

OKLAHOMA AREA TRIBAL EPIDEMIOLOGY CENTER

A REGIONAL GOOD HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN INDIAN COUNTRY UPDATE

OKLAHOMA CITY AREA REGIONAL UPDATE

GHWIC Background

Between 2014-2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will invest over \$78 million in chronic disease prevention efforts through the Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC) program. 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 organizations.
- Provide technical assistance to GHWIC-funded Tribes and Tribal 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

Oklahoma Area Tribal Epidemiology Center (OKTEC) coordinates GHWIC evaluation in the Indian Health Service (IHS) Oklahoma City Area. In the past year, OKTEC has supported chronic disease prevention and management by:

1. Building Epidemiology and Surveillance Capacity

The OKTEC provided two one-day trainings for Component 2 (C2) sub-awardees in August, 2017.

These trainings included seminars on survey construction and methodology, data collection (epidemiology 101, sampling strategies, and publicly-available data sources), data entry, communicating and disseminating data, evaluation, and sustainability. Nearly all of the 18 sub-awardees were able to attend the trainings.

2. Developing Partnerships and Collaboration

The OKTEC hosts an annual public health conference in April of each year through GHWIC funding. In addition to their own conference, the OKTEC also supports the Kansas Tribal Health Summit held each August. Both conferences have grown each year in number of attendees and training opportunities providing community members with networking opportunities and skill building trainings.

3. Conducting Outreach Through Sub-Awards

To promote the overall health and well-being of community members throughout the region, the OKTEC has increased the number of sub-awardees each year of the GHWIC program. In year 1, The OKTEC supported 11 sub-awardees, 13 in Year 2, and 18 in Year 3, with six sub-awardees that were consistently funded through all three years.

Activity Spotlight: Education and Outreach to Youth

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma (4,212 members) is located in central Oklahoma. With the support of OKTEC, the Tribe developed their Prevention in Native Students (PINS) program with a goal of implementing a grass roots program to educate native youth about the health dangers associated with commercial tobacco use, sedentary lifestyle, and unhealthy eating habits. The program includes physical activity with each session, including both traditional games (i.e., Stickball) as well as games popular with Oklahoma youth (i.e., bowling, trampolines, and basketball).

During the first year of the program, they reached about 25 youth and their families (~500 total individuals). During the second year they had 36 youth enrolled and thus impacted around 700 total individuals. The program recently completed its third year, where they had 29 participating students reaching around 600 individuals. Additionally, the Tribe incorporated education related to suicide and methamphetamine prevention in conjunction with another program due to community events where it became clear there was need for responsiveness planning and continued support.



By the Numbers

59

training opportunities
to regional sites

The OKTEC offered 59 training opportunities through meetings at the OKTEC Tribal Public Health Conference and Kansas Tribal Health Summit in 2017. The number of training opportunities and participants at the conferences has increased each year. These conferences allow OKTEC to have a larger impact on the Oklahoma City Area and provide information on health, data, and disease prevention to a large number of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribal health staff.

8

new memoranda
of understanding
(MOUs) to support
chronic disease
prevention

The OKTEC supported 18 sub-awardees during this year. The number of sub-awardees has increased each year of the program, with 11 in Year 1, 13 sub-awardees in Year 2 (four of these were first time awardees), and 18 total sub-awardees for Year 3 (seven of which were first time awardees). Six sub-awardees have been funded for all three years. GHWIC has provided the funding to make these partnerships possible, improving the ability to reach and impact the health and well-being of community members.

39

instances of technical
assistance provided
to sub-awardees

Since January 2017, the OKTEC responded to 39 technical assistance requests from C2 sub-awardees and other tribes within the Oklahoma City Area. The number of requests has increased over the last three years as the GHWIC program becomes more established and the OKTEC better publicizes technical assistance and support capabilities to the Area tribes and tribal serving organizations.

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

