

# Working with American Indian Tribal Governments and People 3/11/2021



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH SERVICES

*Health and Wellness for all Arizonans*

# Michael Allison

- Native American Liaison
- Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)
- Phoenix, AZ



# Blue Print for Successful Partnership

- Hire Tribal Staff
- Learn Some of the Culture and History of Tribal People
- Know Your Counter Part within the Tribal Governments, Indian Health Service, Urban Indian Health Programs, and Inter Tribal Councils



# Blue Print for Successful Partnership

- Build Trust, Seek Tribal Input Before the Fact
- Keep On-Going Communications
- Build Coalitions
- Be Committed for the Long Term



# Self Introduction

- Dine' (Navajo) Tribal Clans:
  - Mother: Oozei Ta'chii'nii (Hopi - Red Running into the Water People)
  - Father: Naakaaii Dine' (the Mexican Navajo People)
  - Maternal Grandfather: Ma'ii deeshgizhii (Navajo People from Jemez Pueblo)
  - Paternal Grandfather: Tsinijinnie (Black Wood Streak People).



# ADHS Native American Liaison Position

- Created Full Time in FY 2001
- 100% - State General Funds
- One Person Office
- Report to Assistant Director, Division of Policy & Intergovernmental Affairs



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# Primary Functions

- Communication Link and Resource
- Advocate for Tribal Issue/Concerns
- Tribal Consultation Policy Compliance
- Official ADHS Native American Representative



# AZ Native American Health Care Community

- 21 Tribal Health Departments/Offices
- 3 Urban Indian Health Programs
- 3 Indian Health Service Area Offices
- Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA)





# AZ Tribes, Nations, Communities

- Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Cocopah Indian Tribe
- Colorado River Indian Tribes
- Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation
- Ft. Mojave Indian Tribe
- Gila River Indian Community



# AZ Tribes, Nations, Communities

- Havasupai Tribe
- Hopi Tribe
- Hualapai Tribe
- Kaibab-Paiute Tribe
- Navajo Nation
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe



# AZ Tribes, Nations, Communities

- Pueblo of Zuni
- Quechan Tribe
- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- San Carlos Apache Tribe
- San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe



# AZ Tribes, Nations, Communities

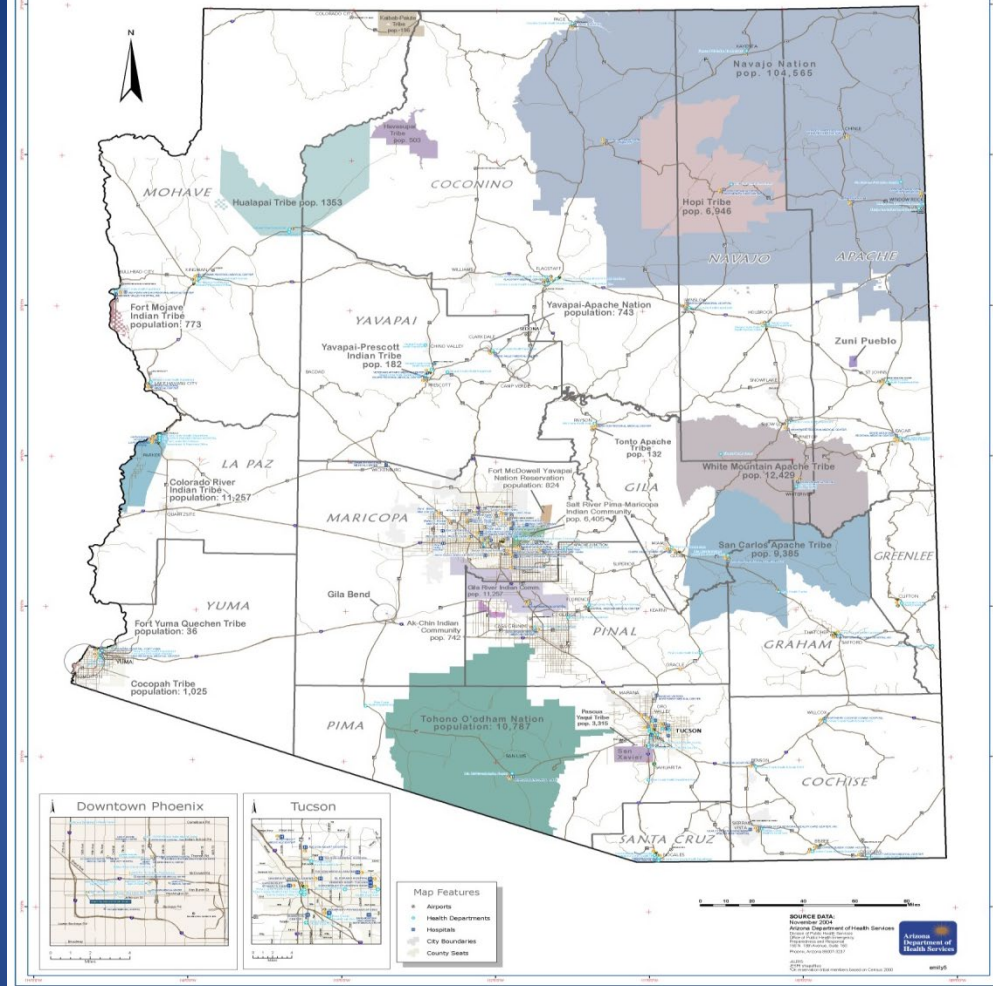
- Tohono O'odham Nation
- Tonto Apache Tribe
- White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Yavapai Apache Nation
- Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe



