

# Understanding the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)

## What is GPRA?

GPRA is a Federal law. It shows Congress how well the Indian Health Service (IHS) is doing in providing health care services to American Indians and Alaska Natives who use IHS federal, tribal, and urban health facilities. IHS collects data and reports data to Congress on over 20 clinical GPRA measures every year.

## What are GPRA measures?

GPRA measures are indicators of how well the agency has provided clinical care to its patients. Overall, they measure how well the IHS has done in the prevention and treatment of certain diseases, and the improvement of overall health.

## Does GPRA mean my health information is made public?

No! Clinics never share any individual patient health data, and only national rates are reported to Congress. The point of GPRA is to assess how well IHS is providing for all of its patients.

GPRA data answers the following about the *entire population* served by the IHS:

### ▪ Immunizations

Are young children receiving the immunizations they need by 3 years of age?  
This includes:

- 4 DTaP (Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis)
- 3 IPV/OPV (injected or oral Polio)
- 1 MMR (Measles-Mumps-Rubella)
- 3 Hepatitis B
- 3 Hib (Haemophilus Influenzae type b)
- 1 Varicella (Chicken Pox)
- 4 doses of Pneumococcal

Are adults 65+ receiving an annual flu shot?  
Have they received at least one pneumococcal shot?

### ▪ Dental Care

Do all patients have a yearly dental visit?  
How many topical fluorides and dental sealants have been placed in patients in the past year?

### ▪ Prenatal Care

Have all pregnant women received an HIV test?

### ▪ Diabetes

Are patients with diabetes having their blood sugar levels and blood pressures checked and are they within normal levels?

Are patients with diabetes getting their cholesterol levels, kidney function, and eyes checked regularly?

### ▪ Cancer Screening

Are women ages 21-64 years old getting a Pap smear at least every 3 years and women ages 52-64 years old getting a mammogram at least every 2 years?

Are all adults ages 51-80 years old being checked for colorectal cancer?

### ▪ Behavioral Health

Are all adult patients being screened for depression?

Are women being screened for domestic violence and alcohol use (to prevent birth complications like Fetal Alcohol Syndrome)?

Are tobacco-using patients being offered counseling to quit?

*GPRA provides information about how the IHS cares for you, your family, and your community.*

## What Can You Do To Help?

- Ask your health care provider if you are due for any screenings, tests, or immunizations and check to make sure appointments are scheduled for your medical needs.
- Make sure your provider takes your height and weight measurements at least once a year.
- Tell your provider about your health habits (examples: alcohol use and/or smoking).
- Tell your provider about any tests/procedures/ immunizations you had at a clinic other than where you normally receive care. For example, tell the provider about the colonoscopy you had five years ago at your prior facility.
- Make sure you arrive on time for your appointments whenever possible and call to reschedule if you cannot make it so the appointment can be used by someone else.
- Take care of yourself! Ask your providers for tips on healthy eating and healthy habits.



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## GPRA 101 For Patients

### GPRA: Government Performance and Results Act

How does GPRA affect me,  
my family, and my  
community?

