Myths and Facts

- American Indian or Native American
- Pay no taxes
- Not citizens
- Get free education, medical care, housing, etc.
- Receive monthly $500 check from Federal Gov’t
- DNA testing proof on being an Indian
- 25% Blood Quantum needed to be an Indian
- You don’t look Indian—Blond, blue eyes, Black
- Indian dress in costumes
- Practicing Indian spirituality makes you an Indian
- Descendent from a Cherokee Princess

Why Does AIAC Exist?

Noting that charge for action, AIAC is placed in a liaison/advocacy role between the various levels of governments and their departments/agencies and the Indian people of our tribal communities.

AIAC stands alone to represent the Indian people of Alabama who wish to stand together with their fellow citizens while maintaining their own cultural and ethnic heritage.
Forced Removal

- Indian Removal Act 1830
  - Andrew Jackson
  - Supreme Court challenge by the Cherokees
  - Why?
    - Land, land and more land
    - Service his constituency
    - Security
  - Alabama tribes removed 1832-1845
    - Trail of Tears
    - Everybody went regardless of political, social or economic status—at the point of a bayonet if necessary
    - Concentration camps then moved out onto the trail on foot
  - Not All Indians Removed

Not All Removed

- Remnants form basis of our state tribes
  - Runaways, Hideaways, Mixed Bloods
  - Assimilation with White and/or Black populations
  - Suppress Indian identity, heritage, culture and language
  - Black Dutch/Irish

Legislation Affecting Indians Today

- ** Federal Acknowledgment Process 1978
  - Indian Groups, Tribes and Bands can apply for Federal recognition
  - Greatest bone of contention in today’s Indian affairs
- ** American Indian Religious Act 1978
  - Right to practice and worship native spirituality
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act 1990
  - Protect and preserve aboriginal graves and artifacts
- Indian Arts and Craft Act 1990
  - Protect the value of native crafts made by recognized Indians only

Alabama’s American Indian Tribes

- Poarch Band of Creek Indians
- MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians
- Star Clan of Muscogee Creeks
- Echota Cherokees of Alabama
- Chei-O-Creek Intratribal Indians
- Ma-Chis Lower Creek Indian Tribe
- Piqua Shawnee Tribe*
- United Cherokee Ani-Yun-Wiya Nation*

These tribal governments represent three major groups remaining of American Indians in Alabama. The first seven tribes were originally recognized by Alabama in 1984 and the last two were granted recognition by the AIAC Board in 2001.

Present Day Locations

- Five located south of Montgomery
  - Historically Creek and Choctaw areas
- Four located north of Birmingham
  - Historically Cherokee and Chickasaw areas
State Tribes/Indian Population

Over 50,000 Alabama citizens have identified themselves as having some degree of Indian blood.

Constitutes > 1% of total state population

Majority of population is in the northern part of the state.

LOOKING INDIAN

• Stereotypical look

• Blended look

• All races and ethnicities

TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP

• Research and Membership
  - Genealogy
    • Family History (written and oral)
    • Official Records (birth certificate, marriage license, etc.)
    • Lineal Descendent
  - Blood Quantum
  - Tribal Review and membership decision
    Leads to>>>>>>>>>>>

• Tribal Roll Card
  - A must to prove you are an American Indian
  - Only group of Americans who must show proof of who they claim to be
    ONLY documentation accepted by Federal, state or any other governmental entities
  - A member of a presumptive minority group.

TRIBAL CHIEFS

Health Issues

Compared to State and US Averages

• Heart Attacks/Strokes
• Breathing Problems
  – Asthma
  – COPD
• Diabetes
  – I/II
• Dental Problems
  – Lack preventive care
Health Issues (Continue)

- Recommended Screening Tests
  - Mammograms
  - Pap Smears
  - Colonoscopy
  - Prostate/PSA
  - Cholesterol
- Vaccinations for Adults
- Lack Health Insurance

Cultural Issues Affecting Health

- Natural/Traditional Medicine
  - Alternative cures and practitioners
  - Tribal healers
- Age
  - Older the more difficult to get health issues addressed
  - Fear of bureaucracy
  - Fear of all government representatives, assistance and advise
  - Isolation
- Accessibility to Care
  - Rural locations

Available Resources

- There is NO Indian Health Service assistance
- AllKids Health Insurance
- SFMNP
- Tribal Traditional Medicine & Care
  - Tribe producing natural medicine
- Community Health Navigator
  - Tribal person use as a conduit for information
- ADPH 2008 Health Survey of Alabama’s Tribes

How to Help

- Establish liaison with tribes
  - AllKids
- Have a specific ADPH County representative to each tribe
- Establish liaison with a specific ADPH county clinic
  - Mobile County with the MOWA
- More educational outreach concerning health/medical issues
  - HINI, HIV, Drug Abuse, Spousal/Child Abuse, Diabetes, STD

How can AIAC Help?

- Call us if you have a question concerning a tribe or an Indian individual;
- If you want to work with or assist a tribe, call us and we will provide information on how best to do it;
- Anything concerning American Indians, call us or email us and we will attempt to assist you.

How to Help

- Coordinate visits by mobile Health clinics
- Attend tribal Pow Wows
  - Set up information booths
- Use Tribal CHNs