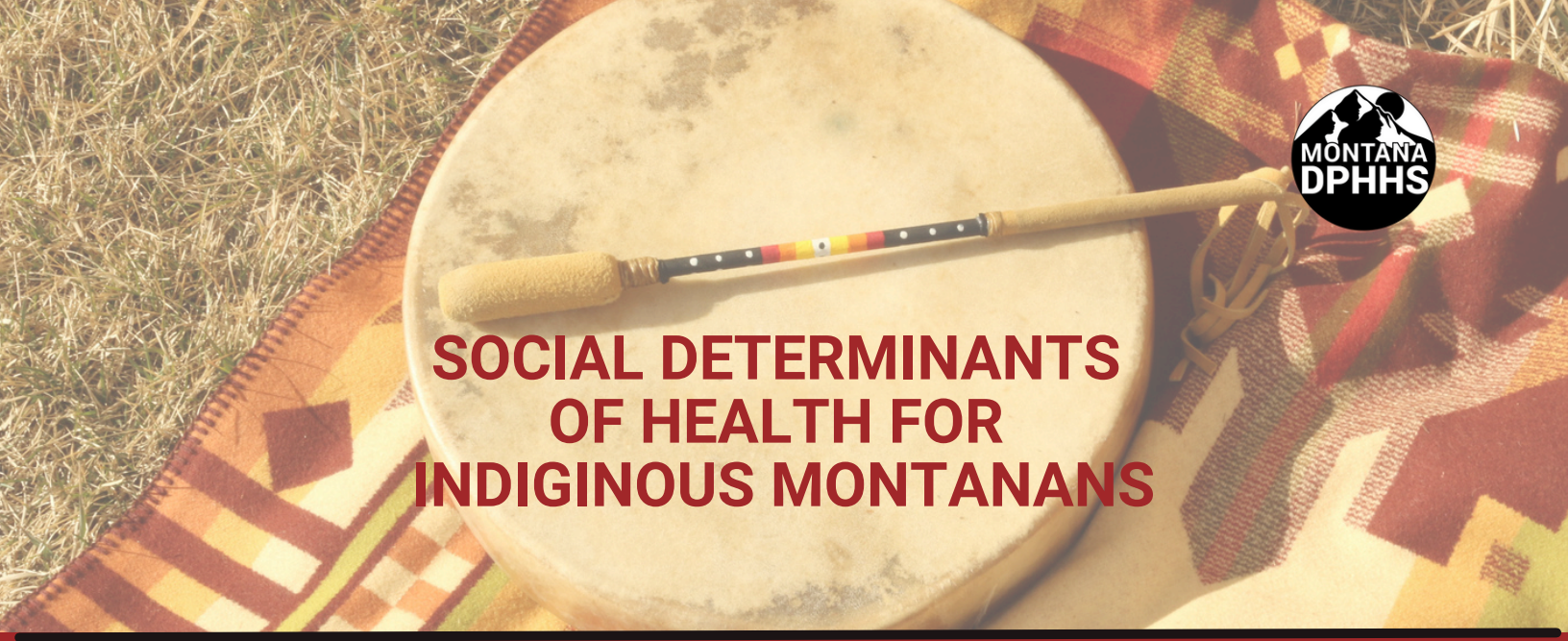

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH FOR INDIGINOUS MONTANANS

Native Americans in Montana face unique challenges that affect their well being.

- **Healthcare Access and Quality:** Many Native Americans experience barriers to accessing quality healthcare, including geographic isolation and underfunded healthcare facilities.
- **Neighborhood and Built Environment: I**nadequate housing conditions and overcrowding are common issues on reservations, affecting physical and mental health. Exposure to environmental hazards and limited access to clean water and nutritious food also play a significant role in health disparities.
- **Social and Community Context:** Social isolation and historical trauma continue to impact mental health and community cohesion.
- **Economic Stability:** High poverty rates and limited job opportunities, especially on reservations, contribute to economic instability.
- **Education Access and Quality**: Educational disparities, including lower graduation rates and limited access to higher education, affect long-term health outcomes.

Helpful Resources

- **Montana Office of American Indian Health:** Provides health services and culturally appropriate care for Native American communities.
- **Montana Indian Education for All:** Offers educational resources and programs to promote understanding of Native American heritage.
- **Tribal Colleges:** Includes institutions like Aaniiih Nakoda College, Blackfeet Community College, Chief Dull Knife College, Stone Child College, Fort Peck Community College, Little Big Horn College and Salish Kootenai College, providing higher education opportunities.
- **Montana Indian Legal Services:** Offers legal assistance and advocacy for Native Americans in Montana.
- **Native American Development Corporation:** Supports economic development and business growth within Native American communities.

https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/chronicdisease/SDOH