Exploring the Foundations of Tribal Public Health Infrastructure

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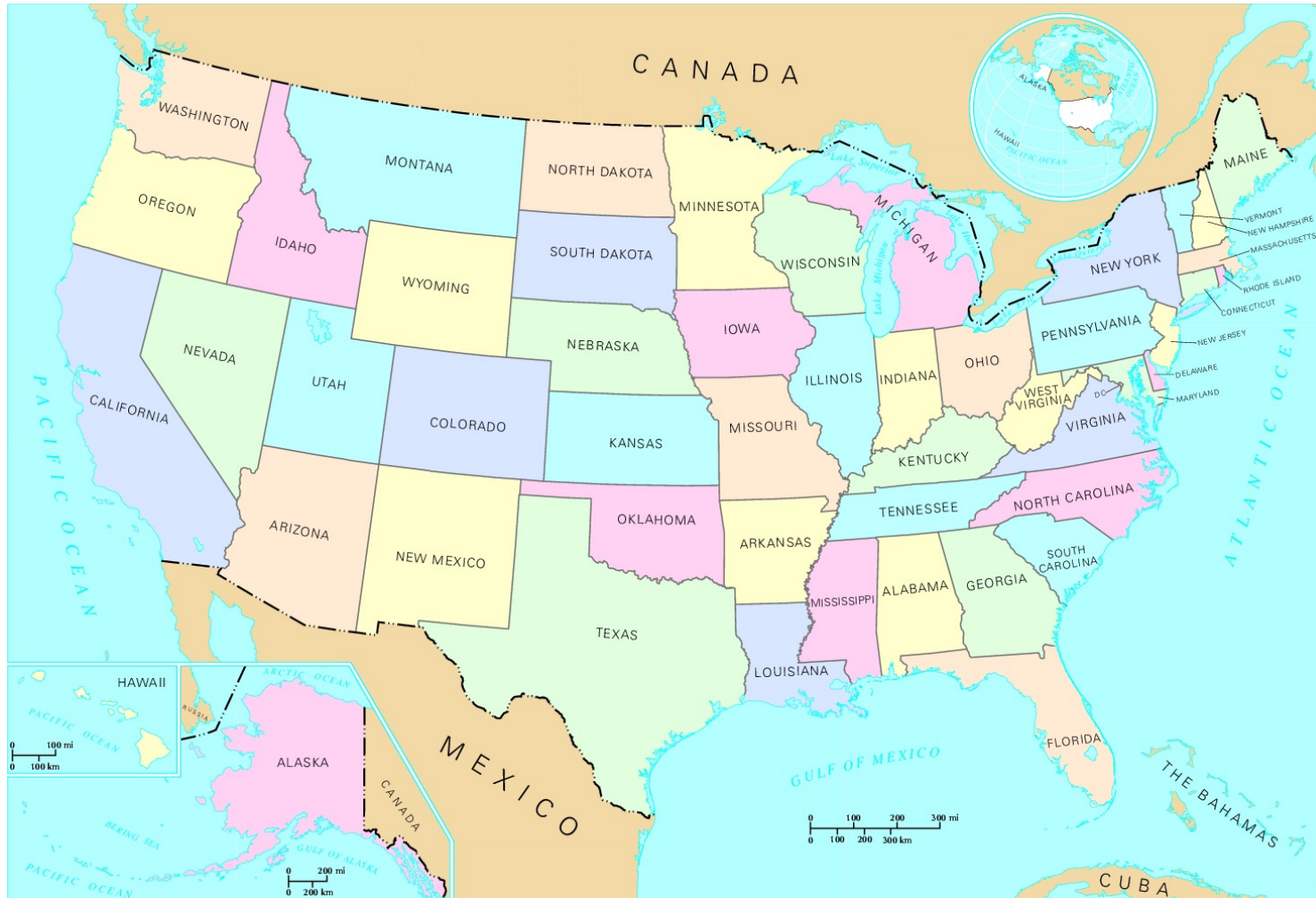**2021 Tribal Public Health Summit**
April 28, 2021

National Indian Health Board

Purpose: To advocate on behalf of all federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes to ensure the fulfillment of the trust responsibility to deliver health and public health services as assured through treaties, and reaffirmed in legislation, executive orders and Supreme Court

Mission Statement: One Voice affirming and empowering American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples to protect and improve health and reduce health
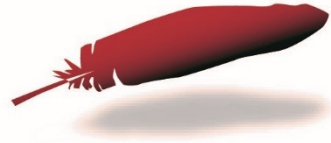
Where are you joining from?

Session Objectives

- Describe components of Tribal public health infrastructure

- Describe key findings from the 2019 PHICCS survey and their relation to public health infrastructure

- Name components of Tribal public health infrastructure in your work

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INTRODUCING TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

What is Public Health?

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"Working Upstream"

Three sisters walked along a river bank and saw people in the river struggling to stay afloat. The first sister, distraught, jumped in and tried began pulling people out but there was too many. The second sister, resolute to save them, jumped in the river and tried to teach them to swim but there were too many. After looking at the scene, the third sister walked away. Confused, her sisters called out to her, "Where are you going?" She answered "I am going upstream to find out why people are in the in the river and to stop it."

Public Health

The mission of public health is to

"fulfill society's interest in assuring conditions in which people can be healthy."

