

Indian Country and Alzheimer's Disease



**Dave Baldrige, Executive Director
International Association for Indigenous Aging
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Administration for Community Living**

A.D. in America . . .

Someone diagnosed every 16 seconds



. . . That's 16 million people by 2050!

We're afraid of it . . .

96% of Americans have heard of it.

More than 1 in 3 Americans is afraid of getting it.

2 of every 3 cases are women.

Three years ago, 700,000 people 65+ died of A.D.



It's a little expensive . . .



2015 costs: \$226 billion,
half paid by Medicare.

Per person Medicare
spending = 3X other
seniors.

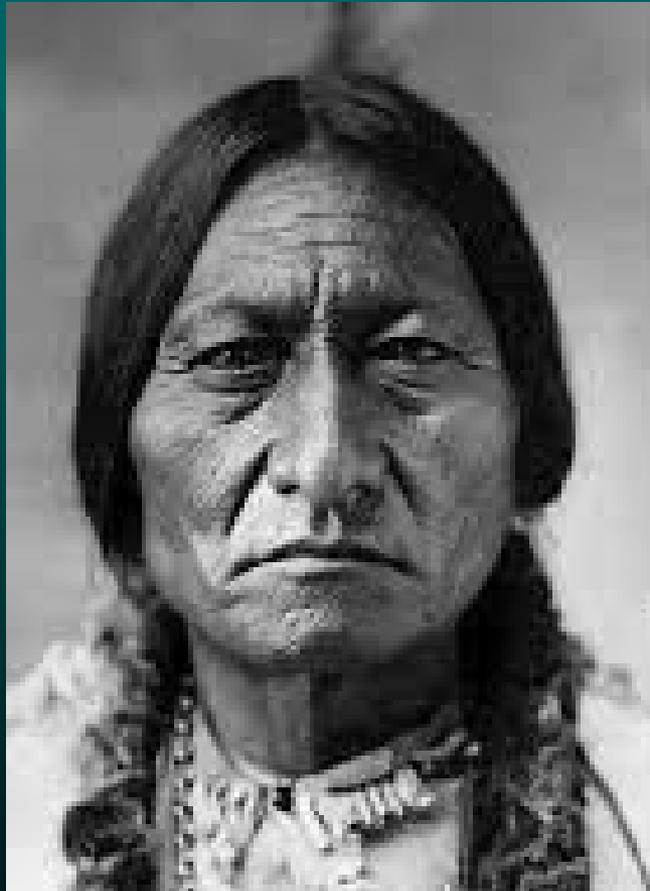
By 2050, 1 of 3 Medicare dollars will go to
dementias.

Unpaid care . . .



More than 15 million Americans provide unpaid care for people with AD or other dementias

Alzheimer's in Indian Country



"Warriors are not what you think of as warriors. The warrior is not someone who fights, because no one has the right to take another life. The warrior, for us, is one who sacrifices himself for the good of others.

His task is to take care of the elderly, the defenseless, those who can not provide for themselves, and above all, the children, the future of humanity."

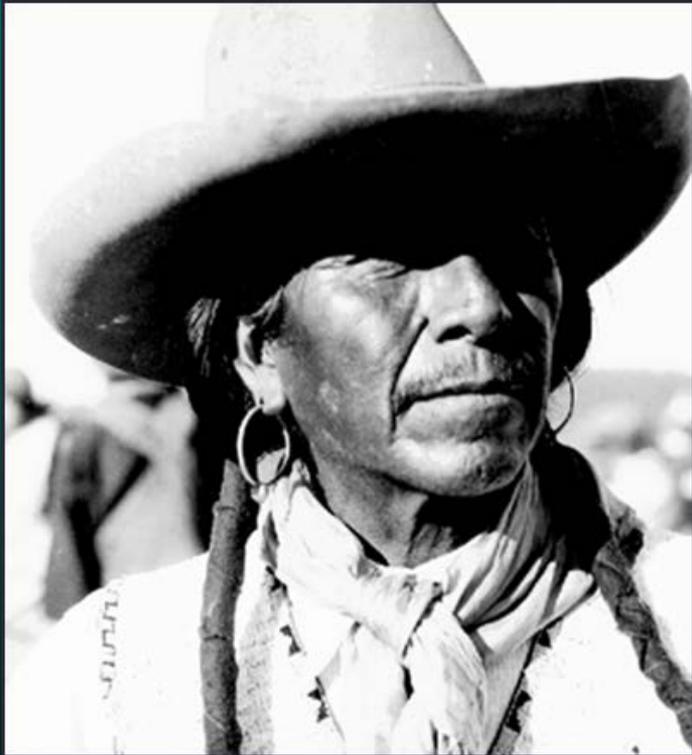
-Sitting Bull

A lotta' Indians . . .



