

ISDOH Training: Systemic Determinants of Health

Module V



SEVEN DIRECTIONS
A CENTER FOR INDIGENOUS PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



National Network
of Public Health Institutes™



Purpose and Learning Objectives

This module provides definitions of the systemic determinants of health within and across tribal and urban Indian communities.

At this end of this module, attendees will be able to:

- Recognize the impact of systemic determinants on American Indian and Alaska Native communities.
- Apply the concept of systemic determinants to public health topics within American Indian and Alaska Native communities using case study examples.
- Define the role tribal sovereignty, tribal public health governance, and Federal policy have on health for American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Systematic Determinants of Health

Systemic determinants of health refer to the discrimination that occurs within and across macro-level systems that affect health – for individuals, families, and communities.

One example is structural racism – the effect of not having equitable access to goods or services or being denied human rights based on race.

These experiences impact health through increasing stressors at many levels (Dennis et al., 2021; Veterans Affairs, 2023).



Banking System



Housing System



Prison System



Educational System



Child Welfare System



Medical Systems



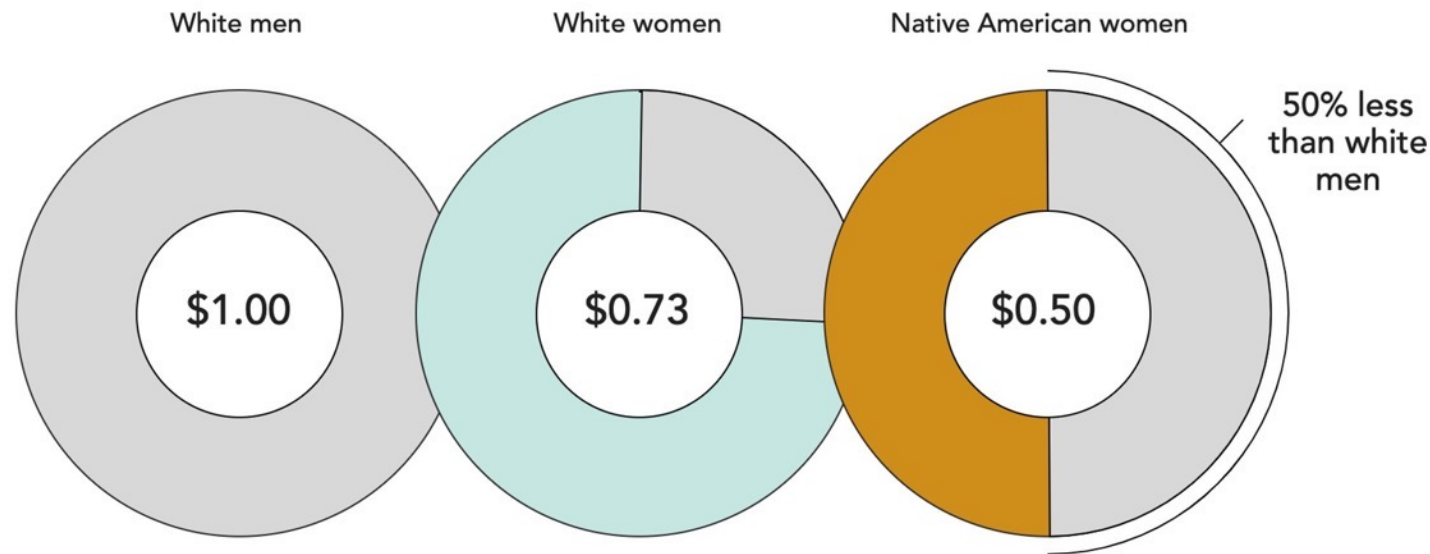
Employment



Safe Environments

Systemic DOH Affecting AIAN Communities

The pay gap by gender and race



We see evidence of these systemic determinants of health across multiple systems.

The inequity in pay persists, even within occupations.

