

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Survey 2022
Community Program Planning Process (CPPP)
FY 22-23 MHSA Annual Update

American Indian and/or Alaska Native

An analysis of survey data from respondents who identified as American Indian and/or Alaska Native was conducted to understand this population's specific needs when it comes to mental health services and supports. A total of 18 American Indian and/or Alaska Natives completed the survey. Those answers are represented here.

Of those who identified as American Indian and/or Alaska Native:

- 41% identified as Community Members (*aligns with overall survey responses*)
- 18% identified as Consumers of Behavioral Health (*aligns with overall survey responses*)
- 12% identified as Family Members of a Consumer (*aligns with overall survey responses*)
- 12% identified as Social Service Agency Staff

6% of respondents were Young Adults (18-24), 65% were adults and 29% were seniors (60+).
These responses align with overall survey responses.

100% stated English was their preferred language.

29% stated they were family members of a person/people who are consumers of mental health services, 24% identified as consumers of mental health services, 18% stated they were a victim of domestic violence and/or sexual assault and 12% identified as Veterans and Single Parents.
These responses align with overall survey responses.

29% live in Jackson (*aligns with overall survey responses*)

29% live in Plymouth (*differs from overall survey responses—Plymouth was ranked 10th in overall responses*)

18% live in Lone (*differs from overall survey responses—Lone ranked 5th in overall responses*)

6% live in outlying geographical areas such as Pioneer, Pine Grove & Buckhorn (*differs from overall survey responses—Pine Grove ranked 3rd, Pioneer ranked 4th and Buckhorn ranked 10th*)

38% of respondents felt MHSA was doing poor in serving the American Indian and/or Alaska Native population. *This differs from the overall survey responses where only 6% stated MHSA was doing poor in serving the American Indian and/or Alaska Native population.*

When asked about barriers to mental health services and supports:

- 88% weren't sure where to go for help
- 88% stated insurance eligibility
- 75% stated stigma
- 63% stated lack of transportation
- 44% stated there is a lack of providers
- 38% stated long wait times for appointments were barriers to mental health services/supports

Of those who responded to this question, 33% have Medi-Cal and 58% have Medicare. This correlates to lack of providers being a barrier considering the majority of respondents have Medicare and there is a severe shortage of Medicare providers at the local, state and national level.

These responses align exactly with the overall survey responses.

When asked if the COVID-19 pandemic was still impacting American Indian and/or Alaska Natives, 71% of respondents stated no. For the 29% who stated yes, respondents stated:

- Limited community involvement
- It is hard to move
- Don't like feeling alone
- Employment
- Several N/A responses were also received.

These responses align with the overall survey responses.

One comment added at the end of the survey provided insight on how to improve the approach to the way services are delivered:

One issue- they need Native employees. Our people respond to people who know the life, look like them, see through their eyes. Second- no one bothers to go to our people. They sit in fancy offices, collecting a check for not helping, in every way possible. The problem is not in an office, it's out in our communities. To truly understand mental health, someone suffering, is not going to walk through your Sally Port doors and ask.

Unique needs exist for American Indian and/or Alaska Native populations and can differ in ways from the general population. This data is insightful and will be used for programing and service delivery purposes.