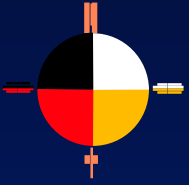


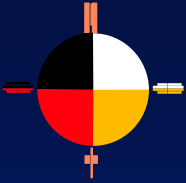
A sepia-toned photograph of a rugged, rocky coastline. The foreground shows a group of people on horseback, silhouetted against the light, moving across a sandy beach. The background features large, craggy rock formations and a cliffside under a bright sky. The text "Access to Dental Care, IHS Dental Program" is overlaid in a large, bold, yellow serif font across the center of the image.

**Access to Dental Care,
IHS Dental Program**

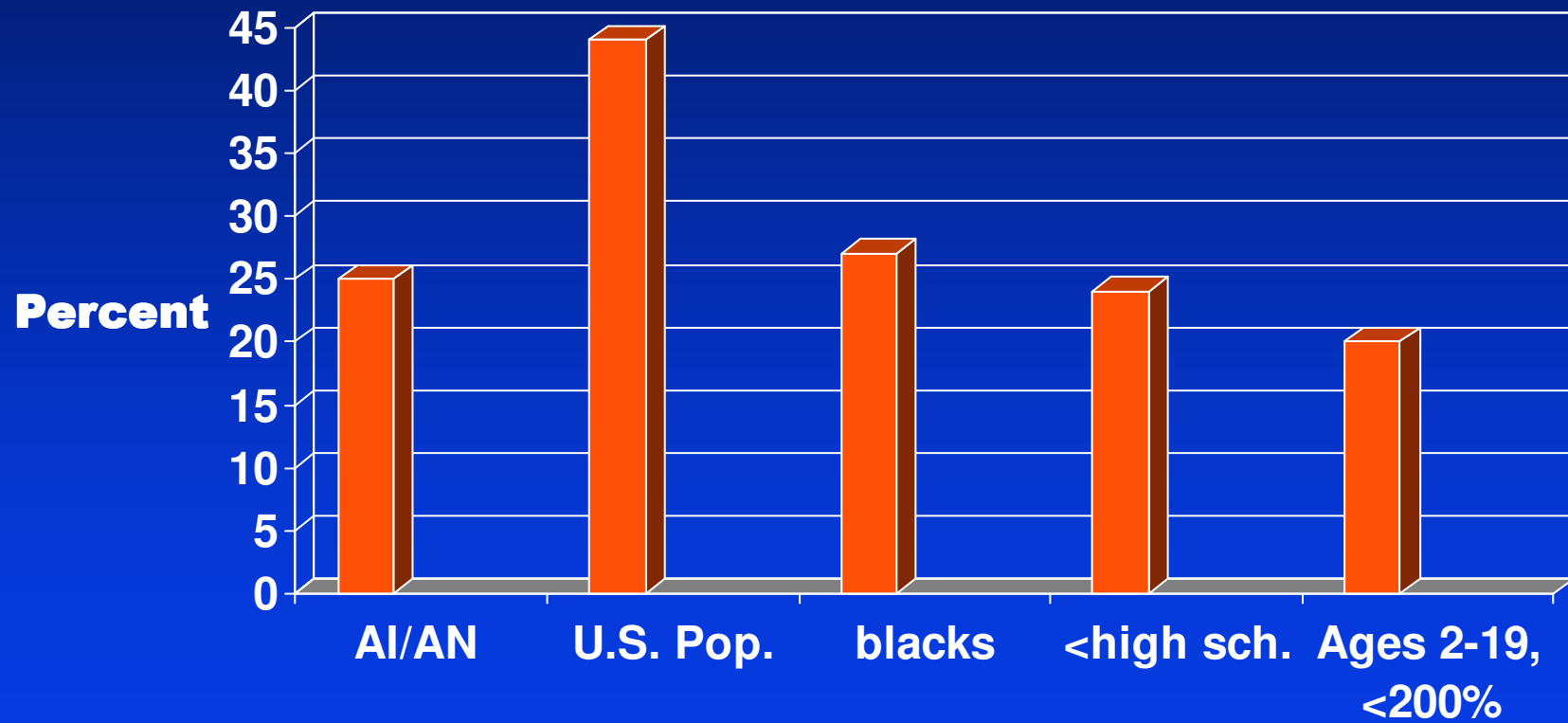


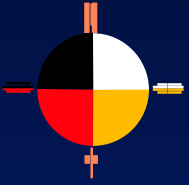
Access to Care: IHS Df.