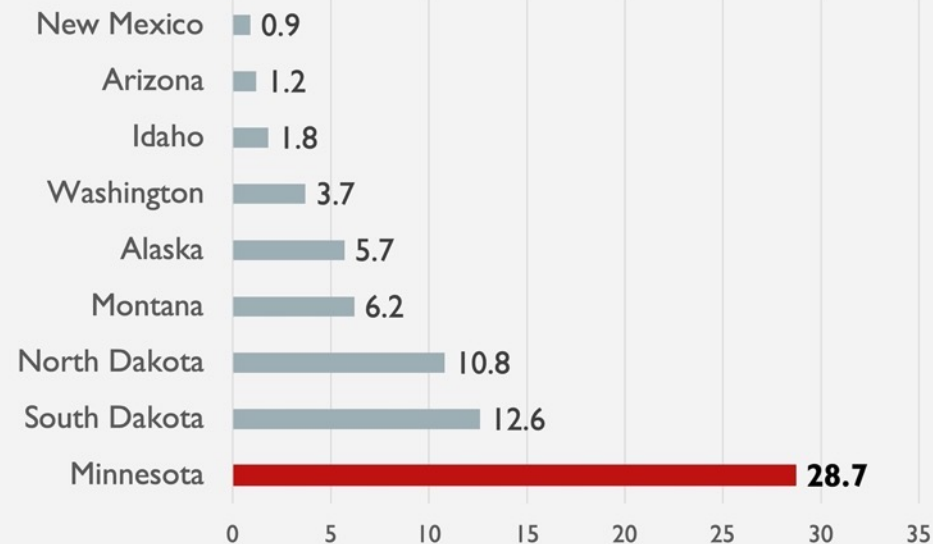
This suggests the effect of persistent, systemic inequity based on race.

Native American women face a pay gap—and that's part of a much bigger problem. (n.d.) Lean In. Retrieved August 10, 2022, from <https://leanin.org/data-about-the-gender-pay-gap-for-native-american-women#!>

Systemic DOH Affecting AIAN Communities

AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED IN STATE FOSTER CARE SYSTEMS

American Indian children in Minnesota were 28.7 times more likely to be in the state foster care system than White children.



Children's Bureau. (n.d.) *Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data: Data by State*. Retrieved August 11, 2022, from <https://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/cwodatasite/byState>.

American Indian and Alaska Native children are significantly more likely to be removed from their families as compared to white children.

This suggests child removal based on race across multiple systems.

A Systems Approach to Systemic Determinants

Tribal sovereignty offers tools like public health governance to address the systemic inequities experienced by American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Tribal housing, employment opportunities, schools, and many other programs provide tribal members with needed support to fully access basic human rights and services.



Critical Thinking Activity: Wayfinding

This activity provides an adapted wayfinding approach to developing a useable guide for community members to improve access to tribal and urban Indian health systems and other key community services.



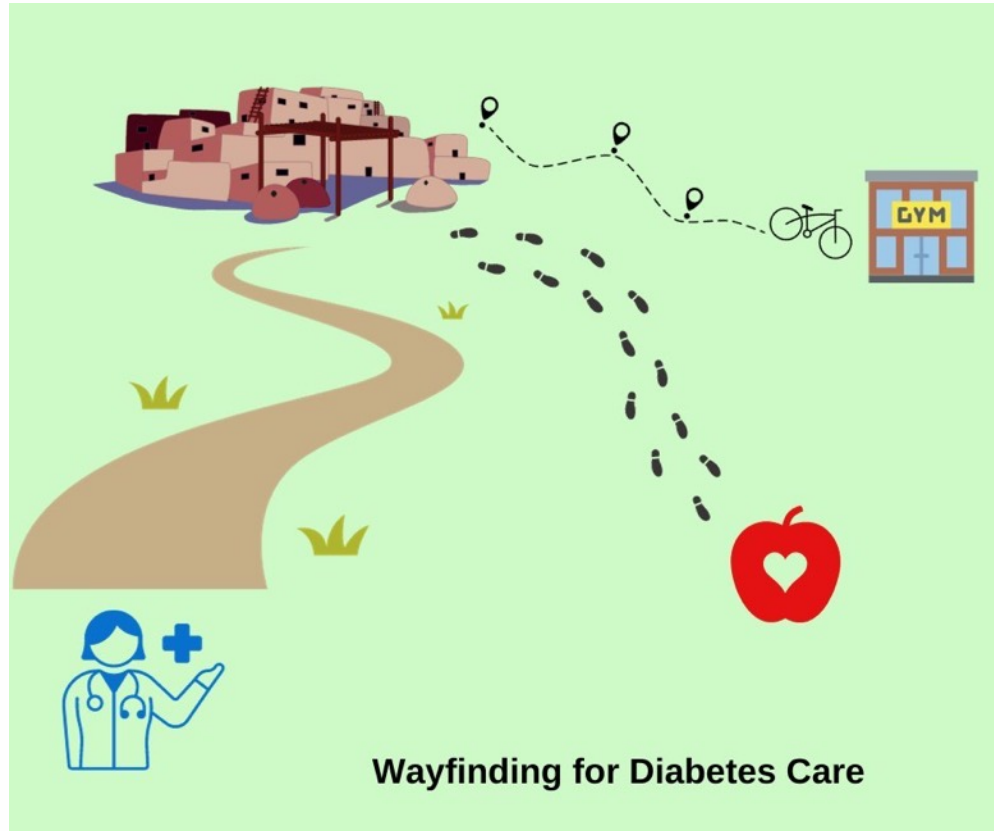
Refer to "Module IV, Part 1" worksheet for activity details

Imagine you are newly diagnosed with diabetes (or chose another health issue if preferred). What are some of the challenges to accessing needed services you might face?

