

NOVEMBER 2018



# COMMUNITY HEALTH PROFILE

Individual Site Report | Kansas City Service Area



**Urban Indian  
Health Institute**  
A Division of the Seattle Indian Health Board



### **Acknowledgments**

Funding for this report was provided by the Building Public Health Infrastructure in Tribal Communities to Accelerate Disease Prevention and Health Promotion in Indian Country funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

The report contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

---

This report was prepared by: Crisandra Wilkie, MPH; with the support of Alyssa Yang, MPH; Francesca Murnan, MPA; Gunnar Colleen, BA; Lyle Chrzaszcz, MPH; and under the direction of Adrian Dominguez, MS, Scientific Director.

### **Recommended Citation**

Urban Indian Health Institute, Seattle Indian Health Board. (2018). Community Health Profile: Individual Site Report: Kansas City Urban Indian Health Service Area.

The Urban Indian Health Institute would like to thank the staff at the urban Indian health and social service organizations nationwide for the excellent work they do daily on behalf of their communities.



**The mission of the UIHI is to decolonize data,  
for indigenous people, by indigenous people.**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>2</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>WHAT IS AN URBAN INDIAN?</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>HOW TO USE THIS REPORT</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>METHODS AND DATA</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>DATA SOURCES</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>SOCIODEMOGRAPHICS</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>MORTALITY</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH</b>
<b>32</b>	<b>REFERENCES</b>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) analyzes data from the American Community Survey and the National Vital Statistics System to estimate proportions for 33 health indicators. With this data, UIHI creates Community Health Profiles for service areas throughout the United States.

This Community Health Profile contains sociodemographic, mortality, and maternal and child health data on American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) that has been aggregated over a five-year period from the Kansas City service area, which includes Cass, Clay, Jackson, and Platte counties. The sociodemographic data as well as the mortality data are from 2010-2014, and the maternal and child health data are from 2008-2012.

The county data shows that urban Indians living in the Kansas City service area frequently experience higher proportions of poverty and disparities in employment, education, food security, and maternal and child health when compared to their Non-Hispanic White (NHW) counterparts. As this profile may show, there is still work to be done from local, state, and federal entities to collect quality, accurate data. Urban Indian Health Programs should work closely with their local and state health jurisdictions to access the most current data and, where possible, urge better tracking of demographics to inform care.

### KEY FINDINGS:

**Compared to NHW, urban AI/AN in these counties are:**

- **Nearly two times more likely to experience unemployment**
- **Nearly two times more likely to have no high school diploma or equivalent degree**
- **Three and a half times more likely to participate in food assistance programs**
- **More than one and a half times as likely to smoke during pregnancy**
- **More than three times as likely to receive late prenatal care**



# KANSAS CITY SERVICE AREA

## INTRODUCTION

The health needs of America's urban Indian population present unique challenges. Across the U.S., an examination of the health outcomes of urban Indians show disproportionately high incidence of disease, co-morbidity, and mortality, particularly for urban Indian mothers. This is significant because, of the 5.2 million Americans who identify as American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN), 71% live in urban areas. To meet their health needs, numerous health and social service programs are providing culturally appropriate and holistic care. Many offer services that are grounded in indigenous knowledge and bring Western and traditional medicine together.

As Urban Indian Health Programs and Native health organizations strive to provide the highest-quality care to urban Indians, relevant data are needed. Since 2000, UIHI has created Community Health Profiles for 35 cities where urban Indian people reside, and, in 2018, nine cities were added. This individual Community Health Profile details the data for the Kansas City service area, which includes Cass, Clay, Jackson, and Platte counties.



## What is an urban Indian?

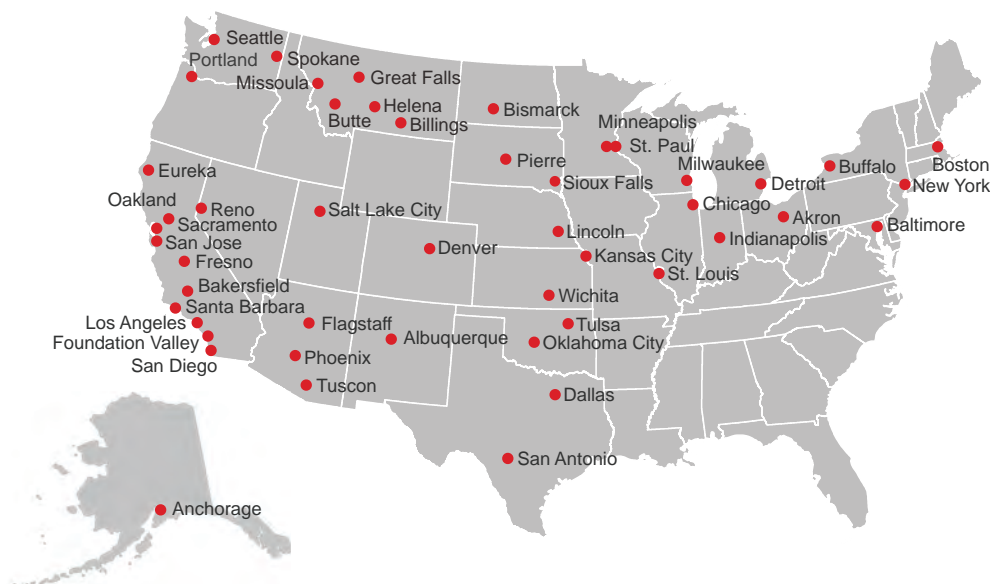
Urban Indians are tribal members who are currently living outside of federally-defined tribal lands in U.S. cities.<sup>1</sup> For many AI/AN communities, systemic issues such as racism, poverty, and poor education have given rise to health disparities.<sup>2,3</sup> For urban Indians in particular, government policies that forced relocation in the 1950s and termination policies that forced assimilation into non-Native culture, have had long-term health effects.<sup>2</sup> Today, AI/ANs come to the city for educational, employment or housing opportunities, and health-care needs, resulting in an indigenous urban population that is diverse and inter-tribal.

**71%** of American Indians and Alaska Natives live in urban areas



## SERVING THE HEALTH NEEDS OF URBAN INDIANS

Programs across the United States are providing holistic health care to urban Indians, including private, non-profit corporations receiving partial funding from the Indian Health Service as well as social- and faith-based organizations. UIHI defines the service areas of these programs as Urban Indian Health service areas.

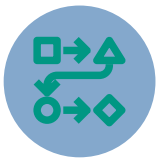


Map 1. Urban Indian Health Service Areas

## HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

Improving community health through effective planning and decision making requires good information about the factors that influence the health status of community members.<sup>2</sup> While limited in scope and restricted to available and usable data, this report provides valuable information for service providers serving an urban Indian population with unique needs and greater risk factors. The information provided here is intended to supplement other local data available to your organization.

### Program Planning



Data in this report can be used by urban Indian organizations to identify health priorities, allocate resources, and guide the development of innovative programs.

### Funding



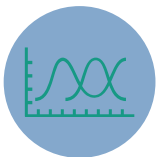
Data and figures help tell the story of existing health disparities in the AI/AN population compared to NHWs. This report may be useful to include as information for grant applications and other funding opportunities. It can also be cited as a reference.

### Identifying Gaps in Data



This report may reveal the need to close current gaps in nationally-collected data. Providers may want to consider pushing their jurisdictions to link other relevant data to help correctly classify AI/ANs in state death records.<sup>4,5</sup> Another way to improve data collection is by oversampling AI/ANs in national surveys, which provides sufficient statistical power to allow for more stable estimates.

### Research



Data in this report can be used to generate additional hypotheses for future studies, evaluations, or assessments.



## METHODS AND DATA

This report includes information from residents of Cass, Clay, Jackson, and Platte counties as well as data from the 2010 U.S. Census, American Community Survey, and National Vital Statistics System. There are limitations to these data particularly due to variations in how race is defined and collected.

### Analysis

A list of indicators for the community health profile were selected after an analysis of the available data sources. For each indicator, prevalence or incidence was calculated for the AI/AN population and compared with the NHW population. Since NHWs are the racial/ethnic majority, this population was chosen as the comparison group. The AI/AN population was defined as AI/AN only, and in combination with other races, unless otherwise indicated. The NHW population was defined as White only and excluded the Hispanic population unless otherwise indicated. Results were calculated using aggregated data over a five-year period which added stability to estimates and protected individual privacy.

In some instances, confidence intervals—ranges of numbers used to assess the accuracy of a point estimate and measure the variability in data—were calculated and used to show differences in outcomes for specific indicators. The point estimate may be a rate, such as a death rate, or a frequency, such as a percent of individuals living in poverty. Confidence intervals account for the uncertainty that arises from the natural variation inherent in the world around us.

Confidence intervals also account for the difference between a sample from a population and the population itself. For analyses included in this report, confidence intervals were calculated at a p-value of  $<0.05$ , which is a 95 percent confidence level. This means that 95 times out of 100 the confidence interval captures the true value for the population. Differences in outcomes were called statistically significant if confidence intervals of the study group (AI/AN) did not overlap with the comparison group (NHW). If confidence intervals overlapped we considered estimates to be similar. Data analysis for indicators were analyzed using the statistical software SAS version 9.4.

### Data Limitations

Although data analysis and assessment of results were conducted for 33 indicators, data limitations were found. In some instances, the number of cases or sample size was limited, data collection excluded AI/AN in combination, or there was possible racial misclassification of AI/AN. These limitations impact the analysis and prevent or limit the reporting of results.

# KANSAS CITY SERVICE AREA

Frequently, data were only available for AI/ANs alone and was not inclusive of AI/ANs who also identify with another race or ethnicity. Therefore, the estimates provided in this report may be an underestimation of the true value of the outcome or risk factor for any indicator analyzed.

Racial misclassification, particularly for mortality data, can greatly underestimate the true rate of disease, risk factor, or outcome. AI/ANs are especially likely to experience problems of incorrect classification on death certificates. Therefore, true mortality rates among AI/ANs are assumed to be higher than reported.<sup>5, 6</sup>

## DATA SOURCES

### 2010 U.S. Census

The U.S. Census takes place every 10 years and provides official population counts for individuals living in the United States. It also presents information on age, race, Hispanic origin, and sex. In 2010, the U.S. Census allowed individuals to self-report belonging to more than one racial group.

