



American Indian Health and Nursing

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The average life expectancy of a male born on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota today is 40 years old—the lowest life expectancy of all peoples not only in the U.S. but also in the entire Western Hemisphere. Written by and for nurses, this is the first text to focus exclusively on American Indian health and nursing. It addresses the profound disparities in policy, health care law, and health outcomes that affect American Indians, and describes how these disparities, bound into the cultural, environmental, historical, and geopolitical fabric of American Indian society, are responsible for the marked lack of wellbeing of American Indians.

American Indian nurse authors, natives of nine unique American Indian cultures, address the four domains of health—physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional—within each region to underscore the many stunning disparities of opportunity for health and wellbeing within the American Indian culture as opposed to those of "Anglo" culture. In an era of cultural competency, these expert nurse authors bring awareness about what is perhaps the least understood minority population in the U.S. The text covers the history of American Indians with a focus on the drastic changes that occurred following European contact. Included are relevant journal articles, historical reports, interviews with tribal health officials, and case studies. The book addresses issues surrounding American Indian nursing and nursing education, and health care within nine unique American Indian cultural populations. Also discussed are the health care needs of American Indians living in urban areas. Additionally, the book examines the future of American Indian Nursing in regard to the Affordable Care Act.

Key Features:

- Focuses exclusively on American Indian health and nursing—the first book to do so
- Written by predominately American Indian nurses
- Covers four domains of health: physical, mental, spiritual and emotional
- Highlights nine specific cultural areas of Indian country, each with its own unique history and context
- Includes chapter objectives, end-of-chapter review questions, and case studies

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