



# PHICCS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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## What is PHICCS?

The Public Health in Indian Country Capacity Scan (PHICCS) is a national scan, to be conducted every three years by the National Indian Health Board (NIHB). The purpose of PHICCS is to assess the capacity of Tribal health and Tribal public health organizations for delivering public health services. This important tool helps Tribes, Tribal organizations, partners and policymakers better understand Tribal public health infrastructure and plan for future improvements.

## What is the goal of PHICCS?

The goal of PHICCS is ultimately to support improved health and well-being for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs). This project will compile a report that reinforces and guides essential public health work in Indian Country, especially in the areas of Tribal public health practice, technical support, and assessing priority areas to improve Indian health. The report may aid efforts to educate Congress, federal agencies, private foundations, and policymakers on the resources needed to build enduring Tribal public health capacity.

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## How do Tribes and Tribal Organizations benefit from PHICCS?

This report will help demonstrate the connections between the daily operations of individual Tribal health organizations and the collective efforts to improve the health status of AI/ANs taking place nationally. Such information will benefit Tribes in a number of ways, including:

- Assessing Tribal public health systems to identify needs.
- Identifying Tribal priorities for development and resource allocation.
- Identifying opportunities for training and technical assistance.
- Establishing a baseline to measure progress over time.
- Supporting advocacy efforts for the betterment of all Tribes. Robust and accurate data will lead to data-informed decision-making.
- Increasing the visibility of Tribal entities and the public health services they provide.

NIHB is committed to Tribal data sovereignty, and Tribes will maintain full ownership of their data and be able to request their data for their own programs.



## Why should my Tribe complete the survey?

- You will contribute to the big picture of Tribal public health capacity, over time. PHICCS is the only source of Tribal public health capacity across the nation. The more Tribes that participate, the more accurate the picture will be.
- National policy and administrative decisions concerning public health affect all Tribes. PHICCS is a tool to educate policymakers on the unique needs in Indian Country and allows you to be heard.
- You will be able to compare your public health capacity to national data. This may help identify areas of strengths and improvement.
- You may choose to use your data for benchmarking, grant writing and reporting to your governing body. If you participated in PHICCS I, you will also be able to compare your data over time.

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## What types of questions does the survey ask?

The survey asks about a range of topics, including what public health services are provided for the Tribal population; how those services are provided; the Tribe's public health work force; the Tribe's public health priorities; and resources needed to improve public health service delivery or capacity.

## Who should complete the survey?

From experience with PHICCS I, the most appropriate person to fill out the survey will be a Tribal Health/Public Health Director or a Tribal Administrator. It is important that this person be knowledgeable about their Tribe's public health system, programs and services. Tribal health directors may choose to designate a single individual or enlist others to fill out the scan; however, only one response per Tribe will be accepted.

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## How long will it take to complete?

The average time to complete PHICCS I was approximately 50 minutes. For efficiency, information can be collected prior to opening the link and NIHB will offer guidance on how best to prepare. Participants will be able to save their responses and return to the survey during the open period if it cannot be completed in one sitting.



## How will the data be reported?

NIHB will analyze nationally-aggregated data and produce a national report – the Public Health in Indian Country Capacity Scan Report – which will be disseminated widely to Indian Country. **No individually identifying data will be reported.** Tribal recommendations are welcome on analyzing and reporting data by region, size of Tribe or other parameters. Survey data will be housed and password protected at NIHB. Participants may request and receive their individual data.

## How will NIHB capture the diversity of Tribes?

NIHB understands that there is vast diversity in Indian Country. Knowing that some questions may not capture all the work that is occurring, NIHB is proposing to use a text box format at the conclusion of the survey so unique aspects can be understood.

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## Questions?

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Visit the **[PHICCS website](#)** for more  
**information!**

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