



Understanding Our Public Health Systems in Indian Country

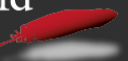
Jill Jim, Ph.D.; Rochelle Ruffer, Ph.D.; Sarah Price, MPH; Moones Akbaran, MPH, CPH; and Danelle Springer

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

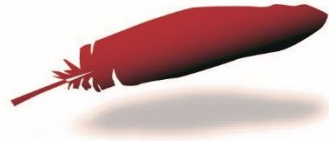
May 2, 2023 | 3:30 PM

Moderator: Jill Jim, Ph.D.

National Indian
Health Board



National Indian Health Board



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

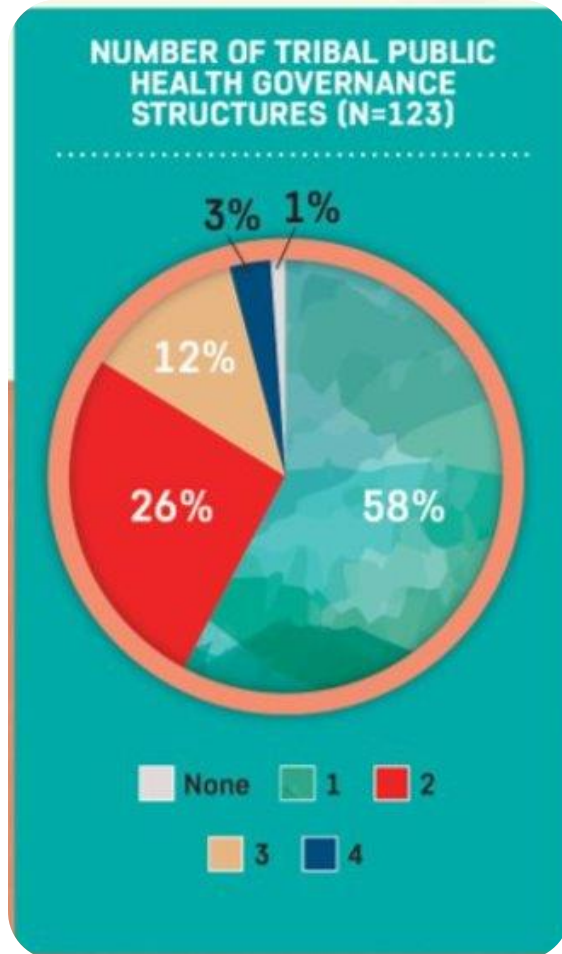


Public Health System & Infrastructure

- 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)



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



Public Health Indian Country Capacity Scan (PHICCS)

PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS AND POLICIES ARE IMPORTANT TOOLS TO PROMOTE OVERALL PUBLIC HEALTH

59% OF THOs REPORT HAVING SOME TYPE OF PUBLIC HEALTH LAW/AND OR POLICY IN THEIR TRIBAL SERVICE AREA, AS ENACTED BY THE TRIBE.

These include:

- Policies, goals, and priorities
- Regulations
- Codes
- Taxes, fees, and levies

PUBLIC HEALTH PLANNING AND IMPROVEMENT

48%

Almost half report engaging in STRATEGIC PLANNING

58%

over half report conducting QUALITY IMPROVEMENT activities

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



NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

The highest reported public health staff needs are for **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS** and **COMMUNITY HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES**

