

Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board

A Heart for the Hard to Reach in Hard Places

Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board, Inc (FDIHB) established the Mobile Health Program, which provides care in some of our outlying communities on a rotating basis. It is a bridge to an overburdened Primary Care Clinic and provides increased access to care. Local community centers called “Chapter Houses” provide parking facilities, and we work closely with Public Health Nursing, Chapter Houses and hospital leadership when local health issues are emergent.

Our Work

Bridging Communities to Access to Care

Elder Clinic

Monthly interdepartmental clinic at rotating Senior Centers with advanced Practice Clinician for medical visits, Occupational Therapist for balance testing and recommendations, wheelchair repairs, pharmacy review & education, traditional cultural services, diabetes educators, and optional audiology, dental, and optometry services.

Teen Clinic

This weekly clinic at Window Rock High School provides students with access to healthcare. The Mobile Health Team performs physical exams for sports participation and medical care with parental consent. Forms can be signed at the beginning of the school year. Students can also receive mental health services, substance abuse counseling, pregnancy testing, contraceptive counselling, and screening for sexually transmitted infections without parental consent. Our Mobile Health Program emphasizes education and patient empowerment to engage students during each interaction.

Family Practice Clinic

Our Mobile Health Unit provides comprehensive family practice services. We offer point-of-care testing for urinalysis, hgbA1c, random glucose, and HIV. Laboratory testing is available for STIs and standard lab studies. We provide adult vaccinations and limited medication at the time of the visit. Education and ensuring our patients’ questions are answered are an essential part of our services.



The Challenge

Many mobile health programs struggle to secure long-term support and sustainable funding. This is exacerbated for Tribal mobile health programs who lack the data infrastructure to fully measure and communicate their impact. Without data on metrics like return on investment (ROI), emergency department visits avoided, and overall cost savings, these programs are unable to share their full impact with stakeholders like funders, policymakers.

Data-driven advocacy is essential for demonstrating the value of these programs and ensuring sustained funding. Integrating community insights with detailed programmatic data empowers these programs to showcase their impact on health access, equity, and community well-being.

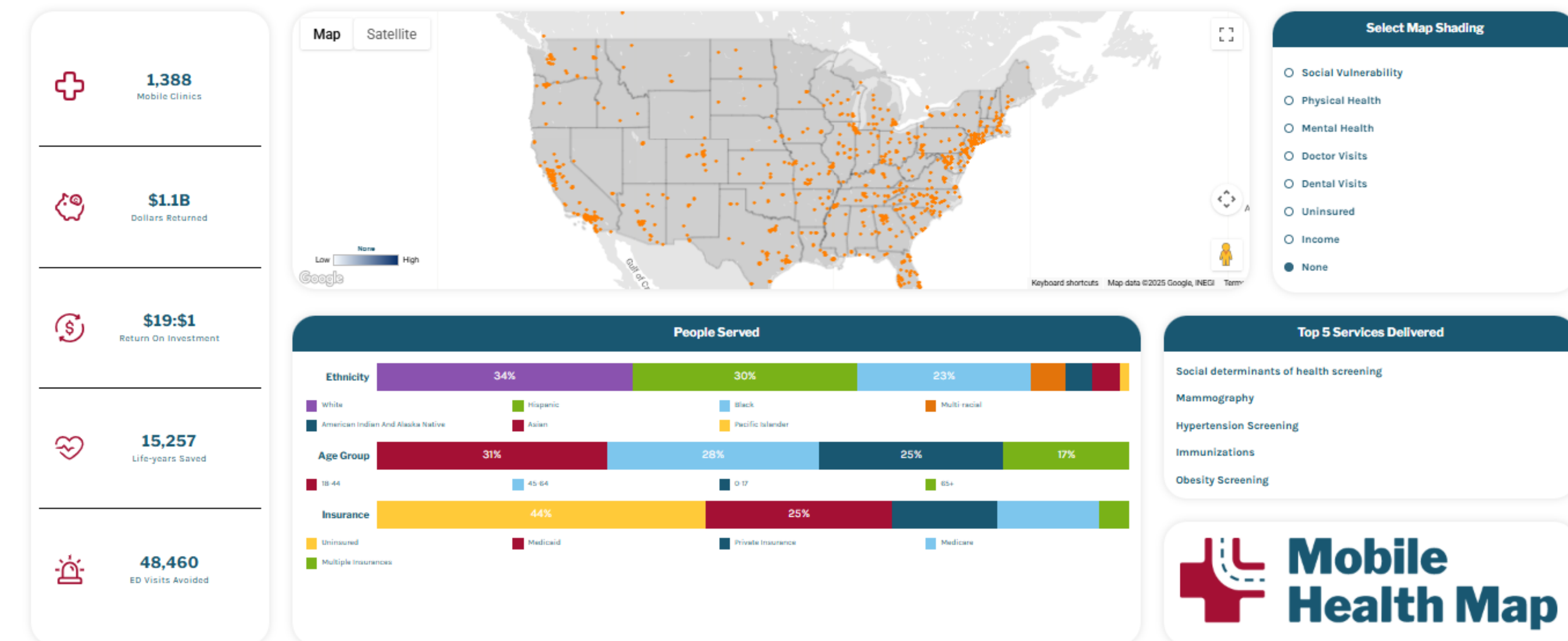


Mobile Health Map

Mobile Health Map, a program of Harvard Medical School is on a mission to measure, maximize, and communicate how mobile clinics improve health, save money, and advance equity.