(Institute of Medicine, The Future of Public Health. National Academy Press, Washington, DC, 1988)
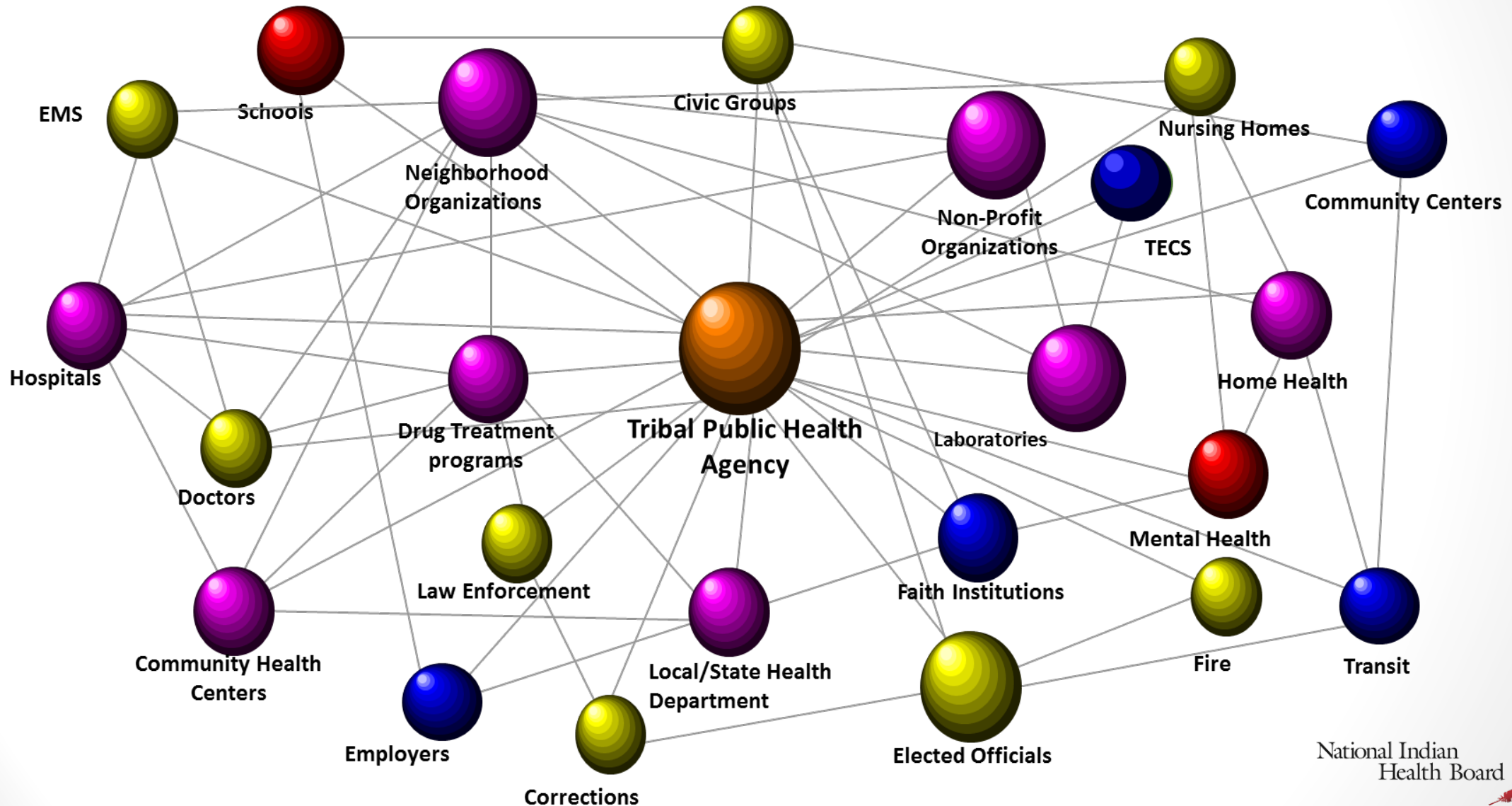
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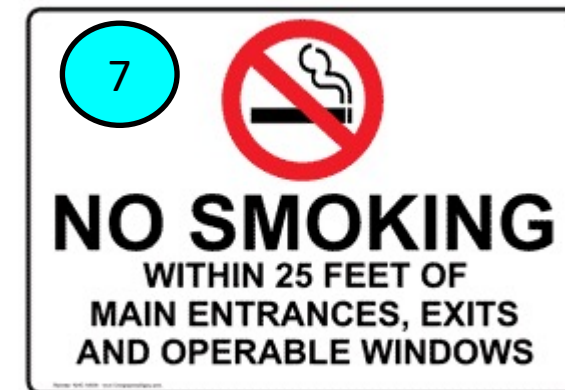Health Board
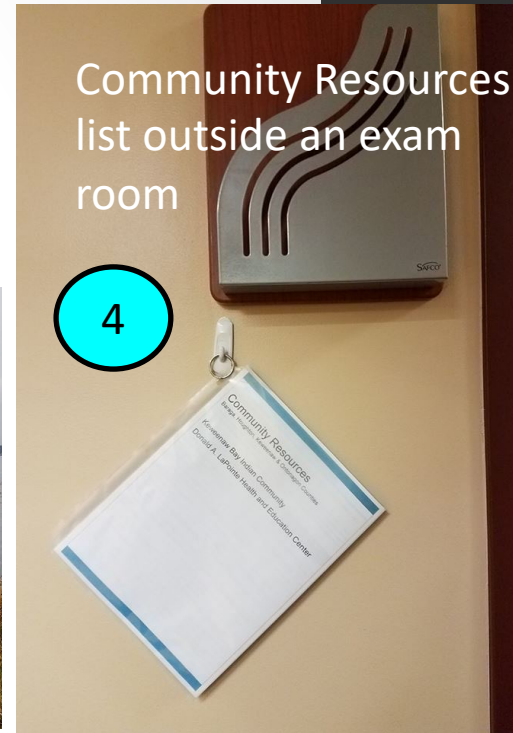
Tribal Public Health