When determining a population count, this report considers people to be AI/AN if they report AI/AN as their only race or if they report being AI/AN in combination with other races. Some Census statistics are not easily accessible when including individuals who report multiple races, so, for these indicators, only individuals who report AI/AN alone are included.

For more information about the U.S. Census, visit: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

### American Community Survey

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide, continuous survey that collects demographic, housing, social, and economic data every year. To provide reliable estimates for small counties, neighborhoods, and population groups, the ACS provides 1-, 3-, and 5-year aggregate estimates. Estimates for this report are from aggregated data from 2010-2014.

Race is self-reported in ACS, with similar race categories as the U.S. Census. However, some ACS data are not easily accessible for multiple racial groups. Therefore, ACS data are reported for AI/AN alone in this report. ACS estimates in this profile are not adjusted for age. Observed differences in estimates may be due to a true difference in rates or due to differences in age distribution in the population.

For more information about the ACS, visit: [www.census.gov/acs](http://www.census.gov/acs).

## National Vital Statistics System

Mortality data from the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) are generated from death certificates. The five most recent years for which complete mortality data were available were from 2010-2014. The five most recent years for which complete infant mortality data were available were from 2008-2012. All mortality data are age-adjusted to the U.S. population for the year 2000. Age-adjusted death rates are useful when comparing different populations because they remove the potential bias that can occur when comparing populations with different age distributions. For example, AI/ANs historically are a younger population than other race groups.

Birth certificate data from NVSS data files include all documented births occurring within the United States as filed in each state. These data include demographic information about parents, information on the infant, the mother's risk factors, and information on the birth. The five most recent years for which complete natality data were available was from 2008-2012.

Since not all states allow individuals to identify as more than one race, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) releases bridged-race population estimates for calculation of rates. As a result, estimates in this report may not match local and county estimates because of differing projection methods.

For more information about NVSS, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss.htm>





## SOCIODEMOGRAPHICS

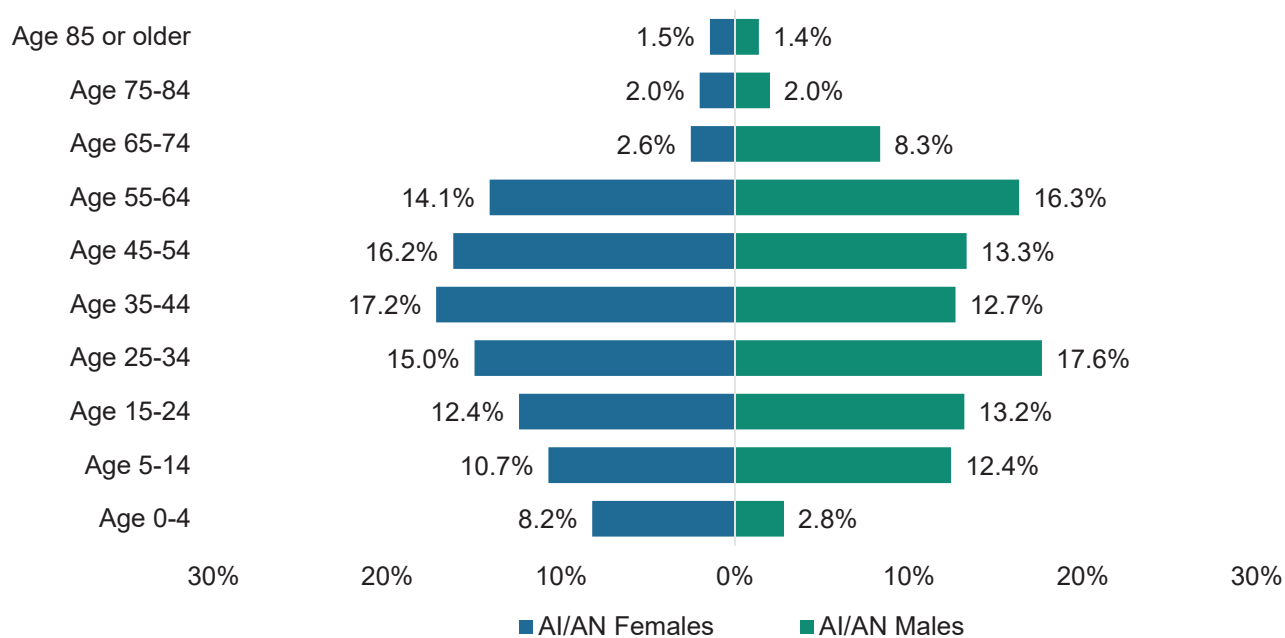
### Introduction

The health of an individual or a population is largely determined by where they live, work, play, and learn. Race and economic status also play key roles.<sup>7,8</sup> Decades of research show a relationship between greater social disadvantage and poorer health. Race, lack of access to education, unemployment, poverty, and housing all create inequities between urban Indian and Non-Hispanic White populations.<sup>7</sup> This section presents data on measures of demographics and social determinants of health to illustrate the disparities between AI/ANs and NHWs.

## Age and Gender

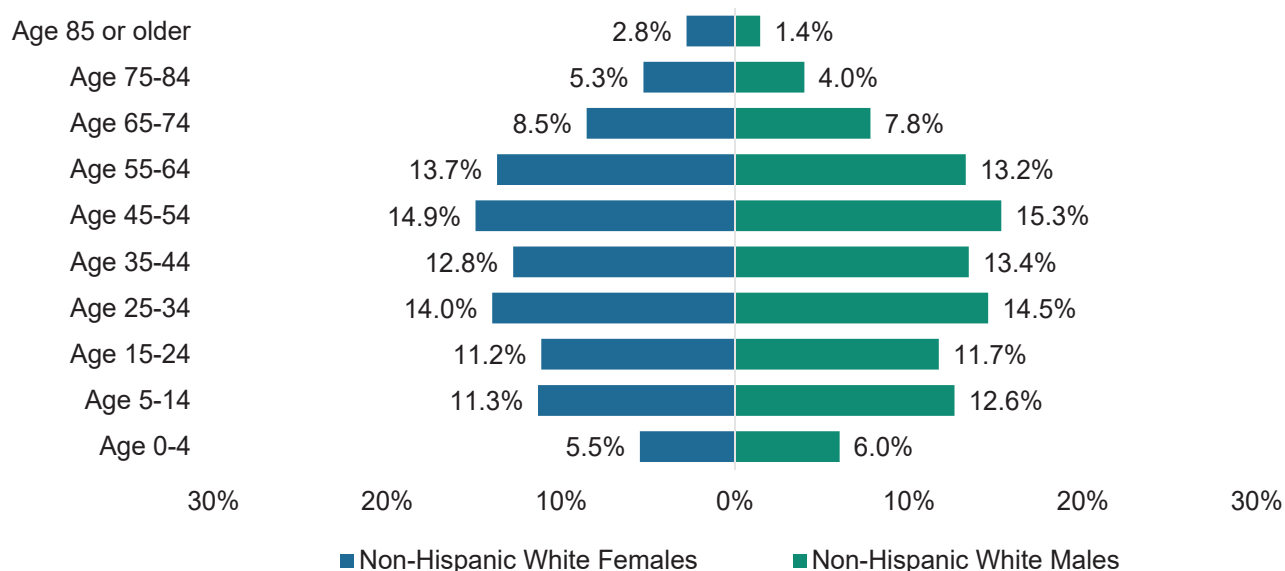
Relative to the NHW population, the AI/AN population in the Kansas City service area was younger (Figure 1; Figure 2). Approximately, 29.9% of AI/ANs were under the age of 25 years, compared with 29.2% of NHWs. In contrast, 8.9% of AI/ANs were over the age of 65 years, compared with 14.9% of NHWs.

**Figure 1. AI/AN Population by Age and Gender, Kansas City Service Area, 2010-2014**



Source: American Community Survey, 2010-2014

**Figure 2. NHW Population by Age and Gender, Kansas City Service Area, 2010-2014**



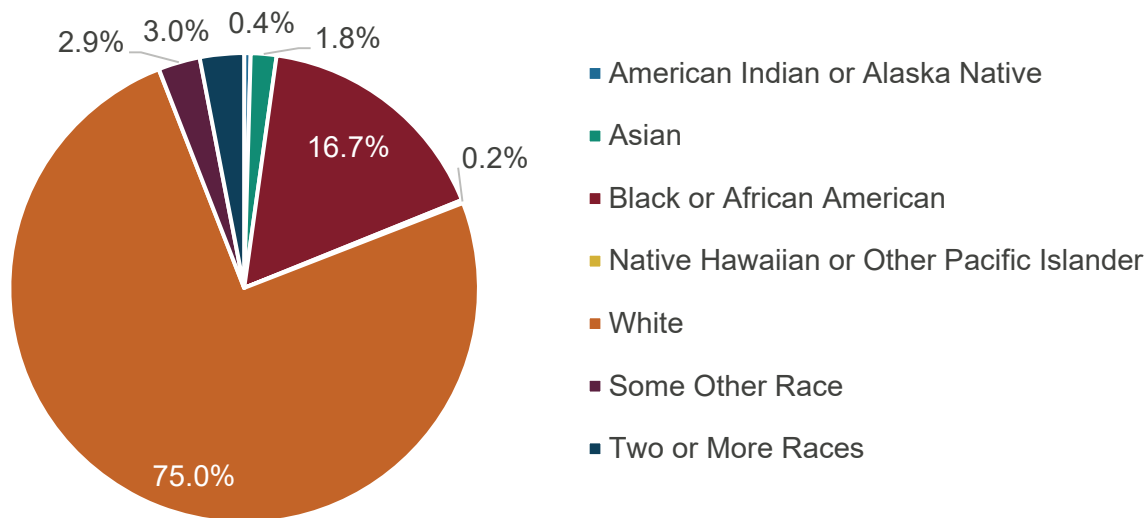
Source: American Community Survey, 2010-2014

# KANSAS CITY SERVICE AREA

## Race

As shown in Figure 3, an estimated 4,894 (0.4%) individuals identified as AI/AN alone in the Kansas City service area, and an estimated 15,652 (1.4%) individuals identified as AI/AN alone or in combination with one or more races (data not shown). Those who identified as White alone comprised the largest proportion (75.0%) of the total population (1,098,639) in the Kansas City service area. In addition, Black or African American was the second largest population identified, making up 16.7% of the total population.

