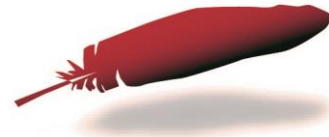


National Indian  
Health Board



# The State of Public Health in Indian Country

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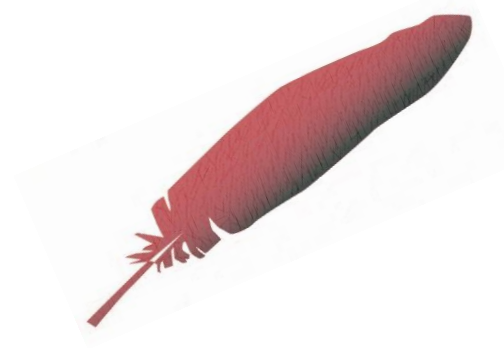
ROBERT FOLEY, M.ED.

NATIONAL INDIAN HEALTH BOARD

CDC NIOSH WORKSHOP

AUGUST, 2015

# Who Are We



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## NIHB Mission Statement

One Voice affirming and empowering  
American Indian and Alaska Native  
Peoples to protect and improve health  
and reduce health disparities.

# Areas of Expertise and Service

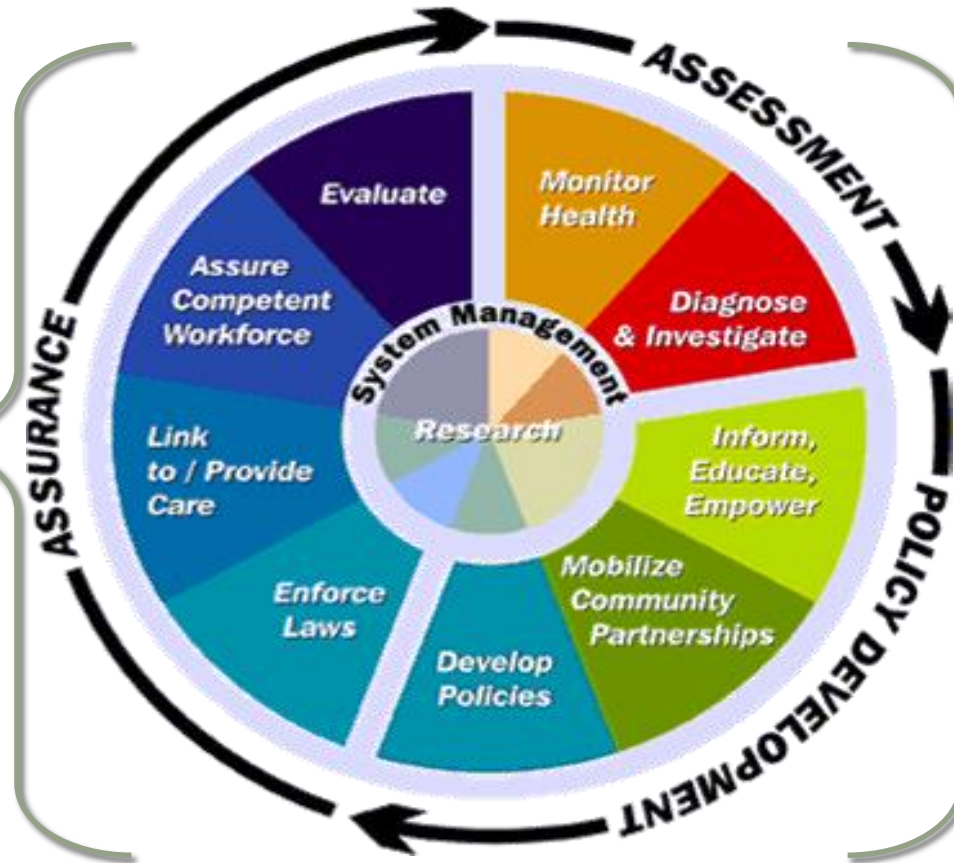


- NIHB provides a variety of services
  - Advocacy
  - Policy Formation and Analysis
  - Legislative and Regulatory Tracking
  - Direct and Timely Information Dissemination to Tribes
  - Research on Indian Health Issues
  - Program Development and Assessment
  - Public Health Infrastructure
  - Training and Technical Assistance Programs
  - Project Management

