

# Indian Health Service Caring for First Nation Peoples





# Timeline of United States Obligations to First Nation Peoples

- US Constitution Article 1 Sec. 8: gives Congress authority to regulate commerce with Indian Tribes  
Article 2 Sec. 2: The President with consent of Senate can make treaties
- Laramie Treaty of 1868 Articles XVIII-XV: The government agreed to provide a physician on reservation lands for healthcare
- Snyder Act of 1921: Congress authorizes funds for the relief of distress and conservation of health among American Indians



# Timeline of United States Obligations to First Nation Peoples, cont.

- Snyder Act 1924: Native Americans become full American citizens
- Indian Health Service July 1, 1955: Care of Native Americans transferred from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Public Health Service
- Public Law 93 638 of 1975 : gave Indian tribes the authority to contract with the Federal government to operate programs serving their tribal members and other eligible persons.
- Indian Healthcare Improvement Act of 1976: lead to Medi-caid and Medi-care reimbursement to IHS for care provided to Native Americans
- 2010 President Obama made the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act permanent as part of the affordable care act

# Early Twentieth Century



Elinor Gregg  
(Helper Woman)

First Superintendent of  
Public Health Nurses for  
the Bureau of Indian  
Affairs



# Indian Health Service Nurse-Midwives



Lucille Woodville  
First Chief of Nurse-  
Midwifery Service in  
Indian Health Service

# Pine Ridge Midwifery Service

- 1967
- 1971-1979
- 1980's
- 1990's
- 2000-present





# Indian Health Service

- Mission: to raise the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level
- Vision: healthy communities and quality health care systems through strong partnerships and culturally responsive practices
- Strategic Goals:
  - to ensure that comprehensive, culturally appropriate personal and public health services are available and accessible to American Indian and Alaska Native people;
  - to promote excellence and quality through innovation of the Indian health system into an optimally performing organization; and
  - to strengthen IHS program management and operations



# Indian Health Care System

- **Indian Health Service (IHS) direct health care services**  
IHS services are administered through a system of 12 Area offices and 170 IHS and tribally managed service units.
- **Tribally operated health care services**  
. Since 1992, the IHS has entered into agreements with tribes and tribal organizations to plan, conduct, and administer programs authorized by Public Law 93-638. Today, over sixty percent of the IHS appropriation is administered by tribes, primarily through self-determination contracts or self-governance compacts.
- **Urban Indian health care services and resource centers**  
The IHS Office of Urban Indian Health Programs (OUIHP) was established in 1976 to make health care services more accessible to Urban Indians. The IHS enters into limited, competing contracts and grants with 41 Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) to provide health care and referral services for Urban Indians throughout the United States.



# Native American Health Statistics

- **Population Serve:** (*as of January 2020*):
  - Members of 574 federally recognized Tribes in 37 states
  - 2.56 million American Indians and Alaska Natives
- **Annual Patient Services :**
  - Inpatient Admissions (*Tribal and IHS facilities FY 2018*): 40,494
  - Outpatient visits (*Tribal and IHS facilities FY 2018*): 13,752,397
- **IHS Budget Appropriation:**
  - FY 2016: \$4.8 billion
  - FY 2017: \$5.0 billion
  - FY 2018: \$5.5 billion
  - FY 2019: \$5.8 billion
  - FY 2020: \$6.0 billion
- **Per Capita Personal Health Care Expenditures Comparison:**
  - FY 2019 IHS expenditure per user population: \$4,078
  - Total CY 2017 U.S. National Health Expenditure per person (Categories 1-4): \$9,726

IHS website

[www.ihs.gov](http://www.ihs.gov)



IHS Career Paths  
Civil Service  
Direct Tribal Hire  
USPHS Commissioned  
Corps  
Military Transition

# How to Find Health Care Employment Opportunities

- <https://www.ihs.gov/jobs/>
- <https://www.usajobs.gov/>



## Loan Repayment & Long Term Training

- IHS Loan Repayment Program-  
20,000 per year
- IHS Supplemental Loan  
Repayment Program-  
individualized
- National Health Service Corps  
Loan Repayment

# IHS Positives in the Indian Health Service

- Increase in age of mother at time of birth of first child
- Care close to home
- Public Health Nurse Home Visits
- Partnership with ACOG



# IHS Challenges in MCH care

- Families living in remote rural/frontier areas of the country
- Many families live in food deserts
- High poverty rates
- Historical and Generational Trauma
- Nursing and Health care Providers Shortages in Rural Areas
- Substance Use- Especially Methamphetamine

Questions???



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