- Tribes have an inherent right to promote and protect the health and welfare of their citizens, using the methods most relevant for their communities.
- Public health systems that are managed by Tribes for Tribes
- Highly varied across Tribes/organizations
- "Community health"

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Seeing Tribal Public Health

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Seeing Tribal Public Health

Community Resources list outside an exam room

Condom dispenser and instructions in a bathroom

NO SMOKING WITHIN 25 FEET OF MAIN ENTRANCES, EXITS AND OPERABLE WINDOWS
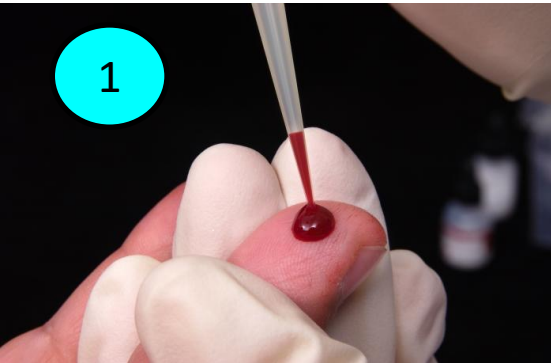
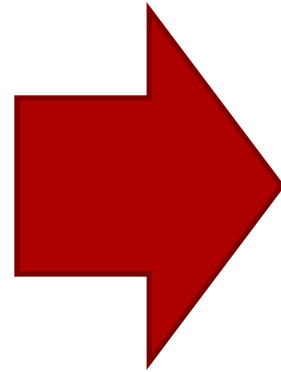# Community Infrastructure vs. Public Health Infrastructure

Community Infrastructure

- the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities needed for the operation of a society or enterprise. (for a society to function)

- Examples of modern infrastructure: transportation systems, communication networks, sewage, water, and power systems.

Public health infrastructure

- the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities needed for the operation of a public health system (for creating conditions in which people can be healthy)

- Examples: workforce, authority, communication networks, partnerships

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Public Health Infrastructure Brainstorm

What is it that holds up the Tribe's public health services in your community?
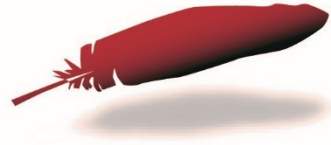
- Jot down **3+ things** that are needed for your Tribe to promote and protect the public's health in your community.
- Think about a framework; what pieces are needed and if they weren't there, the system would fail or not work well.

🚫 FUNDING

🚫 WORKFORCE

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EXPLORING PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Institute of Medicine (IOM) Public Health Reports

- 1988 IOM- The Future of Public Health Report
  - Public health mission
  - Governmental roles and responsibilities

- 2002 IOM – The Future of the Public's Health in the 21st Century.
  - Governmental public health infrastructure

  - Intersectoral partnerships
  - Population health approach

- 2012 IOM – For the Public's Health Report
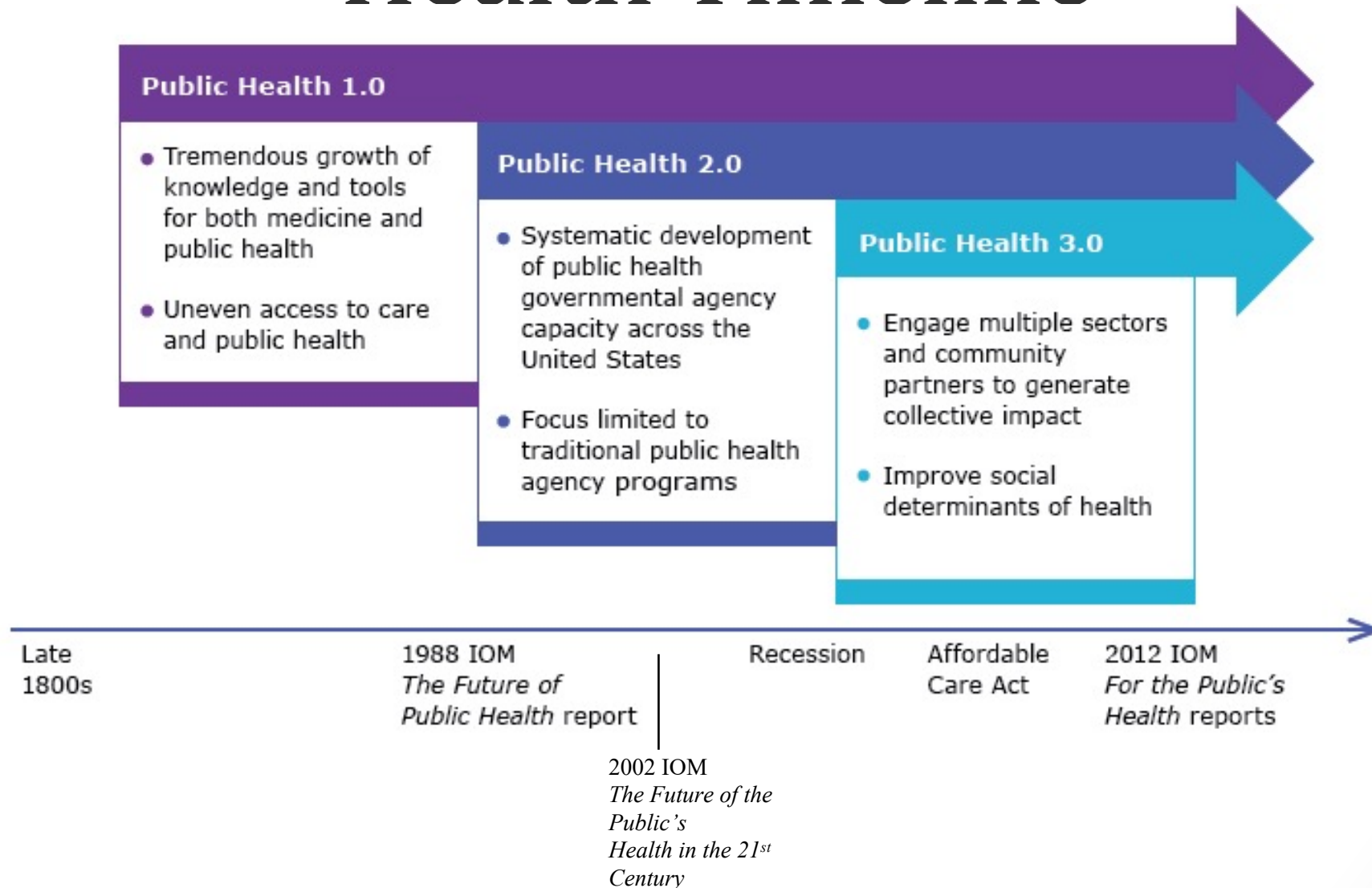 - Measurement
  - Law
  - Funding

