Combating Health Disparities

Depending on the region, Native Nations across the United States experience health disparities in several areas including access to care, health insurance, cancer, obesity, diabetes, liver and kidney disease and smoking. For example:

- **In 2014, 23.4% of American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) lacked health insurance coverage and relied solely on the Indian Health Service.**

  Historically, IHS has been severely underfunded by the federal government.*

- **Cancer is among the top leading causes of death for Native Americans in Western New York.**

- **Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death for American Indian women.**

- **Chronic liver and kidney disease rates are higher in Haudenosaunee than the white population in the Haudenosaunee Nations.**

- **Lung cancer and colorectal cancer are the top causes of cancer death for the Haudenosaunee.**

* Census | ♦ American Indian Cancer Foundation | ♠ Roswell Park Center for Indigenous Cancer Research

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**Our Mission**
The Center for Indigenous Cancer Research aims to honor the values of Indigenous Knowledge, sovereignty, and respect for the environment through community-driven partnerships, collaborative research and education to reduce the impact of cancer on Indigenous communities regionally, nationally and internationally.

**About Us**
Launched in January 2020, the creation of the CICR honors, builds and supports meaningful relationships between sovereign nations, National Cancer Institute-designated Cancer Centers and the federal government.

**What We Do**
Work across borders and waters to strengthen partnerships with sovereign nations and urban and rural Indigenous communities to further research in these areas:

- Cancer prevention, behavioral intervention and the environment
- Clinical trials, colorectal cancer screening and the cancer care continuum
- Summer research experience opportunities to engage students in Indigenous cancer research

**Building on Our Strengths**
Native Nations face many obstacles accessing healthcare and achieving and maintaining health and wellness. CIRC seeks to address these challenges by:

- Respecting tribal sovereignty
- Promoting resiliency
- Revitalizing Indigenous Knowledge
- Creating infrastructure to enroll more Indigenous students in programs leading to careers in science, technology, engineering, art, or math (STEAM)
- Participating in cultural and community gatherings
- Connecting to intergenerational relationships
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