Strengthening Tribal Public Health Partnerships

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Tribal Relations Director
Washington State Department of Health
Question for the Viewers

How many of you...

A. Are a member of a tribal nation?
B. Have lived in a tribal community?
C. Have worked in a tribal community?
Tribal Culture: “Federally Recognized”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Post Office</th>
<th>Choctaw Nation</th>
<th>Choctaw Roll</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chickasaw Nation</td>
<td>Choctaw Nation</td>
<td>Chickasaw Nation</td>
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<td>Choctaw Roll</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Tribe</th>
<th>Enroll</th>
<th>Name of Father</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Anderson</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>M</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>Robert Anderson</td>
<td>1916</td>
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<tr>
<td>McElroy</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>M</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>John McElroy</td>
<td>1916</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jones</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>David Jones</td>
<td>1916</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For child of Moses J. Jones (March 3, 1908)
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
When We Need Tribal Public Health Partnerships

Tribal Communities and Sovereign Tribal Nations

Consultation and Collaboration

Resources for Building Tribal Public Health Partnerships
When We Need Tribal Public Health Partnerships
A common early challenge:

We want to engage tribes...

(Source: https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/345-349-DiabetesEpidemicActionReport.pdf)
There’s a better way to begin:

1. **Focus** on aim of engagement
2. **Identify** the experts
3. **Build working knowledge** of tribal community
4. **Engage** in tribal public health partnership
What is the top cause of death for American Indian/Alaska Natives nationally?

A. Cancer  
B. Stroke  
C. Heart Disease  
D. Diabetes  
E. Accidents (unintentional injury)
Overview: Tribal Epidemiology Centers

**Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs):**

A division of the Indian Health Service (IHS), with 12 centers across the nation providing health research and surveillance programs for tribes.
Tribal Epidemiology Centers are great partners!

- **Example:** Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI)

An inexpensive, life-saving effort to prevent and manage diabetes and associated health problems in the AI/AN population.
Tribal Communities and Sovereign Tribal Nations
American Indian/Alaska Native¹ as Share of Population (2009–11)


Less than 1% of state population
1–3% of state population
More than 3% of state population

Total: 2.5 Million, or 1% of U.S. Population

¹ Statistics include American Indian and Alaska Native people of Hispanic origin.
American Indian/Alaska Native Population by County

Percent of AI/AN reporting persons, one or more races:
(2010 Census)

(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.)
Urban Indians

- “Urban” means living off reservation
- Lives out of the service area of the federally-recognized tribe in which they are enrolled

Sovereign Governments

- A federally-recognized tribe with autonomy to govern, protect, and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of its tribal citizens within its jurisdiction

Which “Tribal” do you mean?
Tribes in Washington: Indian Wars, Treaties, and Removal (1850–90)

**Treaties.** Always under duress. Indian Appropriations Act ended treaty-making with Tribes.

**Removal.** Policy to remove Tribes from their traditional lands to encourage non-Indian settlement. Reservations created for confederated tribes in Washington:
- Chehalis
- Colville
- Yakama

Gray: National events
Green: Pacific Northwest events

- 1847-59: Indian Wars in Oregon Country
- 1854-56: Treaties signed, reservations created, lands ceded
- 1853-57: Isaac Stevens appointed Territorial Governor
- 1859: Oregon statehood

- 1862: Smallpox epidemic
- 1861-65: Civil War

- 1867: Alaska Purchase
- 1865-77: Reconstruction Era

- 1871: Indian Appropriations Act
- 1877: Nez Perce War
- 1879: First off-reservation boarding school opens in Penn.
- 1889: Washington statehood and Great Seattle Fire

- 1887: Dawes Act
Treaties With Tribes in Washington Territory (1854–56)

**Treaty of Medicine Creek** (1854)
- Nisqually, Puyallup, Squaxin Island, *Steilacoom*, *S'Homamish*, *Stechcass*, others
- Reservation, fishing, hunting, pasturing (stallions for breeding only), health care

**Treaty of Point Elliott** (1855)
- Lummi, Suquamish, Tulalip (*Snohomish*, *Skykomish*, others), *Swinomish*, *Snoqualmie*, *Skagit*, *Duwamish*, others
- Reservations, fishing, hunting, health care

**Treaty of Point No Point** (1855)
- Jamestown *S’Klallam*, Port Gamble *S’Klallam*, Lower Elwha *Klallam*, *Skokomish*, others
- Reservation, fishing, hunting, health care

**Treaty of Neah Bay** (1855)
- Makah
- Reservation, fishing, whaling, sealing, hunting, health care

**Treaty with the Yakama** (1855)
- *Yakama*, *Palouse*, *Pisgouche*, *Wenatchopam*, *Klikatat*, *Klinquit*, *Kow-was-soy-ee*, others
- Reservation with schools and fishery, fishing, hunting, pasturing, health care

**Treaty of Walla Walla** (1855)
- *Umatilla*, *Walla Walla*, *Cayuses*
- Reservation, fishing, hunting, pasturing, health care

**Treaty with the Nez Perce** (1856)
- Nez Perce
- Reservation with schools, fishing, hunting, pasturing, health care

**Quinault Treaty** (1856)
- *Quinault*, *Quileute*
- Reservation, fishing, hunting, pasturing horses (stallions for breeding), health care
Indian Reorganization.
Ended allotments with "Indian New Deal": sought to re-establish Tribes as governments with constitutions.

