



Eliminating Health Disparities: Tribal, Federal, State/Local Health Department, Community, and Private Sector Initiatives

Susan Karol, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer, Indian Health Service

Minority Officers Liaison Council
Health Disparities Symposium
December 10, 2010



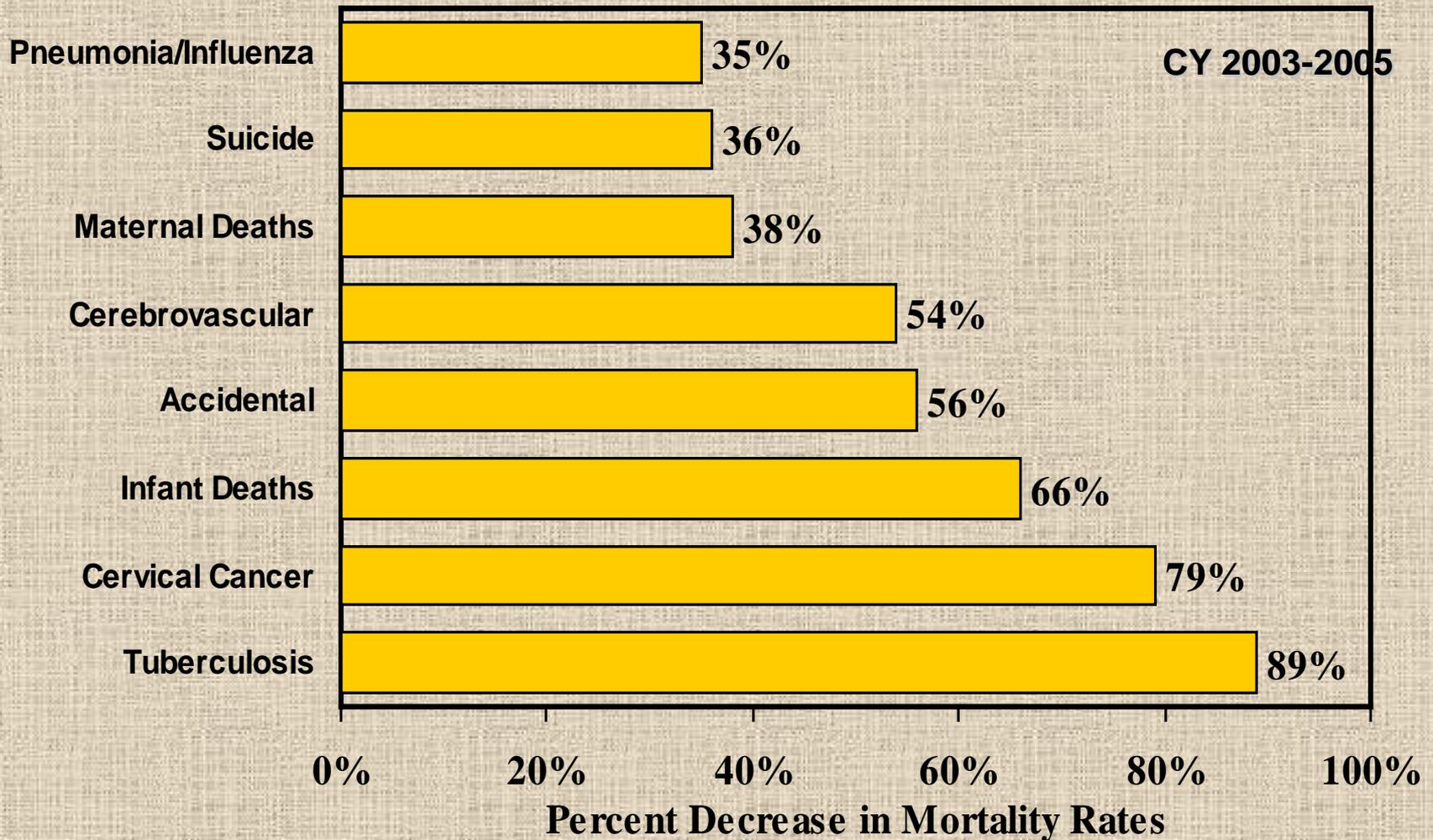
Basis For Federal Health Benefits to Indians



- Treaties exchanged aboriginal lands for federal trust responsibilities and benefits
- Snyder Act authorized health services for Indians (1921)
- Transfer Act placed Indian health programs in the PHS (1955)
- Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (1975)
- Indian Health Care Improvement Act and amendments (1976)



Percent of Decrease in Mortality Rates Since 1973



Source: IHS/OPHS/DPS, June 2005



Mortality Rate Disparities

2003-2005

(rates per 100,000 population)



