

What was the CATSO Project?

The CATSO Project explored collaborative relationships between state programs and tribal organizations working to serve the health needs of native and non-native women and children (MCH population).

The project's aim was to identify effective models of collaboration between state and tribal organizations.

What did CATSO do?

CATSO identified participants in states with federally-recognized tribes who were working for state MCH Title V or tribal organizations serving the MCH population. Surveys included questions about how many partners they had and how often participants worked with these partners. An interview was developed based on the survey responses. Sample interview questions included:

- What does collaboration mean to you?
- What barriers to collaboration do you perceive?
- What are some enabling factors that promote collaboration?
- What strategies do you use to enhance collaboration?
- How do you maintain, enhance, or facilitate collaboration?

From the responses, we were able to better understand how collaborative partnerships were conducted by the participants.

This project was a joint effort between the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP), and the National Indian Health Board (NIHB).

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For more information, please contact:

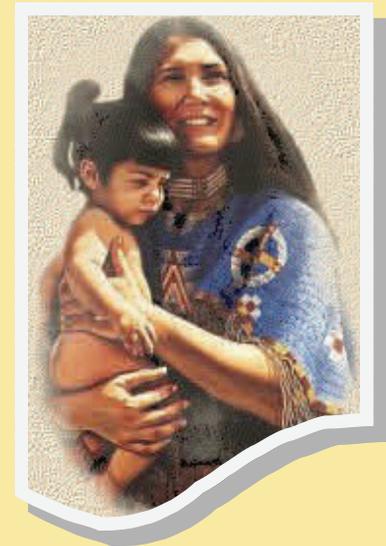
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Collaboration Among Tribal and State Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Organizations (CATSO) Project



Understanding collaboration between state and tribal organizations serving the health needs of American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) MCH population

Results from the CATSO Project
Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Highlights from CATSO

Primary Barriers to Collaboration

Organizational Issues:

- Varying definition of collaboration
- Differing organizational structure and style

Tribal-Specific Issues:

- Limited recognition and understanding of tribal sovereignty
- Lacking general understanding of treaty obligations and laws

Establishing and Maintaining Relationships:

- Feelings of being an outsider
- Infrequent or no contact related to mutually relevant MCH issues

Mutual Understandings:

- Limited exposure to non-tribal world
- Inadequate understanding of cultural competency

Financial Constraints:

- Differing financial contracting structures
- Funding & state budget constraints

Data Issues:

- Data collection differences between AI/AN region vs. state MCH Title V organizations
- Differences in data reporting structures

Hallmarks of Successful Collaboration

- **Open Communication**

- **Willingness to Work Together**

- **Having Common Goals**

- **Multi-Cultural Competency**

- **Meaningful Inclusion of Stakeholders and Partners**

- **Long-term Relationships**

- **Open, Voluntary, Committed Relationships**

- **Respecting Tribal Sovereignty**

Best Practices for Collaboration

**#1:
Organizational Culture Openly Values a Collaborative Working Style**

**#2:
Increase Mutual Understanding of Each Other's Cultures and Values**

**#3:
Understand and Respect Tribal Sovereignty**

**#4:
Reach Out and Establish Relevant and Appropriate Relationships**