

# Indian Health Service Agency Initiatives

## Overview of the Three 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 Initiatives in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Chronic Care, and Behavioral Health 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 three inter-related initiatives have the potential to achieve significant, positive improvements in the lives of our people. They work through collaboration with key stakeholders and build on individual, family, and community strengths and assets.

### Advancing Healthy Lifestyles and Health Care Quality

The **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. The Health Promotion and Disease Prevention website includes:

- » an online clearinghouse with links to hundreds of best and promising practices
- » training tools
- » wellness data and
- » community assessment tools to enhance and improve health promotion and disease prevention efforts.

The **Chronic Care Initiative** aims to improve access, continuity, and quality of primary care. Thirty-eight IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs who participate in the Innovations in Planned Care (IPC) learning community are testing and implementing a wide range of changes:

- » 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.

The **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. The initiative's efforts to integrate behavioral health and primary care focus on two key strategies:



For more information about the Overview of the Three Health Initiatives, contact:  
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<http://www.ihs.gov/NonMedicalPrograms/DirInitiatives>

- » including care for the emotional, psychological, and social needs of patients, families, and communities in healthcare system planning and
- » helping clinics do a better job of taking care of those needs.

## How You Can Get Involved

The Agency Initiatives are developing strategies, tools, resources, and information that can **help you to continue to make improvements** in your work. Use the Agency Initiatives' tools and resources to:

- » Strive to improve the service delivery of the Indian Health system.
- » Identify, implement, and share proven chronic disease management and disease prevention strategies in your health care and community settings.

- » Promote patient-centered quality care.
- » Achieve better outcomes by integrating behavioral health into clinical care.
- » Assess your community's health status and address your unique health challenges.
- » Promote positive changes in your community's health status by integrating clinical activities and community resources and engagement.
- » Achieve better outcomes in chronic disease prevention and care.
- » Improve and achieve GPRA and other key strategic measures.

Learn more by clicking on each initiative's website and feel free to download and use the tools and resources offered. Most importantly, please join us in making a difference in the lives of American Indians and Alaska Natives.



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