



Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs)

History, Purpose & Function, and Activities

Presented by United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc

USET





Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs)

- Established by Congress Indian Health Care improvement Act (IHCIA)
- In 1996, three TECs were started, now 12 TECs
- TECs function independently, but also as part of a national group
- Key Funders:
 - Indian Health Service Cooperative Agreement with IHS Division of Epidemiology and Disease Prevention - provides program oversight, administrative and technical support
 - Centers for Disease Control (CDC) – provides funding to build Tribal public health and TEC center capacity





Tribal Epidemiology Centers

2010 AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

- Permanently reauthorized the IHClA
- TECs given “*public health authority*” status (7 core functions)
- Health and Human Services (HHS) directed to give TECs access to HHS data systems and protected health information
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must provide TECs technical assistance
- Each IHS Area must have TEC access



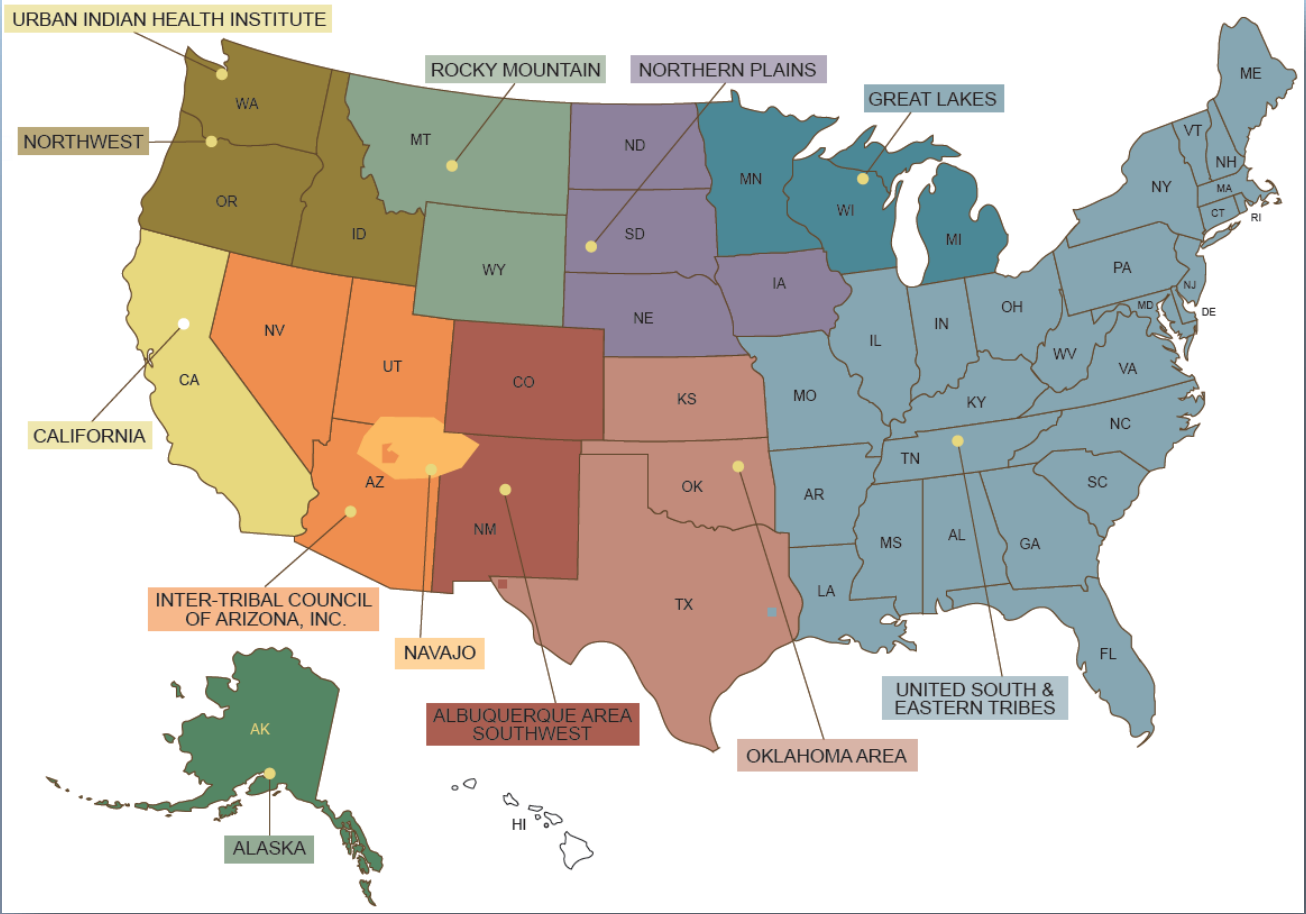


Mission of TECs

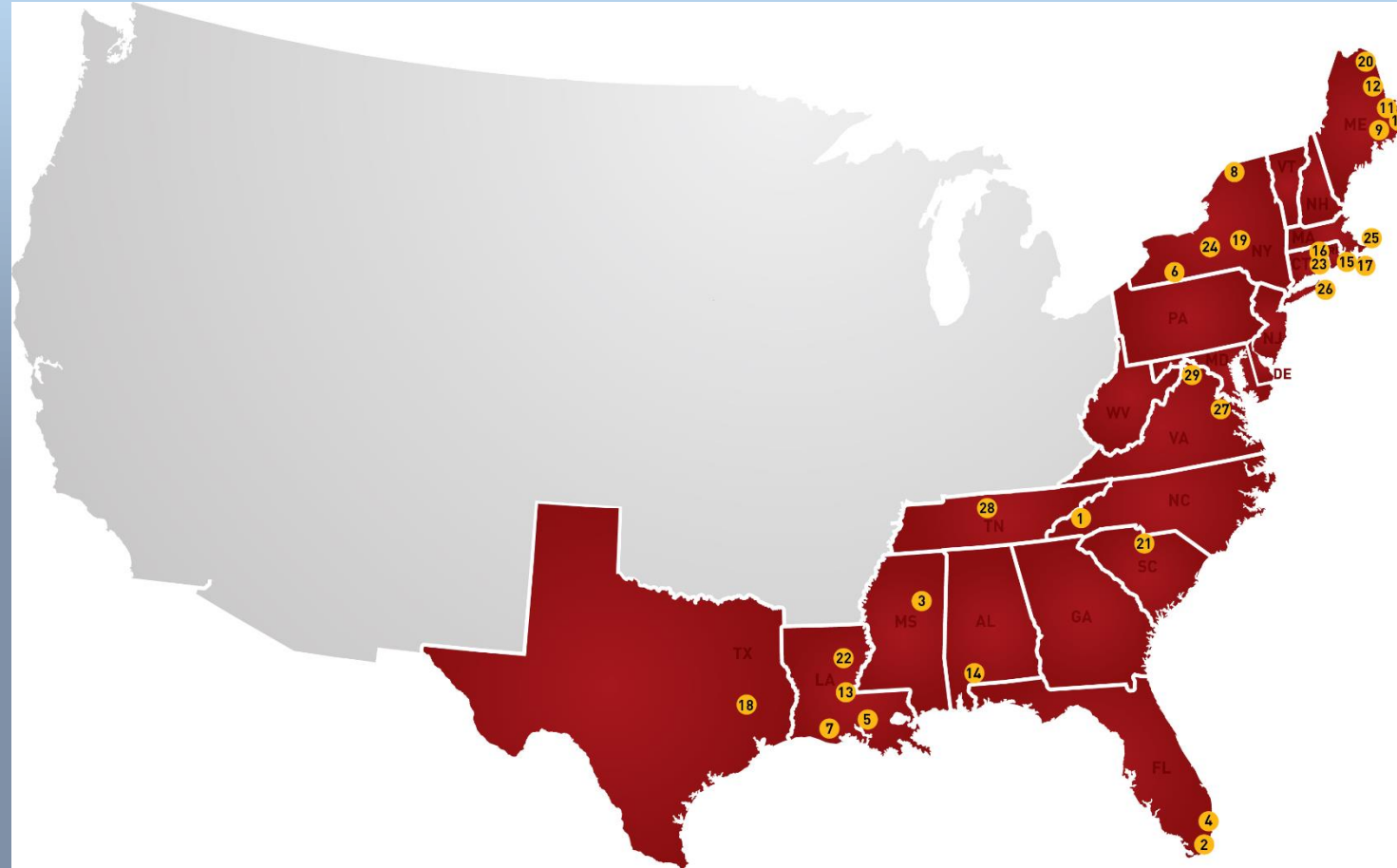


To improve the health status of American Indians and Alaska Natives by identification and understanding of health risks and inequities, strengthening public health capacity, and assisting in disease prevention and control.

