

# THE CHRONICLE MONTHLY

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN DENTISTS

highlights



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## JOIN AAWD IN CELEBRATING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

### Identifying disparities in oral health in Native communities is the first step in eliminating that disparity

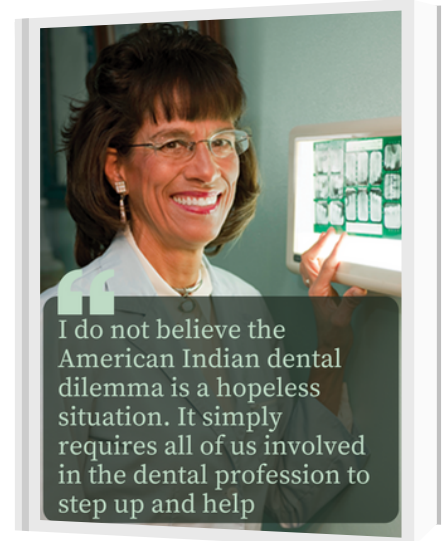
This Native American Heritage Month, we look at oral health trends and their impact on this underserved community. American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) are less likely to see a dentist and receive preventative treatments than their white counterparts [1].

Native communities are struggling under the weight of devastating oral health disparities, especially early prevention. The prevalence of tooth decay among AI/AN children aged two to five years is nearly three times the US average. More than 70% of AI/AN children aged two to five years have a history of tooth decay, as compared with 23% of White children. AI/AN adult dental patients suffer disproportionately from untreated decay, with twice the prevalence of untreated caries as the general US population and more than any other racial/ethnic group. AI/AN adult dental patients are also more likely to have severe periodontal disease, to have missing teeth, and to report poor oral health than are the general US population [1].

Tribal communities have long struggled to retain providers, most of whom are not native. Only 0.1% of dentists are American Indian/Alaska Native in origin [1]. In fact, the first female Native American dentist, Dr. Jessica Rickert, graduated dental school in 1975! While she retired from private dental practices, Dr. Rickert continues to work with dental outreach and advocate for underserved populations (see her article on Chief Okemos on the next page) [2].

To begin addressing the inequities in patient treatment, it is essential to address the inequities in our population of dentists. Indigenous students face multiple barriers to entering dental and medical school, including lack of federal funding in higher education on tribal lands, low high school graduation rates, nonexistent or inadequate programs and services, cultural challenges, and more, according to The Journal of Indigenous Research [2].

Increasing access and exposure to dentistry among Native Americans can encourage more young people to pursue these careers, Rickert says [2].



# NOVEMBER NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

## CHIEF OKEMOS

Authored by Jessica A. Rickert, DDS

Chief Okemos was born around 1769 at Ketchewandu, an Indian settlement on the Shiawassee River, into the Bear Clan. Okemos became the chief of his Saginaw Chippewa (Ojibwe) Anishinaabe.

In 1811, he fought in the Battle of Tippecanoe. In 1812, he joined the British forces with a colonel's commission. He fought in the Battle of Sandusky, the Siege of Meigs and the Battle of the Thames where he became a prisoner of war. The Michigan territorial governor, Lewis Cass, pardoned him.

In the spring of 1814, he and other Michigan chiefs presented themselves at Fort Wayne, Detroit, Michigan. Chief Okemos stated that he was done fighting the white man. He kept that promise faithfully.

Chief Okemos was a signatory to these Treaties with the US government; 1815 and 1817, the Wyandot; 1819 and 1837 the Chippewa.

Okemos married Waindegoquayzance in 1817 or 1818. They had six children in the Okemos, Michigan area.

Chief Okemos died December 5, 1858, by the Looking Glass River near Dewitt, Michigan. The Anishinaabe honor him as a great Saginaw Chippewa Chief who served the Anishinaabe well, in battle and in diplomacy. His body rests at Shilmicon on the Grand River in Ionia County, Michigan. Okemos, Michigan was named in honor of Chief Okemos.