**Figure 3. Population by Race, Kansas City Service Area, 2010-2014**

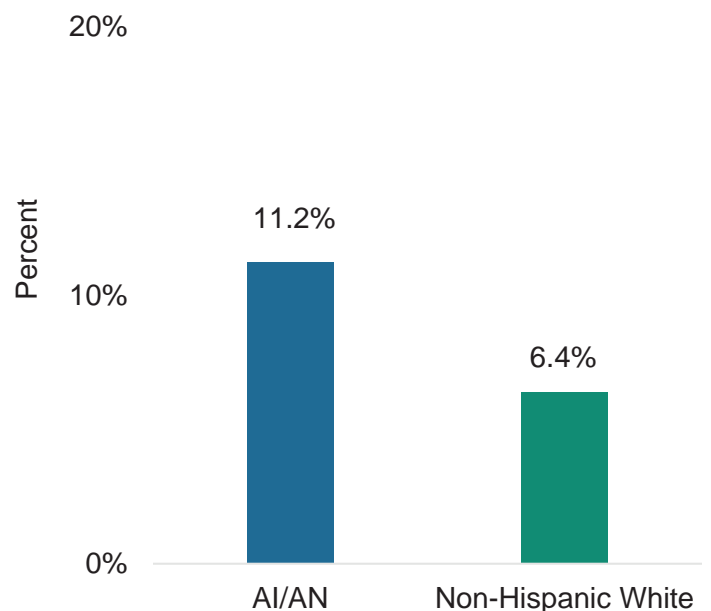


Source: American Community Survey, 2010-2014

## Unemployment

Extensive evidence has shown that unemployment has a negative effect on health.<sup>9</sup> Unemployed individuals may experience financial insecurity and are more likely to lack health insurance coverage.<sup>10</sup> In the Kansas City service area, the percent of unemployed AI/ANs over 16 years of age was 1.8 times higher than NHWs (11.2% vs 6.4%; Figure 4).

**Figure 4. Civilian Labor Force, Kansas City Service Area, 2010-2014**



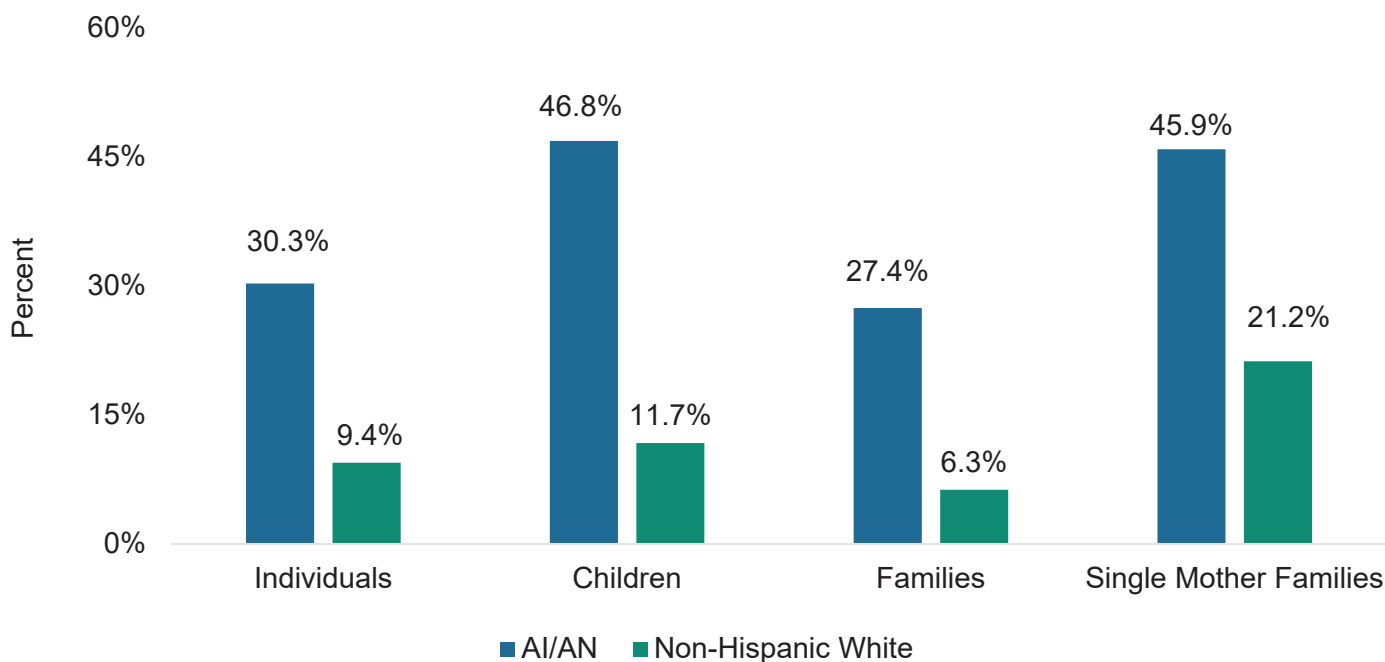
Source: American Community Survey, 2010-2014

## Poverty

Poverty limits access to healthy foods, quality housing, economic opportunities, and adequate health care.<sup>11, 12</sup> These foundational social and economic factors are inextricably connected to health outcomes. The impacts of poverty on a child’s health and well-being can be detrimental, including negative effects on early childhood and secondary academic achievement.<sup>13, 14</sup> In this report, poverty is defined as annual income less than 100% of the federal poverty level. For example, in 2017, 100% of the federal poverty level for a family of four was no more than \$24,600.<sup>15</sup>

In the Kansas City service area, nearly one-third of AI/AN individuals lived in poverty (30.3%), compared to less than one-tenth for NHWs (9.4%; Figure 5). The percentage of AI/AN children experiencing poverty was higher than NHW children. Approximately 47% of AI/AN children aged 17 and under in the Kansas City service area lived in households with an income below the federal poverty level. This proportion is 4.0 times that of the NHW population (11.7%). In addition, more than one in four AI/AN families in the Kansas City service area (27.4%) lived in households with an income below the federal poverty level. This is 4.3 times higher than the proportion of NHWs (6.3%). Finally, among those AI/AN families in households headed by single mothers, 45.9% lived in poverty, 2.2 times higher than the proportion of NHW families headed by single mothers (21.2%).

**Figure 5. Income Below the Federal Poverty Level in Past Year, Kansas City Service Area, 2010-2014**



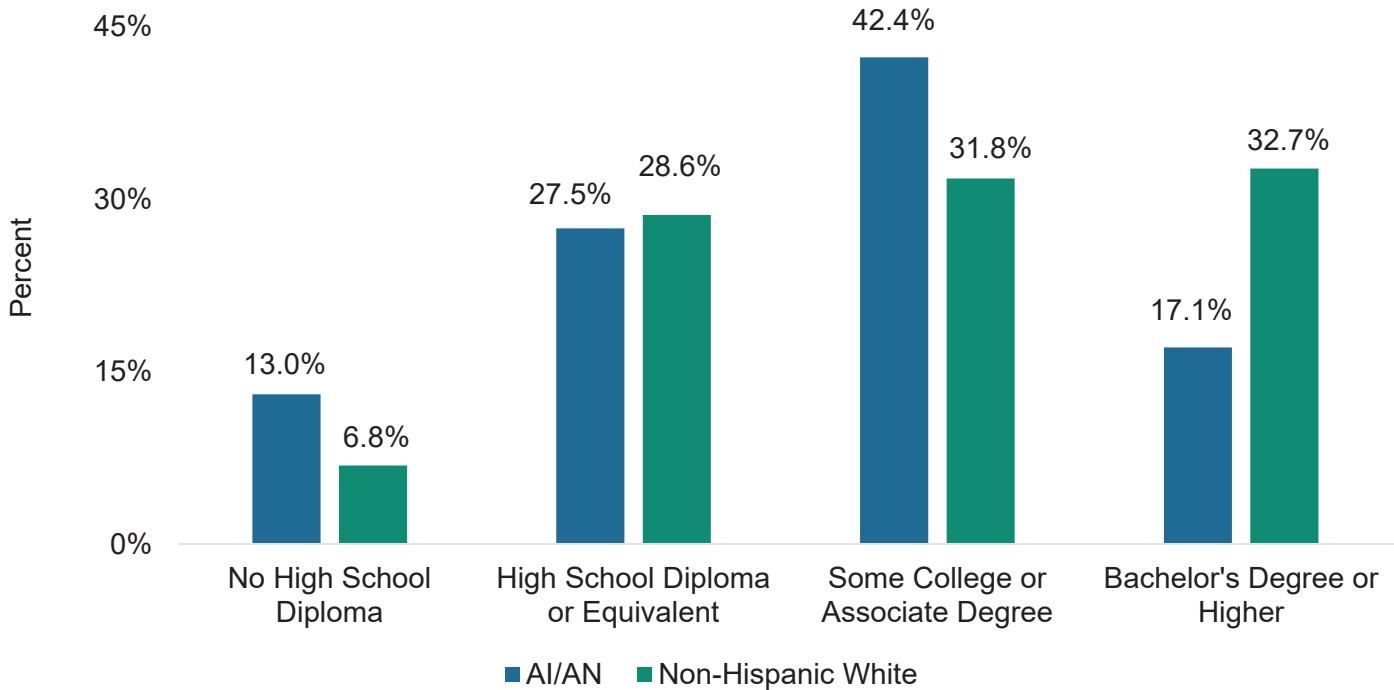
Source: American Community Survey, 2010-2014

# KANSAS CITY SERVICE AREA

## Educational Attainment

The relationship between education and health is well documented.<sup>16, 17</sup> Disparities in life expectancy by level of education are found among all demographic groups and are arguably increasing over time.<sup>17</sup> In the Kansas City service area, a higher proportion of AI/ ANs aged 25 and older had not completed high school or passed the General Educational Development (GED) exam (13.0%) compared with the NHW population (6.8%; Figure 6). A lower proportion of AI/ANs (17.1%) reported a Bachelor's degree or higher as their highest level of education compared with the NHW population (32.7%). The proportion of AI/ANs that reported a Bachelor's degree or higher in the Kansas City service area was 47.7% lower than NHWs.