The
Future
of
Public Health

Committee for the
Study of the Future of Public Health
Division of Health Care Services
Institute of Medicine

NATIONAL ACADEMY PRESS
Washington, D.C. 1988

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IOM Report Impact on Public Health Timeline

Public Health 1.0
- Tremendous growth of knowledge and tools for both medicine and public health
- Uneven access to care and public health

Public Health 2.0
- Systematic development of public health governmental agency capacity across the United States
- Focus limited to traditional public health agency programs

Public Health 3.0
- Engage multiple sectors and community partners to generate collective impact
- Improve social determinants of health

Late 1800s

1988 IOM
The Future of Public Health report

2002 IOM
The Future of the Public's Health in the 21st Century

Recession

Affordable Care Act

2012 IOM
For the Public's Health reports

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Public health infrastructure provides communities, states, and the Nation the capacity to prevent disease, promote health, and prepare for and respond to both acute (emergency) threats and chronic (ongoing) challenges to health. Infrastructure is the foundation for planning, delivering, evaluating, and improving public health.

HP2020 Components of Public Health Infrastructure:

1. A capable and qualified workforce
2. Up-to-date data and information systems
3. Agencies capable of assessing and responding to public health needs

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What are the 10 ES?

- "A framework for public health to protect and promote the health of all people in all communities."

- Focus on policies, systems and services to promote health.

- They are <u>not</u> all the services a public health department needs to provide by itself!

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Takeaways

- Tribal public health infrastructure is complex in nature and requires ongoing inclusion and support.
- There is a need for improved Tribal representation and feedback during public health infrastructure strategizing and planning.
- Tribes need to be better recognized as <u>governmental</u> providers of public health in influential documents.
- Tribal priorities may not be reflected adequately in state and local priorities.

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What is crucial to Tribal Public Health Infrastructure?

- Where can we look?
  - Stories from the field
  - Discussions and presentations
  - Tribal testimony to Congress
  - NIHB legislative and policy agenda
  - Public Health in Indian Country Capacity Scan (PHICCS)
  - NIHB's TA activities
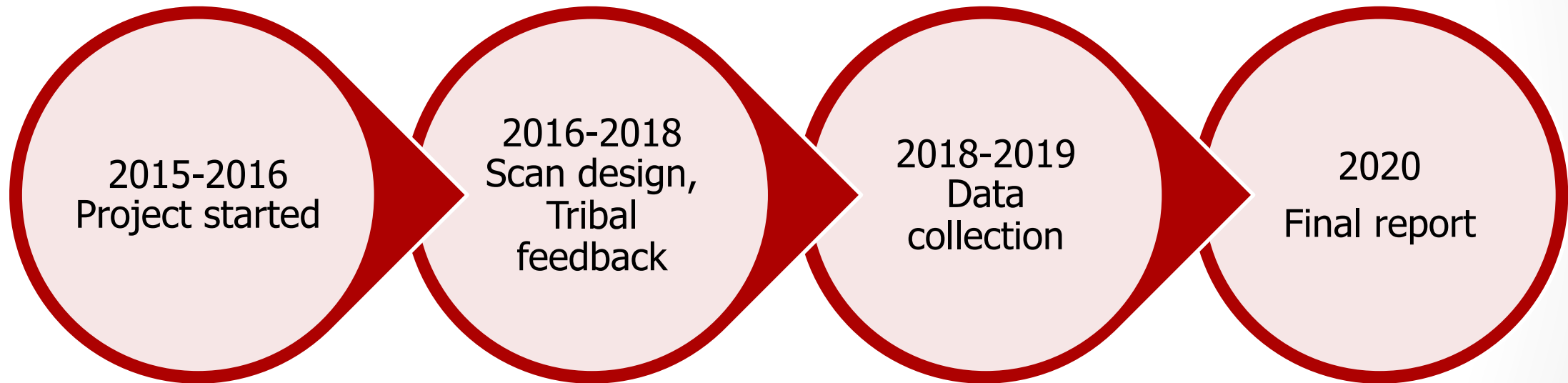 - Where else?
    - Please share in the chat box!