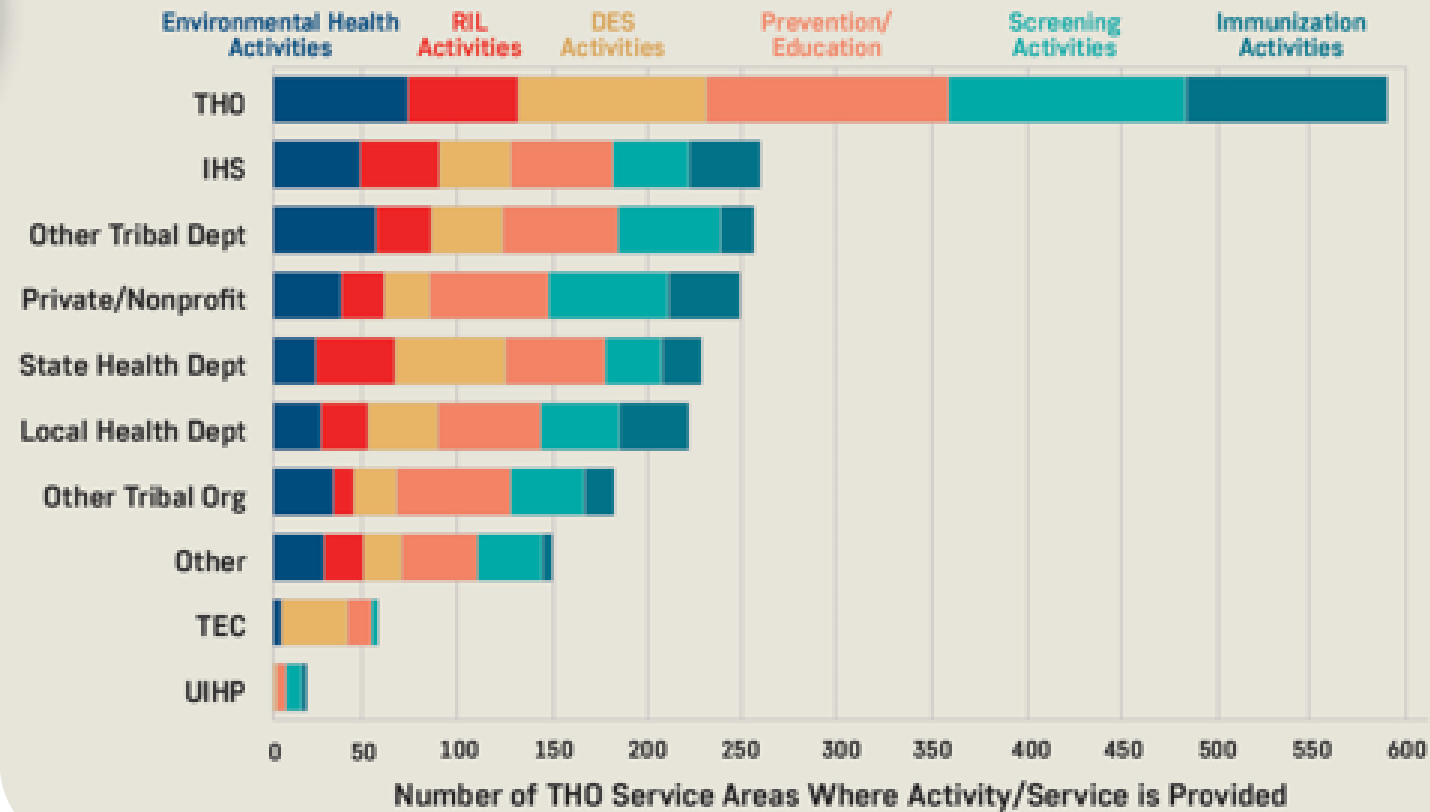
THOs ranked **DIABETES, SUBSTANCE MISUSE,** and **HEART DISEASE** AS TOP PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

DATA AND ASSESSMENT and **HEALTH EDUCATION AND PROMOTION** are TOP-RANKED PUBLIC HEALTH ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

