

Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma

American Indian Alaska Native Historical Trauma and Contemporary Healthcare Issues

Linda Burhansstipanov, DrPH (Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma)
Brenda Seals, PhD (Eastern Band Cherokee)
AIAN National Advisory Board, Susan G. Komen for the Cure®

Native American Cancer Research
393 South Harlan Street, suite 125
Lakewood, CO 80226-3571
303-325-3377; fax: 303-495-3040
<http://www.NatAmCancer.org>



Native American Cancer Research 800-537-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

1

Acknowledgments

Multiple segments of these slides were created by the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® AIAN National Advisory Committee and selected other Native experts (in blue font):

- Carolee Dodge Francis
- Phyllis Pettit Nassi
- Arlene Wahwasuck
- Celeste Whitewolf
- Delight Satter
- Nellie Sandoval
- Tinka Duran
- DeAnna Fay Finifrock
- Lydia Hubbard-Pourier
- Carmelita Wamego Skeeter
- Lauren Tancona
- Dean Seneca



Native American Cancer Research 800-537-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

2

Workshop Objectives: By the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

1. Identify at least 4 examples of historical trauma specific to American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIANs).
2. Relate how historical trauma affects AIANs' trust and use of western medicine

Introduction



What is "an Indian" and how do we differ from other medically under-served communities?

American Indian = AI

Alaska Native = AN

Uniqueness of AIAN History

All or almost all cultures throughout history experience some form of:

- ✓ Violence
 - ✓ Domination
 - ✓ Slavery
 - ✓ Annihilation
- These cultures all have something "unique" about their experiences and survival

Today's session is to explain what some of those "unique" events are within the Natives' story



<http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

5

What are the differences in the American Indians history?

- Since the formation of the union, the U.S. has recognized Tribal governments as sovereign nations
- The federal government has enacted numerous statutes and regulations that establish and define
 - Who is an Indian
 - Their relationship to the federal government



Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma -- Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

6



Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma

Indians are not just . . .

- ... a minority
- ... a special interest group
- ... a political party

Thank you, Lauren Tancona, CDC for the use of the slide
Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma -- Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295;
<http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

7

Tribal Sovereignty

- Tribes are governments that have authority with regard to their members
- Tribes existed prior to the U.S.

For examples:


- voting for tribal leadership is totally under the control of the tribal Nation
- If a murder or suspicious death occurs on Indian land, it is the FBI who becomes involved as part of the historical trust agreements between Sovereign Nations and US Congress

<http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

8

Government-to-Government Relationship

- Tribes are treated as governments by the federal government.
- Approval Protocols unique to each tribal Nation




Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma -- Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295;
<http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

9

Government-to-Government Relationship and Tribal "Consultation"

- Tribal "consultation"= means federal agency must meet with all 564+ federally recognized tribal Nations ...
- Cannot meet with *selected* Nations or groups and meet the legal definition of "consultation"



Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma -- Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295;
<http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

10

Federal Definition of AIAN (FYI only)

The term "Indian" as used in secs. 461-466, 470-473, and 475, 476-479 of this title shall include all persons of Indian descent who are members of any recognized Indian Tribe now under Federal jurisdiction and all persons who are descendents of such members who were, on June 1, 1934, residing within the present boundaries of any Indian reservation, and shall further include all other persons of one-half or more Indian blood... Eskimos and other aboriginal peoples of Alaska shall be considered Indians. Indian Reorganization Act, June 18, 1934, c. 576, & 19, 48 Stat. 988.

Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma -- Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295;
<http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

11

How does the Federal Government Identify AIANs?

- Tribes establish criteria for membership
 - ¼ tribal blood is the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Standard
 - A descendant of a tribal member
 - Or a person recognized by the tribal members as a member.
- Alaska Native: The term collectively refers to Eskimos, Aleuts, and American Indians who are indigenous to Alaska.

Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma -- Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295;
<http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

12



Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma

Self-Identified Data Sources

- “American Indian” This includes enrolled members of Federal and/or State recognized tribes as well as people who are identify themselves as “American Indian”. Includes surveys such as:
 - U.S. Census
 - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) and Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
 - National Health Interview Survey

Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma – Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org> 13

What are the differences in the American Indians history?

- Since the formation of the union, the U.S. has recognized Tribal governments as sovereign nations
- The federal government has enacted numerous statutes and regulations that establish and define who an Indian is and their relationship to the federal government

Thank you, Lauren Tancona, CDC for the use of the slide


Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma – Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org> 14

Indians are not just . . .

