

# Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native American Children

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Virtual Hearing on increased  
coordinator for wrap-around  
services for Native children.

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# Disclaimer

This presentation was prepared by Teresa N. Brockie, the opinions expressed are the author's own and do not reflect the view of the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing or the Johns Hopkins University.

# Detrimental Policy:

## Indian Appropriations Act - 1851

Reservation Era *1851 - 1880*

- Used treaties, coercion and military force
- **Called for the Indians' "concentration, their domestication, and their incorporation"**
- The United States obtained millions of acres of land and limited tribes to a small portion of their territories
  - 106 established by treaty (1851-1880)
  - 56 established by executive order (1881-1918)
  - After 1919 only an Act of Congress could establish a reservation

(Campbell, 2003)

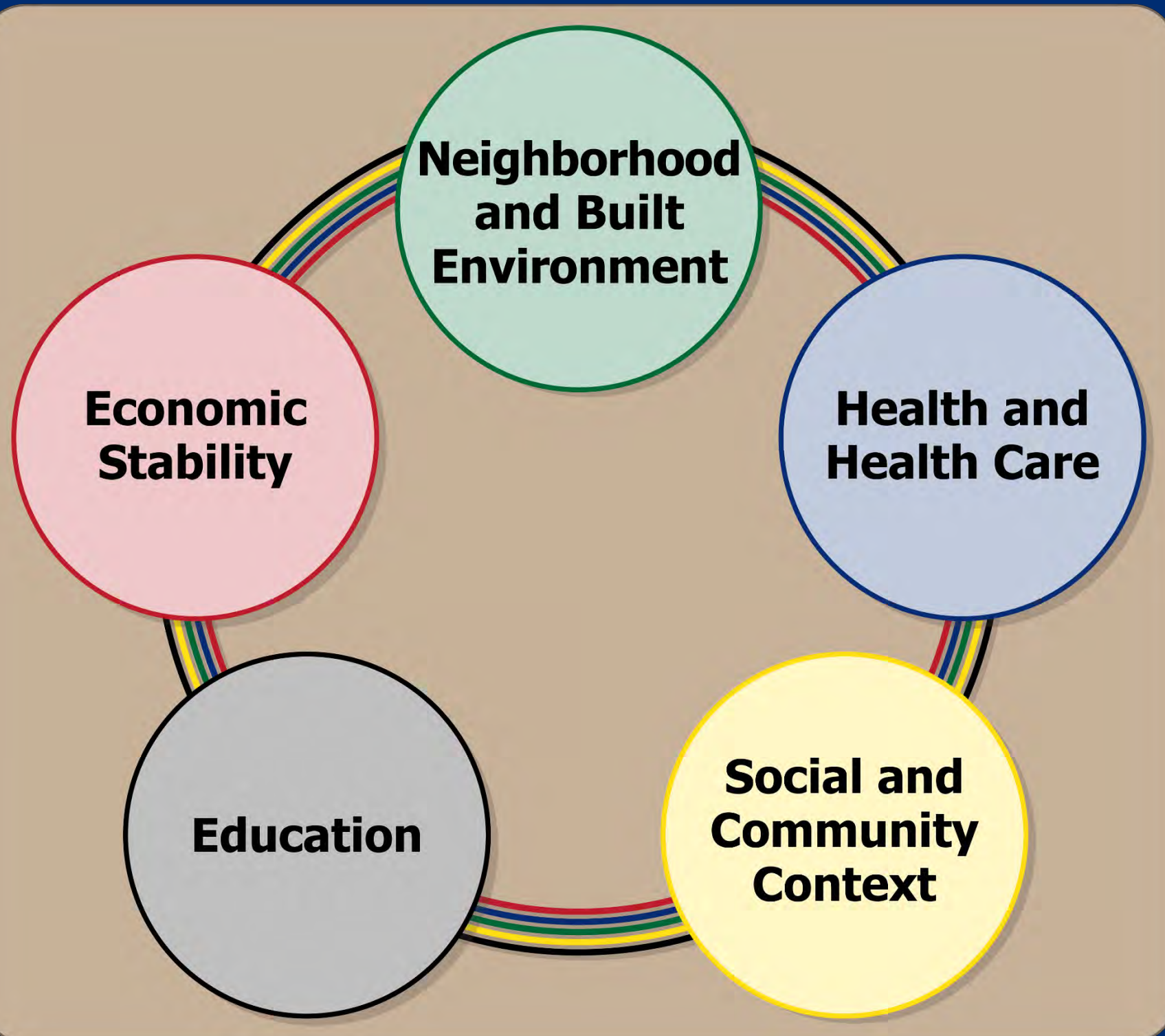
# 1974 Congressional Hearing

**“In our efforts to make Indian children white, I think it's clear that we're destroying them. In attempting to remove Indian children from communities of poverty, I think we help to create the very conditions of poverty. When we remove children from the home or disrupt family life -- with families as the basic economic, health care, and educational unit in human life -- when you break that up, you impede the ability of the child to grow, to learn, for himself, or herself, to become a good and responsible parent later.”**

