

Dermatology Access and Needs of American Indian and Alaska Native People

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BACKGROUND

- American Indians and Alaska Native (AIAN) people experience significant barriers to accessing specialty care, including dermatology, despite their legal right to health care from the United States.
- This is especially true for AIAN people who reside in remote areas, like Native American reservations.
- Untreated skin disease is associated with decreased quality of life, disturbed sleep, difficulty learning, mood disorders, and school/work absenteeism.
- To implement effective dermatology interventions, it is important to understand the prevalence and types of skin diseases experienced by AIANs people
- We surveyed people who identified as AIAN in a community setting to determine prevalence of skin disease and access to dermatology care.
- We hypothesized that skin disease would be common and largely untreated among AIAN people.

METHODS

SURVEYS ADMINISTERED

(w/o exclusion of ethnic identities or presence of skin disease) to attendees 12y+ at two Denver powwows



DATA COLLECTED

included demographics, access to dermatology care, and perceived skin health



DATA ANALYZED

by simple descriptive analyses then aggregated by demographic characteristic to determine the level of access to dermatology care



RESULTS

AIAN Demographics (n=238)

Mean age (SD): 33.9 (18.7)



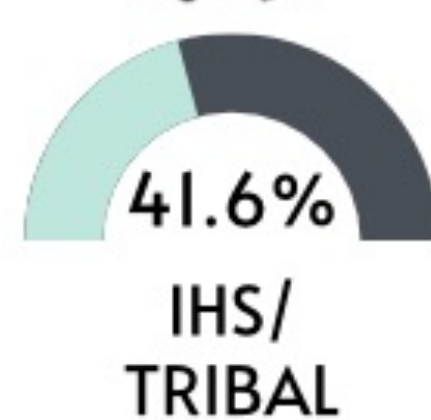
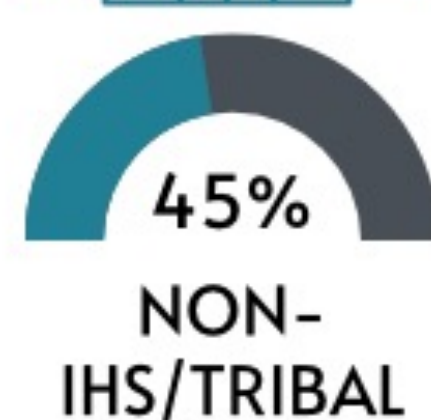
URBAN
69.6%



RURAL
30.4%



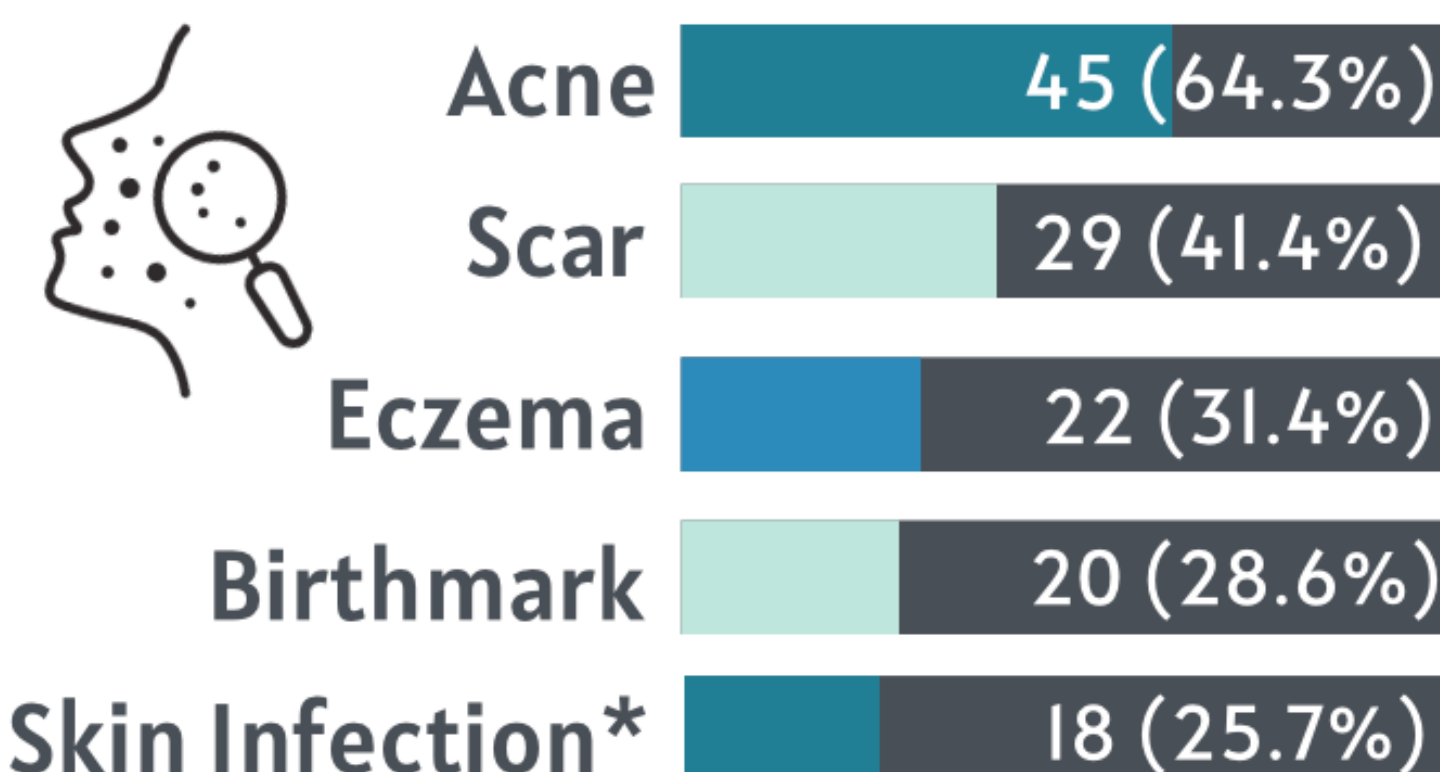
HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATION UTILIZED