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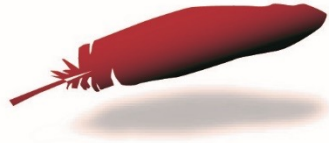
Infrastructure in action

THE PUBLIC HEALTH INDIAN COUNTRY CAPACITY SCAN (PHICCS)

PHICCS Project Overview

2015-2016
Project started

2016-2018
Scan design,
Tribal
feedback

2018-2019
Data
collection

2020
Final report

*Ongoing project support from CDC's Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support (CSTLTS)

2019 PHICCS Final Report

- Focus areas:
  - **Needs** – Assessing Tribal public health systems to identify needs
  - **Priorities** – Identifying Tribal priorities for development and resource allocation
  - **Opportunities** – Identifying opportunities for training and technical assistance
  - **Baseline** – Establishing a baseline to measure progress over time

Infrastructure in Action

- Key areas in PHICCS:
  - Workforce capacity and needs
  - Data systems and partnerships
  - Public health authority and governance

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What comes to mind when you think of workforce and workforce development?

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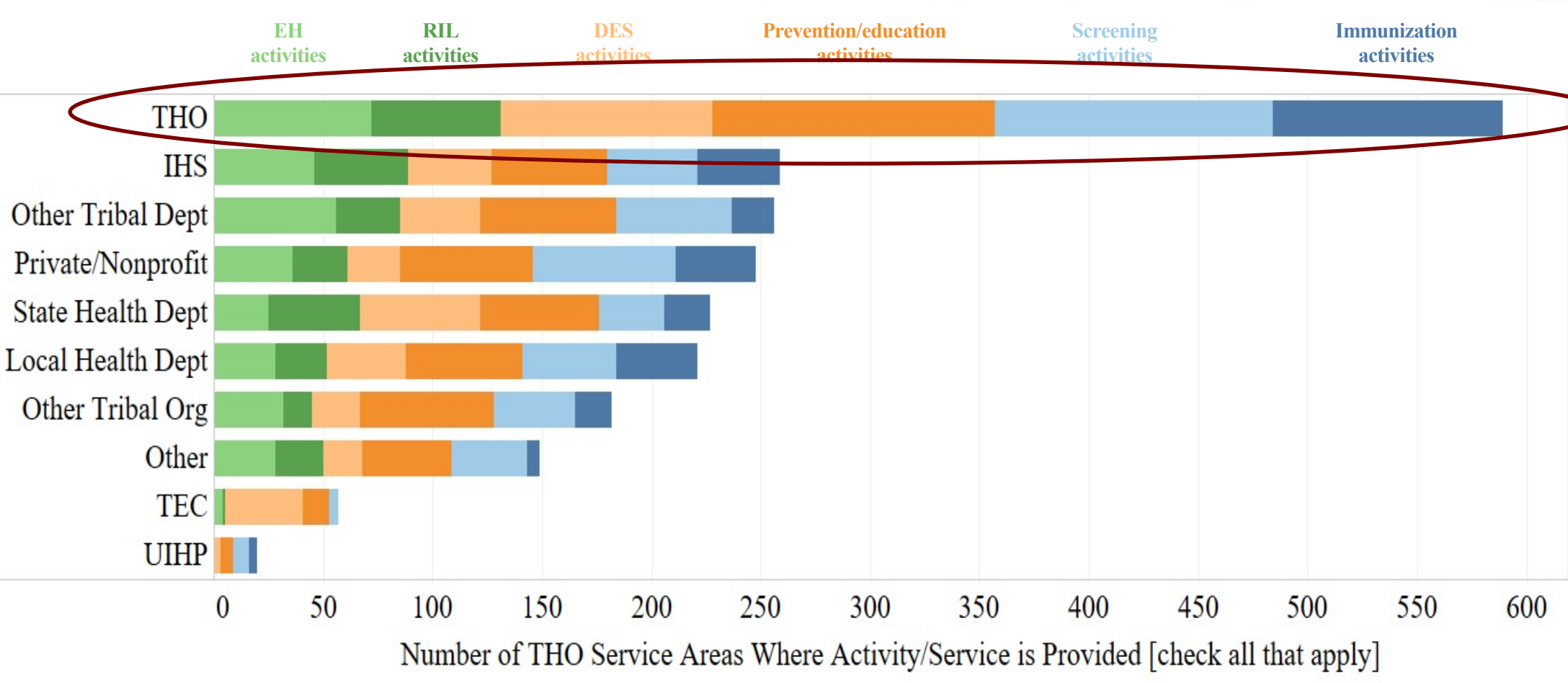# What comes to mind when you think of data systems and partnerships?

What comes to mind when you think of public health authority and governance?
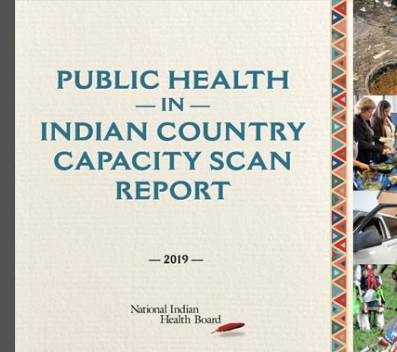
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Provision of Public Health Activities

Chart showing number of THO service areas where activity/service is provided, broken down by organization type (THO, IHS, Other Tribal Dept, Private/Nonprofit, State Health Dept, Local Health Dept, Other Tribal Org, Other, TEC, UIHP) and activity category (EH activities, RIL activities, DES activities, Prevention/education activities, Screening activities, Immunization activities).