United States Senate Ninety-Ninth Congress Second Session, 1974

# Social Determinants of Health

“the conditions under which people are born, grow, live, work and age”

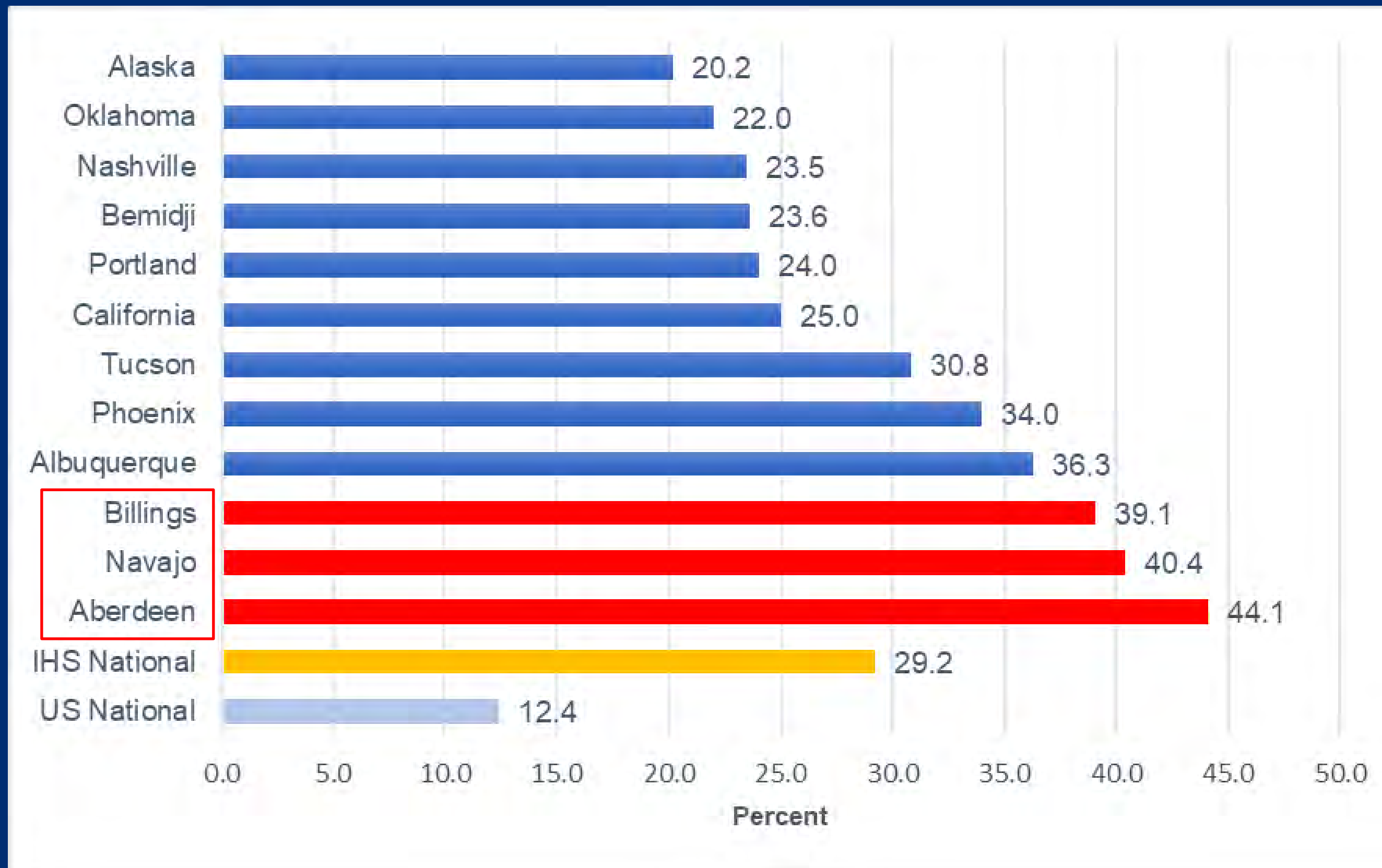


Five key areas (determinants) include:

