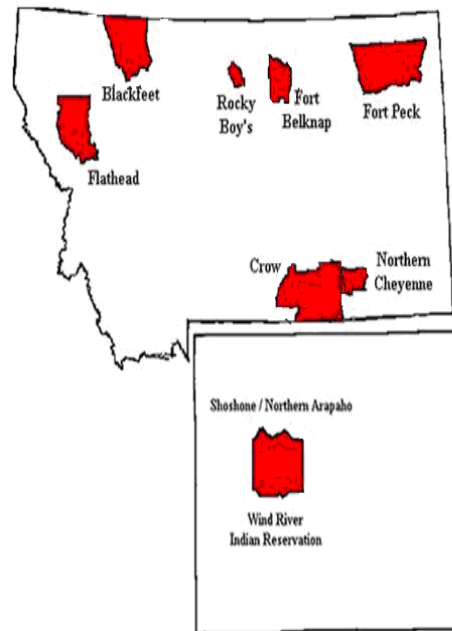


HISTORY

Planning and development for the Rocky Mountain Tribal Epidemiology Center (RMTEC), a division of the **Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council (MT-WYTLC)**, started in the fall of 2005 in collaboration with multiple stakeholders, including Tribal members, Billings Area Office Indian Health Service (BAO-IHS), state officials, and county officials. All projects were developed through a Community Based Participatory Research approach. Through an advisory meeting, the Tribal Health Directors (THDs) of each MT and WY Tribe identified the top 3 health priorities of their community and all RMTEC projects were developed to address these concerns. A proposal to establish the RMTEC and execute these projects was submitted to IHS and awarded in September 2006.

To meet the priorities of the THD's, RMTEC has established partnerships with Tribes, BAO-IHS, the former Yellowstone City - County Health Department (YCCHD), Montana Department of Health and Human Services (MT DHHS), Wyoming Department of Health (WY DoH), numerous universities, and private contractors.



RMTEC is part of the Montana Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council
MT-WY TLC/RMTEC serves 10 Tribes on 8 Reservations in Montana and Wyoming -
An American Indian (AI) population of approximately 70,000.



"WE"VE BEEN AROUND FOR 3 1/2 YEARS !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Rocky Mountain Tribal Epidemiology Staff
 (Top from Left) Nona Main, Cheryl Nagel, Joshua Brown, Julie Not Afraid & Lan Hoang
 (Bottom from Left) Dyani Bingham, Folo Akintan, & Mitzi Racine

INTRODUCTION OF RMTEC EMPLOYEES

- Folo Akintan, MD, Epidemiologist, RMTEC Acting Director, RMTEC employee for 2 years 4 Months
 - Cheryl Nagel, Administrative Assistant , RMTEC employee for 2 Years 4 Months
- Mitzi Racine, Project Coordinator/NPHPSP Facilitator, RMTEC employee for 2 years 3 months
- Dyani Bingham, Child & Youth Health Project Coordinator, RMTEC employee for 1 year 9 months
 - Josh Brown, AmeriCorps VISTA, RMTEC Volunteer for 9 Months
 - Julie Not Afraid, HRDC Intern, RMTEC Intern for 6 months
 - Lan Hoang, Epidemiologist, RMTEC employee for 3 Months
 - Nona Main, Intern, RMTEC Intern for 2 Months

CURRENT RMTEC PROJECTS

National Public Health Performance Standards Program
 HPV Analysis of HPV
 Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening
 Behavioral Health Data Improvement
 Suicide Data Tracing Improvement
 Chemical Dependency Resource Assessment
 Child Health Measures
 Community Health Profiles
 Respecting the Tobacco Way
 HEP C
 Youth Risk Behavior Survey

PRAMS Federal Survey Replication
 OMH Methamphetamine Community Health Assessment
 Sexually Transmitted Disease—STD 's
 Data Base Development
 OMH Community Health Indicators
 Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
 Birth Misclassification
 IHS MT-WY Native Child & Youth Health Project
 Robert Wood Johnson - PH Practice & Policy
 Youth Camps

Our Values...

