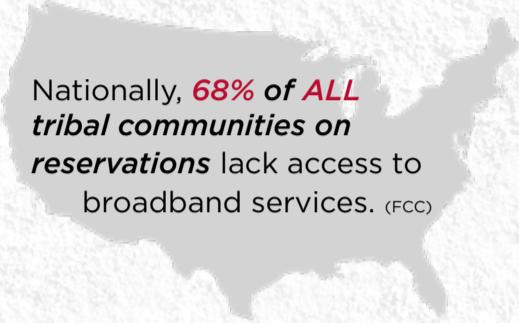


The Impact on Native American Women & Girls

What is the gender digital divide? Women and girls across the globe experience significant disparities in the access and adoption of digital technologies. For many Native American women and girls, the digital divide exacerbates pre-existing educational, economic, and health disparities. (Foxworth et al. 2022). Additionally, those Native American women and girls living in rural areas and on tribal lands are less likely to have access to high-speed internet, including access to necessary equipment needed for telehealth services, further widening the digital divide (Pruitt et al., 2022).

Native Americans have the LOWEST Access to High-Speed Internet



Nationally, **68% of ALL tribal communities on reservations** lack access to broadband services. (FCC)



In New Mexico alone, one estimate reports **80%** of individuals residing on **tribal lands** in New Mexico **do not** have internet services.

Educational Opportunities Decrease



Lack of access to high speed internet for virtual learning **WILL INCREASE existing inequalities in education outcomes** for Native American students.

Women in STEM

Women remain underrepresented across the majority of STEM fields. Native American Women are **even less likely than Black and Hispanics**, the next underrepresented groups, **to earn degrees in STEM than other degree fields.** (Pew Research)

Economic Inequalities Increase



Economists have found that since 1980, **technology has played an increasing role in income inequality.** (DePillis and Lohr, NY Times) **For Native women, the digital divide will only amplify those economic and economic inequalities.**

Native American women experience **higher rates of poverty than all other racial and ethnic groups.**

In 2019, Native American women **earned \$0.60 for EVERY dollar paid to white men.** (Connley, 2020)

Native American women with a **FULL-TIME JOB** reported an average income of **\$36,577, over \$14,700 and \$18,600 LESS** than white women and men, respectively. (US Census Bureau, 2020)

Health Disparities are Exacerbated



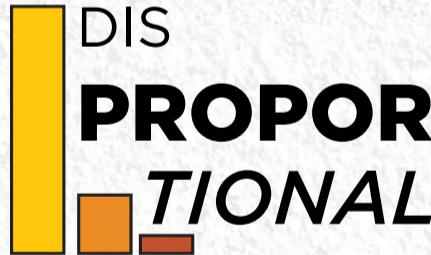
The American Hospital Association reports that 76% of U.S. hospitals connect with patients through telehealth services. **Yet, HALF of Indian Health Service (IHS) Clinics lack adequate service connections.**

According to the FCC, **50% OF IHS CLINICS rely on outdated service connections.**



Native American women experience **hypertensive disorders or the causes of maternal morbidity and mortality (gestational hypertension, preeclampsia, chronic hypertension)** at higher rates than the general U.S. Population. (Somer, et. al., 2017)

DIS
PROPORTIONAL



The **maternal death rate** for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women is **CONSISTENTLY HIGHER** than the U.S. national average and **DISPROPORTIONATELY HIGHER** when compared to other racial/ethnic groups (CDC 2022).

Native American women have the **second highest pregnancy-related mortality rate of 29.7 per 100,000 live births.** The national average is 16.7.

Native Americans experience the lowest life expectancy than all other racial and ethnic groups in the United States (CDC 2022). In 2019, the average US life expectancy was 78.8 years, while **the life expectancy for Native Americans was 71.8.**

It dropped even further to 67 years post-pandemic (Huber 2022).

American Indian/Alaska Native **life expectancy at birth is 5.5 years LESS** than the general population (IHS 2019).

