

## RMTEC Mission Statement

EMPOWER THE  
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 THE  
AUTHORITY AND RESOURCES TO  
RESPOND TO PUBLIC HEALTH  
CONCERNS

### Breaking News!

#### H1N1/Flu Season



The Billings Area Indian Health Service (IHS) and RMTEC will be sharing Reservation specific qualitative and quantitative H1N1 report with Tribe specific lessons learned and suggestions for planning for the next flu season with all stake holders.



[www.rmtec.org](http://www.rmtec.org)  
[www.mtwytlc.com](http://www.mtwytlc.com)

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MT-WY Tribal Leaders Council/

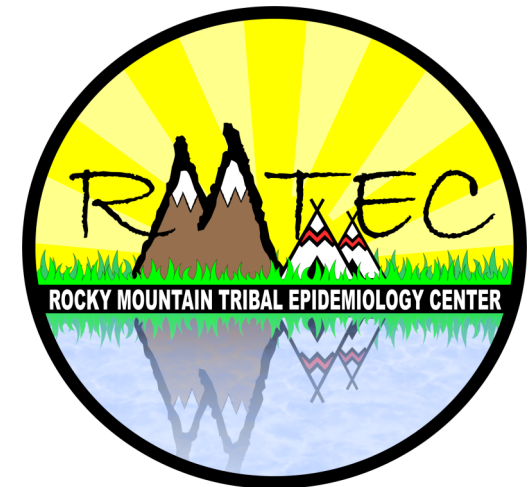
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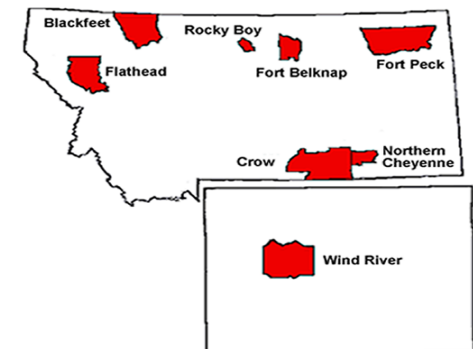
Billings, MT 59101

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## Rocky Mountain Tribal Epidemiology Center



### Serving the Montana and Wyoming Tribes



# Rocky Mountain Tribal Epidemiology Center (RMTEC) Projects

## **Behavioral Health Data Improvement Project**

This project is designed to improve the Tribe's capacity to utilize data collected on the population served and services provided by Tribal Chemical Dependency treatment centers.

## **Suicide Data Improvement Project**

Suicide data are critical to understanding patterns of attempts and incidence of suicide among American Indian people residing on Reservations in Montana and Wyoming. At present, the only data available are those reported in ER admissions and by Behavioral Health Departments. This project will develop a Tribal-specific Suicide Tracking Database that incorporates data from the BIA police department and juvenile detention centers, County Coroner's offices and other sources.

## **Chemical Dependency**

The purpose of the Chemical Dependency (CD) Resource Project is to collect data on the Tribal and Urban Indian Clinics' resources available to clients with alcohol and/or other substance abuse and dependence on reservations and urban areas in Montana and Wyoming. By doing this the Tribes will have a standardized, longitudinal information base on their CD Center resources as well as information on other tribe's best practices programs.

## **Respecting the Tobacco Way**

Respecting the Tobacco Way project is to reduce commercial tobacco use among American Indian youth in MT and WY by:

- 1) Engaging American Indian youth as agent of social change through youth activism to reveal how the tobacco industry targets American Indians, funded cultural events, and exploited American Indian images and symbols for commercial purposes;
- 2) Building collaborative partnerships and capacity within the organization and Tribes to foster systems level change and sustainability; and
- 3) Disseminating program findings to other Tribal areas to encourage replication and serve as a social change model for youth from all northern Plains Tribes.

## **Child Health Measures**

The purpose of this 5-year project is to help inform participating Tribes about child health measures used to identify the risks for childhood obesity, diabetes, and heart disease and to develop a regional database for child health measures.

## **Healthy Native Babies Train the Trainer Conferences**

SIDS is the "sudden and unexpected death of an infant with no known illness, typically affecting sleeping infants between the ages of two weeks to six months. In cooperation with DHH/NIH/National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Five Indian Health Service areas with the highest rates of SIDS, which include the Billings Indian Health Service area are involved in a workgroup to develop a curriculum with CD-ROM tool kits and a workbook which is culturally appropriate for American Indians which will be distributed at the trainings.

## **Pregnancy Risk Assessment (PRA) Survey Project (A PRAMS Pilot)**

The PRA is designed to survey new mothers on their experiences before during and after child birth and health risk behaviors in order to develop appropriate strategies to reduce infant morbidity and mortality and to promote maternal health by influencing maternal and child health policies and programs.

## **Improving Data on Child Maltreatment**

The purpose of this project is to generate data to identify risk factors that are associated with children and families referred to social services programs due to child abuse and neglect or a need for protection. The pilot project is being coordinated between RMTEC and the Rocky Mountain Region Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Special Services Branch.

## **Montana-Wyoming Child and Youth Project**

The purpose of this program is to promote safe play places for American Indian children, incorporating traditional and cultural aspects of play. Safe play will be supervised by Reservation Community Recreation Guides. Child friendly play equipment would also be provided by this project.

## **Montana Wyoming Native Youth Development Project**

### Youth Data/Health Skills Development

Entails mentoring at least one youth from the Montana or Wyoming Tribes annually as an Epidemiology/Health Education/Peer Education Intern at the Rocky Mountain Tribal Epidemiology Center (RMTEC) annually. One youth will be chosen from a Montana or Wyoming Tribe each year with the Tribes rotating over the next 10 years.

### Summer Youth Development Camp

Developed for Middle and High School age group is to: Empower youth to handle life situations; Increase knowledge of public health epidemiology fundamentals; Increase public health and epidemiology literacy; Increase ability to create positive norms; Propose a plan for advancing the public health of youth on their Reservations; Decrease dropout rates and increase interest in the Public Health and Sciences

## **National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP)**

The National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) is a collaborative effort to enhance the nation's public health systems. The 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 daily public health issues as well as public health emergencies.

THE NPHPSP assessments conducted on the MT and WY Indian reservations are the **first Tribal-initiated NPHPSP assessment in the nation**. Each participating Tribe has taken the initiative to invite appropriate public health partners representing agencies such as Tribal Health Department, I H S, BIA, and county representatives to assess their Tribal Public Health System (TPHS). After completion of the NPHPSP, a follow-up meeting is scheduled with each Tribe to develop a strategic plan using the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) tool.

## **Developing Effective Multi-jurisdictional Public Health Systems: Lessons from the 2006 Shigella Sonnei Outbreak on Two Indian Reservations**

Development of a model program for integrating tribal public health into the multi-jurisdictional public health system for infectious disease. This is a pilot project working with two American Indian Reservations and the corresponding Non-Tribal Agencies.

## **Human Papilloma Virus Study in American Indian Woman at the Indian Health Service Unit**

The purpose of this study is to assess the types of HPV infection prevalent among American Indian women population of the Northern Plains and the HPV sub types. This would help develop prevention policies and strategies for vaccine combination.

## **Community Health Profiles**

To address health and public health disparities, data is needed for all population groups including hard-to-reach populations such as American Indians living on rural reservations. RMTEC collaborated in collaboration with the MT KIDS Count developed Community Health Profiles (CHP) for each reservation in the Billings I H S Area based on county and American Indian population group census data. These data are used to help drive decision making and health priorities. The partnership will continue as future profiles are developed.