



NativeDATA

A Data Sharing Resource for
Native Peoples and Organizations

Data Supports for Tribes and Native- serving Organizations

Individuals from Tribes and Native-serving organizations, including Tribal and urban Indian organizations, can call upon a variety of data supports. Below is a list of some of the people and organizations that can help.

Tribal Epidemiology Centers

[Tribal Epidemiology Centers](#), also known as TECs, work with Tribes and Native-serving organizations, to improve the health of American Indian and Alaska Native people. TECs provide a variety of assistance, often at no cost.

They can help you:

- Consider [if requesting data is the best choice](#)
- Develop plans for collecting and analyzing data
- Develop plans to move data to action
- Develop community health assessments
- Create [data agreements](#), like [DSAs](#)
- Obtain data from [databases](#)
- Analyze data and create reports
- Grow [strong partnerships](#)
- Decide [if you should share your data](#)
- Provide sample [Tribal resolutions](#) for obtaining and sharing data
- Understand [Tribal data sovereignty](#) and [public health authority](#)

Keep in mind

- TECs are public health authorities with regards to data. This means that, in certain cases, they can help you obtain access to protected health information. Learn more [here](#).
- TECs are uniquely able to respond to the needs of Tribal and urban Indian communities. If you do not have an established relationship with your area TEC, consider reaching out to the [TEC Director](#).

Tribal Legal Supports

Getting advice from [legal supports](#) is important. These supports can review or develop technical documents. They can also help ensure that data contracts and agreements protect Tribal sovereignty, [Tribal data sovereignty](#), and Tribes' and Native-serving organizations' [public health authority](#).

They can help you:

- Develop and review [DSAs](#) and other [data agreements](#)
- Protect your [Tribal data sovereignty](#)
- Defend your [public health authority](#)
- Develop [Tribal resolutions](#) for obtaining and sharing data

State Public Health Professionals

Each state has public health professionals working to keep people in the state as healthy as possible. [State epidemiologists](#), for example, use data to understand various health conditions and behaviors. Some state health departments have Tribal liaisons and [Tribal points of contact](#) who are knowledgeable about working with Tribes and Native-serving organizations.

They can help you:

- Obtain state data (so you can analyze it)
- Analyze state health data (for you) and provide tailored reports
- Grow partnerships
- Make connections

Keep in mind

- There are multiple epidemiologists and other public health professionals working for each state. Often, they are housed in different agencies or departments. Get in touch with staff working in the areas you are interested in.
- There may be other state employees who can help you. For example, individuals who manage state data registries, such as the state cancer registry, are often good people to know. If possible, ask your colleagues for the names and positions of individuals who have helped them in the past.
- Non-Tribal-focused state employees are often unaware of important considerations for Tribes and Native-serving organizations. Seek out Tribal liaisons, or share information from this resource with them.
- If data issues arise, consult with your area [Tribal Epidemiology Center](#) and/or [legal supports](#) if needed.

Local Government Public Health Professionals

Cities and counties have local public health professionals who collect and analyze data to understand various health conditions and behaviors. At times, cities and counties have Tribal liaisons who are knowledgeable about working with Tribes and Native-serving organizations.

They can help you:

- Obtain local data (so you can analyze it)
- Analyze local health data (for you) and provide tailored reports
- Grow partnerships
- Make connections

Keep in mind

- Non-Tribal-focused local employees are often unaware of important considerations for Tribes and Native-serving organizations. Seek out Tribal liaisons, or share information from this resource with them.
- If data issues arise, consult with your area [Tribal Epidemiology Center](#) and/or [legal supports](#) if needed.

Federal Public Health Professionals

The U.S. government works through various agencies to improve the health of people in the nation. The [Indian Health Service's Division of Disease Control and Prevention](#) provides and supports applied public health and epidemiologic services for Tribal and Native-serving organizations. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Office of Tribal Affairs and Strategic Alliances](#) works to ensure Native communities receive public health services that keep them safe and healthy. [Regional Health and Human Services Offices](#) work to address the needs of communities and individuals served through Health and Human Services programs and policies.

They can help you:

- Obtain federal data (so you can analyze it)
- Analyze federal health data (for you) and provide tailored reports
- Grow partnerships
- Make connections
- Secure funding

Keep in mind

- Non-Tribal-focused federal employees are often unaware of important considerations for Tribes and Native-serving organizations. Seek out Tribal points of contact, or share information from this resource with them.
- If data issues arise, consult with your area [Tribal Epidemiology Center](#) and/or [legal supports](#) if needed.

Additional Resources

Need contact information for public health professionals in your state, city, county, or Tribal health departments?

This [directory](#) can help.

Want to get in touch with your area Indian Health Service personnel?

Visit [this site](#), select your area, and locate the staff directory.

Looking for additional support?

[Tribal colleges and universities](#), colleges and universities, and [schools of public health](#) can provide assistance with obtaining, analyzing, and translating data to action, as well as other types of support.



Got questions? Contact us at ideanw@npaihb.org or visit NativeDATA.npaihb.org.

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