

ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRIBAL LEADERS COUNCIL 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

Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council Epidemiology Center (RMTEC) coordinates GHWIC evaluation in the Indian Health Service (IHS) Billings Area. RMTEC supports chronic disease prevention and management in 11 Tribes and Tribal organizations through:

1. Commercial Tobacco Cessation

Focusing on the cultural importance of traditional tobacco, GHWIC funds helped provide commercial tobacco cessation trainings by certified Tobacco Treatment Specialists. These trainings were provided to Tribal health professionals and tobacco prevention specialists (TPS). Through GHWIC funding, RMTEC has succeeded in developing partnerships with Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Programs (MTUPP). This relationship, which encompasses a TPS on every Montana reservation and two urban Indian health centers, enables progressive work toward the cessation and prevention of commercial tobacco use among their AI/AN population.

2. Strategic Messaging

Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council (RMTLC), as manager of the Rocky Mountain area GHWIC initiative, strategically improved their social media messaging and is now represented on over four social media platforms with a rapidly increasing following. Since April, the RMTLC Facebook page captured over 1,800 engagements and reached 3,532 different users in October 2018 alone. Implementation of a social media policy and continuous maintenance of various platforms have resulted in an increased attendance at GHWIC events.

3. Tracking Effective Partnerships

In an effort to collect meaningful data on the expansion of regional multi-sectoral collaboration, RMTEC implemented the PARTNER tool. PARTNER (the Program to Analyze, Record, and Track Networks to Enhance Relationships), is a survey tool which was distributed to over 95 partners across the Montana-Wyoming region. This data collection enables RMTEC to better understand their partnerships and assess how to manage a network that spans over 240,000 square miles.



By the Numbers

31

Partnerships increasing collaborative and comprehensive approaches to chronic disease prevention efforts

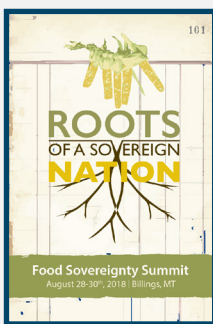
104

Instances of technical assistance supporting regional Tribes

16

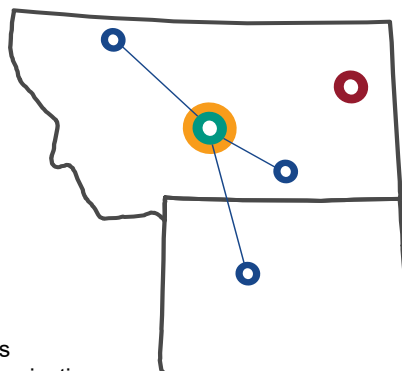
Policy, systems, and environmental change strategies that promote health and prevent chronic disease

Activity Spotlight: Roots of a Sovereign Nation



RMTLC GHWIC teamed up with over 15 sponsors and collaborative partners to host “the most successful AI/AN-focused event Billings has seen in a long time.” The Roots of a Sovereign Nation - Food Sovereignty Summit was a three-day gathering held in September 2018. The summit offered 21 presentations, two garden tours, and a traditional foods demonstration. Roots of a Sovereign Nation was the largest event yet for the Rocky Mountain area GHWIC, connecting 108 activists representing 20 Tribes from across the nation. Attendees ranged from Tribal leaders, elders, community members, USDA extension agents, healthcare providers, key grassroots partners, and U.S. politicians. The summit served as a platform to discuss topics central to the local food sovereignty movement such as historical connections between food systems and chronic disease, effective uses of land and resources, access to healthy and culturally appropriate foods, and traditional food knowledge. Summit networking has already propelled regional food sovereignty efforts by connecting Tribally owned food businesses and assisting community coalitions with the development of Tribal food codes.

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



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



Urban Indian
Health Institute
A Division of the Seattle Indian Health Board