**Figure 6. Educational Attainment for the Population 25 and Older, Kansas City Service Area, 2010-2014**



Source: American Community Survey, 2010-2014

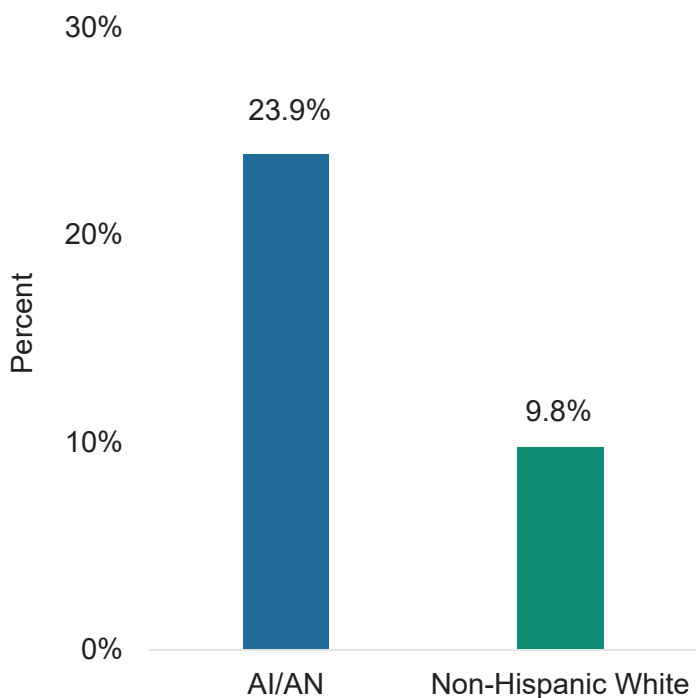


## Health Insurance Coverage

Those without health insurance coverage have higher mortality rates than those with coverage.<sup>18</sup> Individuals without health insurance are also less likely to receive care and take longer to return to health after an unintentional injury or the onset of a chronic disease than those with health insurance.<sup>19</sup>

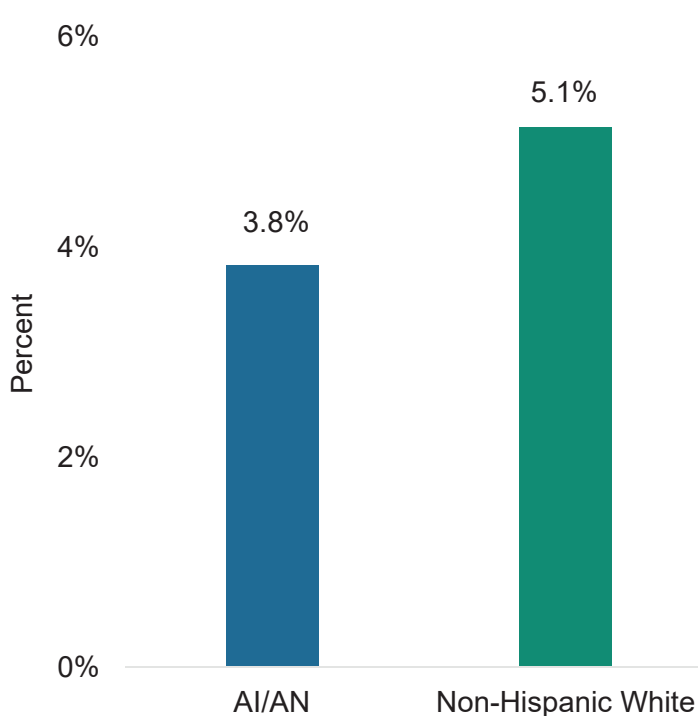
In the Kansas City service area, nearly one in four AI/ANs under age 65 (23.9%) reported having no health insurance, a proportion 2.4 times higher than that of NHWs (9.8%; Figure 7). The proportion of uninsured AI/AN children under the age of 18 (3.8%) in the Kansas City service area was 25.5% lower than their NHW counterparts (5.1%; Figure 8).

**Figure 7. Population Under 65 with No Health Insurance Coverage, Kansas City Service Area, 2010-2014**



Source: American Community Survey, 2010-2014

**Figure 8. Population Under 18 with No Health Insurance Coverage, Kansas City Service Area, 2010-2014**



Source: American Community Survey, 2010-2014

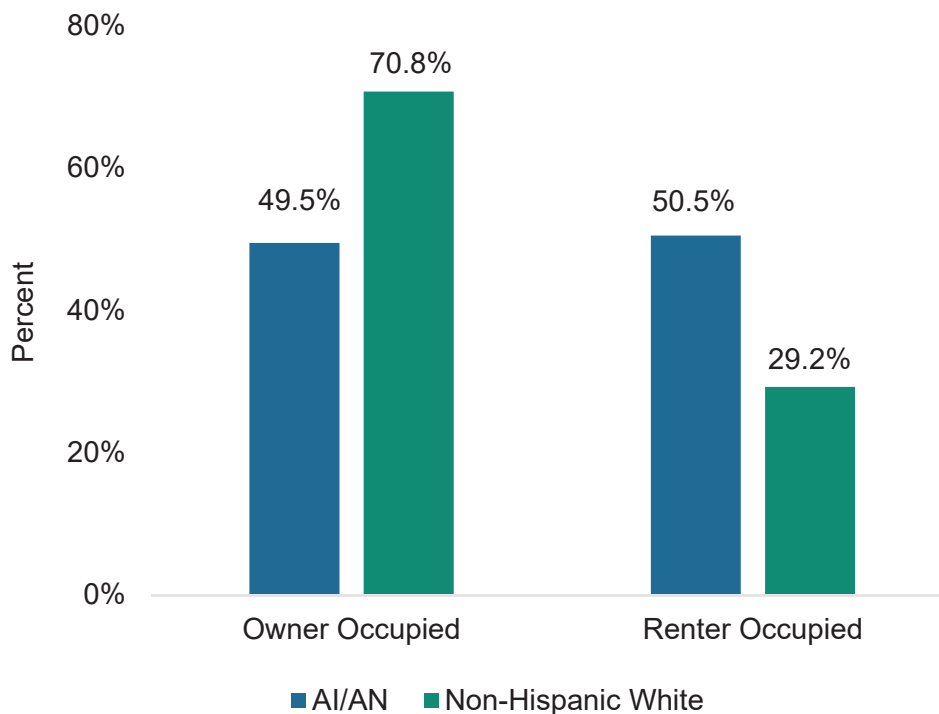
# KANSAS CITY SERVICE AREA

## Housing

Several studies have found that home ownership is associated with many health benefits.<sup>20</sup>,<sup>21</sup> These benefits may be explained by the fact that homeowners likely experience higher socioeconomic status, fewer problems of overcrowding, and lower exposure to neighborhood violence. In contrast, renters are more likely to experience poorer self-reported health, higher proportions of coronary heart disease, and more risk factors, such as smoking.<sup>22</sup>

In the Kansas City service area, 49.5% of all AI/AN homes were owner occupied compared with 70.8% of NHW households (Figure 9). The proportion of home ownership among AI/ANs in the Kansas City service area was 30.1% lower than NHWs. In contrast, approximately one-half of all AI/AN households were renter occupied compared with 29.2% of NHW households. The proportion of renter occupation among AI/ANs was 1.7 times higher than NHWs.

**Figure 9. Housing Tenure, Kansas City Service Area, 2010-2014**



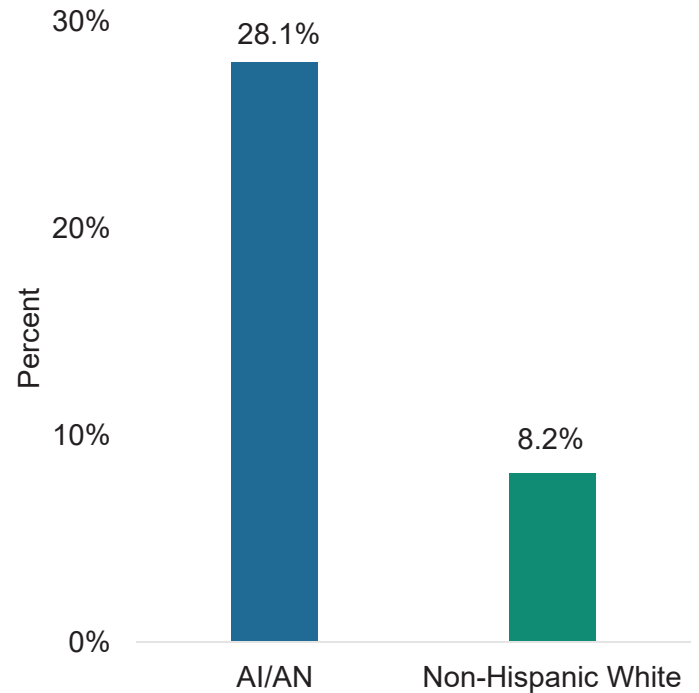
Source: American Community Survey, 2010-2014

## Food Stamps

Households experiencing poverty are more likely to be food insecure.<sup>23</sup> As the largest food assistance program in the United States, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the federal Food Stamp program, is a crucial part of the social safety net.<sup>24</sup> In most states, many households with an income below 130% of the federal poverty level are eligible to receive SNAP benefits.

In the Kansas City service area, over one-quarter of AI/AN households received SNAP benefits in the past year (28.1%; Figure 10). The proportion of SNAP participation among AI/ANs in this area was 3.4 times higher than NHWs (8.2%).

