

BACKGROUND

Multnomah County is home to over 400 represented Native tribes and more than 28 Native-serving organizations. Roughly 49,000 American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people live in the urban region, representing the fastest growing population in the county. One in three AI/AN people are <18 years. Across multiple health and social indicators, AI/AN people in Multnomah County experience significant health inequities, such as:

- High school graduation are 23% lower than Non-Hispanic Whites (NH-Whites)
- The rate of alcohol-related deaths is 3 times higher than the rate of NH-Whites
- Child Welfare removal rate is 25 times higher than the rate among NH-Whites
- AI/AN women are 3 to 4 times more likely to smoke during pregnancy than non-AI/AN women
- The proportion of AI/AN women who reported drinking alcohol during pregnancy is 2 times that of the lowest rate

TRAUMA-INFORMED PROCESSES AND ACTIONS

A trauma-informed collaborative utilizes a relational world view to guide development of processes and outcomes. The relational world view is a cultural model of wellness and healing. The four directions in the model represent interdependent domains, all of which need to be in balance to find health and healing. There are many ways to describe the domains. In the Future Generations Collaborative (FGC) we understand the domains to represent social, mind, body and spirit.

Social (Values) The social domain addresses the context and environment in which people and systems interact. It also represents how we feel about this context. In the FGC, we bring meaning to this domain via the collective values we hold, which ensure our process is safe and respectful for all.	Body (Community) This domain addresses the structures that affect our roles in our families, communities and organizations. In the FGC, our structures exist to sustain and create harmony between and among people and organizations.
Spiritual (Culture) This domain addresses the positive and negative practices that influence people and organizations. The FGC prioritizes AI/AN culture as a primary prevention strategy. We recognize and build on the resiliency of AI/AN people to improve the health of our communities.	Mind (Relationships) This domain relates to our intellect, emotions, memories and experiences. In the FGC, listening to the experiences and memories associated with trauma helps to restore trust among people and organizations.

CONCLUSION

Collaboration between public health departments and AI/AN communities is complicated by the role of public health in the cultural genocide of Native peoples. Trauma-informed collaboration requires public health organizations to closely examine and acknowledge the present-day effects of historical trauma on community-based approaches to intervention planning. Trauma-informed collaboration is a rich and often challenging process that bridges cultural paradigms and address root causes of mistrust between people and organizations.

Data sources:

Curry-Stevens, A., Cross-Hemmer, A., & Coalition of Communities of Color (2011). *The Native American Community in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile*. Portland, OR. Portland State University
Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System 2009-2010, Oregon Health Authority
United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010
Vital Statistics, Oregon Health Authority, 2010-2011.