

Project Objectives



Provide updated Community Health Profiles to the Tribal and Urban Programs in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.



Provide training and support regarding general epidemiology principles, community based research and management information systems (MIS) and the Indian Health Service (IHS) Resource Patient Management System (RPMS) throughout the three-state area.



Provide ongoing coordination with identified Tribal, local, state and federal partners with regards to mutual health information needs throughout the three-state area.



Provide on-going communication of Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Center activities to identified partners throughout the three-state area.



Maintain centralized data repository of American Indian health information within the three-state area.



Provide support and technical assistance to Tribal epidemiological and prevention projects within the three-state area.

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Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center

Indian Health Programs



An epidemiology project serving the American Indian Communities in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota through Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.



Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Center

The Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Center (GLTEC) is an epidemiology project working through Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council located in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin. A total of 34 American Indian Tribes and 3 Urban programs within the Bemidji Area (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan) are served by this project, which is funded, in part, through a competitive grant from the Indian Health Service. GLTEC strives to be responsive to the health information and epidemiological needs of the Tribes in the Bemidji Area by providing training and technical assistance in many areas of public health: program planning and evaluation, health survey design, health data collection, data management, analysis and interpretation.

Services of GLTEC include research, technical assistance and support, as well as training in epidemiological and public health-related activities for the Tribes in the project area. Specific areas of support include health data collection, analysis, and interpretation, program planning and evaluation, data management, database design, survey design, and community health assessments and profiling. Project activities of GLTEC vary according to the epidemiological needs and requests of the Tribes. However, some of the core GLTEC projects are ongoing continually.

Collaborations and partnerships are fostered with the Tribes and federal, state, and local public health agencies. Working relationships include memorandums of agreement to share health data and collaborations on specific projects that benefit the Tribes. GLTEC partners include Tribal health departments, state and local health departments, universities, Indian Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other public health agencies.

Advisory committees provide professional and technical guidance and review of GLTEC's activities, meeting quarterly.

Health information pertaining to American Indians is obtained and regularly updated by the GLTEC. The purpose for maintaining this central repository of data is to give Tribes access to health information for their Tribal communities in a meaningful and useful format. Current data housed by GLTEC includes U.S. Census data, state vital records data (birth and death certificate information), communicable disease state data, diabetes data from local chart audits or registries, renal network reports, IHS severe injury data, state immunization records, and WIC reports.

Health profiles are produced annually for the project area and bi-annually for each Tribal community in the project area.

Diabetes surveillance program support is provided through program evaluation, RPMS training and technical assistance, chart audit analysis assistance, and data reporting.

RPMS training and technical assistance are provided through group training sessions, individual on-site tutorials, and telephone support as requested. RPMS (Resource Patient Management System) is a Federal patient database system used by most of the Tribes in the project area.

Newsletter publication entitled Great Lakes Tribal Epidemiology Center News is produced and distributed quarterly.

