



Robert Pittman, BPharm, MPH

Acting Director

Office of Public Health Support

Indian Health Service

Robert Pittman, an enrolled member of the Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota, is the acting director of the Office of Public Health Support (OPHS) at the Indian Health Service (IHS). IHS, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the principal federal health care provider and health advocate for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

As acting director, Pittman leads the team responsible for nationwide research and public health response activities for IHS. OPHS oversees disease epidemiology, prevention and control activities for infectious and chronic diseases, helping ensure a coordinated response to emerging and ongoing disease threats. The office also manages IHS Government Performance and Results Act reporting to Congress, produces statistical information and publications on American Indian and Alaska Native health, and supports research by IHS staff and external researchers through the IHS National Institutional Review Board.

Pittman previously served as deputy director of OPHS. He began his career as a pharmacist in Whiteriver, Ariz., in 1984 and served as deputy pharmacy director in Sells, Ariz., from 1987 to 1991. From 1991 to 1997, he was a health care personnel recruitment specialist with the National Health Service Corps. From 1997 to 2000, he served as deputy branch chief of the Peer Review Branch in the Bureau of Health Professions at the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Pittman joined IHS Headquarters in 2000 as the IHS principal pharmacy consultant in the Office of Clinical and Preventive Services. From 2007 to 2010, he served as director of the Division of Health Professions Support, overseeing the IHS Scholarship and Loan Repayment programs and the IHS Recruitment Branch. He also served as the U.S. Public Health Service principal pharmacy consultant from 2006 to 2010. Pittman retired from the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps in 2010 and returned to federal service in 2014 as director of the Division of Health Professions Support. He returned to OPHS as acting deputy director in 2016.

Pittman earned a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Arizona in 1984 and a Master of Public Health in health policy and management from Johns Hopkins University in 1999.