American Indians/Alaska Natives

Chronic Diseases - Heart disease and cancer are the leading causes of death among American Indians and Alaska Natives. The prevalence of diabetes is more than twice that for all adults in the United States, and the mortality rate from chronic liver disease is more than twice as high, according to 2002 data.

Infant Mortality - The infant mortality rate among American Indians and Alaska Natives are 1.7 times higher than non-Hispanic whites. The sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) rate among this minority is the highest of any population group, more than double that of whites in 1999.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) - In 2001, the syphilis rate among American Indians and Alaska Natives was 6 times higher than the syphilis rate among the non-Hispanic white population, the Chlamydia rate was 5.5 times higher, the gonnorhea rate was 4 times higher, and the AIDS rate was 1.5 times higher.

Injuries - Unintentional injuries are the third leading cause of American Indian and Alaska Native death and the leading cause for age 1-44 years. American Indian and Alaska Native death rates for unintentional injuries and motor vehicle crashes are 1.7 to 2.0 times higher than the rates for all racial/ethnic populations, while suicide rates for these youths are 3 times greater than rates for whites of similar age.

Hispanic/Latino Americans

HIV/AIDS - According to the 2000 U.S. census, Hispanics/Latinos of all ethnic groups represent 13.3 percent of the U.S. population or 38.8 million individuals. In 1999, the age-adjusted death rate for HIV was 32.7 per 1000,000 for Puerto Ricans living on the mainland U.S., higher than any other racial or ethnic group, more than six times the national average (5.4 per 100,000) and more than 13 times the rate for non-Hispanic whites (2.4 per 100,000).

Diabetes - Among Hispanics/Latinos, the diabetes death rate in 2000 was highest among Puerto Ricans (172 per 100,000), followed by the rates for Mexican Americans (122 per 100,000), and Cuban Americans (47 per 100,000).

Adult Immunization - In 2002, influenza vaccination coverage among adults 65 years of age and older was 70.2 percent for whites and 46.7 percent for Hispanics/Latinos. The gap for pneumococcal vaccination coverage among older adults was even wider, with 60.6 percent for whites and 23.8 percent for Hispanics/Latinos.

Asthma - During 1993-1995 in the northeast U.S., Hispanics/Latinos had an asthma death rate of 34 per million, more than twice the rate for white Americans (15.1 per million).

Work-Related Injuries - Mexican foreign born workers accounted for more than two thirds (69percent) of the 2,440 fatally injured, foreign born workers between 1995 and 2000. Lower percentages of fatally injured workers came from Cuba (146, or 6 percent), El Salvador (131, or 5 percent), Guatemala (90, or 4 percent), and Dominican Republic (87, or 4 percent).