- n Numerator: # patients with one or more dental encounters in the past year.
- n Denominator: # patients seen within our health care system in the past three years. (This group we refer to as our “user population.”)



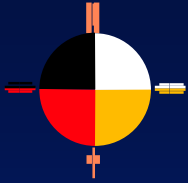
Access to Care





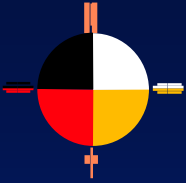
I was asked to address two questions:

- n 1. What are the key challenges to access in your program?**
- n 2. What are you doing to address the challenges?**

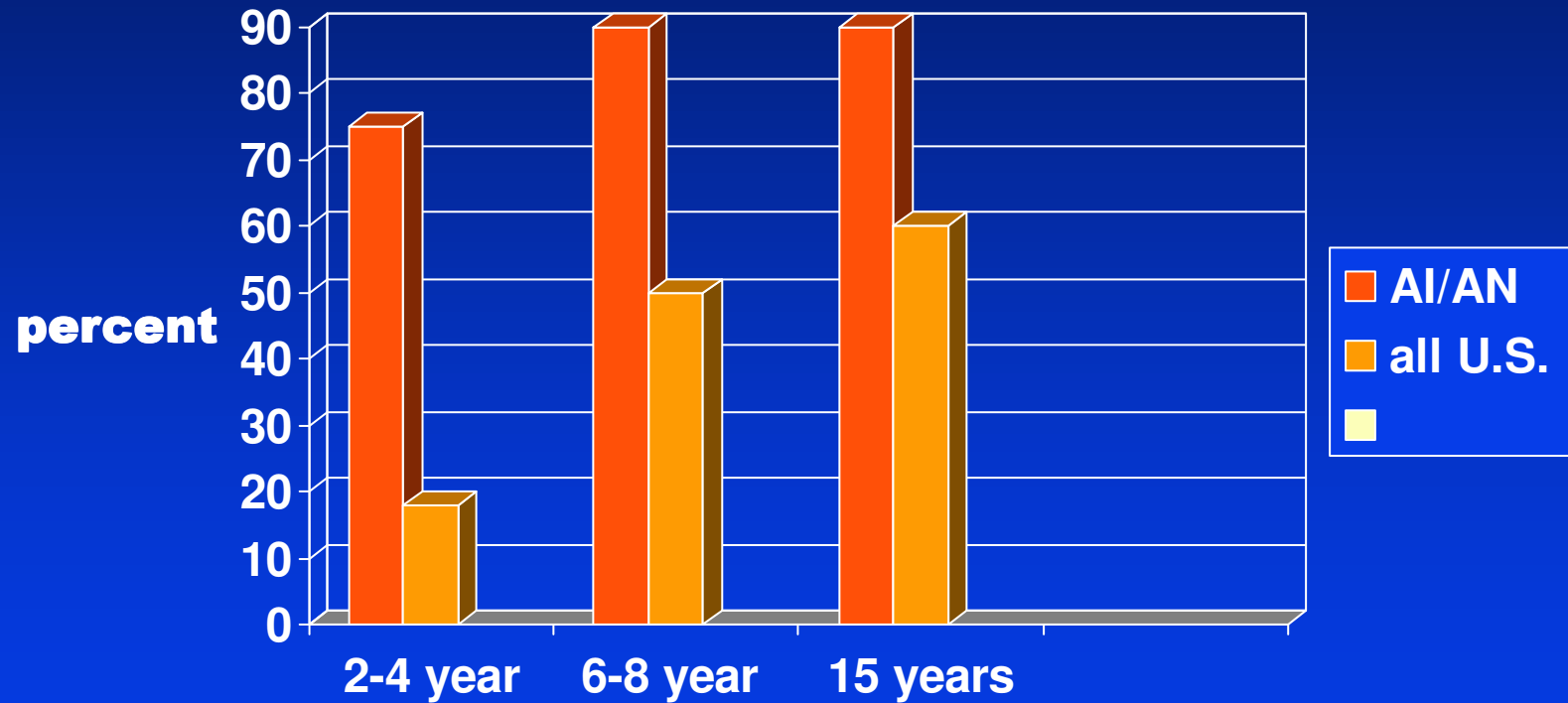


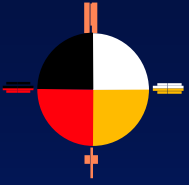
Key challenges that impact access to care:

- n Lack of sufficient number of providers (recruitment and retention issues).**
- n A relative lack of resources.**
- n An extremely high prevalence and severity of decay, especially among young children.**



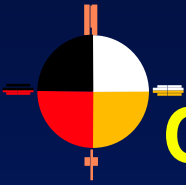
History of decay (one or more def / DMF)



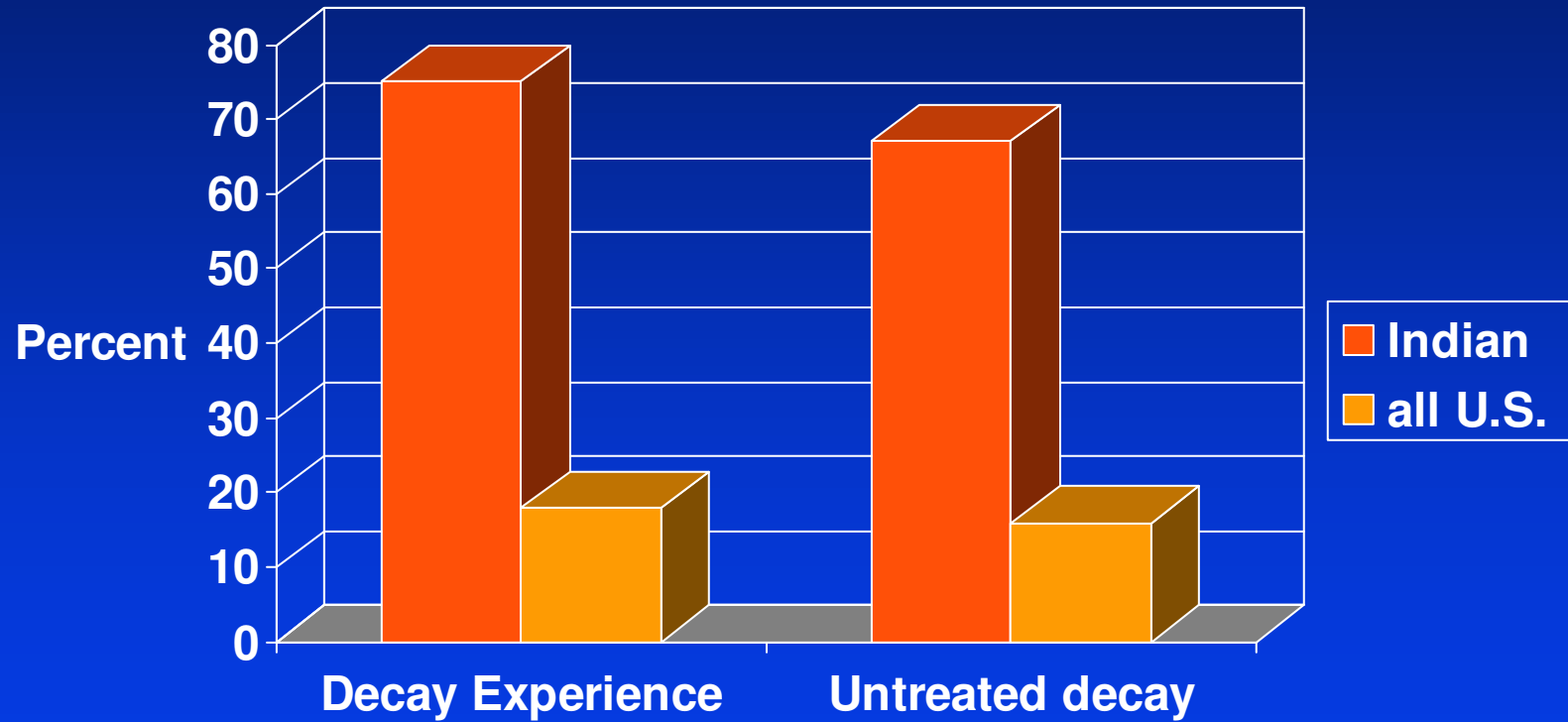


Pain and Suffering

- n 1 out of 3 children report missing school because of dental pain
- n 1 out of 4 children avoid laughing or smiling because of the way their teeth look



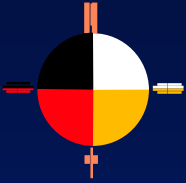
Caries Experience in 2-4 Year- Old Children