- . . . a minority
- . . . a special interest group
- . . . a political party


Thank you, Lauren Tancona, CDC for the use of the slide

Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma – Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org> 15



Brief overview of AIAN Historical Events as Basis of Distrust of Government and its Programs

Early Diseases After European Contact



Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma – Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org> 17

Manifest Destiny Adopted as Federal Policy

".... It is the right of our manifest destiny to over spread and to possess the whole of the continent which Providence has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty and federative development of self government entrusted to us. It is right such as that of the tree to the space of air and the earth suitable for the full expansion of its principle and destiny of growth."

Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma – Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org> 18



Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma

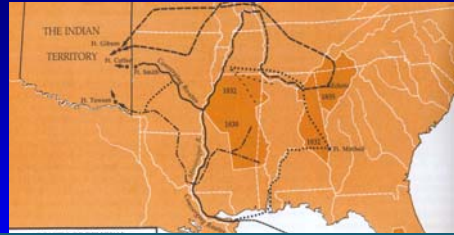
Federal Indian Policy

- 📅 1608-1830 Treaty Making
- 📅 1830-1850 Removal Policy
- 📅 1850-1871 Establishment of Reservations
- 📅 1871-1928 Assimilation and Allotment Era
- 📅 Indian Reorganization Act of 1934
- 📅 1943 – 1968 Termination
- 📅 1968 – Present – Self Determination

Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma – Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295;
<http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

19

Removal Policy: Eastern Tribes

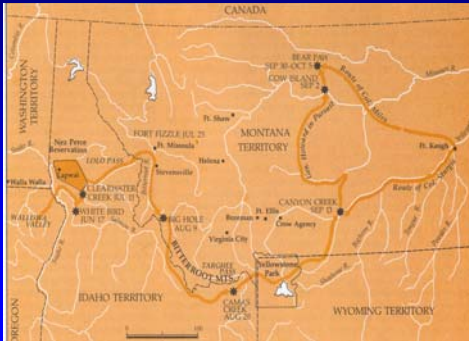


How many tribal Nations were included in the “Trail of Tears”?

<http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

20

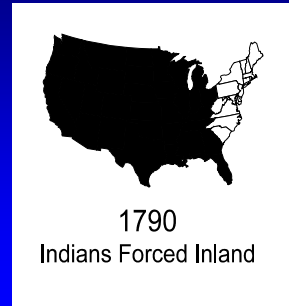
Removal Policy: Nez Perce



Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma – Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295;
<http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

21

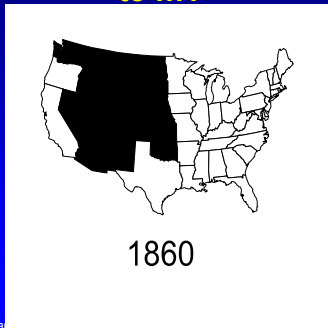
Indian Lands within the U.S.: 1492 to ...?



Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma – Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295;
<http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

22

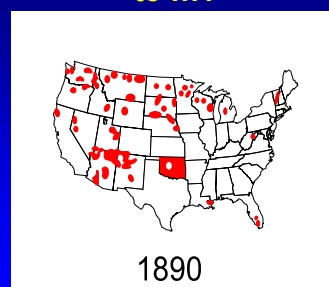
Indian Lands within the U.S.: 1492 to ...?



Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma – Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295;
<http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

23

Indian Lands within the U.S.: 1492 to ...?



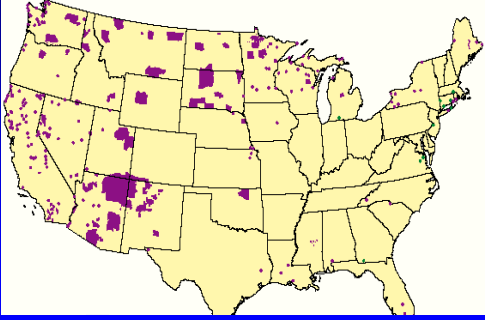
Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma – Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295;
<http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

24



Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma

Indian Lands: 1492 to Present



Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma -- Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

25

First They Took Our Land ...Then They Took Our Children



Tom Torlino (Navajo) as he appeared upon arrival to the Carlisle Indian School, October 21, 1882.