We provide mobile clinic leaders with the tools and resources to measure and communicate their impact.

We collaborate with researchers and frontline mobile clinic staff to evaluate, learn, and improve the work of mobile clinics. We share information with healthcare leaders, funders, and policymakers about the unique ways mobile clinics build trust increase access, and improve health outcomes.



Transforming Data into Action

In the Navajo Nation, impact data from Mobile Health Map enables FDIHB to highlight the life-saving work of their mobile program and their cost-effectiveness.

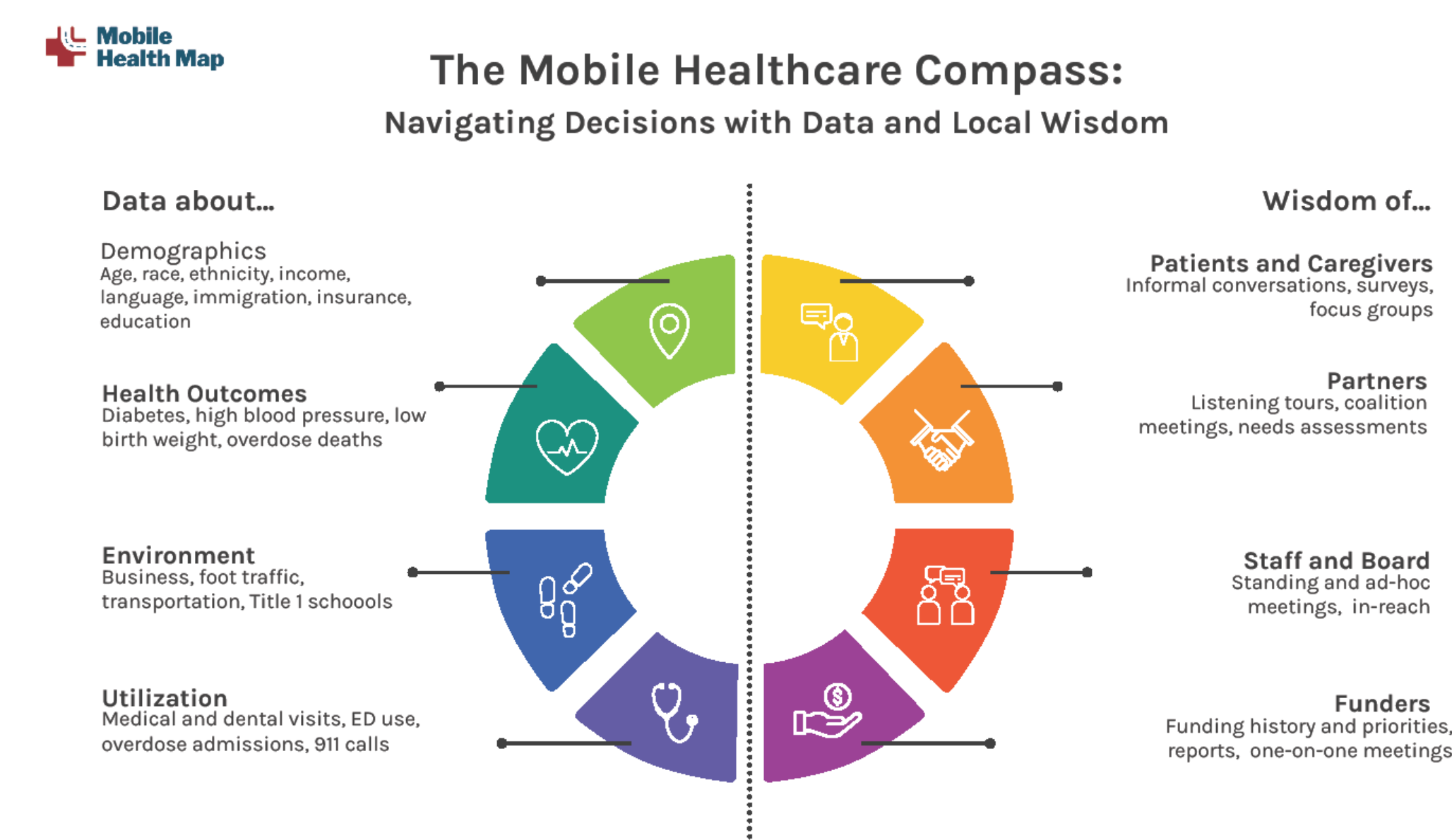
By quantifying outcomes, FDIHB’s Impact Dashboard, created by Mobile Health Map, demonstrates how the program is helping reduce unnecessary ED visits and generate significant cost savings.

Integrating Community Perspectives

As part of a national learning collaborative, FDIHB is working with Mobile Health Map to employ a mixed-methods needs assessment that combines:

- **Community Perspectives:** Gathering insights directly from Tribal members.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Collaborating with local leaders and health advocates.
- **Impact Data:** Analyzing real-world impacts and usage of their mobile health services.

This approach ensures that that evaluation strategies respect cultural context and Tribal sovereignty over health data.



Advocacy for Sustainable Funding

By integrating national mobile health metrics with Tribal-led data collection, FDIHB builds a compelling case for sustainable funding models, ensuring the Navajo Nation has equitable access to quality healthcare.

