

# GREAT PLAINS AREA 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) invested 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 health organizations.
- Provide technical assistance to GHWIC-funded Tribes and Tribal health 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

The Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board (GPTCHB) supports chronic disease prevention and management in the Indian Health Service's Great Plains Service Area. GPTCHB includes the Great Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center (GPTEC), which coordinates GHWIC evaluation in the region, and GPTCHB's Health Promotion Department, which supports 13 sub-awardees as a Component 2 grantee. GPTCHB supports chronic disease prevention and management in 18 regional Tribes and Tribal organizations by:

#### 1. Supporting Healthy Policies

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska Component 1 grantee program implemented a wide variety of beneficial policies and activities through their GHWIC project while also serving as strong advocates and influential leaders throughout the region. Locally, Year 4 included working to implement a sugar-sweetened beverage tax, improving community-clinical linkages through enhanced documentation and referral, and promoting community gardening. In Year 4 and across the span of the GHWIC program, they have promoted lessons learned regionally from their various projects to encourage replication and address issues at a system level.

#### 2. Digital Storytelling

GPTEC supported the completion of a Digital Storytelling Training by Native Hope. The one-and-a-half-day training took place during the Great Plains Area Chronic Disease Data Round Table which was also hosted by GPTEC. A Digital Storytelling Toolkit was developed to empower GHWIC grantees and subawardees to use digital storytelling as a tool to promote the impacts of their program.

#### 3. Making Prevention Services More Accessible

The Santee Health & Wellness Center responded to the need for greater accessibility of prevention services through the development of a multidisciplinary mobile health outreach team. This approach included an updated policy regarding standing order labs, a new referral system that integrates with existing medical record systems, and conducting multiple outreach events including at the tribal casino, tribal offices, health fairs, and local schools. This project serves as a regional model for accessible and efficient prevention and screening, made possible by collaboration and a Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) change approach.

## By the Numbers

45

Trainings on chronic disease prevention and building public health capacity

4

Policy, systems, and environmental changes promoting physical activity

46

New or enhanced partnerships with Tribes and Tribal programs

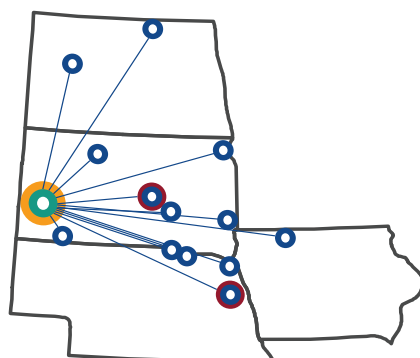
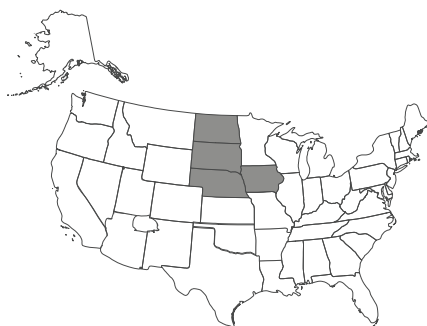
## Activity Spotlight: Regional Partnerships and Networking



The Great Plains Good Health and Wellness program (GPGHW) facilitates a Regional Partnership Network through which they host quarterly meetings with over 25 regional partners, including Tribes, state entities, regional health networks, universities, and federal agencies. From this regional partnership network, GPGHW develops and disseminates a yearly Community Health Training and Resource Guide to Great Plains Area Tribes. GPGHW also hosts a monthly community health webinar

series that is open to all of their Great Plains tribal partners and often includes subject-matter experts from Partnership Network participants or their extended networks. Members have also contributed to trainings and sessions facilitated during the annual Great Plains Good Health & Community Wellness Symposium.

### Map of GHWIC-funded Tribes and Tribal organizations in the IHS Great Plains Area



- Directly Funded Tribes
- Directly Funded Tribal Organizations
- Directly Funded Tribal Epidemiology Centers
- Regionally sub-awarded Tribes or Tribal Organizations



Urban Indian  
Health Institute  
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