# Ten Essential Services of Public Health

Infrastructure

Issues



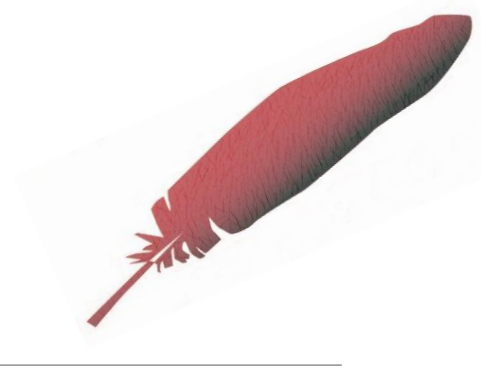
# Where Does Indian Country Excel



- 🎯 Education and Awareness
- 🎯 Outreach
- 🎯 Leading the way in issue-specific services
  - Diabetes, commercial tobacco, alcohol use
- 🎯 Innovation and Resourcefulness
  - “Doing More with Less”

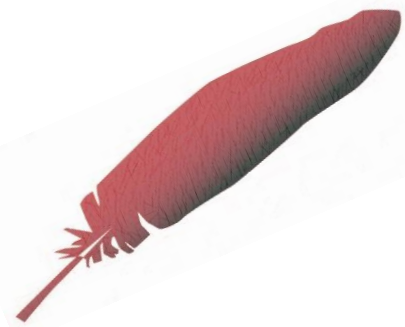


# KEY ISSUES



- Suicide (Intentional Injury)
- Alcohol and drug abuse
- Commercial tobacco
- STI & HIV
- Diabetes
- Motor Vehicle Accidents (Unintentional Injury)
- Hepatitis C
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Emerging Zoonotic Infections

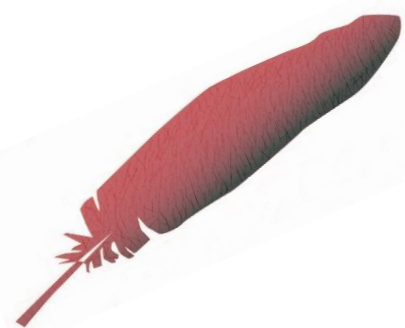
# Drug Abuse



- 64.8% of AI/ANs have used illicit drugs in their lifetimes, while 27.1% have used in the past year.
- AI/ANs were almost twice more likely to need treatment for alcohol and illicit drugs
  - 17.5% compared to the national average of 9.3%.
- In North Dakota, before the oil boom “about 30% of the cases that came to ... court were drug-related, and that number is now closer to 90%.”
- Drugs of choice vary: marijuana, heroin, methamphetamine, prescription drugs



# Suicide



- Native American teens and young adults killing themselves at more than triple the rate of other young Americans
- Second leading cause of death for AI/ANs 10-24.
- Alcohol was associated with 63.2% of all intentional injury hospitalizations among AI/ANs nationwide.



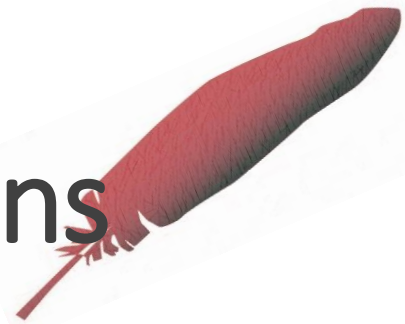


# Commercial Tobacco

- For youth 12-25 years of age, AI/AN males and females had the highest prevalence of cigarette smoking
  - And the same is true for AI/AN adults
- Cigar smoking has declined for all races/ethnicities, except AI/AN
- Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death among American Indians and Alaska Natives, and tobacco use is an important risk factor for this disease.



