

**Health Insurance Project**  
**Focus Group Questions for the American Indian population**  
**January 2001**

**Objectives**

- (1) To learn more about how American Indian's whether insured or uninsured access health care services and pay for them;
- (2) To understand American Indian's knowledge and perception of insurance;
- (3) To understand the American Indian's knowledge of and experience with public program health insurance (Medicaid and MinnesotaCare); and barriers to private and public program health insurance (including affordability).

**Introduction**

- Φ Collaborative project: Center for Cross-Cultural Health, Minnesota Department of Public Health, Wilder...
- Φ We want to learn more about your experience accessing health care services.
- Φ Our objectives is to provide input to decision makers about how to improve access to the health care system for American Indians in Minnesota.
- Φ We are doing a number of focus groups around the state and developing a report.
- Φ We will share our results with you if you are interested in leaving your name and address (...present voluntary sign in sheet)
- Φ We will not reveal any names of information about the specific participants in this discussion. You may be free and candid with your remarks. We will use only summary comments in our report and again, we will not identify individuals.

**Logistics**

1. Demographic Form
2. Sign Up Form for Final Report
3. Receipt of Money Form
4. OTHER...

## OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Please share your name and where you are from (ask for tribal affiliation if they do not respond with tribal affiliation)
2. Where did you grow up?
3. Are you living on the reservation now?
4. Have you ever lived off the reservation?
5. Have you lived anywhere else?
6. Where is most of your family living?

## INTRODUCTION TO TOPIC

7. Have you been to the new hospital yet? (White Earth)  
  
(or) Do you go to the hospital here in Cass Lake or do you go to Bemidji hospital? (Leech Lake)  
  
(or) Do you go to the hospital here in Red Lake or do you go to Bemidji hospital? (Red Lake)

## SPECIFIC PROJECT QUESTIONS

8. Where do you go if you or a member of your family is sick or has an injury?
9. Do you go to the clinic/hospital only when you are sick/injured?
10. Do you ever go for regular check ups or screening for other conditions when you are not sick?
11. Do you have a doctor or provider that you see on a regular basis?
12. Do you ever see a medicine man/woman or traditional healer?
  - a) If so, how often do you see them?
13. Do you see any alternative medicine providers? (chiropractor, acupuncturist, herbalist, etc.
  - a.) If so, how often do you see them?

14. Have you been to a health care provider (Doctor/Nurse Practitioner or hospital) in the last year?
- a.) Have you ever decided not to get healthcare services when you thought you needed them? What stopped you from getting these services?
  - b.) Have you ever needed to see a specialist (i.e.: cardiologist for heart conditions, allergists, urologist for kidney or bladder problems) but decided not to see one for some reason? Any reasons other than the ones we already discussed?
15. Please describe:
- a.) What you do when you have to go to the doctor?
  - b.) What happens when you get there?
  - c.) Does anyone talk with you about payment?
  - d.) Do you have insurance now?
    - 1. If yes, please answer the following questions.
  - e.) Do you know the name of your health plan?
  - f.) Did you get your insurance by applying through your job, at the clinic or other?
  - g.) Do you have more than one company for insurance coverage?
  - h.) Are you satisfied with your insurance? Does it cover what you need?

#### MINNESOTACARE AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (MEDICAID)

16. Tribal health care is funded by a variety of sources. Who provides the money to fund tribal health care?
17. If a person in your community does not have health insurance through their employer, how do you think their health care is paid for?
18. Have you heard of the MinnesotaCare and Medical Assistance (Medicaid) programs? (information is in the packet)
- a.) Do you think eligible people know how and where to sign up?
  - b.) Do you think people need or want to know more about this program?
19. Do you have any specific questions about health care?
- a.) Any specific concern about the elderly in your community and health care?
  - b.) Any specific concerns about the children in your community and health care?
  - c.) Any specific concerns about living conditions?

20. Do you experience discrimination in this community? Could you describe your experience?
- a.) Have you experienced discrimination in health care in this community? Please describe (health providers, county social workers, making appointments, employers, etc.
  - b.) What specific programs or ideas do you have that would help increase access to health care services for American Indians in your community?

### ENDING QUESTIONS

21. Given our discussion today, could you summarize your major concern about health care?

### **MODERATOR**

What I've heard today is that... (summarize very briefly the key themes that emerged during the discussion)

Give a short overview of objectives of the study....

22. Have we missed anything or is there any other items that you want to mention?
23. Do you have any questions of me?