Termination Policy & Relocation Program.
When Tribes were terminated, BIA sold lands and relocated members to cities (Seattle, Portland, Spokane) for job training.

1933: President FDR – Pro-Tribal Policy
1934: Indian Reorganization Act
1937: Bonneville Dam completed
1941: Grand Coulee Dam completed
1956: Indian Relocation Act
1962: Seattle World’s Fair
1960s: Fish Wars in Puget Sound
1930s: Great Depression and New Deal, including Social Security Act (1932)
1939-45: WWII, with Manhattan Project
1949: Hoover Commission Report calls for assimilation
1953: Congress adopts Termination Policy
1954-66: Congress terminates 109 Tribes by various statutes.
1965: Medicare and Medicaid created

Gray: National events
Green: Pacific Northwest events
Red: Highlighted events
Self-Determination Era (1974–Present)

1974: Judge Boldt recognizes treaty rights
1975: Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act
1980: Mt. St. Helens erupts
1988: Indian Gaming Regulatory Act
1993: President Clinton
2001: President Bush
2010: Affordable Care Act, with permanent reauthorization of Indian Health Care Improvement Act
2012: Chapter 43.376 RCW enacted
2013: Chehalis Tribe v. Thurston County

1974: Morton v. Mancari
1976: Indian Health Care Improvement Act
1978: Indian Child Welfare Act
1981: President Reagan
1989: Washington Centennial Accord
1997: Children’s Health Insurance Program
2009: President Obama
2011: HHS Disparities Action Plan

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Green: Pacific Northwest events
Red: Highlighted events

Self-Determination Era
1974 – Court rules AI/ANs are political class not just racial class.
1975 – Congress enables Tribes to take over programs (e.g., clinics).
1976 – Congress authorizes Medicaid reimbursement, urban Indian health programs, and other programs.
1978 – Congress outlaws removal of AI/AN children from tribal communities.
Consultation and Collaboration
Working Government-to-Government

What matters:
✓ Culture
✓ Sovereignty
✓ Experience

What to be aware of:
✓ Language
✓ Actions
✓ Respect
Consultation

Consultation is a legal obligation based on the government-to-government relationship between tribes and the U.S. federal government, requiring federal and state governments to consult with tribes about any policy having an impact on them.

Source: National Congress of American Indians, ncai.org/tribalnations
1. **Correspondence**: Written communications shall be issued within 30 calendar days of an identified critical event. The communication should clearly provide affected/potentially affected Indian Tribe(s) with detail of the critical event, the manner and timeframe in which to provide comment. The HHS frequently uses a “Dear Tribal Leader Letter” (DTLL) format to notify individual Indian Tribes of consultation activities. Divisions should work closely with the Principal Advisor for Tribal Affairs, IOS/IGA if technical assistance is required for proper format and protocols, current mailing lists, and content.

- Tribal Consultation Policy, US Department of Health and Human Services
Question for the Viewers

Does your organization have a formal tribal consultation protocol?

A. Yes

B. No

C. I don’t know but I’ll find out
Formal Procedures: Government-to-Government Collaboration and Consultation

- **Example:** Washington State Department of Health
What level of engagement do you need?

**Collaboration**
- Invite tribal program representatives to participate in a task force or work group
- Development of health education materials directed at tribal populations

**Consultation**
- Proposing legislation that impacts tribal people
- Planning grant proposals or special projects involving and/or impacting tribal communities
With whom should you be working?

Collaboration

✓ Administrative or program issues

Consultation

✓ Government-to-government issues
Resources for Building Tribal Public Health Partnerships
Collaborate with Tribes: A Public Health Toolkit

Tribal nations and individual tribal members work hard to protect and promote the health of their communities, and have developed significant public health expertise. This toolkit provides non-tribal public health professionals with an introduction to this expertise, and offers resources to partner with tribes and tribal members.
Other Resources

- Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians  
  https://www.atnitribes.org

- American Indian Health Commission  
  https://www.aihc-wa.com

- National Congress of American Indians  
  https://www.ncai.org

- Tribal Epidemiology Centers  
  https://tribalepicenters.org
QUESTIONS?
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Washington State Department of Health

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