REASONS WHY 66.0% of AIANs SKIPPED GOING TO A DOCTOR for ANY HEALTH CONCERN in the past year

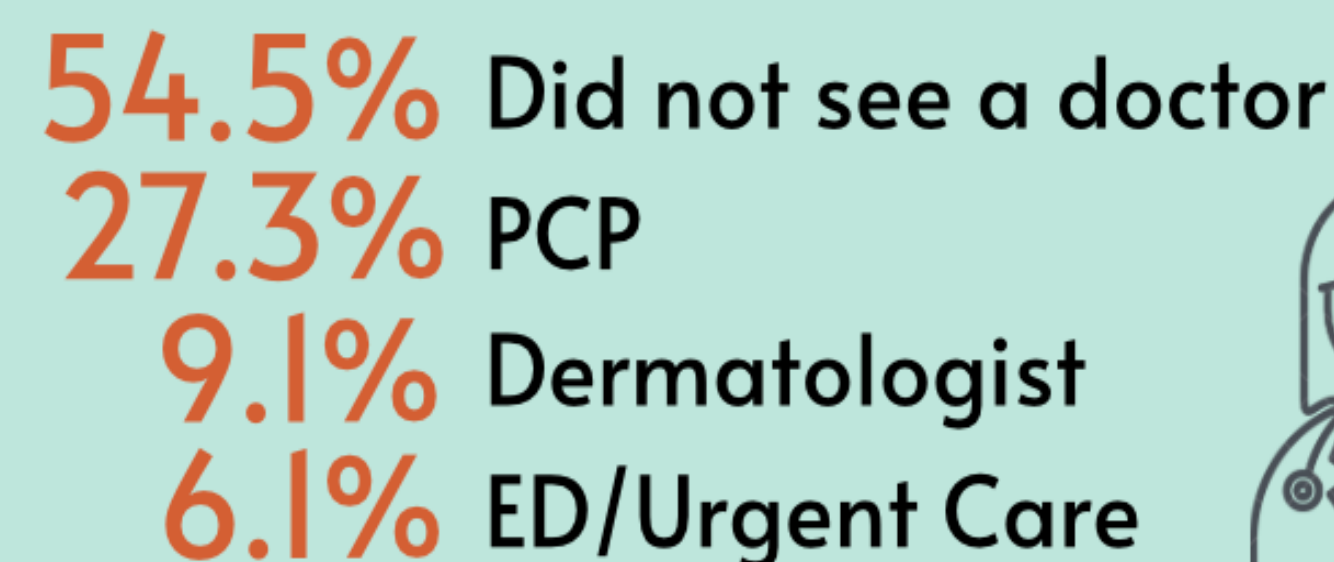


TOP 5 SKIN ISSUES IN AIAN ADOLESCENTS

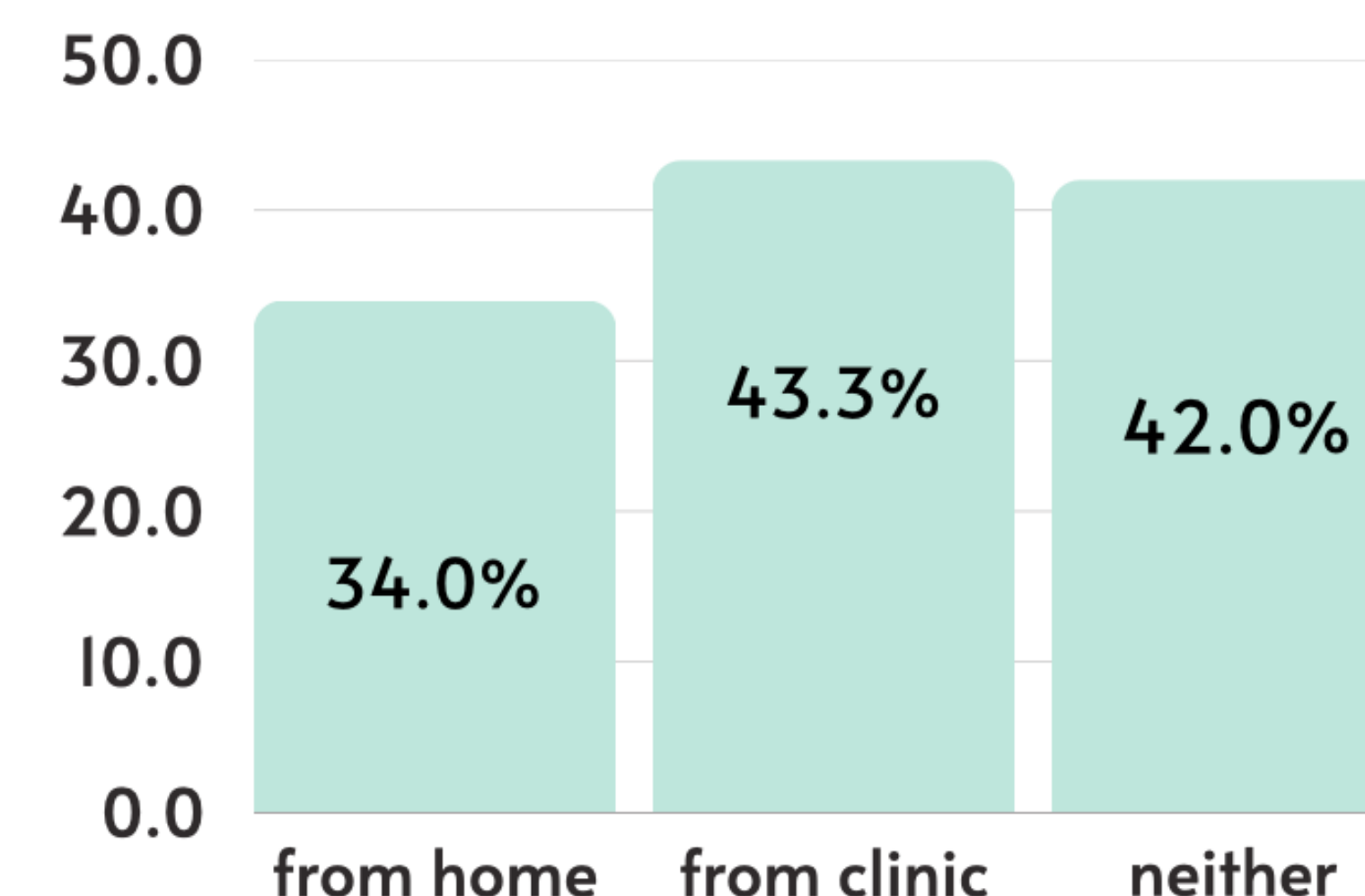


*skin infection, cold sores, herpes, fungal, athletes' foot, jock itch, and/or impetigo

TYPE OF DOCTOR AIAN ADOLESCENTS WITH SKIN ISSUES SAW FOR THEIR SKIN ISSUE



AIAN INTEREST IN TELEDERMATOLOGY



85.3% Had connection
88.7% Had a device

CONCLUSIONS

- Skin disease is prevalent and dermatology access is poor among AIAN people.
- While telehealth addresses several barriers to seeing a dermatologist, several respondents preferred not to use teledermatology.
- The lack of openness to home- or clinic-centric teledermatology reported by respondents must be further explored if the goal is widely accepted and adopted dermatology services.
- To address barriers and establish fruitful interventions, it is important to understand the barriers to care arising from adverse social determinants of health and historical trauma that AIAN people face.