	AI/AN Rate 2003- 2005	US All Races Rate 2005	Ratio: AI/AN to US All Races
ALL CAUSES	1015.6	800.8	1.3
Alcohol Induced	43.3	7.0	6.2
Diabetes	72.2	24.5	2.9
Injuries	141.9	52.9	2.7
Suicide	18.8	10.9	1.7
Pneumonia/Influenza	33.0	19.8	1.7

* Per 100,000 population



Continuing Disparities



- The Indian health system faces challenges of:
 - Population growth – increased demand for services
 - Rising costs/medical inflation
 - Difficulties in recruiting and retaining medical providers
 - Challenges of providing rural health care
 - Increased rates of chronic diseases
 - Old facilities, equipment
 - Lack of sufficient resources to meet demand for services
 - Balancing the needs of patients served in IHS, tribal, and urban Indian health programs



IHS Efforts to Reduce Disparities



- New approach to health care: Improving Patient Care (IPC) program
- Collaboration and communication
- Increased funding and Congressional support



Improving Patient Care (IPC) Program



- The IPC approach is to create a health care team for each patient. This improves the quality of and access to care, ensures preventive care needs are met, and improve the patient's experience of care.
- Planning to expand to 100 more sites in the next three years.



38 IPC Sites IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian Health Programs



Federal (22)

- Albuquerque Service Unit
- Warm Springs Service Unit
- Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Center
- Wind River Service Unit
- Gallup Indian Medical Center
- Sells Service Unit
- Whiteriver Service Unit
- Rapid City Service Unit
- Clinton Indian Health Center
- Colville Indian Health Center
- Fort Defiance Service Unit
- Fort Peck Service Unit
- Fort Yuma Health Center
- Kayenta Health Center
- Northern Cheyenne Service Unit
- Phoenix Indian Medical Center
- Red Lake Hospital
- Ute Mountain Ute Health Center
- Wagner IHS Healthcare Facility
- Wewoka Service Unit
- White Earth Health Center
- Yakama Indian Health Service

Tribal (13)

- Swinomish Health Clinic
- Cherokee Indian Hospital (Eastern)
- Indian Health Council, Inc.
- Cherokee Nation Health Services
- The Choctaw Health Center
- Eastern Aleutian Tribe
- Forest County Potawatomi Health & Wellness Center
- Chickasaw Nation Health System
- Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center
- Chugachmiut
- Fort Mojave Indian Health Center
- Oneida Indian Health Service
- South East Alaska Regional Health Center

Urban Indian health program (3)

- Oklahoma City Indian Clinic
- The Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center
- South Dakota Indian Health Center



IPC “Medical Home” Approach



- **Patent and family centered care** - Health programs put the patient and family at the center of care.
- **A “care team” approach** - Highly functioning teams coordinate to meet the needs of the patient.
- **Access and continuity of care** - Patients develop relationships with their providers.
- **Community focus** - The culture and values of the communities served are integrated into the delivery of care.
- **Quality and transparency** - Care teams use measurement and data to understand how they are meeting the needs of the patients and to see the results of changes.



IPC Goals



-
- **Health Care Organization:** Promote safe, high-quality care among all ITU health programs.
 - **Community Resources and Policies:** Mobilize community resources.
 - **Self-Management Support:** Empower and prepare patients to manage their health and health care.
 - **Delivery System Design:** Assure the delivery of effective, efficient care for all care teams.
 - **Decision Support:** Promote clinical care that is consistent with scientific evidence and patient preferences.
 - **Clinical Information Systems:** Organize patient and population data to facilitate efficient and effective care.



Federal Collaboration

- IHS reaching out to communities throughout Indian Country:
 - Ten suicide listening sessions held throughout Indian Country in partnership with the Department of the Interior's Indian Affairs and HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
 - Recent Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Veterans Affairs will allow IHS and VA to collaborate and share resources.



Outreach and Communication



- Dr. Roubideaux is reaching out to Indian Country through her Director's Blog, Tribal Leader Letters, public service announcements, and visits to the IHS areas.
- Promoting healthy living messages such as encouraging patients to receive yearly influenza vaccinations and get tested for HIV/AIDS.
- Partnering with communities through the 399 programs offered through the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.



Partnerships with Tribes



- Listening sessions and meetings with Tribes
- Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee
- National Tribal Advisory Committee on Behavioral Health



Reducing Disparities through Financial Assistance



- Support through Emergency Services
 - IHS provides financial aid and other types of assistance to help restore communities after severe weather emergencies
- Recent ARRA funding is helping boost IHS infrastructure through improved sanitation, facilities construction, new medical equipment, and health information technology.



Summary

- The IHS provides health care to American Indian and Alaska Native people under challenging circumstances.
- We are working to change and improve the IHS through our reform efforts.
- The Affordable Care Act (and reauthorization of the IHCA) will help Tribes and the IHS provide better care to American Indian and Alaska Native people.