HIV/AIDS AMONG AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES

- From the beginning of the epidemic through 2005, AIDS was diagnosed for an estimated 3,238 American Indians and Alaska Natives (1).
- In 2005, AI/ANs had the 3rd highest HIV/AIDS diagnoses at 10.4 per 100,000 persons, compared with 71.3 for Blacks, 27.8 for Hispanics, 8.8 for Whites and 7.4 for Asians and Pacific Islanders (1).
- In 2005, there were an estimated 2,055 AI/ANs living with HIV/AIDS. The number of AI/AN people living with HIV/AIDS may actually be higher because the estimate only includes HIV data from 33 states (1).

HIV/AIDS STATISTICS COMPARED TO OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS

- Of persons who had received a diagnosis of AIDS during 1997 - 2004, AI/ANs had survived for a shorter time than Asian/Pacific Islanders, Whites, and Hispanics. As of 2005, 67% of AI/AN were alive compared with 66% of Blacks, 74% of Hispanics, 75% of Whites, and 81% of Asian/Pacific Islanders (2).
- Life expectancy for AI/ANs is shorter than that of any other race/ethnicity (2).
- Health professionals are now paying closer attention to HIV infection data in an effort to determine a more comprehensive and accurate picture of the epidemic to enhance and improve prevention and care services. Currently, cumulative reported HIV infection (not AIDS) cases for AI/AN males is 799 and for AI/AN females is 332 (1).

HIV/AIDS AMONG NATIVE HAWAIIANS

- Native Hawaiian data is subsumed in the category "Asian/Pacific Islander." The Office of Management and Budget has mandated a distinct category for Pacific Islanders, but the mandate has not been implemented (3).
- Due to national reporting limitations, the data presented for Native Hawaiians is only for the state of Hawaii. Hawaiian/Part-Hawaiian represents 8.6 % of the Hawaii population and account for 11% (302) of the total reported AIDS cases as of June 30, 2005. The proportion of Hawaiian cases has increased from 10.7% before July 1995 to 13.0% during the period from July 2000 – June 2005 (4).

References