Population growing 3X national rate

. . . Led by elder cohort growth



By 2050, AIANS 65+ will triple.

AIANs 85+ will increase seven-fold, from 42,000 to 300,000!

Title VI will be among the first Tribal programs affected.

A “Native” view of mental health?

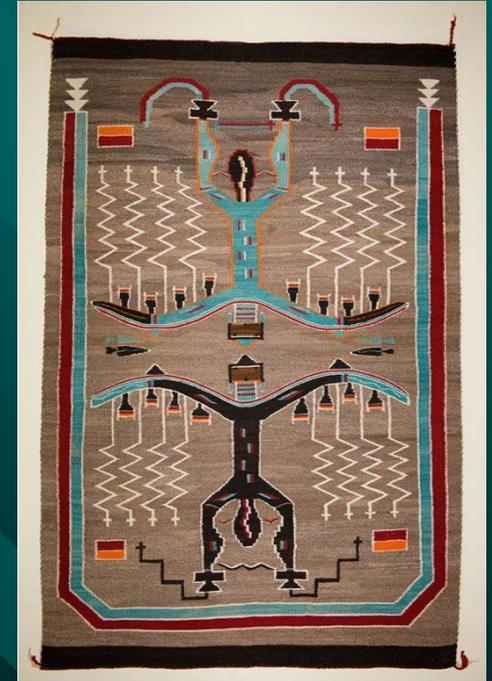


Do we lack a vocabulary to talk about Alzheimer's and related dementias (ADRD)?

If there is, so what!

A question for AIAN caregivers . . .

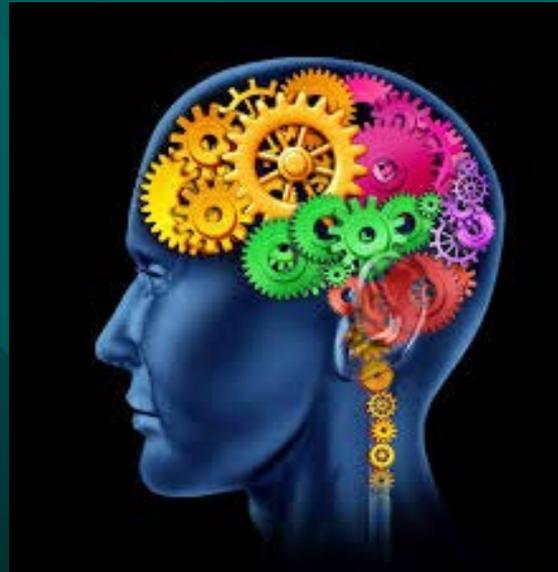
When grandpa' pees on the carpet, is it easier to cope with if its an Indian rug?



Public health and ADRD among AIANs



The Healthy Brain Initiative



Alzheimer's Association
CDC Healthy Aging Initiative

Previous Road Map



The Healthy Brain Initiative

The Public Health Road Map for State
and National Partnerships, 2013–2018

alzheimer's 
association



A Road Map for Indian Country



Indian Country webinars



More than 40 TVI directors

Offered their thoughts
about ADRD in
tribal communities



We're not familiar with the
HBI . . .



*The
Healthy Brain
Initiative*

**Alzheimer's a growing
problem for our families. . .**



We may not acknowledge the disease. . .



Providers need more education . . .



Cultural issues play a role . . .



It's a family matter . . .



Lack of privacy . . .

Embarrassing . . . It's
a closely-held family
concern.



The approach matters . . .



No systematic approach . . .



The Savvy Caregiver for Indian Country



Neil Henderson, Choctaw

Tribal leadership needed . . .





Thanks!

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