

Social Determinants of American Indian Cardiovascular Health

The American Indian (AI) population suffers from significant health disparities, including nutrition-related chronic diseases (diabetes, cancer, heart disease). Several risk factors for disease and social determinants of health have unique histories in the AI population, including historical trauma, boarding schools, adverse childhood experiences, poverty, federal food programs, and food deserts, among others. To effectively address these disparities, a multi-pronged approach in collaboration with stakeholders is needed to address the upstream social determinants of health and to increase access to healthier lifestyles and traditional foods. At the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences, we offer a Master of Public Health with an Indigenous Health specialization, and we will be offering a PhD in Indigenous Health beginning in the fall of 2020. Program descriptions and strategies to address Indigenous health disparities will be explored in this discussion.