



Indian Health Service Strategic Initiative Asthma Control in Tribal communities (ACT)

Background:

Asthma is a chronic lung condition affecting children, adolescents, and adults which can result in significant limitations to quality of life, serious illness, and even death. According to [data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), American Indian and Alaska Native people suffer a higher prevalence of asthma than any other specific racial or ethnic group in the United States. Reducing the burden of asthma-related illness and death in American Indian and Alaska Native populations requires a pro-active approach that prioritizes awareness, early diagnosis and asthma control in tribal communities.

Strategic Initiative:

IHS advocates a comprehensive strategy to reduce asthma-related morbidity and mortality among American Indian and Alaska Native people. As part of our Asthma Control in Tribal communities (ACT) strategic initiative, IHS will support federal, tribal, and Urban Indian Organization programs as they;

- ACT to increase asthma awareness,
- ACT to recognize and diagnose asthma,
- ACT to support asthma control, and
- ACT to improve asthma-related outcomes.

Guidance and Resources:

IHS Areas and I/T/U Facilities are encouraged to collaborate with tribal, local, regional, state and federal partners to enhance asthma awareness and support asthma control through activities such as public health education, mitigation of environmental risk factors, screening and early diagnosis, and team-based clinical care. In addition, a proactive multi-disciplinary approach is advocated that involves **Area and Facility** leadership as well as staff in medical, pharmacy, nursing, public health, environmental health, information technology, and other support roles.

Areas and Facilities are encouraged to;

- Incorporate asthma control strategies in tribal communities. These include; Education on asthma self-management, Elimination of recreational smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke, Incorporation of home visits to reduce triggers and promote asthma self-management, Care coordination, and Implementation of environmental policies to reduce asthma triggers from indoor, outdoor, or occupational sources.
- Implement evidence-based [Asthma Management Guidelines](#) as a routine part of asthma-related care in clinical settings.