

**A Prospective Study of Alaska Natives and American Indians
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium**

Funded by: National Cancer Institute, beginning 9/01

Primary Investigator: **Anne Lanier**, MD, MPH 729-3663 aplanier@anthc.org
Timothy Gilbert, Cynthia Schraer, Cathie Schumacher, Gretchen Ehram, Jason Sandidge, Jennifer Johnson

Initial Target Populations: **Navajo Nation** (Dr. Marty Slattery, Utah)
Plains Tribes and Strong Heart Study participants (Dr. Jeff Hendricks, south Dakota)
Alaska Natives

Participating Health Corporations in Alaska: **SEARHC, YKHC, SCF**

Few studies of the etiology of chronic diseases have been done among American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIAN).

This 5-year proposal focuses on the development of an AIAN cohort to obtain a better understanding of the disparities and disease rates and risk factor knowledge that exist between AIANs and the US white population. The major scientific goal of the study is determine how diet, physical activity, and other lifestyle and cultural factors relate to the development and progression of chronic diseases such as cancer, heart disease, stroke, Type 2 Diabetes, chronic lung and respiratory diseases, and related mortality form these diseases. Longitudinal data will be used to identify factors that contribute to health and prevent disease. The first five years will be used to develop reliable and valid methods to obtain diet, physical activity and lifestyle information and to determine the most efficient and effective ways to recruit and track study participants from diverse populations. The input of local communities is being used to develop culturally appropriate questionnaires that will accurately capture dietary intake, physical activity pattern, lifestyle and cultural habits. Indian Health Service records will be used to access study-related data.

Recruitment of Participants will begin in year 3. Alaska hopes to recruit and retain 3,000 participants among our 3 participating Health Corporation. Eventually, with expanded funding, it is hoped that 80,000 people will be enrolled and followed nationwide, with additional tribal groups participating.

Age of enrollees: 18 years and up- no upper limit

Dietary Component: A Dietary History Questionnaire is being developed, which will have a separate module for Alaska, to give us a better understanding of the quantity and types of subsistence foods being eaten, as well as the market foods.

The DHQ is planned to take about 45 minutes, and to be read to each participant by a touch screen computer in an interactive format.