Number of THO Service Areas Where Activity/Service is Provided [check all that apply]

Workforce – Highest Averages

Occupation	Funded FTE	Funded FTE Filled
Behavioral health staff	8.7	6.6
Office and admin support	5.0	4.2
Business and financial operations	4.6	4.0

PUBLIC HEALTH
— IN —
INDIAN COUNTRY
CAPACITY SCAN
REPORT
— 2019 —
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Workforce – Highest Averages

Occupation	Funded FTE	Funded FTE Filled
Epidemiologist/Statistician	0.2	0.2
Public Health Informatics Specialist	0.2	0.1
Public Health Information Specialist	0.2	0.2

Workforce Needs– Highest Averages

Occupation	Funded FTE Vacancies	Additional Funded FTE Needed
Behavioral health staff	1.7	1.8
CHRs	0.6	1.2
Nurse practitioners	0.6	n/a
Public health nurses	n/a	1.1

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Workforce Development Needs

| Training	Technical skills (data collection/analysis), and general training on public health
Professional development	Certification and licensing
Staffing	Including hiring and retention
PHAB-related	Assessment, performance improvement, and accreditation
Technical assistance	Assistance with epidemiology, data analysis, and public health informatics

Considerations for Tribal Workforce Development

- COVID-19 highlights the need for continual PH workforce support, including in emerging infectious disease preparedness
- Many Tribes may engage a variety of sectors for PH work
  - Development opportunities need to consider that many Tribal PH professionals may wear many hats

Tools for workforce development

- Partnership development – what is needed?
- Core Competencies

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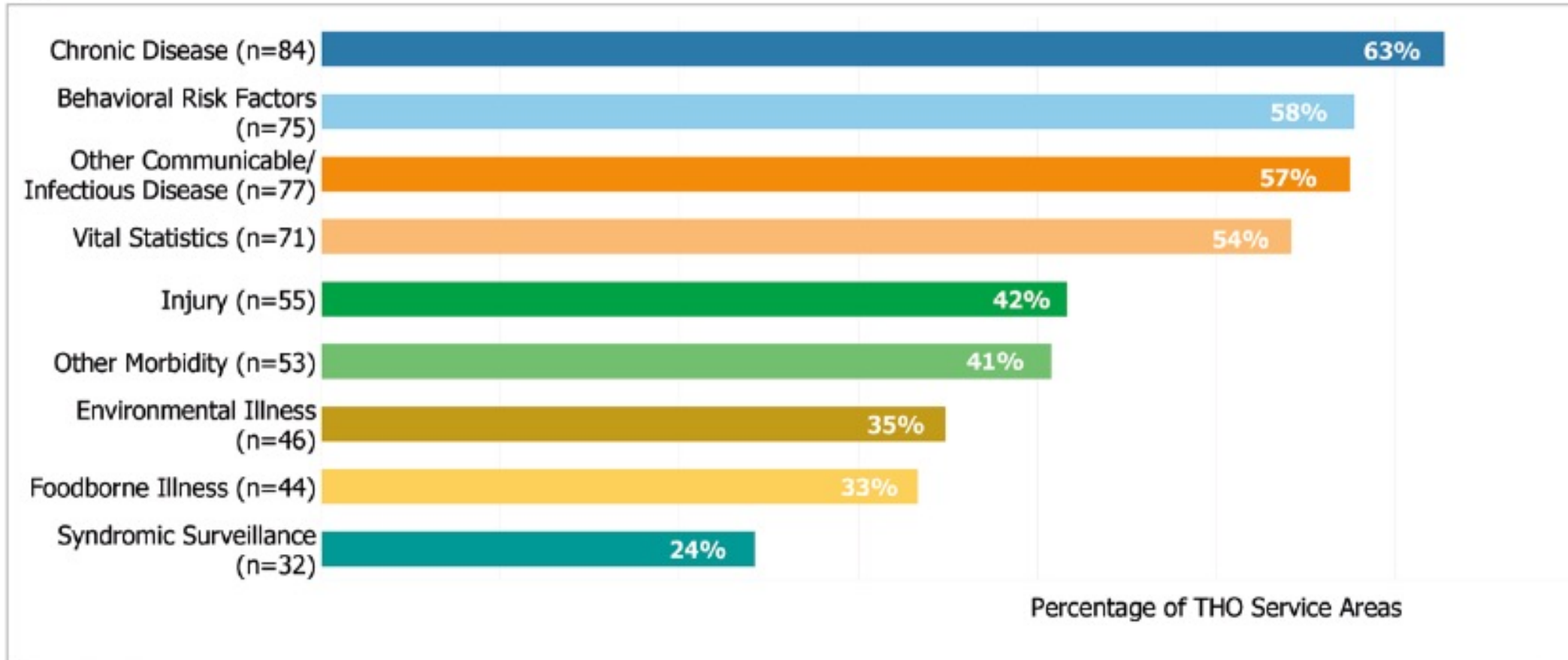Health Board
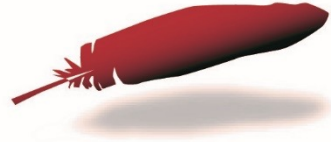
DATA SYSTEMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

