



# Enhancing Cancer Prevention Strategies for Native American

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## Abstract

**Introduction:** Native American communities in the United States meet significant vulnerabilities in healthcare access, which are deeply rooted in historical, socio-economic, and systemic factors. These communities often live in remote or rural areas with minimal healthcare facilities. This leads to reduced access to a variety of medical services. Native Americans are more at risk of developing Cancer due to healthcare disparities, and this poses a dire concern. This systematic review aims to illuminate the most effective strategies for combating cancer development among Native Americans. The aim is to identify the successes of earlier interventions, the challenges that were met, and areas where further improvements are needed.

**Methods:**

**Results:**

**Conclusions:**

## Introduction

- Native Americans have historically faced unique challenges in accessing healthcare services, including cancer prevention and screening programs.
- Factors such as geographical isolation, socioeconomic disparities, and cultural barriers have contributed to disparities in cancer outcomes within these communities.

**Research Question: What strategies enhance cancer screening among Native Americans?**



## Methods

### Systematic Review

#### Databases:

- PubMed, Embase, PsycINFO, & CINAHL
- Years 2007 through February 2024
- Search terms included: cancer prevention, Native America, Indigenous communities, oncology, & related terms

#### Inclusion Criteria

- The articles focus was:
  - Cancer prevention strategies within Native American communities;
  - Studies conducted within the context of Native American populations, encompassing tribal nations, reservations, & urban Native communities;
  - Addressed a variety of cancer types, screening, early detection, lifestyle interventions, or culturally tailored prevention programs; &
  - Peer-reviewed English language reports.

#### Article Retrieval

- The search strategy yielded a total of 752 articles across the selected databases. After dropping duplicate articles found, 632 unique articles remained.
- Two researchers independently reviewed the titles and abstracts to assess relevance to the research question and adherence to the inclusion criteria.

Fig.1 PRISMA Flow Chart

Factors	Zanderman (2014)	Godwin (2017)	Schink (2015)	Joshiweseoma, Saboda, Sanderson, Anni, Harris (2015)	CDC (2015)	Gachapin, Ingram, Lamilla, Laria, Pravatras Teufel, Shono, Brichl (2021)	Guadagnolo, Patreire, Coleman (2017)	Jernigan, Sabatore, Strye, Wankley (2011)	Garroutte, Kunovich, Jacobson, Goldberg (2004)	Warnes, Frizzell (2014)	Walters, Simoni, Fosse-Campbell (2002)
Representative of the Exposed Cohort	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Selection of external control	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Ascertainment of exposure	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
The desired outcome is not present at the start of the investigation	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Comparability of the main factor	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Comparability of the additional factor	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Assessment of outcome	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Enough time for follow-up	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Adequacy for follow-up	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Evaluation	8 out of 9	5 out of 9	9 out of 9	7 out of 9	7 out of 9	6 out of 9	7 out of 9	8 out of 9	9 out of 9	6 out of 9	6 out of 9

## Results



Key contextual attributes that measure quality health care were found:

- cultural sensitivity,
- community engagement,
- multidisciplinary collaboration, &
- the analysis of effectiveness of the implemented strategies

#### Cultural Sensitivity:

.Cultural and linguistic barriers can hinder communication between healthcare providers decreasing misunderstandings, mistrust, and suboptimal care. .Additionally, cultural beliefs and practices may influence health-seeking behaviors and perceptions of cancer, impacting prevention efforts and treatment outcomes.

#### Community Engagement:

Geographical Challenges: Many AI/AN communities reside in rural or remote areas with limited access to healthcare facilities and services. Geographic isolation can pose significant challenges to cancer prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment.

Addressing cancer disparities among AI/AN populations requires a multifaceted approach that addresses the underlying social determinants of health, improves access to culturally competent healthcare services, and promotes community engagement and empowerment.

#### Strategies may include:

- .Increasing funding for cancer prevention and control programs targeting AI/AN communities.
  - .Enhancing access to cancer screening and early detection services through culturally appropriate outreach programs.
  - .Providing culturally tailored education and resources to promote cancer prevention and healthy lifestyle choices.
  - .Strengthening partnerships between healthcare providers, tribal organizations, and community leaders to address cancer disparities collaboratively.
  - .Advocating for policies that address socioeconomic inequalities and improve healthcare access for AI/AN populations.
- By implementing these strategies and prioritizing the unique needs of AI/AN communities, stakeholders can work towards reducing cancer disparities and improving health outcomes among these populations.

## Conclusion

- Enhancing cancer prevention strategies among Native Americans requires a multifaceted approach that addresses both healthcare access barriers and broader social determinants of health.
- Implementing culturally sensitive outreach programs, providing education and resources, and advocating for systemic change, stakeholders can work towards reducing the burden of cancer within Native American populations.
- It's crucial to focus on culturally sensitive and community-driven approaches to improve cancer prevention strategies for Native Americans.
- By recognizing historical hardships, addressing economic disparities, and promoting healthy habits that resonate with cultural values, we can make strides in reducing cancer rates in indigenous communities.
- Collaboration among healthcare providers, tribal leaders, and policymakers is key to implementing lasting initiatives that empower Native Americans to prioritize their health.
- Together, we can create a future where everyone has equal access to prevention, screening, and treatment, leading to better health outcomes for all.