1. Economic Stability
2. Education
3. Social and Community Context
4. Health and Health Care
5. Neighborhood and Built Environment

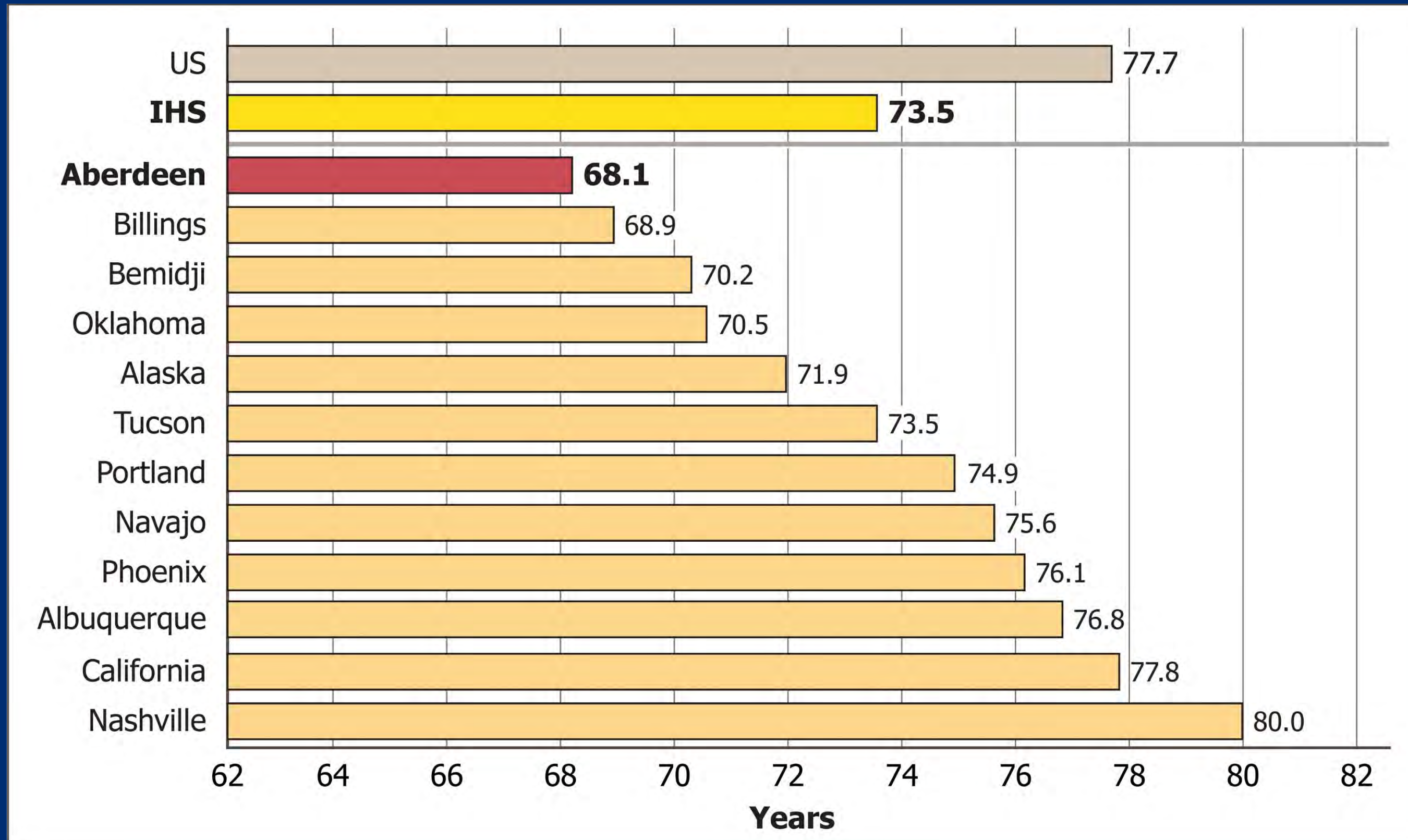
CDC, 2018; Marmot, 2010; Health People 2020, 2020