**Figure 10. SNAP Use, Kansas City Service Area, 2010-2014**



Source: American Community Survey, 2010-2014





## MORTALITY

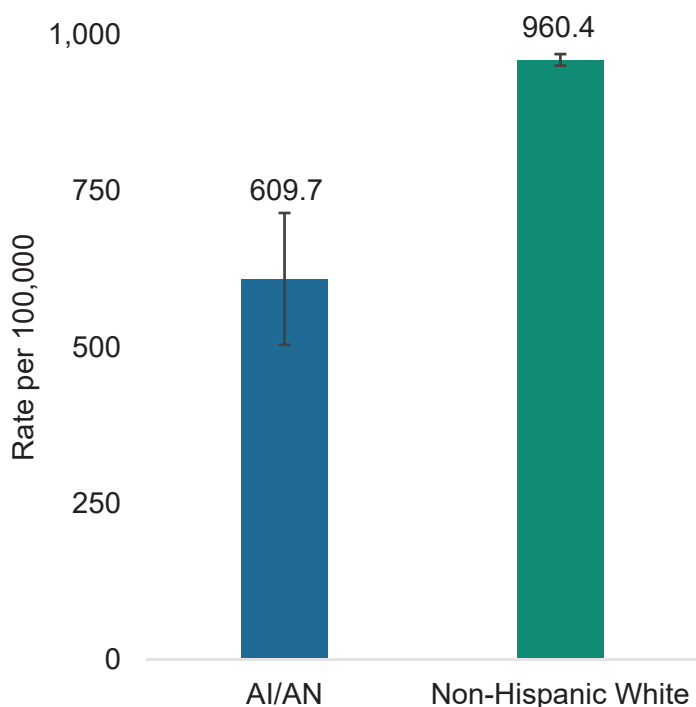
### Introduction

Mortality data provide an indication of a community or population's health and socioeconomic development status. Mortality data are also a key component to understanding population size, future growth, and change. Examining mortality data is one way to measure the burden of disease in a community or population. Tracking death rates may identify groups that are at an increased risk of premature death and may identify specific underlying causes of death that are more prevalent in certain populations. In addition, high mortality rates may indicate an issue with environmental, risk, and/or socioeconomic factors as well as communicable diseases. Relevant and accurate data are needed on the health of urban Indians. UIHI recommends local, state, and national organizations work to improve the quality and availability of data to serve this diverse and unique population.

## All-Cause Mortality Rate

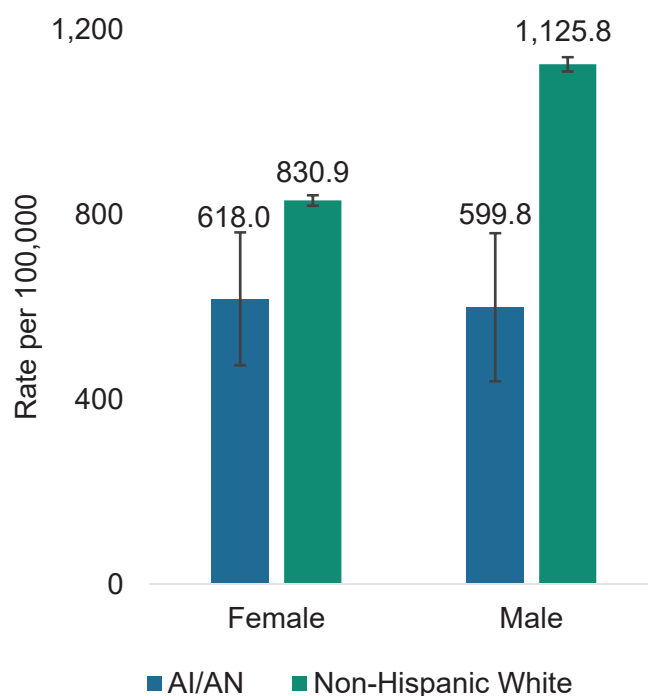
The all-cause mortality rate in the Kansas City service area was 36.5% lower for the AI/AN population than for the NHW population, which is a significant difference (Figure 11). The mortality rate for males was 46.7% lower among AI/ANs compared to their NHW counterparts and 25.6% lower for AI/AN females compared to NHW females (Figure 12). The mortality rate for AI/AN women and AI/AN men was similar.

**Figure 11. All-Cause Mortality, Kansas City Service Area, 2010-2014**



Source: National Vital Statistics, Death Certificates, 2010-2014

**Figure 12. Mortality Rate by Gender, Kansas City Service Area, 2010-2014**



Source: National Vital Statistics, Death Certificates, 2010-2014

# KANSAS CITY SERVICE AREA

## Top Causes of Mortality

**Table 1. Top Causes of Mortality, Kansas City Service Area, 2010-2014**

AI/AN			NHW		
RANK	CAUSE	RATE (PER 100,000)	RANK	CAUSE	RATE (PER 100,000)
1	All cancers	343.8	1	Vascular disease	532.2
2	Vascular disease	296.0	2	All cancers	484.1
3	Chronic lower respiratory disease	99.1	3	Chronic lower respiratory disease	140.2

Source: US Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificates, 2010-2014

Table 1 summarizes the top causes of mortality for both AI/AN and NHW.

**Table 2. Top Causes of Male Mortality, Kansas City Service Area, 2010-2014**

AI/AN			NHW		
RANK	CAUSE	RATE (PER 100,000)	RANK	CAUSE	RATE (PER 100,000)
1	All cancers	177.9	1	Vascular disease	318.1
2	Vascular disease	160.9	2	All cancers	277.5

Source: US Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificates, 2010-2014

Table 2 summarizes the top causes of mortality for both AI/AN and NHW men.

**Table 3. Top Causes of Female Mortality, Kansas City Service Area, 2010-2014**

AI/AN			NHW		
RANK	CAUSE	RATE (PER 100,000)	RANK	CAUSE	RATE (PER 100,000)
1	All cancers	165.8	1	Vascular disease	214.1
2	Vascular disease	135.1	2	All cancers	206.7

Source: US Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificates, 2010-2014

Table 3 summarizes the top causes of mortality for both AI/AN and NHW women.

**Table 4. Overall Top Cause of Cancer Mortality, Kansas City Service Area, 2010-2014**

AI/AN			NHW		
RANK	CAUSE	RATE (PER 100,000)	RANK	CAUSE	RATE (PER 100,000)
1	Trachea, bronchus, and lung	65.3	1	Trachea, bronchus, and lung	145.0

Source: US Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificates, 2010-2014

Table 4 summarizes the top cancer cause of mortality for both AI/AN and NHW.



## MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

### Introduction

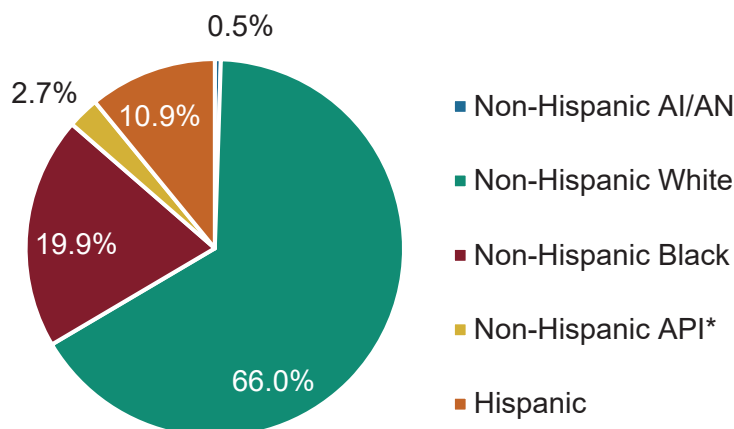
Understanding the state of maternal and child health (MCH) for urban Indians is key to creating the foundation for healthy children, mothers, and future generations. Tracking maternal smoking, gestational diabetes, prenatal care, and premature births can help urban Indian health organizations make the best decisions regarding programs for pregnant mothers and infants. As UIHI found in the Kansas City service area, disparities exist in some key indicators for MCH. This section presents data on measures of MCH and can be used to inform programs to address the issues explored here.



## Total Births

From 2008 to 2012, there were a total of 77,165 births in the Kansas City service area. Among those births, 0.5% were identified as Non-Hispanic AI/AN alone (Figure 13). The largest proportions of births among the racial/ethnic groups were from NHW (66.0%) and Non-Hispanic Black women (19.9%). Hispanics were 10.9% of all births while Non-Hispanic Asians and Pacific Islanders were 2.7% of all births.

**Figure 13. Births by Race/Ethnicity, Kansas City Service Area, 2008-2012**



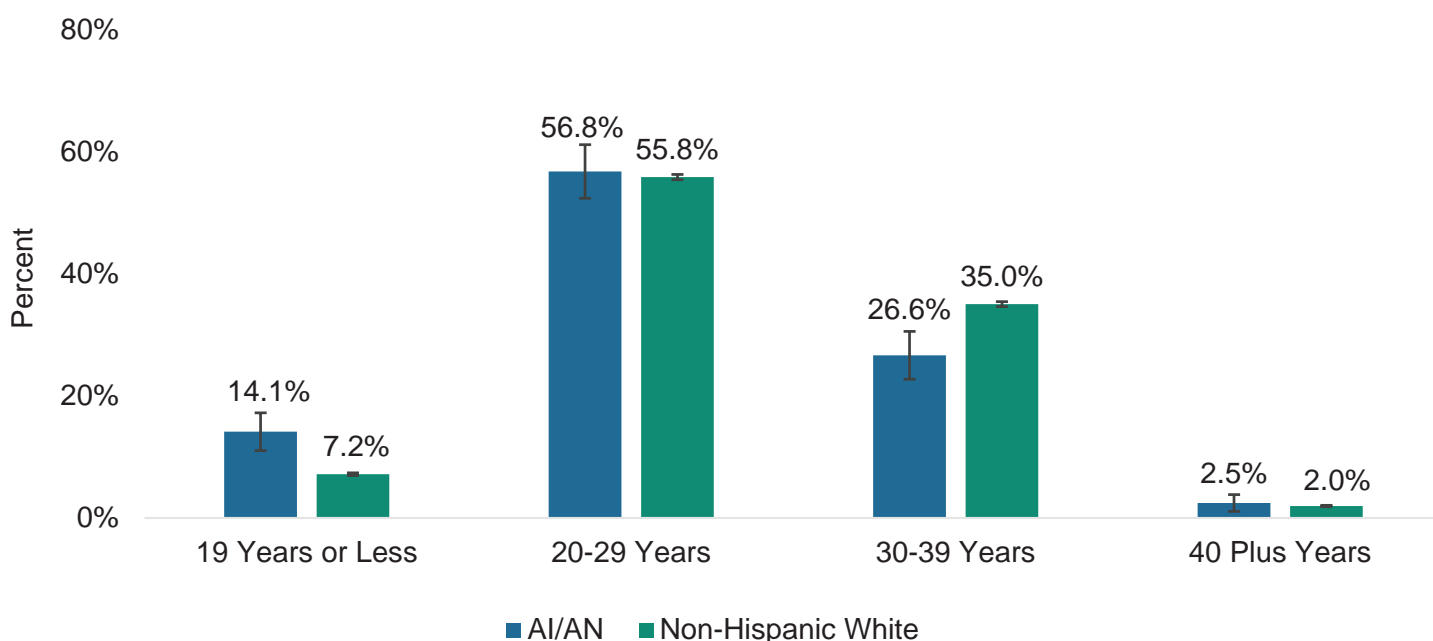
\*API: Asian-Pacific Islander

Source: National Vital Statistics, Birth Certificates, 2008-2012

## Age

In general, AI/AN women tend to give birth at younger ages than their NHW counterparts (Figure 14). In the Kansas City service area, 14.1% of all births among AI/AN women were to teenage women (less than 19 years of age) compared to 7.2% of NHW births. The proportion of births to teenage women were 2.0 times higher in AI/ANs compared to NHWs. In addition, 56.8% of all births among AI/AN women were to women in their 20s, similar to NHWs at 55.8%. Conversely, NHW women had more children in their 30s compared to AI/AN women (35.0% vs. 26.6%).

