Understanding Our Public Health Systems in Indian Country

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Public Health Policy & Programs (PHPP), National Indian Health Board

May 2, 2023 | 3:30 PM
Moderator: Jill Jim, Ph.D.
NIHB Mission Statement: Established by the Tribes to advocate as the united voice of federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes, NIHB seeks to reinforce Tribal sovereignty, strengthen Tribal health systems, secure resources, and build capacity to achieve the highest level of health and well-being for our People.

PHPP Vision Statement: Working together to empower sovereign Tribal nations to improve equity, policy, and public health systems that build thriving Native communities now and for the next seven generations.
Public Health Indian Country Capacity Scan (PHICCS)

• In 2019, the first PHICCS report was published

• Purpose

  Increase the knowledge of Tribal and federal health leaders and stakeholders through the creation and dissemination of a comprehensive profile of the public health system and infrastructure in Indian Country
Public Health Indian Country Capacity Scan (PHICCS)

• Engage tribal leaders, AIAN academics and Area Indian Health Boards, including health professionals and federal agencies

• 291 surveys were distributed

• 134 THOs responded

• Data collected in 2019
Public Health System & Infrastructure

- Tribal public health authority
- Tribal public health activities
- Tribal public health assessment, performance improvement, and accreditation
- Tribal public health workforce
- Tribal public health priorities and needs
Public Health Indian Country Capacity Scan (PHICCS)

### Number of Tribal Public Health Governance Structures (N=123)

- None: 12%
- 1: 26%
- 2: 58%
- 3: 1%
- 4: 3%

### Public Health Authority and Governance

Public health authority entails both **GOVERNANCE** (who is responsible for public health matters as part of an official mandate) as well as **PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS, POLICIES, and REGULATIONS**.

The MAJORITY of THOs reported a single governance structure. Of those:

- **14%** REPORT TO A TRIBAL CHAIR OR CEO
- **70%** REPORT TO A TRIBAL COUNCIL, OR TRIBAL CONSORTIUM, OR BOARD
TRIBAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS (THOs) PROVIDE SERVICES TO A WIDE VARIETY OF INDIVIDUALS

THOs SERVE:
- 96% Enrolled members of any federally-recognized Tribe
- 71% Non-enrolled members of federally-recognized Tribes
- 58% Eligible non-Indians
- 34% Members of state recognized Tribe
NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

NEEDS CITED INCLUDE FUNDING SUPPORT, THROUGH TRIBALLY-DIRECTED MONIES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

- **Additional Resources**
  - Funding
  - Staffing – recruitment, retention, community health workers

- **CDC**
  - Funding
  - Training and technical assistance
  - Public health education/materials support

- **Federal Agencies**
  - Funding
  - Training and technical assistance
  - Partnership support

- **States**
  - Funding
  - Partnership support
  - Data support and training

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NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

The highest reported public health staff needs are for behavioral health providers and community health representatives.

THOs ranked diabetes, substance misuse, and heart disease as top public health issues.

Data and assessment and health education and promotion are top-ranked public health organizational priorities.
PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES
THO ACTIVITIES

- Immunization Activities
- Screening Activities
- Prevention and Education
- Environmental Health
- Data, Epidemiology, and Surveillance
- Regulatory, Inspection, and Licensing

ACROSS THO SERVICE AREAS:
- Prevention/education, screening, and immunization activities are the most frequently occurring public health activities.
- The least frequently occurring public health activities are in the areas of data, regulation, environmental health, and select screenings.
In 2023, the second PHICCS was completed.

Who? Tribal health departments and programs.

How? Survey online or mailed survey.


Communication – phone calls.
Public Health Indian Country Capacity Scan (PHICCS) 2023

PHICCS II Timeline
March 2021 - June 2023

PHASE 1: Planning and Instrument Development
Launch of Scan expected in August to December 2022

PHASE 2: Data Collection

PHASE 3: Data Analysis and Report Production
Report published expected mid-2023

PHASE 4: Report Distribution and Utility

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### Area

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<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<td>Alaska</td>
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<td>3.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Plains</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pacific Coast</td>
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<tr>
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<td>9.6</td>
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### Organization/Entity

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<tr>
<td>Federally Recognized Tribe</td>
<td>109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tribal Health Consortium</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Other (please specify)</td>
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<td>4.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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Public Health Indian Country Capacity Scan (PHICCS) 2023

• Lessons Learned
  • Length of survey
  • Online format
  • Directory
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Participants who complete evaluations will be entered into a drawing to win prizes that will be presented at the Closing Plenary Session on Thursday at 3:30 PM.

Use the QR Code to access the survey from a web browser

Navigate to the session page through the agenda schedule