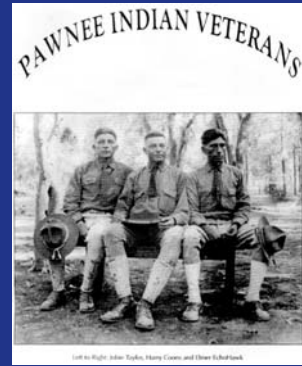


Improving Access and Outcomes

Holly Echo-Hawk Solie
Echo-Hawk & Associates
March 3, 2003



Understanding the Population

- Tribes in the United States
- Special status
- Geographic and tribal diversity

Quick Facts

- 2.4 million
- 557 federally recognized tribes
- 200 plus Alaska Native
- Government-to-government
- 50% Western states
- 50% urban

And a few more . . .

- 250 languages still spoken
- 65% mother and father present
- Fast growing
- Young population



Rich Resources

- Indigenous world view: sustainable & viable
- Family and cultural strengths
- Traditional Indian Medicine
- Dual citizenship means much experience in dual worlds
- Resiliency

Practice Based
Evidence

Evidence
Based Practice





Look to Convergence

- California Access Study
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research

California Access Study

- Access as one domain for improving quality of care
- QI annual plans by counties
- Not barriers, but how to shift
- Rate of improvement in CC plans

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

- CIHR-Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health
- Federal funded
 - Specialized research funding agency
 - Dedicated to aboriginal health research
 - Capacity building

CIHR-IAPH Vision

- Cadre of expert and emerging researchers who would form a Canada-wide network that would strengthen information gathering and sharing, leading to heightened awareness and improved health among aboriginal populations

Research Initiatives

- Forge partnerships and share knowledge
- Respect aboriginal cultures
- Build capacity
- Resolve critical health issues

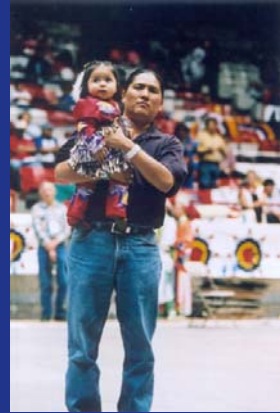
Specific Steps Taken

- Aboriginal Capacity & Developmental Research Environments (4)
 - Initial links to developing next generation of aboriginal health researchers
 - Research focus on determining health in aboriginal communities

Steps Taken (continued)

- Student Support
 - Support and nurture graduate students pursuing careers in aboriginal health research
- International Partnerships
 - Australia
 - New Zealand
 - United Mexican States





Evidence-based without community will miss the mark

- “Organizations and systems must demonstrate their value of diversity . . . culture is a resource to draw upon, not a problem to be solved”

» Terry Cross, 2003

“Legitimate aspirations to achieve self-determination is linked to the health of their families, community, and nations.”

Matthew Coon Come, Grand Chief, Assembly of First Nations. Open letter to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues May 13, 2002



**USF 16th Annual Research Conference
Tampa, Florida
Monday, March 3, 2003 Plenary Panel**

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