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# AN OVERVIEW OF AI/AN POPULATION AND IHS- FUNDED HEALTHCARE SERVICES: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



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# OVERVIEW

- ▶ Historical Perspective: Indian Health Service (IHS) -Tribal Government Relationship
- ▶ Population Served
- ▶ Service Challenges and Opportunities

# IHS-TRIBAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS

- ▶ A unique government-to-government relationship exists between American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribes and Federal Government
- ▶ Relationship is grounded in the Constitution, numerous treaties, statutes, and executive orders
- ▶ The U.S. recognizes the rights of Indians to self-governance and self-determination

# THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

- ▶ An Agency of the Department of Health and Human Services-- since 1955
- ▶ Federal health care provider for **eligible** American Indians/Alaska Natives
  - ▶ Members of federally recognized tribes
- ▶ Healthcare to 1.9 million active users
  - ▶ FY 2017 - CA Area Population Served - 84,887 AI/ANs residing on or near reservations
  - ▶ Total CA Area Service Population for 2020: 215,894
  - ▶ Total CA Area User Pop for FY 2020: 84,887
    - ▶ Active users <5 years of age – 4,466
- ▶ **Per Capita Personal Health Care Expenditures Comparison:**
  - ▶ FY 2019 IHS expenditure per user population
  - ▶ Total CY 2017 U.S. National Health Expenditure per person

# THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

- ▶ IHS Mission: To raise the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level
- ▶ IHS Vision: Healthy communities and quality health care systems through strong partnerships and culturally responsive practices

# LEGAL BASIS FOR FUNDING OF HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES

- ▶ The Snyder Act of 1921 (25 USC 13) and the permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act [enacted in 2010 as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148)] provide specific legislative authority for Congress to appropriate funds specifically for the health care of Indian people.
- ▶ In addition, numerous other laws, court cases, and Executive Orders reaffirm the unique relationship between tribal governments and the federal government.

Source: <https://www.ihs.gov>

# AI/AN DEMOGRAPHICS

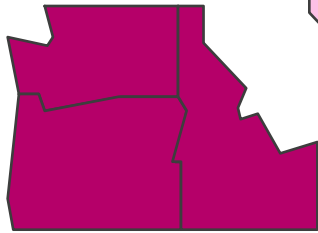
- ▶ Of 574 **federally recognized** tribes ... 104 served by California Area IHS
- ▶ IHS offers services in 37 states
- ▶ Per 2010 Census: 5.2 million AI/ANs live in the United States
  - ▶ 2.9 million reported as AI/AN only
  - ▶ 2.3 million AI/ANs reported as identifying with one or more race
- ▶ Mostly **urban**
  - ▶ 36% live on or near reservations
  - ▶ 64% live in urban areas

\* Source: Census 2010,  
<https://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf>

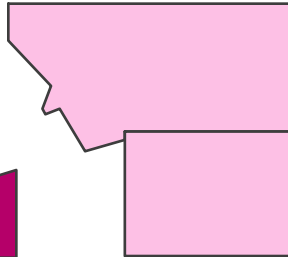
# IHS Areas



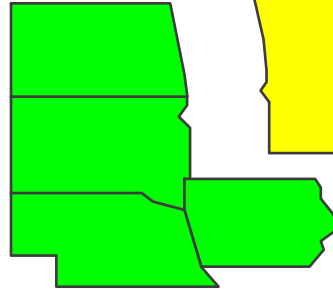
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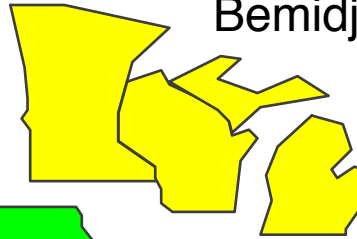
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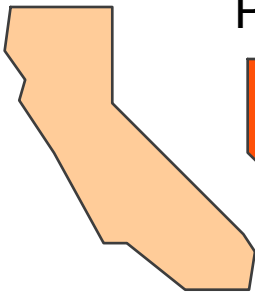
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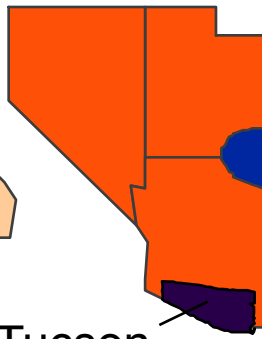
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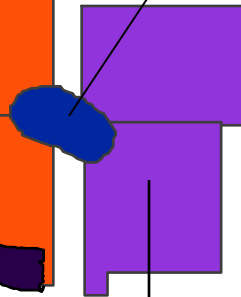
California



