



## INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

# REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IN INDIAN HEALTH

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## **PREFACE**

Since 1955, the U.S. Public Health Service through its Indian Health Service (IHS) component, has had the responsibility for providing comprehensive health services to American Indian and Alaska Native people in order to elevate their health status to the highest possible level. The mission of the IHS is to provide a comprehensive health services delivery system for American Indians and Alaska Natives with opportunity for maximum tribal involvement in developing and managing programs to meet their health needs.

This publication presents tables and charts that describe the IHS program, and the health status of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Information pertaining to the IHS structure, and American Indian and Alaska Native demography and patient care are included. Current regional differences are presented, and comparisons to the general population are made, when appropriate.



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