

# UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES TRIBAL 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

United South and Eastern Tribes Tribal Epidemiology Center (USET TEC) coordinates GHWIC evaluation in the Indian Health Service (IHS) Nashville Area. USET TEC supports chronic disease prevention and management in 27 Tribes through:

### 1. Increased Policy Development

USET Tribal Nations have passed and implemented five health promotion and disease prevention policies and initiatives directly protecting and improving the health of 35,000 Tribal Nation Citizens. And there are at least five additional policies in development at GHWIC sub-awardee sites.

### 2. Improving Chronic Disease Prevention and Promotion

More than 39 programs, focusing on GHWIC's chronic disease prevention and health promotion priorities to improve the health and wellbeing of Tribal Nations, have been implemented and/or planned. These programs provide services impacting more than 14,000 community members directly and are successful because the community was engaged at the beginning of the program planning process.

### 3. Building Sustainable Public Health Capacity

Health program planning, evaluation, and epidemiology activities were not common practice for most USET Tribal Nations at the start of GHWIC. Through GHWIC, USET staff have provided guidance and training more than 500 times to sub-awardees, building sustainable public health capacity at the local level. Most sub-awardees now have the capacity to plan and implement programs.



## By the Numbers

**35,000**

People directly  
influenced by  
policy, systems, and  
environmental (PSE)  
changes

**124**

New and revised  
evaluation activities  
implemented with  
Tribes and Tribal  
programs

**29**

PSE changes  
preventing chronic  
disease and promoting  
healthy behavior

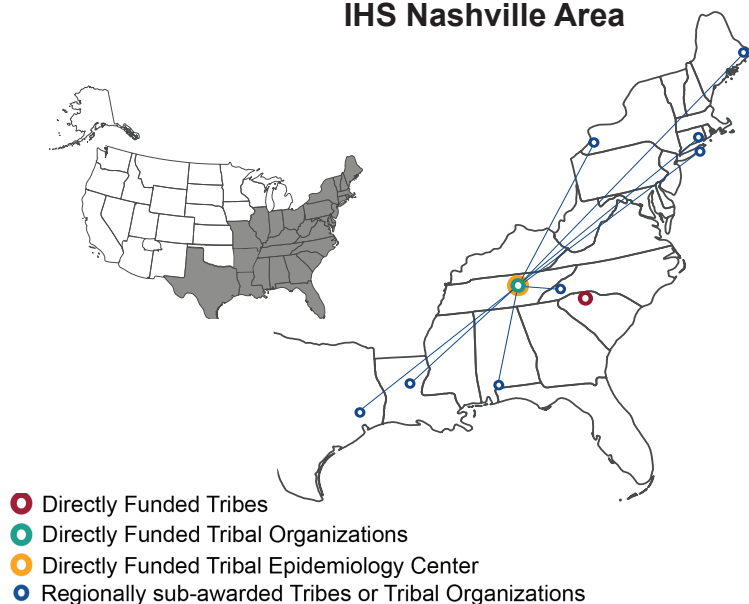
## Activity Spotlight: Tobacco-Free Policy Expansion



In Year 3, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians (PBCI) passed a policy prohibiting smoking within 100 feet of the Health Center. The passing of this policy came from the completion of a community health assessment which revealed that 82% of citizen respondents were in favor of smoke-free buildings and prohibiting smoking around those buildings. This illustrated to the Tribal Council and Tribal leaders that their citizens did not want to be exposed to secondhand smoke and were in favor of policies which would protect them. Within the next year, the Tribal Council amended the resolution approving the policy to expand the jurisdiction to all buildings

on the reservation campus, not just the Health Center. The continued successes and policy change at PBCI are encouraging. The PBCI health department is one step closer to achieving its mission of having a smoke-free reservation.

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



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