To learn more about National Native American Heritage Month, November, go to [November is Native American Heritage Month. Here's How That Happened.](#)



AAWD is thrilled to invite you to meet with our National Board of Directors and candidates for our 2022 Member Meeting! We are happy to share what AAWD has accomplished so far in 2022 and the organization's goals for 2023.

We are also excited to introduce our candidates for the upcoming Board of Directors elections! Get to know the candidates before casting your vote! Remember that AAWD wouldn't exist without women like you, and your vote is your voice! Keep an eye out for an email with meeting details and the registration link! We can't wait to see you!

AAWD philanthropy corner



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# Launch of the WHO Global Oral Health Status Report

This event will mark the release of WHO's Global oral health status report (GOHSR), which provides the first-ever comprehensive picture of oral disease burden and highlights challenges and opportunities to accelerate progress towards universal health coverage (UHC) for oral health.

The GOHSR is part of WHO's series of data reports and an important milestone in the larger process of mobilizing political action and resources for oral health. In alignment with the landmark World Health Assembly resolution WHA74.5 on oral health (2021), and the Global strategy on oral health (2022), the GOHSR will serve as a reference for policy-makers and provide orientation for a wide range of stakeholders across different sectors; and guide the advocacy process towards better prioritization of oral health in global, regional and national contexts.

Oral diseases are the most widespread noncommunicable diseases affecting almost half of the world's population (3.5 billion people worldwide), even though they are largely preventable. The estimated number of cases of oral diseases worldwide is about 1 billion more than cases of all five main NCDs (mental disorders, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases and cancers) combined. An estimated 2.5 billion people suffer from untreated dental caries (tooth decay) alone. The occurrence of oral diseases is increasing globally, at a rate that outpaces population growth.

This report introduces the first-ever oral health profiles of countries based on the latest available data from the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) project, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and global WHO surveys. It emphasizes the global impact of oral disease on our health and well-being and highlights stark inequalities, with a higher disease burden for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged population groups within and across societies [3].

**[Interested? Register to attend the WHO launch event by clicking here!](#)**



## Stuff it up Your Turkey Dressing

Is it dressing? Is it stuffing? In the turkey or out? Get the best of both worlds with this easy recipe



### INGREDIENTS

- 2 bags Pepperidge Farm herb seasoned stuffing mix
- 1 lb ground sausage
- 1/2 stick butter
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 1 cup carrots, chopped
- 3 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups chopped pecans
- 1 1/2 tsp poultry seasoning
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 32 oz chicken broth

### HOW TO PREPARE

1. In a large skillet, brown sausage (don't drain). Add butter, veggies, pecans, & spices; cook until tender.
2. In a large bowl, combine stuffing mix with sausage mixture. Add chicken broth & mix to an even consistency
3. Remove giblets & excess fat from fully defrosted turkey. Liberally salt & pepper neck & breast cavities.
4. Fill both the breast & neck cavities with stuffing mixture (you will probably not use all of it). Tie the legs together with string & tuck the wing tips under the body of the turkey.
5. Roast turkey according to the cooking instructions provided with it.
6. Put remaining dressing (stuffing) into a greased baking pan (size depends on how much remains). Bake, covered, at 350 for about 45 minutes. Remove covering, place a few pats of butter on top, and place back into oven until crispy

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## References

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# MEMBER BENEFIT

ARMOIRE

spotlight

Armoire is founded by women, for women. Their clothing caters to the working dentist, boss lady, mother, mother-to-be, and the week adventurer. As a member of AAWD, you can subscribe to Armoire's wardrobe rental service at a 50% discount on any plan!

FOR WOMEN, BY WOMEN



AMBIKA SINGH  
FOUNDER + CEO

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*"I've been sharing clothes with the women in my life since as long as I can remember. As a female powered company ourselves, we're committed to supporting other boss ladies. Armoire carries a growing number of female founded brands, started by creative, driven women just like you."*

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