



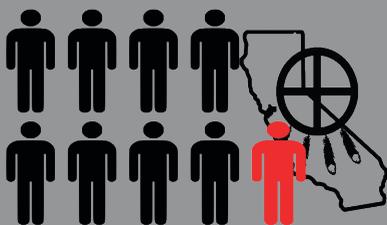
# CCUIH

## Health Care for American Indians Living in Urban Communities in California

**Urban Indian Health Organizations (UIHOs)** are independent, nonprofit, Indian-controlled organizations that contract with the Indian Health Service (IHS) to provide direct health care, referral/access services, inpatient and outpatient substance abuse treatment, and social service programs.

Today, there are 10 UIHOs in California, representing one-third of the total 34 UIHOs in the U.S.

1 in 9 American Indians in the U.S. lives in a California city.



**Urban Indians** are individuals of American Indian ancestry who have moved to cities either by choice seeking employment, education and housing, or by force through the federal government's relocation policies starting in the 1940's.

This has resulted in the vast majority of Urban Indians being unable to access their tribes for health services. Urban Indian health organizations are a key lifeline for the population.

California is home to more American Indians than any other state in the country, including Urban Indian communities, and terminated, or non-federally recognized Tribes (Table 1). In fact, some of the largest concentrations of American Indians in the U.S. live in California cities (Table 2).

**TABLE 1: AMERICAN INDIANS IN CALIFORNIA**

American Indians in CA that live in Urban Areas	88%
American Indian in CA that live on reservations	3%
Federally Recognized Tribes in CA	109
Non-Federally Recognized Tribes in CA	50
CA State Tribes Petitioning for Federal Recognition	75

US Census 2010  
Native American Heritage Commission

**Funding for Urban Indian Health Care:** Unlike health care facilities for American Indians on reservations, UIHOs have diverse funding streams. The IHS funding allocation for Urban Indian health reflects only 1% of the total annual budget despite the fact that the clear majority of American Indians reside in urban communities. As a result, UIHOs must leverage IHS funds to obtain other federal, state, county, local and private funding.

**TABLE 2: AMERICAN INDIANS IN CALIFORNIA CITIES**

American Indians in California	723,225
Saramento Area	53,847
Bay Area	109,047
Los Angeles Area	171,532
San Diego Area	55,085

US Census 2010

**The Right to Health Care:** American Indians are beneficiaries of a unique Trust relationship with the United States government and are recipients of basic resources including health care. With the clear majority of American Indians living in urban areas, Congress has reaffirmed its obligation to facilitate health care access and services to the Urban Indian population. The explicit authorization for the provision of health services for Urban Indians is Title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (1976).



# Health Status for American Indians Living in Urban Communities in California

**Urban Indian Health Status:** Economic, cultural, social, historical, and access to health care factors have led to severe health disparities among the Urban Indian population.

American Indians in urban areas suffer from chronic health conditions and health disparities that are vastly disproportionate to the health status of the general population (Table 3).

**TABLE 3: URBAN INDIAN HEALTH STATUS VS. HEALTH STATUS OF GENERAL POPULATION IN CALIFORNIA**

<b>Chronic Liver Disease/Cirrhosis</b>	<b>126% higher</b>
<b>Diabetes</b>	<b>78% higher</b>
<b>Heart Disease</b>	<b>27% higher</b>
<b>High Blood Pressure</b>	<b>58% higher</b>
<b>Cancer</b>	<b>22% higher</b>
<b>Smoking</b>	<b>114% higher</b>
<b>Life Expectancy</b>	<b>4 years less</b>

UCLA Center for Health Policy Research

## Urban Indians are an Invisible Minority in California

**Cities:** Despite the stunning health disparities cited in Table 3, information on the health status of the Urban Indian population in California is incomplete.

Local, state, and federal data collection agencies, as well as epidemiological studies, are not designed to account for the Urban Indian population. Further, racial misclassification frequently occurs on vital health statistics and census reports for American Indians in urban settings. These inequities result in the continued underestimation of the population size and health status of Urban Indians in California.

**Research and data on American Indians in urban areas is inconsistent and inadequate.**

## URBAN INDIAN HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS (UIHO) ARE VITAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO THE URBAN INDIAN COMMUNITY:

- **UIHOs are uniquely positioned to identify health issues and diseases prevalent in the Urban Indian community.**
- **UIHOs offer culturally competent health, wellness, and prevention services.**
- **UIHOs are one-stop health centers that combine medical diagnosis and prevention with traditional healing practices.**

These factors result in American Indian patients seeking treatment earlier and more often than in non-Indian health facilities.



**Studies show** that many American Indians fail to seek treatment at non-Indian facilities due to historical trauma, experienced prejudice, and misconceptions about American Indian health problems.



**The mission** of the California Consortium for Urban Indian Health (CCUIH) is to facilitate shared development resources for our members and to raise public awareness in order to support a health and wellness network that meets the needs of American Indians living in urban communities.

April 2015



**California Consortium For Urban Indian Health**

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