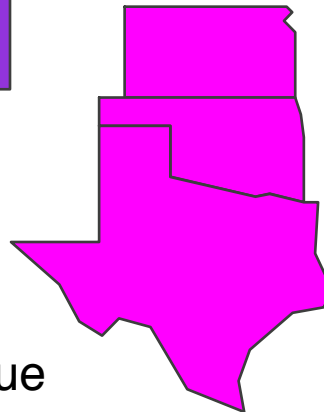
Phoenix



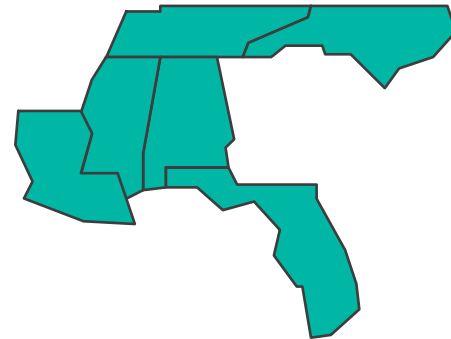
Navajo



Oklahoma



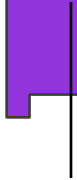
Nashville



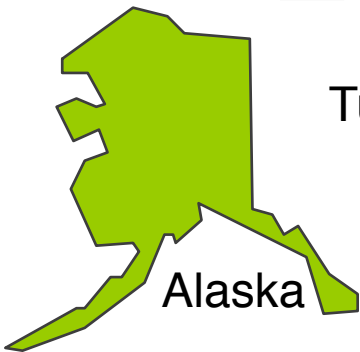
Tucson



Albuquerque



Alaska





# CALIFORNIA IHS/TRIBAL/URBAN HEALTHCARE

- ▶ Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities
  - ▶ Funded and managed by IHS
    - ▶ CA Area – 1 Youth Regional Treatment Center (YRTC); second facility to open in Spring of 2022
- ▶ Tribal healthcare programs
  - ▶ Funded in part by IHS; managed by individual Tribes
    - ▶ CA Area - 34 Tribal
- ▶ Urban Indian healthcare organizations
  - ▶ Funded in part by IHS, but not managed by IHS
    - ▶ CA Area - 10 Urban
- ▶ Bottom Line:
  - Of the 676 facilities funded by IHS, only 21% are directly managed by IHS

# CALIFORNIA TRIBAL HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS, SATELLITE CLINICS, AND URBAN INDIAN HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS



# HEALTHCARE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Challenges

- ▶ AI/AN children –
  - ▶ Identifying gaps care - well-child care may be provided by outside of system providers
- ▶ Staffing –
  - ▶ High staff vacancies/turnover
  - ▶ Limited resources for staff development
- ▶ Competing healthcare priorities
- ▶ Workflow processes often lacking
- ▶ Technology/ documentation challenges

## Opportunities

- ▶ Competent and committed IHS, Tribal and Urban Indian Organization staff
- ▶ Strong commitment of IHS and Tribal leaders to improving healthcare access and health outcomes for AI/AN people
- ▶ AI/AN community interest and engagement
- ▶ Interested and dedicated collaborative partners at the Tribal, Federal, State, and local levels

## IHS WEB RESOURCES

▶ Indian Health Service website:

<https://www.ihs.gov>

▶ California Area Indian Health Service website:

<https://www.ihs.gov/california>



Thank you!

**Contact Information:**

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