

Indian Health Service Initiatives for Advancing Healthy Lifestyles and Health Care Quality

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Three inter-related initiatives

- ◆ American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) continue to face unacceptably high rates of illness, disability, and death from chronic and preventable conditions, injury, and suicide.
- ◆ The IHS Agency three Initiatives provide a framework and strategies for reducing these health disparities and for improving the health status of all those cared for in the Indian health system (IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs).

The IHS Agency Initiatives

- ◆ Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- ◆ Chronic Care
- ◆ Behavioral Health



Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Initiative

- ◆ Seeks to reduce health disparities and create healthier American Indian and Alaska Native communities.
- ◆ The initiative is developing, coordinating, implementing, and disseminating effective programs that promote health and prevent chronic disease.

Chronic Care Initiative

- ◆ Aims to improve access, continuity, and quality of primary care.
- ◆ Thirty-eight IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs participate in the Innovations in Planned Care (IPC) learning community
- ◆ Are testing and implementing a wide range of changes

Chronic Care Initiative

- ◆ They are building care teams that plan and coordinate care.
- ◆ They are developing stronger relationships among patients and their providers and care teams.
- ◆ They are providing support to individuals in managing their own health and connecting with community partners.
- ◆ Through the learning community, they are sharing with each other the improvements that lead to patient-centered primary care.

Behavioral Health Initiative

- ◆ Seeks to improve the physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being of American Indians and Alaska Natives by implementing strategies to integrate and adapt behavioral health techniques into primary care.
- ◆ Taking care of people's emotional and physical needs in one clinic with one care team means improved health and well-being for patients and their families.
- ◆ Integrate behavioral health and primary care focus on care for the emotional, psychological, and social needs of patients, families, and communities in healthcare system planning.



“We do
not inherit the
earth from our
ancestors,
we borrow it
from our
children”

-American
Indian Proverb