

† The four tribes in the Abenaki nation: Missisquoi, Elnu, Nulhegan, and Koasek, are **consistently underrepresented** in statewide data.

† Causes of data underrepresentation:

- **Institutionalized racism** leading to exclusion of non-white groups in studies.
- Land theft **decentralizing communities**, making inclusion harder.
- Inherent mistrust of institutions by Indigenous community members following a long history of **eugenics, forced sterilizations, and genocide**.
- Reluctance to participate in data collection due to **sustained hopelessness**.

***“That a number one priority is the challenge to be who we are. To be seen, to be acknowledged and to be included...just as human beings first.”***

† Median incomes for Indigenous households were **\$35,000 in 2022**. For White households they were \$64,412.

† Cultural, financial, and administrative barriers, along with a sustained history of discrimination, contribute to Indigenous Peoples avoiding support services.

***“It seems like people who try to help themselves and better themselves never get ahead. But if I quit my job, my family would have a low enough income that we would all be covered by health insurance, my kids could get free college, and some of my household bills would be paid for. But we won’t do that so instead we struggle.”***

† Administrative processes that don’t include Indigenous Peoples, or that require people to identify themselves as such, perpetuate cultural isolation.

***“I’ve known people who have lost jobs, including myself, once they found out that they were native. If I can take advantage of white privilege, why would I want to detriment my kids?”***

- ▼ Middle school and high school-aged Indigenous students report feeling **hopeless**, having **thoughts of suicide**, or **make suicide attempts** at higher rates than all Vermont students.
- ▼ **Twice as many** Indigenous students tried alcohol before the age of 13 compared to all students, 26% to 13%.

***“There needs to be other options of therapy for people; music, dance, art, it's very important, especially for us as indigenous people to have that type of therapy.”***

- ▼ Chronic disease rates are **consistently higher** among Indigenous Peoples.
- ▼ Support services provided by and for Indigenous Peoples are underfunded and not incorporated into the existing service infrastructure.

Prevalence rates for chronic conditions	COPD	Diabetes	Hypertension	Cardiovascular disease
All VT	7%	9%	25%	8%
<b>Indigenous Peoples</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>24%</b>

- ▼ Widespread food security challenges. These can be addressed with further support for community farms and food pantries run by Indigenous Peoples.
- ▼ Traditional healthcare does not allow for Indigenous spirituality practices, further alienating Indigenous Peoples.

***“We do everything for the next seven generations. Not just for one generation or a year...to actually own it and be a part of it and look at long term effects and how that's going to help people long term.”***