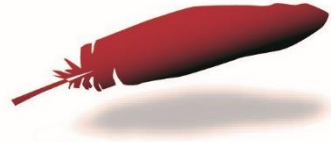


National Indian  
Health Board



# **Preliminary Findings from Environmental Health Listening Sessions**

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# Workshop Learning Objectives

1. Participants will be able to identify environmental health concerns and issues discussed in several AI/AN communities.
2. Participants will be able to discuss needs and Tribal programs used to address environmental health concerns.



# Purpose

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) held four listening sessions to:

- Gather Tribal leaders' and Tribal health professionals' insights about environmental health (EH) concerns,
- Share innovative approaches Tribal Nations are using to address those concerns.

These insights will be used by CDC to inform a national and/or regional Tribal Environmental Health Summit(s) and other programmatic work in Indian Country.



# Why Convene Environmental Health Listening Sessions

- CDC needed to **first** hear from various tribal communities, leaders and representatives before proceeding with a national/regional Tribal EH Summit.
- Information gained from the listening sessions will be critical with shaping a successful summit and ensure it will highly resonate with summit participants.



# Benefit to Tribal Communities

- Increase awareness of EH concerns in Tribal communities
- Increase partnerships between Tribal EH professionals and federal agencies
- Increase national and/or regional programmatic activities regarding EH



# Project Development

- Literature review
  - NIHB reviewed programmatic efforts and scientific research that has been done in Tribal communities around environmental health.
  - CDC also conducted a comprehensive review of past and current Tribal environmental health activities to identify concerns and issues most frequently addressed.



# Project Development, Con't.

- Listening session discussion topics:
  - Overall environmental health
  - Water quality
  - Heavy metal exposure
  - Air quality
  - Climate and health
  - National environmental health summit
- Marketing strategies



# Project Development, Con't.

- Convened four 90-minute listening sessions
  - 2 regional
  - 2 national
- Evaluated each session





# Preliminary Findings



# Session Attendance and Location

| Conference/Meeting   | Location                  | Date     | Attendees  | Participants | Tribal Representation of Attendees                                      |
|--|---------------------------|----------|------------|--------------|---|
| 2019 NCAI's Executive Council Winter Session <b>(National)</b>                                 | Washington, DC            | 2/13/19  | 8          | 3            | Alaska, Bemidji, and Great Plains                                       |
| 2019 Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance Spring Water Conference <b>(Regional)</b>              | Rapid City, SD            | 4/10/19* | 28         | 11           | Great Plains  |
| Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board's Spring Quarterly Board Meeting <b>(Regional)</b> | Anacortes, WA (Swinomish) | 4/17/19  | 19         | 13           | Portland Area   |
| NIHB's 2019 Tribal Public Health Summit <b>(National)</b>                                      | Albuquerque, NM           | 5/15/19  | 52         | 23           | Alaska, Bemidji, Billings, Oklahoma City, Phoenix, Portland, and Tucson |
| <b>Total</b>   |                           |          | <b>107</b> | <b>50</b>    |   |

# Overall Tribal Representation: Attendees and Participants

## 2019 National Conference of American Indians Executive Council (National)

Fort Peck Oceti Sakowin  
Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa

## 2019 Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance Spring Water Conference (Regional)

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe  
Oglala Sioux  
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska  
Rosebud Sioux  
Standing Rock Sioux



# Overall Tribal Representation: Attendees and Participants

## Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board's Spring Quarterly Board Meeting

Burns Paiute  
Colville Tribes  
Coquille Tribe  
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
Jonestown S'klallam  
Kalispel  
Klamath  
Lower Elwha  
Makah  
Nisqually  
Quileute  
Sauk-Suiattle  
Samish  
Shoshone-Bannock  
Siletz  
Suquamish  
Upper Skagit  
Warm Springs

## NIHB's 2019 Tribal Public Health Summit

|                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Arapahoe                        | Cochiti Pueblo          |
| Pascua Yaqui                    | Red Lake Chippewa       |
| Blackfeet                       | Saginaw Chippewa        |
| Pawnee Nation of<br>Oklahoma    | Fond du Lac<br>Chippewa |
| Cheyenne                        | Salt River Pima         |
| Hoh Tribe                       | Maricopa Indian         |
| Kenaitze Tribe                  | Ho Chunk Nation         |
| Ketchikan Indian<br>Community   | Tohono O'odham          |
| Lac du Flambeau Chippewa        |                         |
| Lower Sioux Indian<br>Community |                         |
| Native Village of Barrow        |                         |
| Navajo                          |                         |
| Nez Perce                       |                         |
| Oglala Lakota                   |                         |
| Oneida Nation                   |                         |

# Preliminary Results by EH Topic:

- Overall environmental health issues
- Water quality
- Heavy metal exposure
- Air quality
- Climate and health



# Overall Environmental Health Issues

- Healthy Housing
  - Concerns with mold, overcrowding, and water/sewer
  - Substandard structures/infrastructure
    - Some homes built mostly on wetlands
- Trash/Waste problems in communities



# Water Quality Issues

- Water pollution from industry
- Water pollution effects on animal and plant life
- Failing water systems (Infrastructure)
- Climate issues affecting water quality



# Heavy Metal Exposure Issues

- Mining
- Nitrates in water
- Uranium found in water tables





# Air Quality Issues

- Wildfires and smoke
- Indoor air quality affected by coal furnaces
- Emissions from oil, power, and gas plants



# Climate and Health Issues

- Coastal erosion in Alaska
- Migratory fish populations changes
- Ceremonial and cultural events
- Droughts
- Floods
- Other storms



# Resources Needed to Address EH Issues by Topic



# Water Quality Needs

- Clean drinking water
- Examination of ground and surface water rights for oil and gas development
- Checkerboard nature of land ownership on reservations
  - non-Indians' failure to recognize or accept Tribal water codes.
- Access to financial resources
- Staffing



# Climate and Health Needs

- Access to resources
- Staffing
- Technical assistance
  - CDC PACE Assessment



# Existing Programs to Address Issues Mentioned by EH Topic



# Existing Programs to Address Issues Mentioned by EH Topic

| <u>Water Quality Programs</u>  | <u>Air Quality Program</u>             | <u>Climate and Health Programs</u>  |
|--|--|---|
| Tribal fish hatcheries   | Ho-Chunk has an air monitoring program | Tribes are conducting climate summaries with assistance from the Tribal natural resources department and the Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance |
| Tribal policies preventing oil companies from entering the community   |  |   |
| Water assessment programs  |  |   |
| Oglala Sioux Tribe has its own water department  |  |   |
| Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe has two water departments   |  |   |
| The Mni Wiconi Water project focuses on the Safe Drinking Water Act. Participants believe that the program should also focus on ground and surface water as well |  |   |



# National Sessions: Summit

- Balance between technical and elected leaders
- Desire to have multiple agencies/offices present
- Share the content with Tribes ahead of the summit
- Possible topics





# Regional Sessions: Summit

- Invite Tribal and federal representatives, funders, and community stakeholders
- The summit should happen as soon as possible and be region specific
- There needs to be adequate notice so Tribes can prepare testimony
- Possible topics

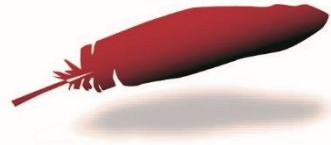


# Q&A



# Future EH Summit





Thank you!

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