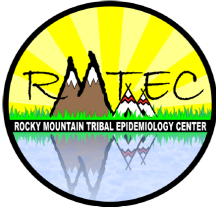


Improving Public Health Community Partnerships through NPHPSP

Rocky Mountain Tribal Epidemiology Center



Rocky Mountain Tribal Epidemiology Center (RMTEC), a division of the Montana Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council, assists American Indian Tribes in Montana and Wyoming in developing public health services and resources. RMTEC supports public health services for a Tribal population of 70,000 on eight reservations.

Through funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Public Health Improvement Initiative (NPHII), RMTEC provided technical assistance and facilitation support for ten regional tribal health departments to complete the National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) assessment. The self-assessment results have encouraged the regional Tribes to take action on various activities related to the ten Essential Public Health Services (EPHS), such as policy development (EPHS 5) and linking people to needed personal health services (EPHS 7).

The assessment process helped to break down silos between regional tribal health departments, which has improved networking among Tribes. Faced with the challenges of implementing performance improvement activities with limited resources, RMTEC and regional Tribal health departments have formed partnerships to leverage funding from multiple sources to pursue joint health initiatives. The process has also encouraged Tribal officials to periodically update their community health assessment data, which can then be used to inform decisions around improvement planning activities.

Current Activities of RMTEC Affiliates

A number of the Tribes in Montana and Wyoming have been active in implementing performance improvement initiatives as a result of the NPHPSP assessment:

- 7 *Seatbelt Safety Law (EPHS 5)* – Fort Peck Tribal Health Department was the first regional affiliate to pass and incorporate a law on seatbelt safety in its Tribal Health Codes
- 7 *Flu Vaccination Program (EPHS 7)* – All of the regional Tribes have implemented flu vaccination programs in reservation healthcare facilities

The NPHPSP assessment process has improved the collaboration and networking among Tribes by breaking down silos and encouraging administrators to think outside the box.

**Mitzi Racine, Performance Improvement Manager,
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Success Factors

- 7 Leverage overlapping funds to support joint health initiatives
- 7 Encourage collaboration and networking among tribes
- 7 Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) improvement tool used in strategic planning process

Essential Public Health Services (EPHS)

1. *Monitor health status to identify community health problems*
2. *Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community*
3. *Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues*
4. *Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems*
5. *Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts*
6. *Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety*
7. *Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable*
8. *Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce*
9. *Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services*
10. *Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems*

Related Links and Resources

- 7 Rocky Mountain Tribal Epidemiology Center - www.rmtech.org
- 7 Montana Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council - www.mtwytlc.org
- 7 NPHII Overview - www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/nphii
- 7 NPHPSP Overview - www.cdc.gov/nphpsp
- 7 NPHPSP Online Resource Center - www.phf.org/nphpsp

About NPHPSP and Public Health Foundation (PHF)

The NPHPSP is a national initiative that has developed a set of standardized goals for state and local public health systems and boards of health. PHF administers the NPHPSP Data Reporting Page, the Online Resource Center, and provides technical assistance on performance management, quality

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