

# Rural Tribal Health

There are currently **574** federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribes that are sovereign entities in the U.S., with **40%** of these populations residing in rural areas.



## NRHA Policy Priorities

AI/ANs that are born today have a life expectancy that is

**5.5** years less



than the U.S. all races population.

This is influenced by:

- discrimination in the delivery of health services
- inadequate education
- disproportionate poverty
- cultural differences

**1. Defense of Medicaid and Medicare**

**2. Mandatory funding for CSC/105(l) Leases**

Rural AI/AN populations have an **increased risk** of chronic health conditions with the percentage of AI/AN adults in poorer health being 15.6% in rural vs. 11.1% in metropolitan areas.

The percentage of AI/AN adults with diagnosed diabetes is highest in rural areas (**18.9%**).



**3. Special Diabetes Program for Indians reauthorization**

The highest incidence of **severe maternal morbidity and mortality** is among indigenous women residing in **rural** counties.



AI/AN women in rural areas experience **severe maternal morbidity and mortality**

**4. Increased access to maternal health**