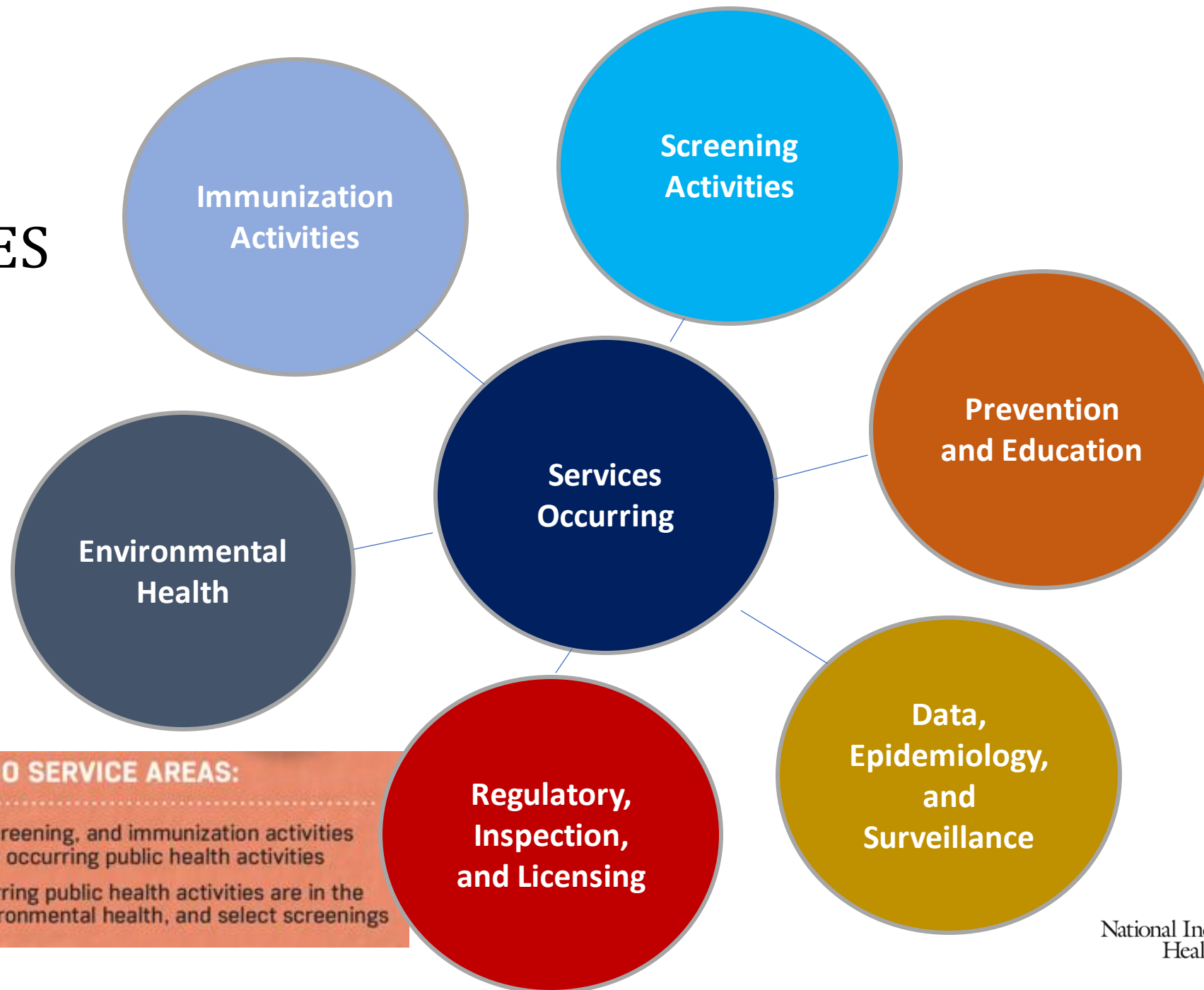


PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES

PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITY CATEGORIES BY PROVIDER TYPE



