

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

“AN INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENTS”

Presented to the Gila River Indian Community Health Resource Department

Overview

- Inter Tribal Council of Arizona Inc. Tribal Epidemiology Center
- Upcoming funding and technical assistance opportunity
- Definition of a community health assessment (CHA)
- Benefits of a CHA
- Steps for conducting a CHA
- Summary

ITCA Tribal Epidemiology Center

- Part of a larger national effort
- 11 TECs and 1 Urban Center
- ITCA Tribal Epidemiology Center
- Established in 1996
- *Mission:* To build Tribally-driven public health and epidemiologic capacity among Tribes in the Phoenix and Tucson Indian Health Service Areas by assisting Tribes with health surveillance, research, prevention, and evaluation information for planning and policy decision making.
- *Purpose:* To build Tribally-driven public health and epidemiologic capacity in the Phoenix and Tucson Indian Health Service Areas in order to improve American Indian health and well-being.

Community health assessment overview

What is the definition of an assessment?

- Measures performance, work product, or skill in order to offer feedback, to highlight program strengths and challenges, and to provide directives for future improvement
- Are non-judgmental, and the findings are intended to be helpful

What is a community health assessment (CHA)?

- A collaborative process that involves the systematic collection and analysis of data and information
- Provides a “snapshot” of information that can be reviewed in the future
- The tangible result is a report about community health status that is shared with Tribal leadership and the community

Core functions and essential services of public health



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Essential Services 1 and 2

Who is responsible for the following essential services for the tribe?

- Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems.
- Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.

Benefits of a community health assessment

There are several benefits of community health assessments:

- Support health services planning and program development
- Better understanding of the community’s health issues
- Current information on the community’s health-related assets, resources, and capacity
- Guides the priorities of the health department or facility

What is needed to conduct a CHA?

- People
- Materials
- Funding
- Time

Steps for conducting a community health assessment

How is a CHA conducted?

- Tribal approvals
- Plan and organize
- Define the community
- Engage the community
- Set goals and objectives
- Identify health priorities
- Identify indicators
- Collect and analyze data
- Construct a report
- Communicate the results
- Re-assess health priorities and develop a plan



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Planning Phase Steps

- Tribal approvals
- Plan and organize
- Define the population
- Engage the community
- Set goals and objectives
- Identify health priorities
- Identify indicators

Implementation Phase Steps

- Collect and analyze data
- Construct a report

Action Phase Steps

- Communicate the results
- Re-assess health priorities and develop a plan

Summary

A community health assessment (CHA)

- Is a collaborative process to determine health priorities
- Involves the systematic collection and analysis of data and information
- Results in a health status report that provides a “snapshot” of community health

It is necessary to obtain tribal approvals before conducting the CHA

Three phases and eleven steps to conducting a CHA

- Planning Phase (Steps 1-7)
- Implementation Phase (Steps 8-9)
- Take Action Phase (Steps 10-11)

