



HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

HOLISTIC HEALTH IN INDIAN COUNTRY

American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) definitions of health and wellness address the physical, mental, social, and emotional wellbeing of individuals. A key aspect of this approach is extending patient engagement to resources available outside of the clinic. In order to address chronic diseases, AI/AN communities are strengthening their healthcare systems and extending patient engagement to the home and the office.

MEASURING GHWIC IMPACT

Through the Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC) initiative **more than 100 AI/AN communities** have built links between community resources and health systems to address chronic diseases. With these changes to healthcare systems, grantees are laying the groundwork for long term health improvement in their communities.

“Engaging community in the planning and implementation process has begun moving people from passive service recipients to active agents in their own wellbeing” - *Tribal Grantee from Great Lakes Region*

GHWIC is strengthening tribal health systems by linking...

Patients to community resources:

22%
2017
The cumulative proportion of patients referred to community resources*

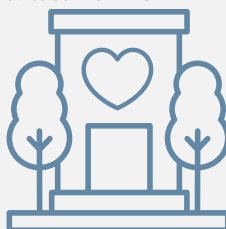
*From 0% at baseline in 2014



Clinics to community organizations:

75
2017
New community-clinical linkages within tribes*

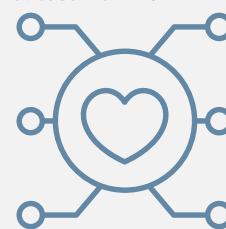
*From 0 at baseline in 2014



Tribes to regional health authorities:

86
2017
New Partnerships supporting the dissemination of health data*

*From 2 at baseline in 2014



*Under GHWIC, grantees choose which health interventions to report data on. Thus, aggregated counts may not represent the totality of work being done by all grantees

GHWIC IN ACTION



Two tribal health organizations in Alaska supporting **over 3,000 individuals** adopted policies to improve their diabetes and pre-diabetes screening and referral processes. By actively engaging with community members, they are connecting more patients with health resources such as Diabetes Self-Management Classes and nutrition consultations.



One tribe distributed **36 blood pressure monitors** to patients with pre-hypertensive conditions through a new provider referral service. The tribe also formed a partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Health Service's WISEWOMAN Program to collaborate and ensure program sustainability.

GHWIC IS SUCCESSFUL THROUGH A NETWORK OF TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

12 Tribes

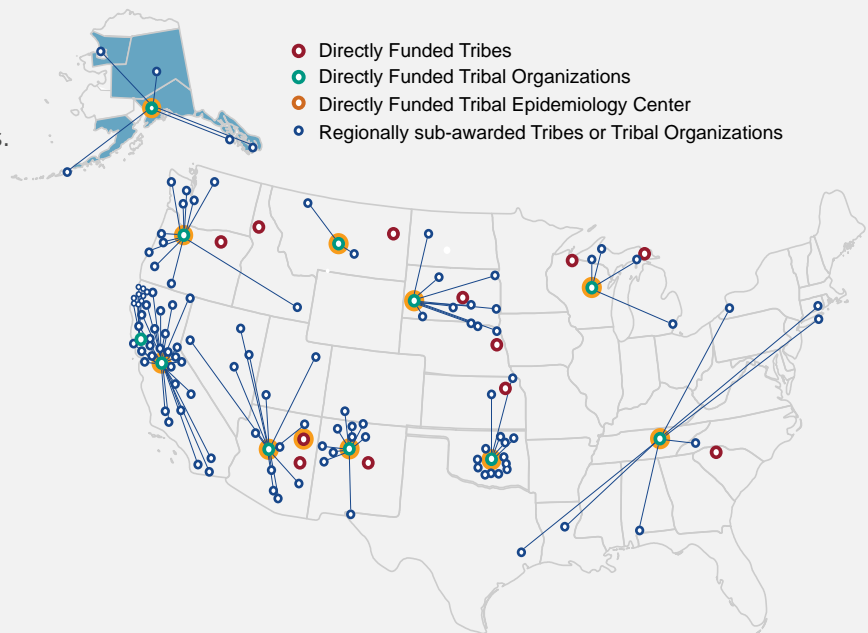
address health disparities through policy, systems, and environmental change activities.

11 Tribal Organizations

provide sub-awards, technical assistance, and resources to 113 regional AI/AN partners. Even more tribal organizations receive trainings and resources through GHWIC efforts.

11 Tribal Epidemiology Centers

coordinate regional evaluations of the GHWIC initiative.



LESSONS LEARNED

- Partnerships between tribes, regional public health authorities, and community health organizations support innovative public health interventions
- Extending healthcare beyond clinical spaces and linking with community resources promotes sustainable change in patient health



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