**Figure 14. Births by Maternal Age Group, Kansas City Service Area, 2008-2012**



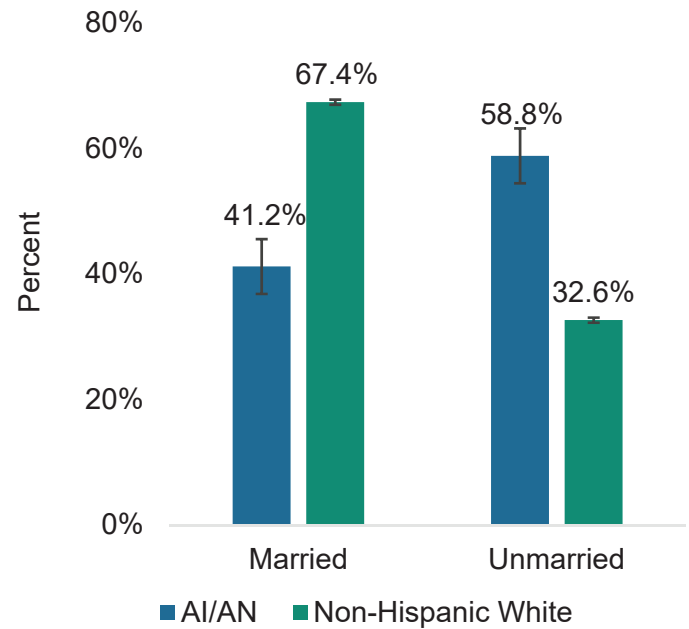
Source: National Vital Statistics, Birth Certificates, 2008-2012

# KANSAS CITY SERVICE AREA

## Marital Status

In the Kansas City service area, 41.2% of all births to AI/ANs were to women who were married and 58.8% were to women who were not married (Figure 15). This was significantly different compared to NHWs in which 67.4% of births were to married mothers and 32.6% of births were to unmarried mothers. The proportion of births to unmarried women was 1.8 times higher in AI/ANs compared to their NHW counterparts.

**Figure 15. Births by Marital Status, Kansas City Service Area, 2008-2012**



Source: National Vital Statistics, Birth Certificates, 2008-2012



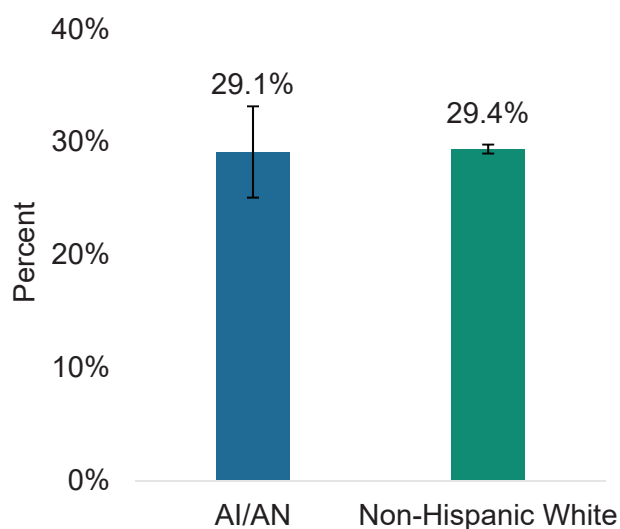
## Cesarean Section

While cesarean sections can prevent maternal and infant mortality and morbidity, there is no advantage for women who have the procedure electively.<sup>25, 26</sup> Possible complications of cesarean sections include infection, hemorrhage or increased blood loss, injury to organs, and extended hospital stay.<sup>27, 28</sup> In a study exploring the effect of maternal age on cesarean section rates, rates of cesarean section were shown to increase with maternal age.<sup>29</sup> Pre-existing conditions that are more prevalent in older women, such as high blood pressure and diabetes, are risk factors for cesarean delivery.<sup>30</sup>

In the Kansas City service area, an estimated 29.1% of births were delivered by cesarean section among AI/AN females. A similar proportion was seen among NHW births at 29.4% (Figure 16).

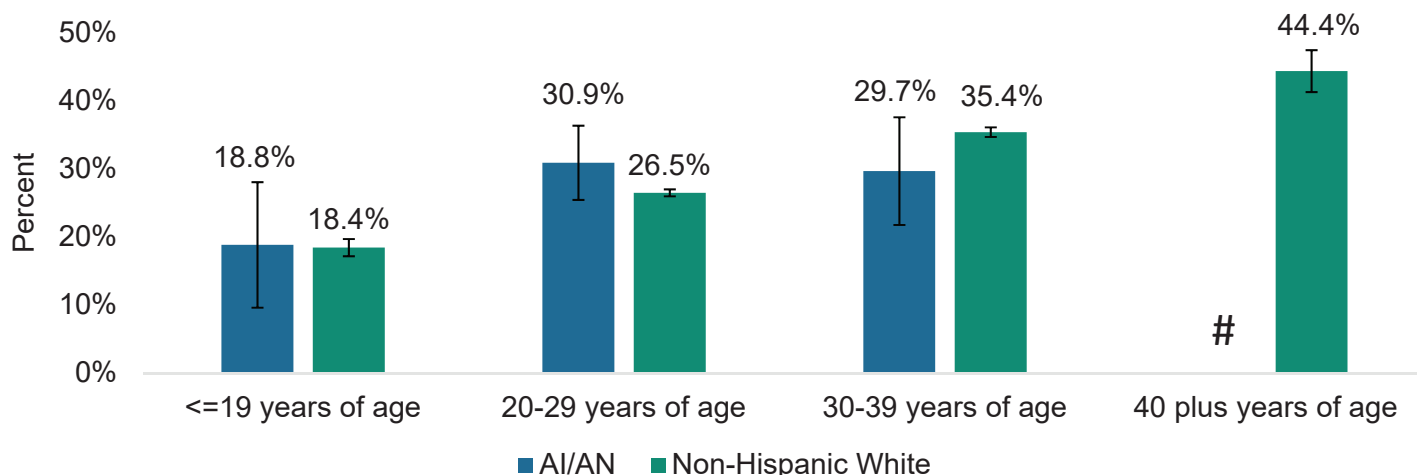
The proportion of cesarean deliveries remained similar across AI/AN age groups but increased for NHW women as age increased (Figure 17). Additionally, within the age groups, there was no significant difference between AI/ANs and NHWs.

**Figure 16. Births by Cesarean Section, Kansas City Service Area, 2008-2012**



Source: National Vital Statistics, Birth Certificates, 2008-2012

**Figure 17. Cesarean Sections by Maternal Age Group, Kansas City Service Area, 2008-2012**



# Data Suppressed

Source: National Vital Statistics, Birth Certificates, 2008-2012

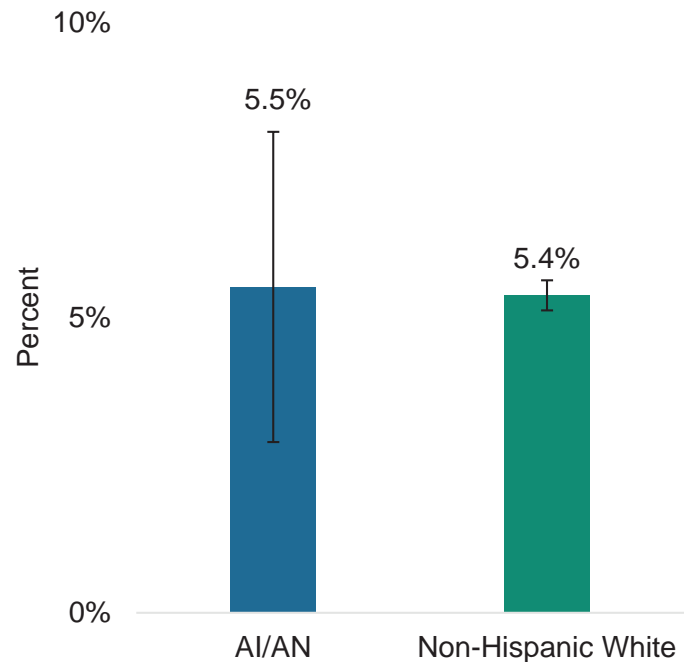
# KANSAS CITY SERVICE AREA

## Gestational Diabetes

A woman with gestational diabetes may have a larger than average baby.<sup>31</sup> Diabetes during a pregnancy leads to the unborn child having a higher-than-normal blood sugar level, which causes an overproduction of insulin in the unborn child. That overproduction produces extra calories that are stored as fat, making the baby larger than average. Due to the size of the child, there may be delivery complications for both the mother and the baby.

In the Kansas City service area, 5.5% of AI/AN births were to women who were diagnosed with gestational diabetes during their pregnancy (Figure 18). This proportion was similar to NHW women, where 5.4% of women giving birth were diagnosed with gestational diabetes.

