

# Indian Health Service

## Improving Mental Health Emergency Care access for American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans

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# Emergency Medical Services in Frontier and Remote Areas

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According to the U.S. Census<sup>1</sup> within the U.S. there are 574 Federally Recognized Tribes in the 48 contiguous States and Alaska.

- 70% of the American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) reside in urban areas while the remainder of the population resides in frontier and remote (FAR) areas.

According to NEMSIS<sup>2</sup> Data, FAR areas are where emergency medical service responses are more likely to be American Indian or Alaska Native .

- Approximately 1 in 15 EMS responses in the continental U.S. occur in these areas<sup>3</sup>.

The high utilization of EMS services by AI/AN people are of significant importance as AI/AN people face significant health disparities<sup>4</sup>.

- American Indian and Alaska Natives serve at five times the national average<sup>5</sup>.



# Indian Health Services and Emergency Medical Services

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Type of Facility	IHS	Tribes
Hospital	24	22
Health Center	51	279
Health Station	24	79
Emergency Department <sup>6</sup>	21	21+

**Note:** Of the 46 hospitals, five IHS and nine Tribal hospitals are [critical access hospitals](#). One of the tribal hospitals is an inpatient rehabilitation facility.



# References

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1. <https://www.census.gov/about/partners/cic/resources/data-links/aian.html>
2. <https://nemsis.org/>
3. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4853204/>
4. <https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/ecology-health-care-need-address-low-utilization/docview/2454410605/se-2>
5. <https://www.uso.org/stories/2914-a-history-of-military-service-native-americans-in-the-u-s-military-yesterday-and-today#:~:text=Native%20Americans%20serve%20in%20the,the%20Armed%20Forces%20for%20centuries.>
6. <https://www.ihs.gov/newsroom/factsheets/ihsprofile/>



