



The American College of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

**For more than 40 years, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' Committee on American Indian/Alaska Native Women's Health has worked to improve the health care for AI/AN women.**

Formed in the 1970s, the Committee serves in a consultative capacity to the Indian Health Service (IHS) and works to meet the health needs of AI/AN women and the health care professionals who serve them. The ACOG AI/AN Committee is made up of Fellows from the college, and liaisons from:

- American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM),
- Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN),
  - American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and
- the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC).



The Committee represents diversity in many ways, including AI/AN members, doctors with experience working on reservations previously, midwives, pediatricians, and executive board members.

The primary activities of the Committee are to conduct quality assessment site visits in regions designated by the IHS Chief Clinical Consultant for OB/GYN, co-sponsor the International Indigenous Women's Health conference, convene an educational training that includes a women's health update and an Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) certification training, and advocate for AI/AN women and children.



## Site Visits



The Committee performs at least one site visit per year to a region designated by the IHS, this can include up to four or five hospitals. Site visits are conducted by small teams of AI/AN Committee members, liaisons, and IHS consultants. Teams are assigned facilities to review all aspects of care, including staffing, equipment, and quality of maternal and child care at the facility by reviewing staff knowledge and chart documentation. Afterwards, verbal feedback is given directly to the facility staff. Upon completion of all site visits and assessments, the teams write a comprehensive report on the status of the facilities with suggestions for improvement of care that is shared with IHS.

In February 2019, Fellows revisited Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities in Phoenix, AZ. The committee's next site visits will happen in the Oklahoma City Area of the IHS in June 2020.



## Training & Education

The Best Practices in Women's Health educational training session provides education on practical, evidence-based approaches for the recognition, management, consultation, and referral of health problems facing AI/AN women. The course is geared towards Indian health and Tribal facilities, with special emphasis on management appropriate to remote and rural settings. Additionally, a two-day Certification in Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) course is offered.

Courses are taught by a faculty who have expertise in providing health care to women and children in I/T/U health care facilities.

In 2014, ACOG began formally co-sponsoring the International Indigenous Women's Health conference. Held every two years in partnership with SOGC, the conference focuses on innovative clinical care models and community-based public health approaches for women and their families in First Nations, Inuit, Métis, American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Conference participants strengthen their knowledge about prevalent health problems facing Indigenous women and acquire practical skills.

*Please visit our website for more information:*

**[ACOG AI/AN Women's Health](#)**

