Addressing Health Inequity in Alaska
Through Culturally Relevant Online Cancer Education
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Background
Community Health Aides/Practitioners (CHA/Ps) are primary care providers, and serve Alaskans in 178 rural communities not on a road system. Cancer is the leading cause of death for Alaska Native people, disproportionately impacting Alaska Native people when compared with the US or non-Native Alaskans.

Developing Culturally Relevant Cancer Education in Alaska
Alaska’s CHA/Ps requested cancer information for themselves and their communities. In response, a team based at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium engaged in community based participatory action research to develop online learning. Twelve culturally relevant cancer education modules have been produced.

“MY comments are from me and people from my village/area. I think this is a great step in the right direction for educating ourselves about cancer, how to cure it; how to manage it/live with it everyday. Quyannapuk for making these first steps!”

-Alaska CHA/P

Learners’ Responses to Online Cancer Education
As of October 2018, over 1,600 online evaluation surveys had been completed. As a result of the modules, 97% of unique learners reported they intended to change behaviors to reduce their own cancer risk, 98% planned to share cancer information with their friends, families, or communities, and 87% intended to talk with their patients more often about cancer.

Modules are available for free, online at: https://anthc.remote-learner.net/
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Supplemental Webinars
In Spring 2018, no learners were able to take the semester-long cancer education course, although they expressed a desire to participate in the course’s synchronous sessions. Consequently, we offered ten 1-hour webinars for CHA/Ps.

“I enjoy hearing the facts directly from the speaker and having a chance for open discussion”
-Webinar Participant

Webinar Evaluation
A total of 11 unique learners completed 38 surveys for the ten webinars. Almost all participants were CHA/Ps, and 2/3 identified as Alaska Native.

As a Result of This Webinar, I Plan To Talk With My Patients More Often About...

“encourage tobacco users to stop using and make referral to the tobacco cessation with every patient that wants to quit”
-Webinar Participant

All unique learners planned to talk with their patients more often about cancer prevention and detection.

As a Result of This Webinar, Within the Next Six Months, I Plan to...

“these webinars are a great way for us to get together and have honest discussion without being judged”
-Webinar Participant

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November 2018