Location of TEC's



USET's area Tribal Nations





Key Function

All things related to data management:

TECs manage Tribal Nation data, disseminating timely, accurate, and useful reports on a variety of topics and consulting with Tribal programs on data management.

- Tribal Nation specific Diabetes prevalence reports
- Area Aggregate Diabetes Reports
- Mortality reports
- Individual requests





7 Core Functions as a Public Health Authority



- Collect data
- Evaluate data and programs
- Identify health priorities with tribes
- Make recommendations for health service needs
- Make recommendations for improving health care delivery systems
- Provide epidemiologic technical assistance to tribes and tribal organizations
- Provide disease surveillance to tribes



Data Collection and Analysis

Examples of data both for surveillance and specific studies:

- Diabetes
- Influenza
- Hep C
- Zika and other Vectors
- Mortality
- Tobacco use
- Immunization Rates
- Obesity





Data Challenges

- Access to data: some states and Government agencies do not recognize TECs' Public Health Authority
- Racial Misclassification
- Small population sizes
- Not all clinics and hospitals use the same EHR
- Behavioral Health data uses separate EHR
- Services which are outsourced aren't entered into the system





Identifying Health Priorities

TECs work with Tribal Nations to identify Health priorities by providing technical assistance while building Tribal capacity.

- Community Health assessments
- Logic Models
- Focus Groups and Surveys
- Policy, Systems and Environmental Scans
- Program and Project Evaluation
- Sustainability planning





Improving Health Care Delivery Systems

- USET's TEC, works with Tribal Nations to improve both clinical and administrative systems and operations to bring efficiencies and quality improvement efforts.
 - EHR training for staff (RPMS)
 - Patient flow consulting
 - Integrated care modeling
 - Maximizing the medical record to provide better patient care
 - Sharing Best and Promising Practices





Expanding Access to Care

TEC's assist Tribal Nations by identifying and coordinating cross sector collaborations with and for health and dental services:

- Local University partners for research
- Community hospitals
- Local Public Health Departments
- Social services
- Specialists for care not offered by the Tribe
- Other departments within the Tribal Nation: i.e. education, environmental, emergency response, justice





Health Promotion & Disease Prevention Communication Tools

Infographs and Flyers

WHAT IS Heroin?

WHAT IS IT? Heroin is an opioid drug... **PARAPHERNALIA**

STREET NAMES Big H, Chills, Hell Dust, Horse, Nears, Smack, Thunder

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU USE IT? The short-term effects of heroin include... **OVERDOSE SYMPTOMS** Slow and Shallow Breathing, Coma, Blue Lips, Blue Fingernails, Clammy Skin

3 WAYS TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST MEDICINE ABUSE

1 MONITOR Would you know if some of your pills are missing?

2 SECURE Approach securing your prescriptions the same way you would other valuables in your home.

SAY YES TRIBAL CITIZENS LIVING LONGER HEALTHY CHILDREN A COMMUNITY WITH MANY ELDERS

SAY NO POLLUTION COMMERCIAL TOBACCO SECONDHAND SMOKE

SAY NO TO POLLUTION

SAY NO TO COMMERCIAL TOBACCO

Lyme Disease Prevention Guide

Common Symptoms Joint Pain, Skin Rash, Fever & Chills, Headache, Fatigue

1. Avoid tick-infested areas

2. Use insect repellent

Protect the Circle of Life

Your Flu Vaccine Protects Me
My Flu Vaccine Protects You

It's Safe! It's Serious! It Protects!

When you get your flu vaccine, you can keep yourself healthy and keep from spreading the flu. Protect the circle of life.

PowToon Videos and Digital Storytelling

Intro to Social Determinants of Health 2:49

EBCI #TobaccoRuinsLives 2:21

Lyme Disease 2:14

WHAT? MOSQUITOES CAN MAKE YOU SICK? 3:13

ZIKA

TEC Best Practices Report

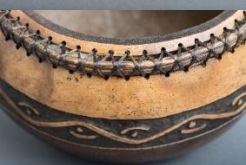


**Best Practices in American Indian &
Alaska Native Public Health**

A Report from the Tribal Epidemiology Centers 2013

- **Published Jan. 2014**
- **All 12 TECs included**
- **Used to showcase work to funders and Tribal Nations**

Questions





Coordinate With Federal Agencies

- Provide technical assistance in the form of qualitative and quantitative data to inform health priorities in Indian Country
- Support Tribal Leaders who participate in Tribal Advisory Committees
- Translate detailed datasets into understandable terminology to impact policy at regional and national levels