PHICCS: Data systems and capacity

- Data collection is core public health capacity
- Enable Tribes to build real-time understanding of changes in Tribal health status
- Surveillance is "the ongoing, systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of health-related data essential to planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health practice." — *CDC Field Epidemiology*
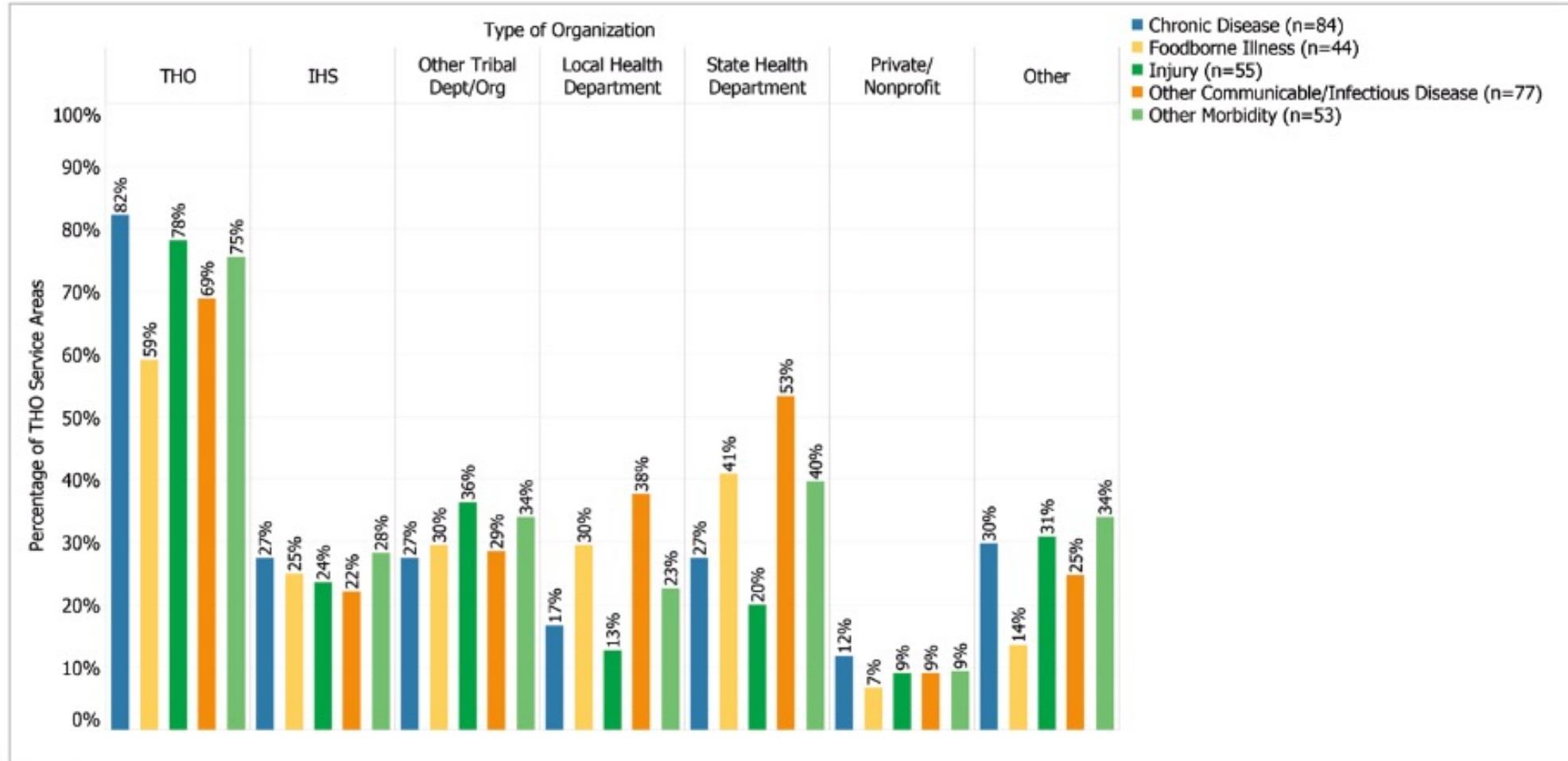
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PHICCS: Data collection

Figure 17 DATA COLLECTION, EPIDEMIOLOGY, AND/OR SURVEILLANCE (DES) ACTIVITIES

- Chronic Disease (n=84): 63%
- Behavioral Risk Factors (n=75): 58%
- Other Communicable/Infectious Disease (n=77): 57%
- Vital Statistics (n=71): 54%
- Injury (n=55): 42%
- Other Morbidity (n=53): 41%
- Environmental Illness (n=46): 35%
- Foodborne Illness (n=44): 33%
- Syndromic Surveillance (n=32): 24%
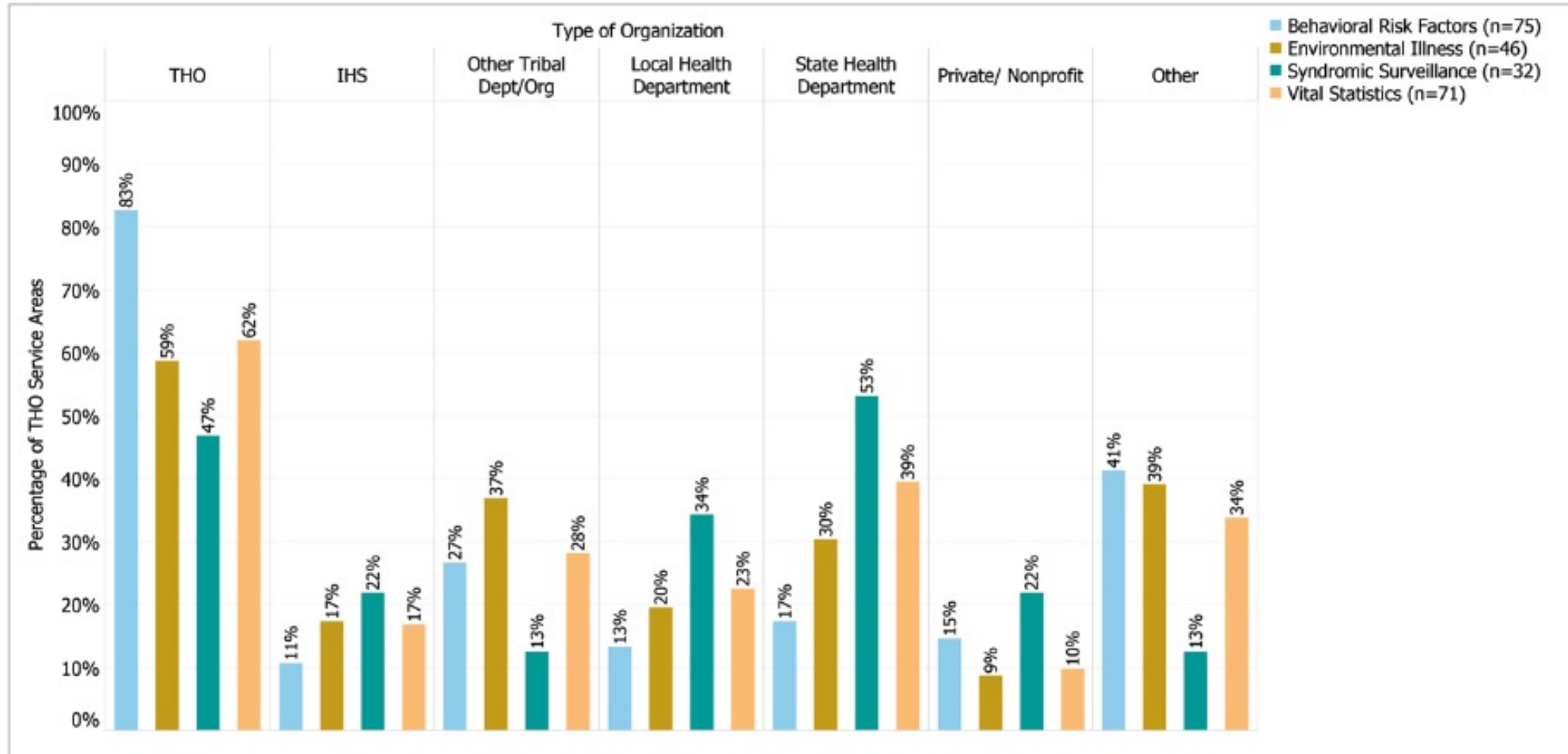
Percentage of THO Service Areas