**Figure 18. Gestational Diabetes, Kansas City Service Area, 2008-2012**



Source: National Vital Statistics, Birth Certificates, 2008-2012

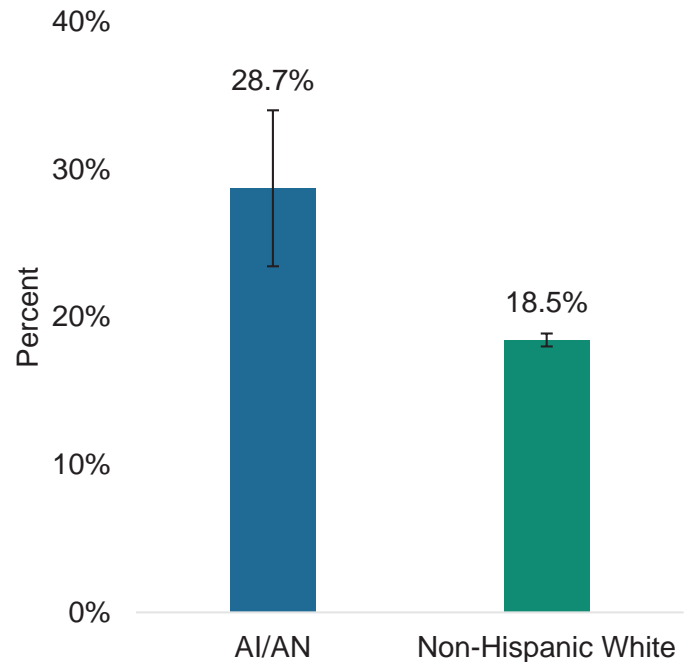


## Maternal Smoking

Smoking before and during pregnancy is the single most preventable cause of illness and death among mothers and infants.<sup>32</sup> Maternal smoking can result in complications during delivery for both mother and newborn and may result in adverse outcomes for the infant. Complications include low birth weight, preterm birth, ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage, stillbirths, slow fetal growth, placenta previa and abruption, severe vaginal bleeding, intrauterine growth restriction, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), and birth defects.

In the Kansas City service area, 28.7% of AI/AN women smoked while pregnant compared to 18.5% of NHW women, a significant difference (Figure 19). The proportion of smoking while pregnant was 1.6 times higher in AI/AN women compared to NHW women.

**Figure 19. Maternal Smoking, Kansas City Service Area, 2008-2012**



Source: National Vital Statistics, Birth Certificates, 2008-2012



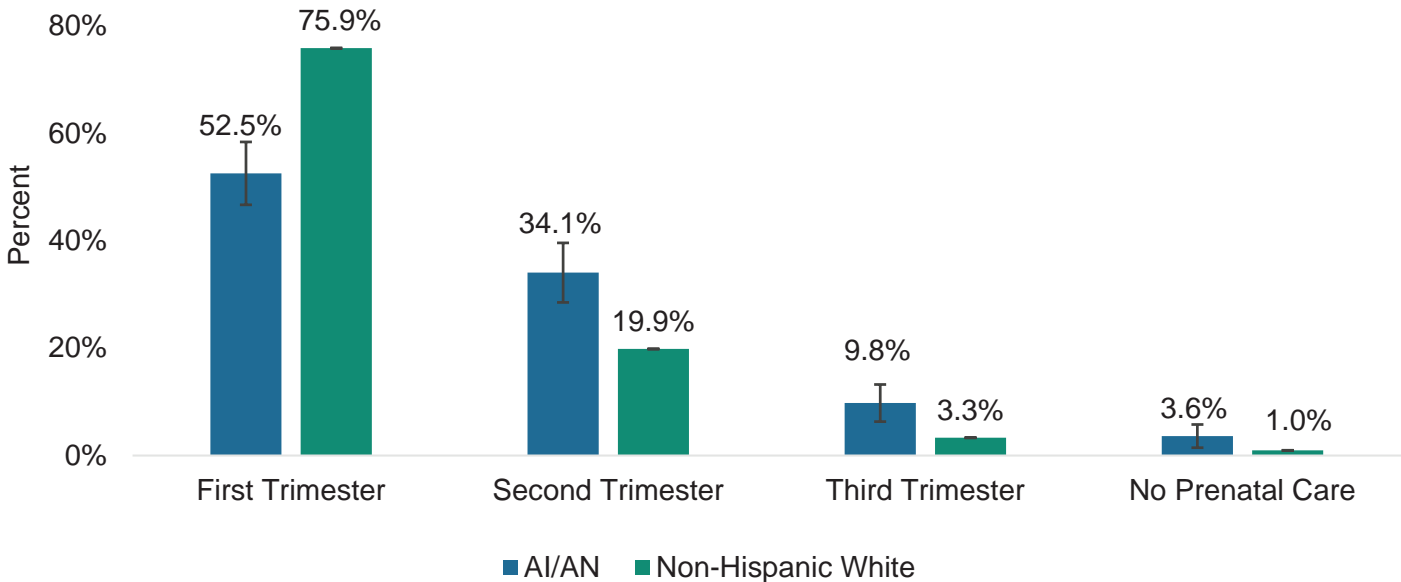
# KANSAS CITY SERVICE AREA

## Prenatal Care

Prenatal care refers to the medical attention received by women before or during their pregnancy. The goal of prenatal care is to detect potential problems early in the pregnancy and to prevent potential complications. Early prenatal care is a significant component in ensuring a good pregnancy outcome and it is recommended for women to begin prenatal care during the first trimester.<sup>33</sup> Women who receive late or no prenatal care are at risk for having undetected complications during their pregnancy that can result in severe maternal morbidity and mortality, and serious consequences to the unborn infant including low birth weight, premature birth, morbidity, and mortality.

Among pregnant women in the Kansas City service area, 52.5% of AI/AN women began prenatal care in the first trimester compared to 75.9% of NHW women, a significant difference (Figure 20). The proportion of women beginning prenatal care in their first trimester was 30.8% lower in AI/AN women compared to NHW women. In addition, 13.4% of AI/AN pregnant women began prenatal care in the third trimester or did not receive any prenatal care during their pregnancy compared to 4.3% of NHW pregnant women. The proportion of women beginning prenatal care in their third trimester or receiving no prenatal care was 3.1 times higher in AI/AN women compared to NHW women.

**Figure 20. Prenatal Care Initiation by Trimester, Kansas City Service Area, 2008-2012**



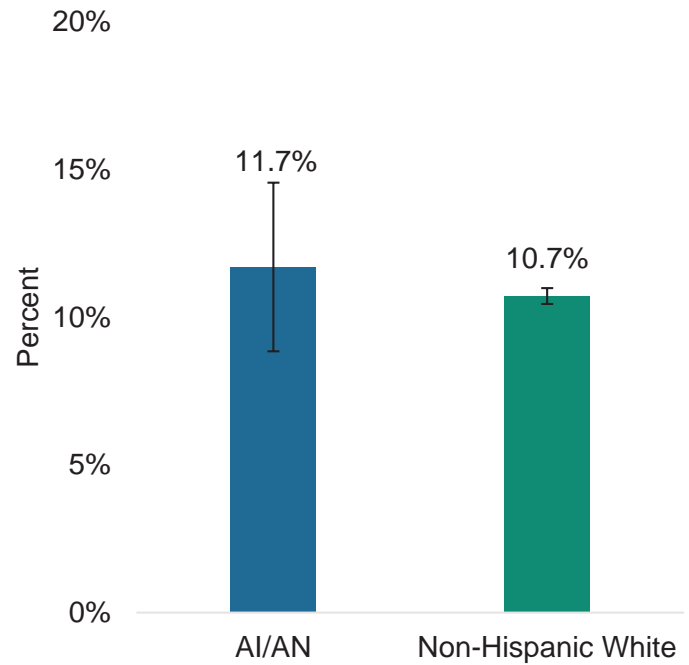
Source: National Vital Statistics, Birth Certificates, 2008-2012

## Premature Births

A premature birth is defined as, “childbirth occurring between 20 and 37 completed weeks of pregnancy.”<sup>34</sup> Infants born prematurely have an increased risk of health complications, including infant mortality, and are at a greater risk of developing long-term disabilities.<sup>35</sup> The risk of adverse outcomes is directly related to the length of a woman’s pregnancy. The shorter the pregnancy, the greater the risk of complications and disabilities in the newborn.

In the Kansas City service area, 11.7% of all infants born to AI/AN women were born prematurely, which was similar to their NHW counterparts at 10.7% (Figure 21).

**Figure 21. Premature Birth Rate, Kansas City Service Area, 2008-2012**



Source: National Vital Statistics, Birth Certificates, 2008-2012



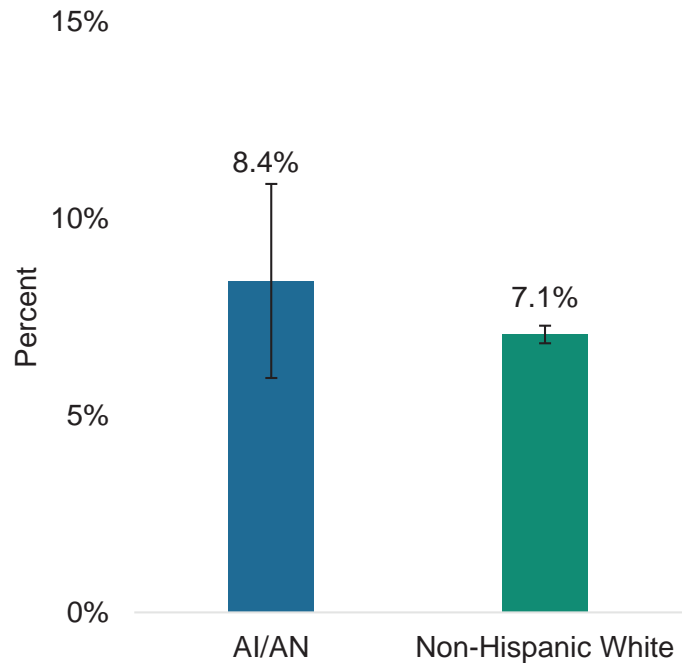
# KANSAS CITY SERVICE AREA

## Low Birth Weight

Low birth weight is defined as less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds).<sup>36</sup> Low birth weight infants have higher rates of subnormal growth, and adverse health conditions.<sup>37</sup>

In the Kansas City service area, 8.4% of all infants born to AI/AN women had low birth weight, which was not significantly different from their NHW peers at 7.1% (Figure 22).