# Other Prevalent Concerns



- Obesity

- American Indian or Alaska Native adults are 60% more likely to be obese than non-Hispanic Whites.
- Before 10 years of age, 40% to 50% of AI children are classified as either overweight or obese.

- HIV

- Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders and AI/ANs had the 4th and 5th highest overall rate of new HIV infections when compared to other races/ethnicities.



# What Is Meant by Infrastructure?



- ☛ Creating the sustainable capacity, resources, staffing and facilities to consistently perform all 10 essential public health services

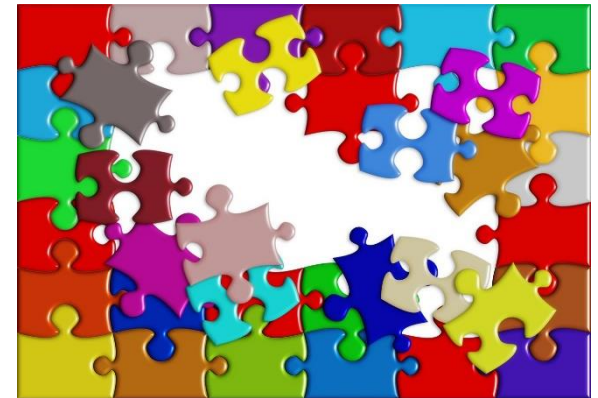


- ☛ For example
  - ☛ Workforce development
  - ☛ Emergency preparedness
  - ☛ Integration of public health and clinical health
  - ☛ Technology
  - ☛ Surveillance
  - ☛ Laws and Policies

# What Infrastructure Currently Exists



- Tribes
- Tribal Epidemiology Centers
- Inter-Tribal Councils
- Area Indian Health Boards
- Tribal Colleges and University
- Non-Tribal Colleges and Universities
  - -NARCH
- National organizations



# Barriers and Challenges to Infrastructure Development

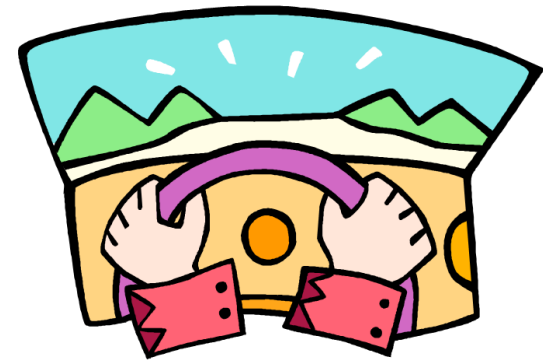


- 🚧 Workforce Development
- 🚧 Current and Future Staffing
- 🚧 Funding
- 🚧 Support
- 🚧 Jurisdictional Battles
  - With states and federal entities
- 🚧 Re-definition of Tribal Health Departments

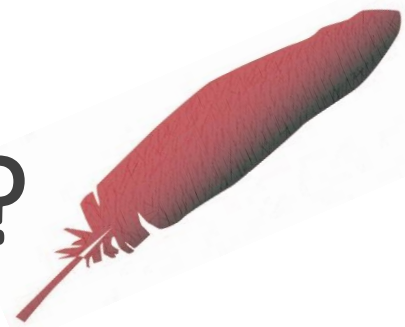
# Social Determinants of Health



- Gender
- Class
- Socioeconomic Status
- Education and Access to Education
- Race/Ethnicity
- Occupation
- Income



# Why Worker's Health?



- 
- Opportunities to address issues within the work environment
    - Strengthen public health service delivery
  - Strengthen collaborative opportunities
  - Strengthen Tribal sovereignty through the exercise of Tribal policies
  - Creating a healthy workforce inherently strengthens the public health infrastructure and economic development efforts

Remember that  
workers are  
community members  
too





# National Indian Health Board



# Thank you!

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