

Recommendations



- ❑ Reducing soda pop consumption among the AI\AN population can be achieved. A successful campaign requires a specific message relevant to the AI\AN community and innovative strategies that will empower the community to choose healthier alternatives to soda more often and in turn reduce overall consumption of unhealthy beverages. This requires the dedication of the entire community, from the youth and adults to the tribal leaders and government officials.

- ❑ AI/populations are also aligned with DHHS' Healthy People 2010 objectives (DHHS, 2000). The Department has outlined strategic goals and objectives to increase the percentage of AI/A children and adults with access to quality health care services and to provide expanded consumer choices (DHHS, 2004a).

- ❑ DHHS has also formed two coordinating committees of particular relevance to AI/groups. The first is the Intradepartmental Council on Native American Affairs, which will develop recommendations for solutions to improve AI/AN policies and programs.

- ❑ The recommendations will also be used to improve the HHS organizational structure to better administer services to American Indians and Alaska Natives, and to ensure that all HHS divisions and offices implement the HHS policy on tribal consultation. A second committee to be formed will examine cross-cutting oral health issues by compiling information needed for decision-making, reducing disparities, and promoting multi-agency oral health initiatives (DHHS, 2004a).