

# INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF ARIZONA TRIBAL EPIDEMIOLOGY CENTER

A REGIONAL GOOD HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN INDIAN COUNTRY UPDATE



## GHWIC BACKGROUND

Between 2014-2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will invest over \$78 million in chronic disease prevention efforts through the Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC) initiative. With the support of GHWIC funding, eleven Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs):

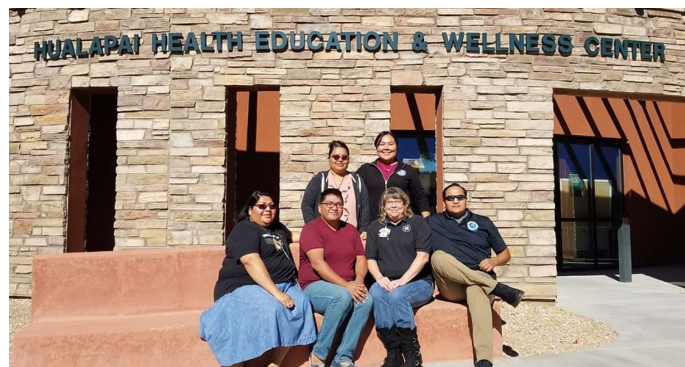
- Coordinate evaluation activities and data collection to highlight the regional work of GHWIC-funded Tribes and Tribal organizations.
- Provide technical assistance to GHWIC-funded Tribes and Tribal organizations.
- Enhance cross-sector partnerships and strengthen American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) networks across the service region.

## REGIONAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND MANAGE CHRONIC DISEASE

Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona Tribal Epidemiology Center (ITCA) coordinates GHWIC evaluation in the Indian Health Service (IHS) Phoenix Area. ITCA supports chronic disease prevention and management in 15 Tribal communities and Tribal organizations through:

### 1. Social Network Analysis (SNA)

The SNA survey captures information regarding the Chronic Disease Prevention Working Group (CDPWG) and partnerships formed through this project. The SNA maps peer-to-peer connections amongst Tribal departments, but also between Tribes who are part of the GHWIC Project. Connections extend to ITCA, GHWIC coalitions, state health departments, IHS, community health representative programs, and elders/cultural resources. The SNA survey occurred once in Year 1 and twice per year thereafter. The number of full network unique ties between Tribes, IHS, ITCA, State Health Departments, and the GHWIC Coalition increased fourteen-fold between 2014 (20 ties) and 2018 (287 ties). The last data point will be collected in October 2019.



### 2. Tobacco Supplement

ITCA worked with thirteen Tribes in the IHS Phoenix/Tucson Area to assess their tobacco policies. In 2015, nine Tribes had previous tobacco policies for Tribal buildings. None of the tobacco policies included language prohibiting the use of electronic cigarettes. ITCA provided technical assistance to revise and strengthen current Tribal tobacco policies. In addition, Tribes expanded their reach of the CDC Tips Campaign ads disseminated in Tribal communities. Tribes collaborated with their cultural center programs, IHS and Tribal clinics, Tribal radio stations, newspapers and websites to promote and disseminate the CDC Tips Campaign ads within their communities. During the Year 5 reporting period, 11 tobacco-free policies were approved. All policies included e-cigarette language and had a provision for traditional tobacco use.



## BY THE NUMBERS

# 82

Number of new or enhanced partnerships with Tribes and/or Tribal programs

# 23

Number of policy, systems, and environmental changes to improve access to healthy and/or traditional foods

# 287

Number of people reached through capacity building efforts

### ACTIVITY SPOTLIGHT: GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

On April 1, 2018, the Gila River Indian Community joined the GHWIC Project. The Gila River Indian Community is home for members of both the Akimel O’otham (Pima) and the Pee-Posh (Maricopa) Tribes. Although the Gila River Indian Community joined GHWIC halfway through GHWIC Year 4, they have a strong and motivated coalition. Instead of assessing the minimum of 7 sites, the Tribe assessed a total of 17 sites. Data from the 17 sites informed their project activities. In GHWIC Year 5, the rest of the subawardees were going through the reassessment process. ITCA asked the Gila River Indian Community’s GHWIC Nutrition Coalition to host a webinar on their assessment experience to share successes and challenges. ITCA again contacted their GHWIC Nutrition Coalition in Year 5 to co-present with ITCA at the 2019 Tribal Public Health Conference in Tulsa, OK. The Gila River Indian Community implemented cooking classes centered on Indigenous Foods and are working on a Tribal workplace policy that will prohibit the use of e-cigarettes within 50 feet from all building entrances.



Map of GHWIC-funded Tribes and Tribal organizations in the IHS Phoenix Area