High Quality Work
 Honest and Open Communication
 Integrity
 Respect and Trust
 Service with Humility
 Unity of Purpose
 Intellectual Curiosity

Empower MT and WY Tribes with reliable data for planning and program development

Our Beliefs...

We believe in the sovereignty of Tribal Nations.
 We believe in deferring to Tribal public health priorities in the development of all projects.
 We believe in open and honest communication that fosters an environment of respect and trust.
 We believe in encouraging an environment that nurtures ideas, beliefs, perspectives, and cultures.

Our Vision...

Healthy Tribal communities that are sustained through lasting collaborative partnerships.



Our Mission...

To empower American Indian Tribes in Montana and Wyoming in the development of Public Health services and systems and epidemiological data in order for Tribes to have resources and express their authority in response to Public Health concerns.

**VISIT THE RMTEC WEBSITE:
www.rmtec.org**

Native Child & Youth Health Project (CYP)



The Child and Youth Health Project (CYP), along with our Tribal Partners, are addressing the importance of child health issues among Montana and Wyoming school age children ages 5 to 19.

The Child & Youth Health Project will help to mobilize the community to assist in refurbishing Reservation recreational facilities, making them child friendly and safe for play as well as organizing community outreach and project awareness. We look forward to the promotion of the body, mind and spiritual well being of the Reservation school age children and youth

with the implementation of this project.

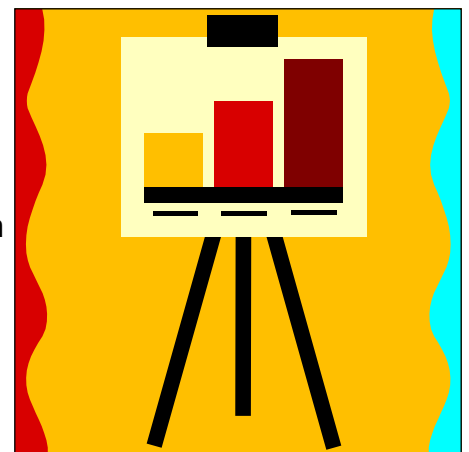
Here are some of the program's highlights:

- The refurbishment of an existing playground or development of a new playground.
- Summer and after-school playground aide to help keep the children safe and ensure the playground is well kept and safe.
- Training and certification opportunities for the playground aides.
- Feedback from the youth with essay and art contests describing their ideal playground.
- Healthy recipe contest for youth, culminating in a kid-friendly, healthy traditional cookbook.
- Summer Nutrition & Physical Activity Camps.
- Traditional Native Games & other physical activities.

For more information contact: Dyani Bingham, CYP Coordinator at dbingham@mtwytlc.com or call 406-252-2550.

National Public Health Performance Standards Program

The National Public Health Performance Standards Program, NPHPSP is a valuable tool in identifying areas for system improvement, strengthening state and local partnerships, and assuring that a strong system is in place for effective response to day to day public health issues as well as public health emergencies. The NPHPSP assessment is based upon the 10 Essential Public Health Services in order to correctly assess the public health system. The standards of the assessment describe an optimal level of performance (gold standards) to assure continuous quality improvement, stimulate greater accomplishment, and provide a level to which all public health systems can aspire to achieve.



For more information contact: Mitzi Racine, NPHPSP Facilitator at mracine@mtwytlc.com or call 406-252-2550.

WHAT WE LEARNED AT THE GONA...BY NATIVE YOUTH

YOUTH TOBACCO FACTS BY: CUTS WOOD KIDS PIEGAN INSTITUTE

Why Do Youth Smoke?

- Their Friends are doing it, so they want to too.
- They want to be cool.
- They want to fit in.
- For the risk.

SMOKING...PICK YOUR POISON

- Cigarettes contain harmful substances which include:
- Arsenic (found in rat poison)
- Carbon monoxide (found in exhaust fumes)
- Ammonia (found in toilet cleaner)
- Plus 100's more harmful chemicals!!!!

Youth Addiction...

- Our teachers told us that they got addicted to cigarettes at the ages of nine and ten!!!!
- Would you start to smoke or chew at the ages of nine and ten?
- WE WOULDN'T!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Side Effects of Smoking & Chewing...