**Figure 22. Low Birth Weight (<2,500 g), Kansas City Service Area, 2008-2012**



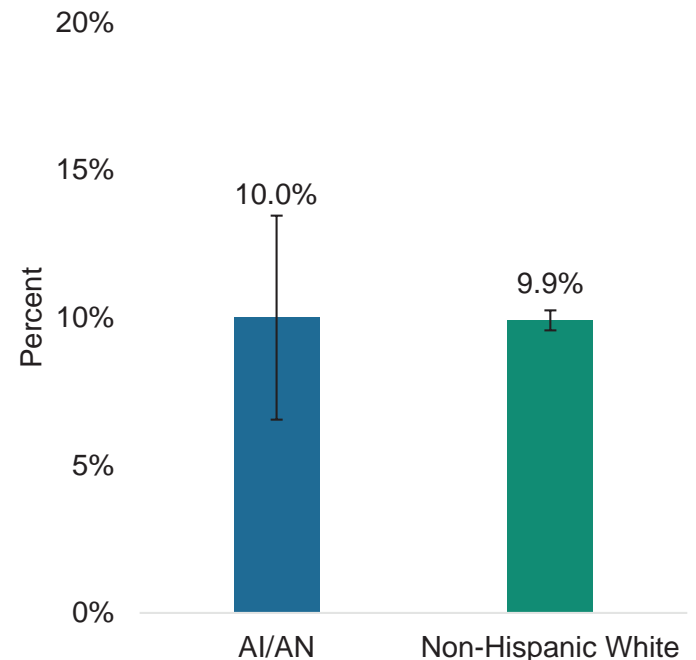
Source: National Vital Statistics, Birth Certificates, 2008-2012

## Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Admission

Most babies admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) are premature, have low birth weight, or have a medical condition that requires special care. Babies with medical conditions such as heart problems, infections, or birth defects are also cared for in the NICU.<sup>38, 39</sup>

There was no significant difference between AI/AN and NHW infants who were admitted to the NICU in the Kansas City service area (Figure 23). An estimated 10.0% of AI/AN newborns were admitted to the NICU compared to 9.9% of NHW newborns.

**Figure 23. Newborns Admitted to the NICU, Kansas City Service Area, 2008-2012**



Source: National Vital Statistics, Birth Certificates, 2008-2012





## REFERENCES

1. Tina Norris PLV, Elizabeth M. Hoeffel. The American Indian and Alaska Native Population: 2010: United States Census Bureau; 2012.
2. Fisher PA, Ball TJ. The Indian Family Wellness Project: An Application of the Tribal Participatory Research Model. *Prevention Science*. September 01 2002;3(3):235-240.
3. Brave Heart MYH. The return to the sacred path: Healing the historical trauma and historical unresolved grief response among the Lakota through a psychoeducational group intervention. *Smith College Studies in Social Work*. 1998/06/01 1998;68(3):287-305.
4. Megan J. Hoopes MT, Thomas M. Weiser, Rachel Brucker, Thomas M. Becker. Including Self-reported Race to Improve Cancer Surveillance Data for American Indians and Alaska Natives in Washington State. *Journal of Registry Management*. 2010;37:43-56.
5. Jim MA, Arias E, Seneca DS, et al. Racial Misclassification of American Indians and Alaska Natives by Indian Health Service Contract Health Service Delivery Area. *American Journal of Public Health*. 06/02/08/accepted 2014;104(Suppl 3):S295-S302.
6. Arias E, Schauman WS, Eschbach K, Sorlie PD, Backlund E. The validity of race and Hispanic origin reporting on death certificates in the United States. *Vital and health statistics. Series 2, Data evaluation and methods research*. 2008/10// 2008(148):1-23.
7. Rachel L.J. Thornton CMG, Crystal W. Cene, Deborah C. Glik, Jeffrey A. Henderson, David R. Williams. Evaluating Strategies For Reducing Health Disparities By Addressing The Social Determinants Of Health. *Health Affairs*. 2016;35(8):1416-1423.
8. Marmot M. Social determinants of health inequalities. *The Lancet*. 2005/03/19/ 2005;365(9464):1099-1104.
9. Norström F, Virtanen P, Hammarström A, Gustafsson PE, Janlert U. How does unemployment affect self-assessed health? A systematic review focusing on subgroup effects. *BMC Public Health*. December 22 2014;14(1):1310.
10. Cawley J, Moriya AS, Simon K. The impact of the macroeconomy on health insurance coverage: Evidence from the great recession. *Health economics*. 2015;24(2):206-223.
11. Fuller-Rowell TE, Evans GW, Ong AD. Poverty and Health: The Mediating Role of Perceived Discrimination. *Psychological Science*. 2012;23(7):734-739.
12. Woolf SH, Aron L, Dubay L, Simon SM, Zimmerman E, Lux KX. How Are Income and Wealth Linked to Health and Longevity? April 2015 2015.
13. Lacour M, Tislington LD. The effects of poverty on academic achievement. *Educational Research and Reviews*. 2011;6(7):522-527.
14. Shonkoff JP, Boyce WT, McEwen BS. Neuroscience, molecular biology, and the childhood roots of health disparities: building a new framework for health promotion and disease prevention. *Jama*. 2009;301(21):2252-2259.
15. U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty Glossary. 2016.
16. Kimbro RT, Bzostek S, Goldman N, Rodríguez G. Race, ethnicity, and the education gradient in health. *Health Affairs*. 2008;27(2):361-372.
17. Conti G, Heckman J, Urzua S. The education-health gradient. *American Economic Review*. 2010;100(2):234-238.
18. Sommers BD, Gawande AA, Baicker K. Health Insurance Coverage and Health — What the Recent Evidence Tells Us. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2017;377(6):586-593.
19. Hadley J. Insurance coverage, medical care use, and short-term health changes following an unintentional injury or the onset of a chronic condition. *JAMA*. 2007;297(10):1073-1084.
20. Rossi PH, Weber E. The social benefits of homeownership: Empirical evidence from national surveys. *Housing Policy Debate*. 1996/01/01 1996;7(1):1-35.
21. Lam JA. Type of Structure, Satisfaction and Propensity To Move. *Housing and Society*. 1985/01/01 1985;12(1):32-44.
22. Baker E, Bentley R, Mason K. The Mental Health Effects of Housing Tenure: Causal or Compositional? *Urban Studies*. 2013;50(2):426-442.
23. Bell J, Mora G, Hagan E, Rubin V, Karpyn A. Access to healthy food and why it matters: A review of the research. *PolicyLink and the Food Trust*. 2013.
24. Kreider B, Pepper JV, Gundersen C, Jolliffe D. Identifying the effects of SNAP (food stamps) on child health outcomes when

- participation is endogenous and misreported. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*. 2012;107(499):958-975.
25. Gülmezoglu AM, Lawrie TA, Hezelgrave N, et al. *Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health: Disease Control Priorities, Third Edition 2016* 2016;Volume 2.
  26. Hannah ME. Planned elective cesarean section: A reasonable choice for some women? *CMAJ : Canadian Medical Association Journal*. 2004;170(5):813-814.
  27. George A, Macones MD M, Jeffrey Peipert MD M, PhD DBN, et al. Maternal complications with vaginal birth after cesarean delivery: A multicenter study. 2005 2005;Volume 193(Issue 5):1656-1662.
  28. (NIH) NIOHaCE. Cesarean Section (NICE Clinical Guideline 132. 2011. Available at: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg132>.
  29. Martel M, Wacholder S, Lippman A, Brohan J, Hamilton E. Maternal age and primary cesarean section rates: A multivariate analysis. *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*. 1987;156(2):305-308.
  30. Donald K Hayes M, MPH, David W Feigal M, MPH, Ruben A Smith P, MS, , Loretta J Fuddy A, MPH. Maternal Asthma, Diabetes, and High Blood Pressure are Associated with Low Birth Weight and Increased Hospital Birth and Delivery Charges; Hawai'i Hospital Discharge Data 2003–2008. *Hawai'i Journal of Medicine and Public Health*. 2014 2014;73(2):49-57.
  31. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Gestational Diabetes and Pregnancy. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/pregnancy/diabetes-gestational.html>. Accessed 07/02/2018.
  32. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. A Report of the Surgeon General: How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: What It Means to You. 2010.
  33. National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. What is prenatal care and why is it important? Available at: <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/pregnancy/conditioninfo/prenatal-care>. Accessed 6/27/2018, 2018.
  34. (ACOG) TACoOaG. Preterm (Premature) Labor and Birth: Resource Overview American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Available at: <https://www.acog.org/Womens-Health/Preterm-Premature-Labor-and-Birth>, 2018.
  35. Institute of Medicine (US) Committee on Understanding Premature Birth and Assuring Healthy Outcomes; Behrman RE BA, editors. *Preterm Birth: Causes, Consequences, and Prevention*. National Academies Press; 2007.
  36. World Health Organization. *Global Nutrition Targets 2025: Low birth weight policy brief 2014*.
  37. Goldenberg RL, Culhane JF. Low birth weight in the United States. *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. 2007;85(2):584S-590S.
  38. Health SCs. The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Author. 2018. Available at: <http://www.stanfordchildrens.org/en/topic/default?id=the-neonatal-intensive-care-unit-nicu-90-P02389>, 2018.
  39. Stanford Children's Health. The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Available at: <http://www.stanfordchildrens.org/en/topic/default?id=the-neonatal-intensive-care-unit-nicu-90-P02389>. Accessed 6/27/2018.



**Urban Indian  
Health Institute**  
A Division of the Seattle Indian Health Board

611 12th Ave South, Seattle, WA 98144  
Phone: (206) 812-3030 Fax: (206) 812-3044  
Email: [info@uihi.org](mailto:info@uihi.org) Website: [www.UIHI.org](http://www.UIHI.org)