American Indians and Alaskan Natives in the U.S. It is also associated with obesity, poor nutrition, and low levels of exercise, which were ranked collectively as the fourth health concern for CTEC.

Substance abuse was also shown to be a major concern in communities. It is associated with injuries such as car wrecks, violence, and commonly disrupts family, work, and community life. Nearly half (45% or 265) of people ranked Drug Abuse as a top 5 health concern. Drug abuse, especially methamphetamine use, has been a growing concern in communities. Alcohol Abuse was ranked by 37% (n=222) of people surveyed as a top 5 health concern. According to the Indian Health Service, alcohol-related deaths are almost 7 times higher in American Indians and Alaskan Natives than the U.S. population.

Thank you for those who took the time to fill out a survey. Your answers help us focus our work to provide better services to American Indians.

*For more information contact CTEC:
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