



Charles Ty Reidhead, M.D., M.P.H.

Phoenix Area Director

Indian Health Service

Charles Ty Reidhead, M.D., M.P.H., a member of the Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota, is the director of the Phoenix Area of the Indian Health Service. The IHS, an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, is the principal federal provider of healthcare services for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

As director of the Phoenix Area, Reidhead oversees the delivery of healthcare services to over 170,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives in Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and a portion of California. The Phoenix Area provides services ranging from inpatient and outpatient care, to dental, behavioral health, public health nursing, health education, and environmental health. These services are provided through eight service units, two youth regional treatment centers, and four urban programs. The Phoenix Area works closely with 46 tribes to provide healthcare and community health programs.

As the chief medical officer for the Phoenix Area for eight years, Reidhead served as the ranking officer for over 320 officers, and provided clinical leadership to over 200 medical providers delivering comprehensive care. In 2016, he was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral, Lower Half in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, serving as an Assistant Surgeon General until he retired from the Commissioned Corps with 21 years of service.

Reidhead began his career with IHS in 1997 as a primary care internist in Whiteriver, Arizona. In 2004, the IHS director appointed him to serve as the National Chief Clinical Consultant in Internal Medicine. He coordinated a national initiative to improve the care and prevention of chronic conditions and these efforts from 2006 to 2010 grew into the contemporary Improving Patient Care Program, which brought more than 100 sites together from across the country to participate in innovative work, transforming the delivery of primary care.

Reidhead received his Master of Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health in November 2011. Prior to that, he was a 2009 fellow with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement wherein he led the Improving Patient Care Program, gained improvement skills, and was exposed to large healthcare systems leading improvement around the world. He has also assisted with the coordination of the National Hospital Consortium, a national initiative to improve hospital quality and safety, and has led efforts in the IHS to improve the use of data for performance improvement.