

National Indian Health Board



Tribal Epidemiology Centers

Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs) work in partnership with the local or area Tribes to improve the health and well-being of their Tribal community members by offering culturally-competent approaches that work toward eliminating health disparities that are faced by AI/AN populations. Accomplishing this often requires the TECs to work with a coordinated approach with the Tribes, the Indian Health Service (IHS), other federal agencies, state agencies, and often academic institutions throughout the country. There are currently 11 TECs in the United States however it is important to note that the TECs are not Tribal specific to one individual Tribe or Nation and they are not IHS region/area specific.

Tribal Epidemiology Centers provide various types of support and services due to the variation of the TECs organization structure, divisions, Tribal populations, and their mission and goals. The following are some examples of the support and services offered by each TEC:

- Providing timely and accurate access to meaningful health data.
- Updated community health data profiles that are specific to the Tribes.
- Training in epidemiology to Tribal members to improve health programs through enhancing capacity to collect and analyze data.
- Assisting Tribes in data management and reporting requirements.
- Surveillance: Assisting, coordinating and facilitating public health response to disease outbreaks and clusters in Tribal areas, dissemination of surveillance data, and investigation of disease outbreaks and clusters.
- Support and/or coordination of Tribal health surveillance systems.
- Participation and support for systems that share, improve, and disseminate aggregate health data of AI/AN populations for the purpose of advocacy and to further the understanding of health disparities.
- Maintain and/or enhance the Tribal system for developing/implementing health promotion/disease prevention (HP/DP) programs or studies in cooperation with other public health entities that are working to improve AI/AN health.
- Providing technical assistance in planning and evaluating current Tribal health programs and systems.

A short description of each TEC, what Tribal communities they serve and the location are included on the next 3 pages:



1. Alaska Native Tribal Epidemiology Center

Anchorage, AK

The Alaska Native Tribal Epidemiology Center is operated thru by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, a non-profit health organization owned and managed by Alaska Native tribal governments and their regional health organizations.

Website: <http://www.anthc.org/chs/epicenter/index.cfm>

2. Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center

Albuquerque, NM

The Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board founded the Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center in 2006. The mission of the Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center is to collaborate with the 27 Southwestern American Indian Tribes to provide health-related research, surveillance and training to improve the quality of life of American Indians.

Website: <http://www.aastec.net/default.asp?DomName=aastec.net>

3. California Tribal Epidemiology Center (CTEC)

Sacramento, California

California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc established the CTEC in the fall of 2005 with three founding partner organizations representing 51 tribes. By the end of 2006, the CTEC had 21 member tribal health organizations representing 85 tribes through the Health Data Sharing Agreements they signed.

Website: <http://www.crihb.org/health-resources/california-epi-center.html>

4. Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Centers

Lac du Flambeau, WI

Through the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center works in partnership with federally recognized American Indian Tribal Nations in the Bemidji Indian Health Service (IHS) area of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Thirty-four Tribes and three Urban programs are served by this project.

Website: <http://www.glitc.org/epicenter/index.html>

5. Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona Inc. Epidemiology Center

Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona

Phoenix, AZ

The ITCA Epidemiology Center is one of the original centers funded in 1996 by the Indian Health Service (IHS) to serve the Arizona-Nevada-Utah region. The mission of the Epicenter is to empower the

American Indian Tribes in the Phoenix and Tucson Areas of the Indian Health Service in the further development of their health services and systems.

Website: <http://www.itcaonline.com/epi/index.html>

6. Rocky Mountain Tribal Epidemiology Center (RMTEC)

Billings, Montana

Planning and development for the RMTEC, a division of the Montana Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council (MT-WY TLC), started in the fall of 2005 in collaboration with multiple stakeholders, including Tribal members, Billings Area Office Indian Health Service (BAO-IHS), state officials, and county officials. A proposal to establish the RMTEC and execute these projects was submitted to IHS and awarded in September 2006. The RMTEC serves 10 Tribes in Montana and Wyoming.

Website: <http://www.rmtec.org/>

7. Navajo Nation Tribal Epidemiology Center

Window Rock, Arizona

The Navajo Nation Tribal Epidemiology Center was established 2005 and is funded through the Indian Health Service (IHS). The NNTEC is currently in the 3rd year of a 5-year program and currently employs 2 staff. This TEC serves the people of the Navajo Nation which is located in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

8. Northern Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center (NPTEC)

Rapid City, South Dakota

The Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board established the Northern Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center (NPTEC). The NPTEC addresses issues specific to improving the health of American Indian people of Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Website: <http://www.aatchb.org/epi/index.htm>

9. Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center

Portland, OR

In 1997, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) received funding for the development of the Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center. The Epicenter serves the 43 federally recognized tribes in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

Website: http://www.npaihb.org/epicenter/about_the_epicenter/

10. Southern Plains Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center

Oklahoma City, OK

The Oklahoma City Area Inter-Tribal Health Board (OCAITHB), a non-profit organization based in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, created the Southern Plains Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center. The Epicenter hopes to improve the lives of tribal members for the 41 federally recognized tribes located in the states of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Website: <http://www.ocaithb.org/>

11. United South and Eastern Tribes Tribal Epidemiology Center (USET TEC)

Nashville, TN

The USET TEC was established in 2000 by the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., a non-profit, inter-tribal organization that collectively represents its member Tribes at the regional and national level. The USET includes twenty-five federally recognized Tribes located throughout the eastern and southern areas of the United States.

Website: <http://www.usetinc.org/defaultpage.cfm?ID=41>

For more information on Tribal Epidemiology Centers or for contact information for any of the Tribal Epicenters listed above, please visit the National Indian Health Board website at www.nihb.org or contact Audrey Solimon, Senior Advisor of Public Health Programs at asolimon@nihb.org or 202-507-4070.