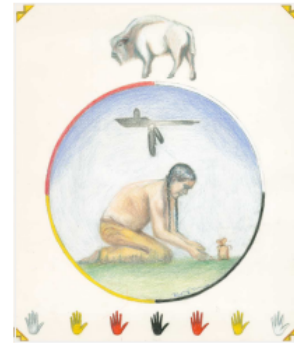
- You're Teeth Will Turn Yellow (YUCK!)
- Nicotine Under Your Nails
- Hairy Tongue (GROSS!)
- The Urge to Smoke All the Time
- Even Cancer!

Tobacco Companies Targeting Native Youth? TRUE OR FALSE?

- TRUE...Tobacco companies are targeting Native Youth because they think if you start to smoke or chew at a young age you will buy their products for a long time.
- 300,000 die every year because they abuse commercial tobacco.

SECOND HAND SMOKE

- Is when somebody's is smoking and you are breathing it in.
- Second hand smoke is just as dangerous as 1st hand smoke.
- It affects other people's health and contributes to asthma, heart disease and various cancers!



In the long run....

- Smoking can cause shortness of breath, emphysema, bad breath and even cancer!!!!

In Conclusion...

KEEP TOBACCO SACRED!

Always Keep Tobacco Sacred!
Never Use Tobacco In A
Negative Way!

**WE PROMISE TO NEVER USE
TOBACCO IN A NEGATIVE
WAY, BUT IN POSITIVE WAY!**

YOUTH STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

What's on the Mind's of Native Youth?

During the GONA, the youth worked on a series of questions concerning the individual, family, community and schools. Here is a glimpse of what they said:

What's it like to be a Native Youth in Today's World?

- Cultures Collide and there is Language Loss

What is life like for youth in your community?

- Life can be boring and there is alcohol abuse, fights, racism, drugs, intolerance, drama, stereotypes and not enough support from school or teachers.

What can we do to make our communities safer?

- We can have more communication with parents and encourage after school counseling.
- It would be good to have the YMCA or Boys & Girls Club open more often and with longer hours.

What are positive activities you are involved with in your community?

- Recycling, sweat lodge, Sun Dance, fasting, tobacco prevention, basketball, soccer, track, library, powwows, carving, beadwork, working out, homework, swimming, arcade.

Respecting the Tobacco Way Youth GONA

A Success!

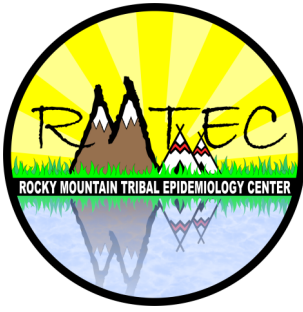
On March 12-14, over 100 youth and adults came together at the Respecting the Tobacco Way Youth GONA to learn about traditional tobacco use, commercial tobacco prevention, traditional native games, leadership, respect, strategic planning and more. The Respecting the Tobacco Way Project (RTW) is a youth led, youth driven commercial tobacco prevention campaign funded by The American Legacy Foundation. The ultimate goal of the project is to reduce commercial tobacco use among American Indian (AI) youth in the MT and WY area by engaging Tribal youth as agents of social change.

Here are some of the highlights of the two year project:

- Developed Tobacco Prevention media PSAs during the 2008 & 2009 Native Youth Academies
- Youth Gathering of Native Americans (GONA), Bozeman, MT, November 7-9, 2008
- Youth Gathering of Native Americans (GONA), Missoula, MT, March 12-14, 2008
- Produced and developed over fifteen (15) Youth lead media campaigns including: TV, PSA, radio spots, posters, brochures, flyers, newsletters; Cultural tobacco knowledge archives.
- Conducted tobacco cessation train the trainer for American Indian Teen tobacco cessation.

For more information check out the RMTEC website at: <http://www.rmtec.org/RTTW>





**MT-WY TRIBAL LEADERS COUNCIL
ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRIBAL EPI-CENTER
222 N. 32ND STREET, SUITE 401
BILLINGS, MT 59101**

CHECK OUT THE RMTEC WEBSITE

www.rmtec.org