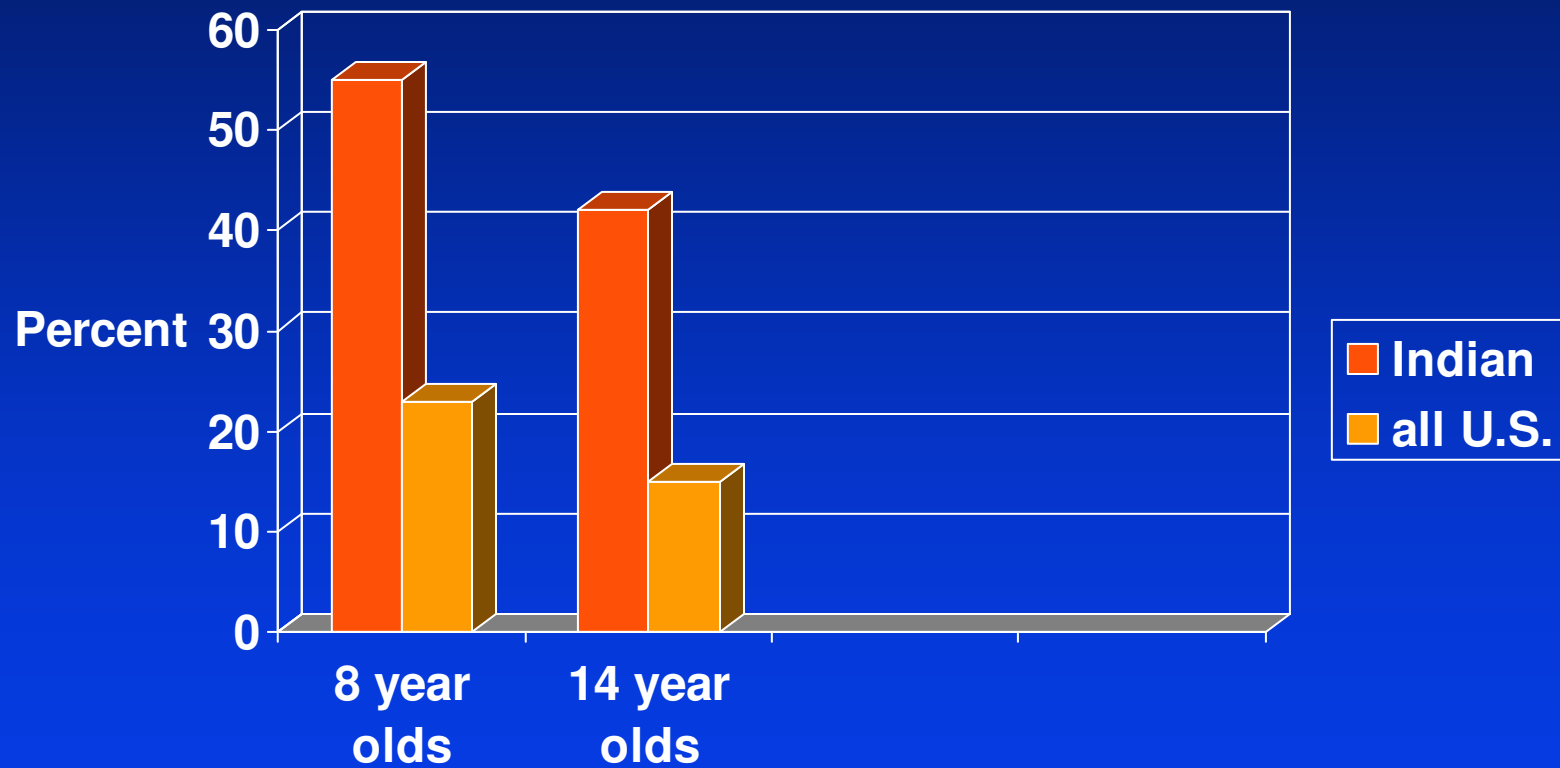


What are you doing to address the challenge?

- n **Fluoridation**
- n **Topical fluoride treatments**
- n **Health education**
- n **Various local interventions**
- n **Restorative, emergency, and preventive care**
- n **An innovative and aggressive recruitment program**
- n **Dental sealants**



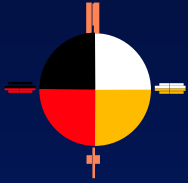
Prevalence of Sealants





What we need to do better:

- n **Optimize the use of allied dental personnel.**
- n **Customize programs for special populations.**
- n **Promote cultural competency / sensitivity.**
- n **Expand the perspective of organized dentistry.**
- n **Establish responsibility for the provision of needed resources.**



Indian Health Service Dental Program Contact

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