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# INDIAN RESERVATIONS OF ARIZONA



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# AZ Tribal Land/Population

- 29% of State's Land Base
- 5% of the State population
  - 296,529 (one race)
  - On Reservation (55%)
  - Off Reservation (45%)
- Total State Population – 6,392,017

Source: Census 2010



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# AZ Tribal Health Status

- 23.3% Poverty Level (AZ 17.4%)
- 23.3% High School Diplomas (AZ 58.5%)
- 90.8/1000 Teen Pregnancy Rate (AZ 58.4)
- 73.9/100,000 Diabetes Mortality Rate (AZ 25.7)



# AZ Tribal Health Status

- 139.0/100,000 Unintentional Injury Mortality Rate (AZ 48.1)
- 846.7/100,000 STD Chlamydia Rate (AZ 481.1)
- 60 Median Age at Death (AZ 76)





# AZ Tribal Health Status

- Five Leading Causes of Death
  - Unintentional Injury
  - Cancer
  - Diseases of the Heart
  - Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis
  - Diabetes



# Data Source

- Arizona American Indian Health Status Summary Report for Data Year 2015, Arizona Department of Health Services, June 2017

<https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/director/tribal-liaison/health-status-report-2015.pdf>



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# Tribal Sovereign

- Inherent Power of Tribal Governments to Make Their Own Laws
- Tribal Reservations are Lands held in Trust by the US Government
- Tribal Governments are not Subject to State Laws (Exception PL 280 States)
- Tribes are Subject to Federal Laws



# Tribal History



- Pre-Columbus/13 Colonies
- Force Relocation of Tribes
- Indian Wars
- Treaties – Reservations
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Indian Termination Policy
- Boarding Schools



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# Historical Quotes

- The Only Good Indian is a Dead Indian  
(General Philip Sheridan, 1869)
- Kill the Indian and Save the Man  
(Captain Richard H. Pratt on the  
Education of American Indians, 1892)



# Medical Mistrust/Distrust

- Navajo Nation Uranium Mine Workers
- US Atomic Energy Commission
- 1948-1971, Colorado Plateau, NM, UT, CO, AZ
- US Sole Purchaser of Uranium by Law
- Few Protection of Miners before 1962



# Medical Mistrust/Distrust

- Minority Miners Among the Least Advantaged Population with Respect to Workplace Safety
- Uranium Ore had been Mined for Centuries in Germany
- Lung Disease Association Reported in 1879



# Medical Mistrust/Distrust

- Mining Companies walked away from the Mines without Sealing the Tunnel Openings.
- Over 1,000 Unsealed Tunnels, Pits, and Radioactive Waste Remain on the Navajo Nation





