

# VACCINATION FOR ADULTS



**STRATEGY INTRO:** Increase demand for, and access to flu, COVID-19, and other adult vaccinations via 40 pop-up community clinics at the places that cultural groups feel comfortable and connected, and increase regularity of vaccine promotion in priority communities; and increase the percentage of pan-Asian and pan-African seniors who are up-to-date with recommended adult vaccinations.

## BLOG DISCUSSION #6

### UNVEILING COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES: INSIGHTS OF NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY'S HESITANCY

**PREFACE:** Since late last year, Asian Media Access has been actively interviewed BIPOC members for issues related to vaccination hesitancy, in order to better design our vaccination mobilization effort. Please follow up us, with a new story every month.

Back in late April, AMA Team has been granted an unique opportunity to interview Iowa Tribe of OK with elders and Tribal Leaders to share their perspectives about the Native American's vaccine hesitancy, and how Iowa Tribe of OK, uses message like "Protect our elders" to conduct a successful #vacciNATION campaign. Below is their story.



## **UNVEILING COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES: INSIGHTS OF NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY'S HESITANCY**

Native American vaccine hesitancy lies in a myriad of reasons that include distrust of Europeans due to past experiences, preference for traditional methods, and low representation. Compared to other communities, Native Americans generally have a lower vaccination rate for COVID-19. This article includes information from 9 interviews concerning Native American thoughts on the pandemic and vaccinations, aiming to find why they may be more hesitant than other groups to seek vaccinations.

One of the primary reasons that Native Americans feel more hesitant in getting vaccinated for COVID-19 is because they prefer traditional medicines from their culture. There is a lot of distrust of modernized, western methods because Native Americans have been negatively affected by Europeans in the past. From the Columbian Exchange, diseases predominantly affected Native Americans, who were less immune to new diseases that they had never encountered before. In addition, the American government's detrimental treatment of Native Americans in history has led to a large amount of distrust. Native Americans have low trust that the American government is willing to help them because of disasters like boarding schools, the Indian Removal Act, and the Dawes Act. These, along with questionable government treatment for previous outbreaks, deter Native Americans from trusting anything promoted by the federal government.

Government responses to outbreaks in Native communities have also been slow; it takes much longer than normal for testing equipment to reach Native American communities. Traditional Native American methods that are culturally significant and have been used for centuries are looked down upon and banned in hospitals, adding to Native American discontent with government facilities and materials. Many of the interviewees stated that they choose to pray and use Native methods to fight COVID because that is what they trust and have always known and worked for the community.