PHICCS: Data collection

Figure 18 PHYSICAL HEALTH DATA COLLECTION, EPIDEMIOLOGY, AND/OR SURVEILLANCE (DES) ACTIVITIES BY PROVIDER TYPE

PHICCS: Data collection

Figure 19 SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL HEALTH & OTHER DATA COLLECTION, EPIDEMIOLOGY, AND/OR SURVEILLANCE (DES) ACTIVITIES BY PROVIDER TYPE
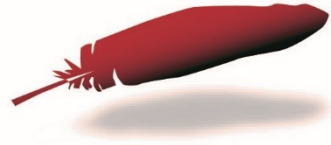
Considerations for Tribal PH Data Systems and Partnerships

- Who collects the information you're looking for?
  - Is it already being collected by a Tribe/department/organization/agency?
  - Will you need to establish new systems? Partnerships?

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PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY AND GOVERNANCE

PH Authority and governance

- Six core functions of public health governance:
  - Policy development
  - Resource stewardship
  - Continuous improvement
  - Partner engagement
  - Legal authority
 - Oversight

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Authority: Governing Body

Prompts:
- Who is on your governing body?
- How are they chosen?
- How do they interact with the health department?
- Who governs the health department? Is this different than your Tribe's government?
- Who is responsible for providing public health activities?

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Public Health Authority
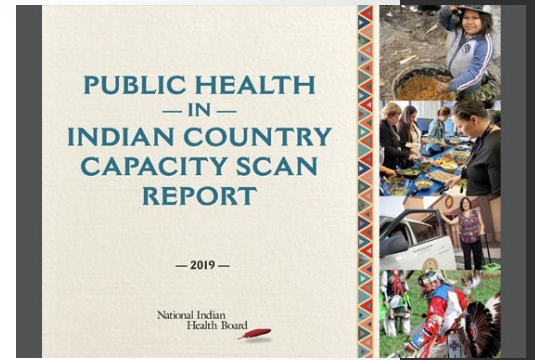
- Governance
  - Ranged from 0-4 governance structures
  - Single structure most common, including Board of Health/Health Board (37%) and Tribal CEO/Chair (37%)
- Public health laws/policies
  - 59% reported having any type of law/policy
  - Policies/goals/priorities most common (84%)
  - Lower use of regulations, codes, taxes, fees

Administration

Prompts:

- What key positions are part of your health department?

- What is their background (experience, education, etc.)?

- What principles should they embody?
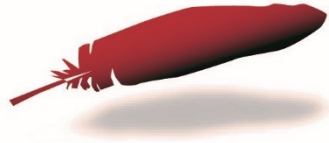
- What is their role?

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Questions:

- What forms of governance do you see in your communities?
- What roles should governance bodies have?

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HEALTH EQUITY AND TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

What comes to mind when you think of health equity?

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https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/infographics/visualizing-health-equity.html#/download

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- CDC: "**Health equity** is when everyone has the opportunity to be as healthy as possible."

What is missing from these definitions that is unique to Tribes?

Gap in Resources and Tools that Contribute to Health Equity

- Healthy People

- CDC's Tribal Epidemiology Centers Public Health Infrastructure Program

- Spirit of Community Health Policy Brief

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Health Equity Support

- Partnerships
- Tribal-specific resources
  - PHICCS
- Tribal Public Health Accreditation Advisory Board (TPHAAB)
- Tools and Resources

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Strategies to support Health Equity

- Plan for it (strategic planning)

- Collect data and analyze

- Consider the social determinants of health

- Build frameworks/models for *Tribal* health equity

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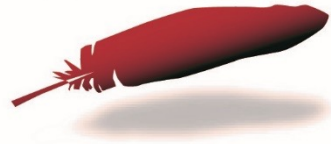
Thank you!

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