# % of Population Below Poverty Level

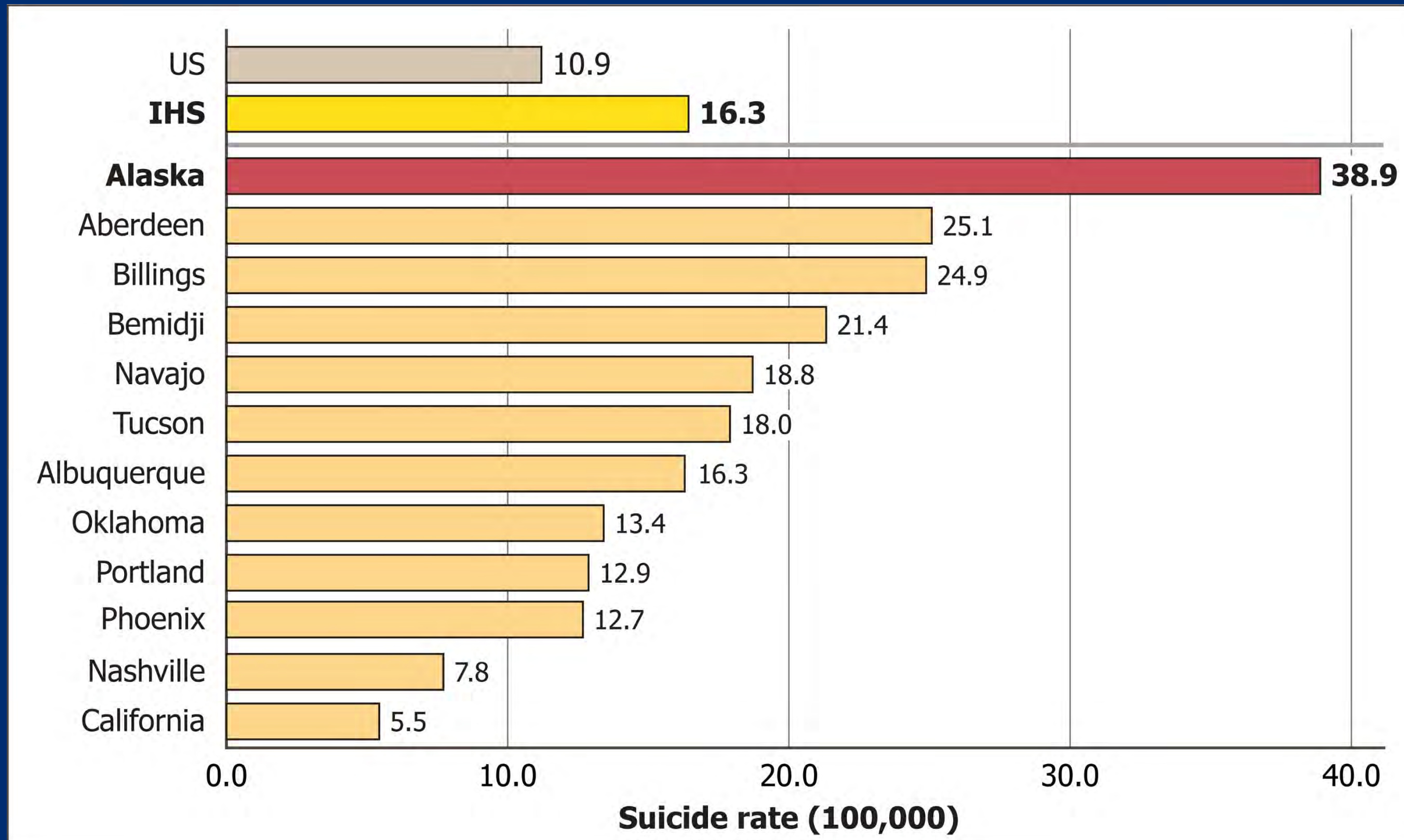


Regional Differences in Indian Health 2012, IHS

# Life Expectancy at Birth by IHS Area



# Suicide Rate per 100,000 by IHS Area





# High-Risk Reservation Context

- Established in 1851 by the Fort Laramie Treaty.
- Reservation within county listed among 100 poorest and 10 least healthy in the US.
- The tribal law enforcement of 18 police officers and 3 criminal investigators is 50% of what is needed to police an area and population of this size.
- The violent crime rate in 2011 was five times higher than the rest of the state and three times higher than the US rate.
- Nearly half of those living on the reservation live below the federal poverty level.
- Half of tribal enrollment (>13,000) is less than 18 years old.
- In 2010, after 6 suicides and 20 attempts in 5 months, tribal leadership declared state of emergency.

# Recommendations

- 1) Uphold treaty obligations.
- 2) Correction of the present situation needs a radical reorientation of previous strategies that have been ineffective or virtually non-existent.
- 3) A thorough evaluation and accounting of the federal recognition process are critical.
- 4) Reliable data are needed and should be used for the development of policy and health services.
- 5) The exclusion faced by Indigenous populations is a major issue, therefore overcoming the lack of participation and consultation, is critical for building responsive and coherent public policies.



# GinnyHayats (Big Thank You)

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