

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

**TRENDS IN INDIAN  
HEALTH—1996**

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AND HUMAN SERVICES  
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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, American Indian and Alaska Native demography, patient care, and community health are included. Current and trend information are presented, and comparisons with other population groups are made, when appropriate.



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