THO ACTIVITIES



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



Public Health Indian Country Capacity Scan (PHICCS) 2023

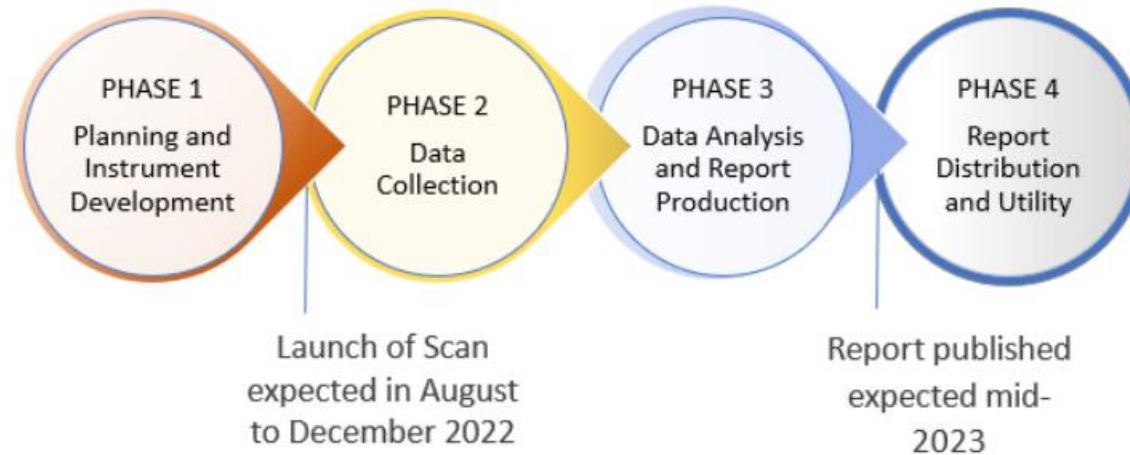
- In 2023, the second PHICCS was completed
- Who? Tribal health departments and programs
- How? Survey online or mailed survey
- When? 2022 to 2023
- Communication – phone calls



Public Health Indian Country Capacity Scan (PHICCS) 2023

PHICCS II Timeline

March 2021 - June 2023



Public Health Indian Country Capacity Scan (PHICCS) 2023

Area	Number	Percent
Alaska	5	3.7
East	9	6.7
Northern Plains	30	22.2
Pacific Coast	44	32.6
Southern Plains	13	9.6
Southwest	34	25.2
Total	135	100

Organization/Entity	Number	Percent
Federally Recognized Tribe	109	83.8
Tribal Health Consortium	15	11.5
Other (please specify)	6	4.6
Total	130	100



Public Health Indian Country Capacity Scan (PHICCS) 2023

- Lessons Learned
 - Length of survey
 - Online format
 - Directory



National Indian Health Board



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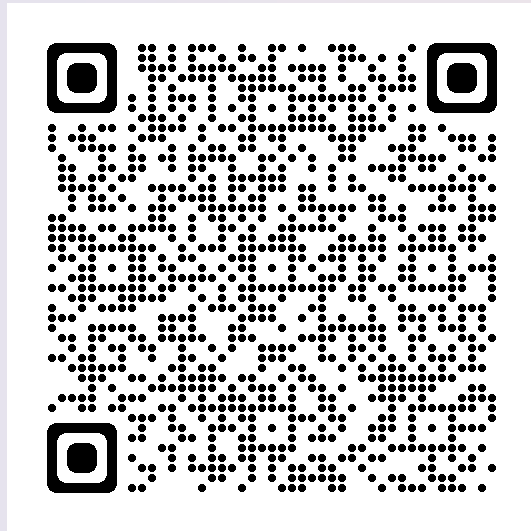
PHICCS Website: https://www.nihb.org/public_health/proj_phiccs.php

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WORKSHOP SURVEY

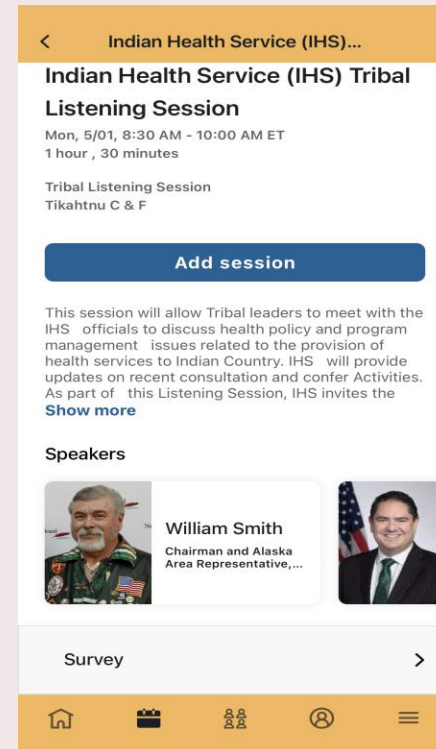
Participants who complete evaluations will be entered into a drawing to win prizes that will be presented at the Closing Plenary Session on Thursday at 3:30 PM.

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