

# What is a TEC?

Located across the US, the 12 Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs) offer epidemiologic and public health support to American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities, Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations (T/TO/UIOs). They share the mission to improve AIAN health through seven core functions.

Data is essential to the work of TECs. Permanently reauthorized in 2010, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) designates TECs as public health authorities. In this role, TECs can access data, including protected health information, held by the US Department of Health and Human Services for various public health activities.<sup>1</sup>

## The Seven Core Functions of Tribal Epidemiology Centers

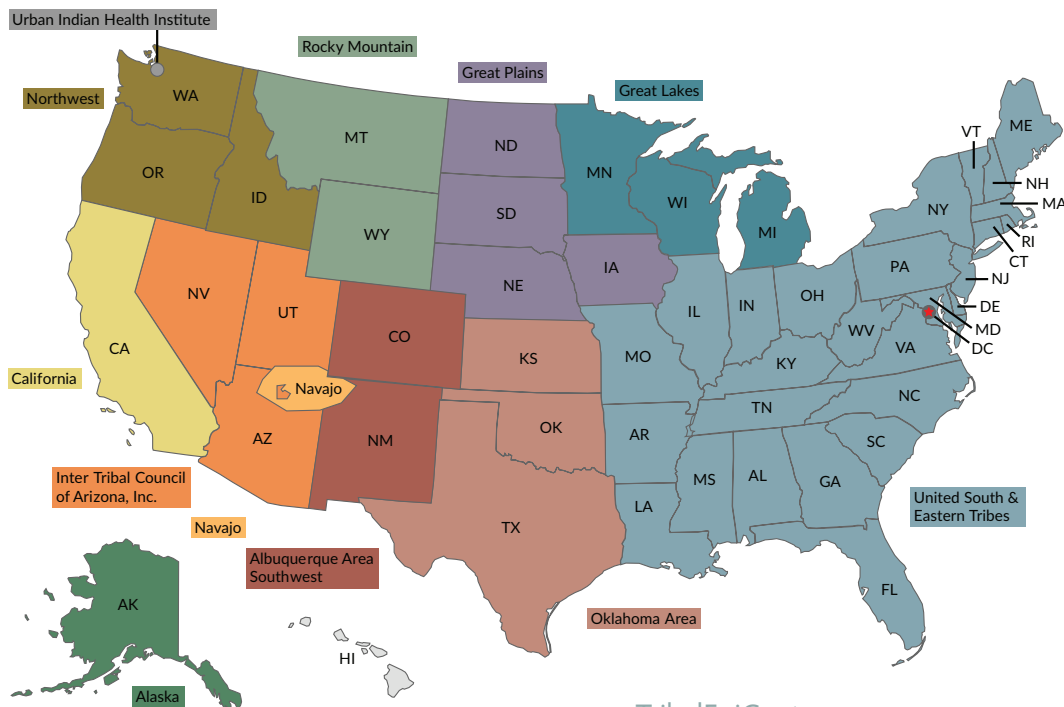
The TECs share the mission of improving American Indian and Alaska Native health by identifying health risks, strengthening public health capacity, and developing solutions for disease prevention and control. Per the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, TECs perform the following seven core functions<sup>2</sup>:

1. Collecting and monitoring data;
2. Evaluating data and health care delivery systems;
3. Identifying health priorities;
4. Making recommendations for health service needs;
5. Making recommendations for improving health care delivery systems;
6. Providing epidemiologic and other technical assistance; and
7. Providing disease surveillance.

Each TEC addresses the Seven Core Functions in their own unique way, working in partnership with T/TO/UIOs and others based on their priorities and needs.

1. 25 U.S.C.A § 1621m(e)(1)

2. Pub. L. No. 102-573, 106 Stat. 4526 § 214(a)(1)



# Tribal Epidemiology Centers Public Health Infrastructure Program



**TRIBAL  
EPIDEMIOLOGY  
CENTERS**



ALASKA NATIVE  
TRIBAL HEALTH  
CONSORTIUM  
EPIDEMIOLOGY CENTER



GREAT LAKES  
INTER-TRIBAL  
EPIDEMIOLOGY  
CENTER  
A program of Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.



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OKLAHOMA AREA  
Tribal Epidemiology Center



Urban Indian  
Health Institute  
A Division of the Seattle Indian Health Board

## What is TECPHI?

TECPHI is the Tribal Epidemiology Centers Public Health Infrastructure Program. TECPHI is funded by a CDC cooperative agreement which complements Indian Health Services (IHS) funding to increase TEC public health capacity and infrastructure. The TECPHI Program will strengthen TECs, Tribes, T/TO/UIOs ability to deliver their core functions and public health services.

## What does TECPHI do?

TECPHI supports TEC's work in the following key strategies to contribute to overall health for American Indian and Alaska Native people nationwide:

- **Strengthen** public health capacity and infrastructure;
- **Implement** activities to improve the effectiveness of health promotion and disease prevention;
- **Collaborate** with Tribal and other partners to achieve collective action; and
- **Engage** in sustainability activities.

## Who Does TECPHI Serve?

**574 Tribes<sup>1</sup>**

**41 Urban Indian Organizations<sup>2</sup>**

**9.7 million American Indian and Alaska Native people<sup>3</sup>**

1. The 574 Federally Recognized Indian Tribes in the United States, February 8, 2023. Retrieved from <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R47414>

2. Overview of Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs). Retrieved from <https://ncuih.org/uio-directory/>

3. 2020 Census Illuminates Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Country. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/08/improved-race-ethnicity-measures-reveal-united-states-population-much-more-multiracial.html>



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