Three years later

Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma -- Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

26

Indian Boarding School System

- Existed between 1870 - PRESENT
- Movement attributed to Manifest Destiny philosophy
- Mission:** to educate Indian children and assimilate them into the European language and culture.

Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma -- Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

27

Apache Children at Carlisle Indian School



PHOTOGRAPH BY U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS, OFFICE OF THE ARIZONA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION


PHOTOGRAPH BY U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS, COURTESY OF THE ARIZONA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma -- Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

28

Characteristics of the Boarding School Experience

- Forced separation of children from communities
- Physical, sexual, emotional abuse by caretakers
- Exposure to infectious diseases, resulting in illness and death




Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma -- Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

29

Characteristics of the Boarding School Experience (cont.)

- Extreme diet changes.
- Children who didn't go home, took on the characteristics of their caretakers.



Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma -- Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org>

30



Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma

Key Points In Indian History

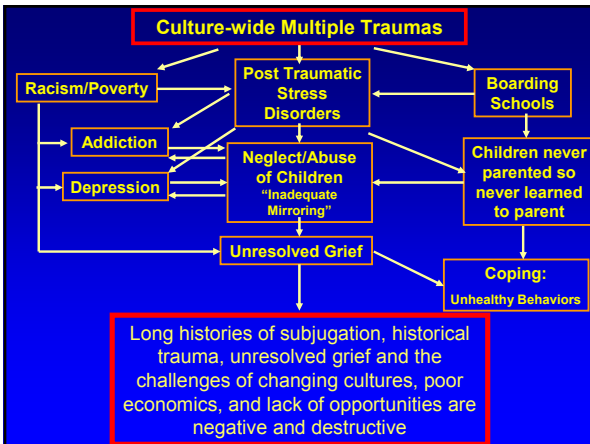
- 1802 - War Department
- 1824 - Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- 1849 - BIA moved under Department of Interior
- 1887 - The General Allotment or Dawes Act
- 1924 - Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 (41 Stat. 408)
- 1934 - Indian Reorganization Act
- 1940's – 1980's Indians fought for the right to vote
- 1953 - Termination Act
- 1968 – Self-Determination (PL 93 -638)

Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma – Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org> 31

Many Contemporary (since 1960s) Events

- 1968 American Indian Movement and Alcatraz Island – reclaiming deserted federal lands as per federal law
- 1970's sterilization of American Indian women without informed consent
- Many other events (NY / Canada Mohawk siege; Rosebud; Wounded Knee (recent event, not the original event))

Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma – Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org> 32



How May Historical Trauma Affect AIANs Use Of The Healthcare System?

- Example: distrust = avoid Western medicine
- What are specific examples related to cancer?
- Cancer clinical trials (especially treatment trials)
- Cancer genetic studies

Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma – Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org> 34

AI/AN Public Health: Challenges

- Few AI/AN public health professionals
- Limited familiarity with AI/AN policies
- Complexities /logistics – over 500 tribes

Modified slide with permission from Dean Seneca, MPH, CDC

Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma – Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org> 35

AI/AN Public Health: Challenges

- Public health legislation /legal foundations
- Lack of public health infrastructure
- Funding issues

Thank you, Dean Seneca, MPH, ATSDR, CDC, for sharing the slide


Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma – Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org> 36



Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma

Examples Public Health Funding Issues

- Lack of AI/AN-specific funds
- Data errors under-count AIAN health problems
- Limitations/problems of categorical funds
- Funds received by CDC/ATSDR often designated for state health departments



Thank you, Dean Seneca, MPH, CDC, for sharing the slide

Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma -- Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org> 37

Examples Public Health Funding Issues

- Tribal ineligibility for certain funds
- Current funding policies/procedures often put states and tribes in competition for same funds
- Funding agencies do not understand historical context of phrasing AIAN organizations include within grant applications

Modified from slide provided by Dean Seneca, MPH, CDC

Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma -- Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org> 38

What Does "Cancer Health Disparity" Mean?

- Differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality and burden of cancer and related adverse health conditions that exist among specific population groups in the U.S.*
- Gender
- Age
- Ethnicity
- Education
- Income
- Social class
- Disability
- Geographic location
- Sexual orientation

*Cancer Health Disparities Progress Review Group, *Measuring Progress: Report of the Trans-HHS Cancer Health Disparities Progress Review Group*, U.S. DHHS, March 2006

Who is an Indian? Historical Trauma -- Native American Cancer Research 800-37-8295; <http://www.NatAmCancer.org> 39

