

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVES,

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FOCUS

Healthier Tribal Housing: Combining the Best of Old and New

Nate Seltenrich | A460-A469

A convergence of housing-related factors may be partly to blame for increased disease risks among Native Americans and Alaska Natives, including poorly constructed homes, poverty, overcrowding, a lack of consideration of climate, insufficient indoor ventilation, and use of wood-burning stoves. But if housing is a problem, it may also be a solution. Tribes across the country are now building healthier homes that combine traditional indigenous building methods and designs with modern green building techniques.

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ON THE COVER | SPHERES OF INFLUENCE



Progress and Pollution: Port Cities Prepare for the Panama Canal Expansion

Andrea Hricko | A470-A473

The Panama Canal expansion, slated for completion by 2015, has sparked the competitive imagination of East Coast and Gulf Coast port authorities who hope to capture some of the 70% of U.S. imports currently controlled by West Coast ports. Experts at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers call the Panama Canal expansion a likely “game changer” for U.S. trade, and container volumes at East Coast/Gulf Coast ports could more than double within the next two decades. But with this growth come questions about what major initiatives to expand cargo capacity could mean for public health in these port cities.

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