Discussion Questions – chat with your team about how you would address these questions:

- How would tribal or urban Indian community members find their way to access a particular service?
- What are some of the system-level challenges in accessing these services?
- How can public health and other agencies help community members access these services?

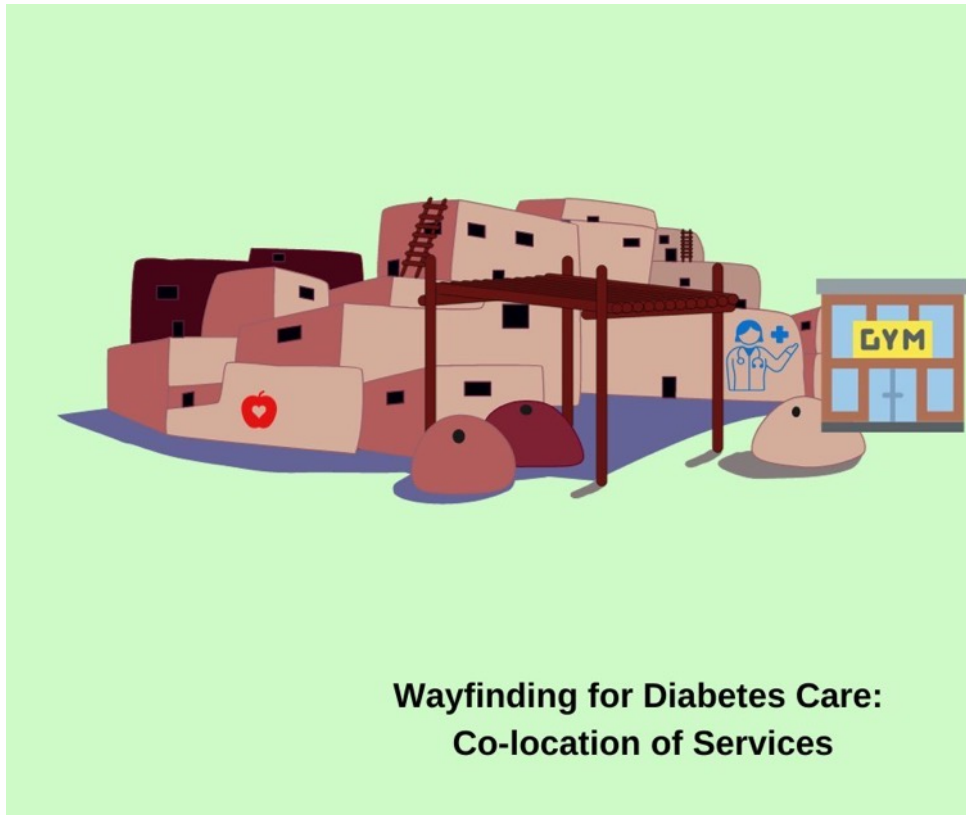
Critical Thinking Activity: Wayfinding (continued)



Why do we use Wayfinding?

- A wayfinding approach includes developing a guide for “spatial navigation” to help community members identify where they need to go to achieve their goals (Butler et al., 2023; O’Connor, 2019).
- It could be as simple as providing a map of the dialysis clinic (a community-level ISDOH) to improve access to diabetes care (an individual-level SDOH). It could also be complex, with multiple routes to address issues like support of community members after receiving a diabetes diagnosis.

Critical Thinking Activity: Wayfinding (continued)



By mapping these services and relating them to a holistic approach to health through the identification of ISDOH and how these factors function across a given tribal system, we can see a strategy for leveraging knowledge of ISDOH to improve Indigenous Structural Determinants.

How do we ensure meaningful access to needed services? What policies or practices can be put in place to address the systemic determinants of health that may be at play?

In this example, co-location of services can reduce patient burden and improve access to services.

Post-Module Reflection

- What were your thoughts about the discussion on Systemic Determinants of Health and doing the Wayfinding exercise?
- How has your perspective shifted **AFTER** this module, if at all?
- How will you apply this information to your current work?
- Can you identify some things you will do differently after participating in this module?

Summary

This module includes the background and definitions of systemic determinants of health within AIAN communities.

Attendees had an opportunity to apply a Wayfinding map approach to understand access to care for their community.

Module VI will review the previous five modules with the aim of identifying SDOH and ISDOH priorities that can be addressed and reviewed annually to improve health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities.



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