# Medical Mistrust/Distrust

- Out of 150 Navajo Miners who worked at a Uranium Mine in Shiprock, NM 133 Died of Lung Cancer or Various Forms of Fibrosis by 1980.
- In 1990 Congress Passed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act



# Data Source

- The History of Uranium Mining and the Navajo People, *American Public Health Association, September, 2002*
- Human Health Impacts on the Navajo Nation from Uranium Mining, *Integrating Research and Education,*



# Tribal Health Care History

- Indian Health Service (1955)
- PL 93-638 Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act (1975)
- PL 94-437 Indian Health Care Improvement Act (1976)
  - Permanently Reauthorized through the ACA



# Government-to-Government Relationship

- US Presidential Tribal Consultation Executive Orders
  - First Issued by President Bill Clinton in 2000 (EO 13175)
- Government-to-Government Relationship
- Tribal Consultation Policies/Meetings



# President Biden

- Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships (1-26-21)
- To Heads of Federal Executive Departments and Agencies
- Reaffirms EO 13175



# President Biden

- Detail Agency Plans Due within 90 Days
- Designation of Agency Official
- Reports to Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and OMB Director
- Annual Progress Reports



# AZ Tribal Consultation Law

- Governor's Executive Order 2006-14
- ADHS Tribal Consultation Policy – 2006
- Governor's Office on Tribal Relations – 2016, ARS 41-2051
- Tribal Consultation Meetings
- Annual Reports, Designated Staff



# Tribal Culture

- Traditional Public Health - Prevention
- Medicine People (Healers)
- Ceremonies
- Cultural Beliefs
- Community/Family Values



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# ITU Health Care System

- Indian Health Service
- Tribal Health Programs
- Urban Indian Health Programs



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# Indian Health Service (IHS)

- US Department of Health & Human Services
- Indian Treaties Responsibility
- Medical and Public Health
  - Hospitals, Clinics, Water & Sewer Sanitation, Community Health
- 12 Area Offices throughout US



# Tribal Health Programs

- Medical and Public Health
- Medical Facilities (PL 93-638)
  - Tribal Owned and Operated
  - Tribal Government Corporations
- Public Health Programs
  - Health Departments and Offices



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# Urban Indian Health Programs

- Indian Relocation Act of 1956 – PL 84-959
- Title V of PL 94-437, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act
- 41 Urban Indian Health Programs throughout US
- 501 C 3, Non-Profits



# Tribal Health Care Financing

- Congressional Funding – Discretionary
- Indian Health Service (Underfunded, 50% of Need)
- Medicaid and Third Party Billing
- 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage



# ADHS Tribal Partnerships

- Direct Contracting – Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs)
- Data Sharing Agreements
- Unique Collaboration – Courtesy Surveys in Lieu of State Licensing (Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, Tohono O'odham Nation)



# ADHS Tribal Partnerships

- Arizona State Hospital Admissions – Tribal Involuntary Commitment Court Orders Domesticated Through County Superior Courts (ARS 12-136)
- Multi-Agencies – Conferences, Summits, Forums, Workshops, Workgroups



# ADHS Tribal Partnerships

- AZ Tribal STD/HIV/Hep C Conferences – 2018, 2019, 2021
  - Statewide ITU Planning Committee
- AZ Tribal Opioid-Substance Use Conferences – 2019, 2021
  - Statewide ITU Planning Committee





# ADHS Tribal Partnerships

- Arizona American Indian Pathways into Health Conference – 2012
  - Statewide ITU Planning Committee
- Legislation before the Arizona Legislature to Create an American Indian Area Health Education Center – 2021



# Guidance

- Tribes are Sovereign Nations
- Indian Cultures are Alive and Well
- Tribal Governments Already have Programs in Place - Build on those Programs
- Tribal Governments are Nation Building



# Report References

- US Commission on Civil Rights
  - A Quiet Crisis, Federal Funding and Unmet Needs – 2003
  - Broken Promises: Evaluating the Native American Health Care Systems - 2004



# Ahe'hee' (Thank You)

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ADHS Native American Web Site

<https://azdhs.gov/director/tribal-liaison/index.php>



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