

Spirit of Community Health

RWJF Public Health Services & Systems Research (PHSSR) Study

Tribal Public Health services and systems: Findings
of case study research and implications for
performance improvement and health equity

National Network of Public Health Institutes

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Acknowledgement

“Investigating a tribal public health system’s organization and performance in delivering essential services”

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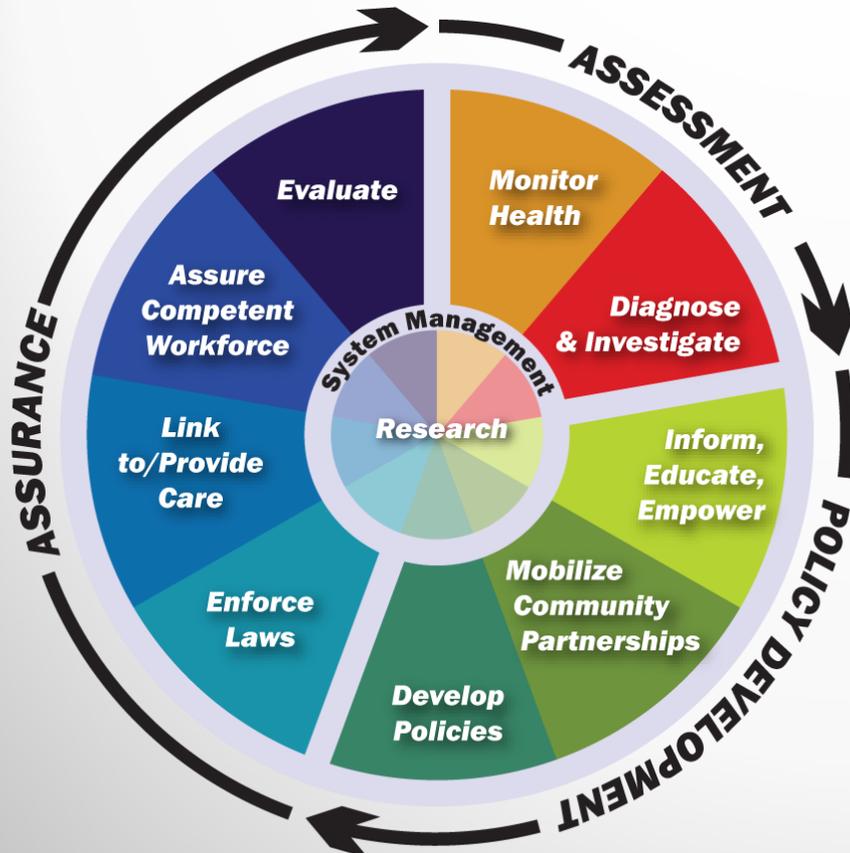
Abstract

A growing number of tribal agencies are taking steps to organize and improve their public health systems. Those striving for PHAB accreditation encounter challenges related to the unique context in which they operate. With a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Public Health Services and Systems Research (PHSSR) grant, the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI), Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan are engaged in a research study that aims to describe the infrastructure, organizational relationships, performance, and outcomes of the Sault Tribe's public health system in alignment with the Ten Essential Services. This session share an overview of the study and preliminary results. We will engage in dialogue about the findings and seek input on tools and opportunities that would be useful to tribal public health practitioners and partners.

Participants of this session will:

- * Understand what public health services and systems research is and how this PHSSR study is designed to provide evidence to practitioners, policy-makers, and public health partners seeking to make sound decisions about strategies to improve tribal population health.
- * Identify at least three new tools or opportunities that tribal public health agencies could use for improving their public health systems.
- * Describe the implications of the findings for public health partners and PHAB accreditation standards.

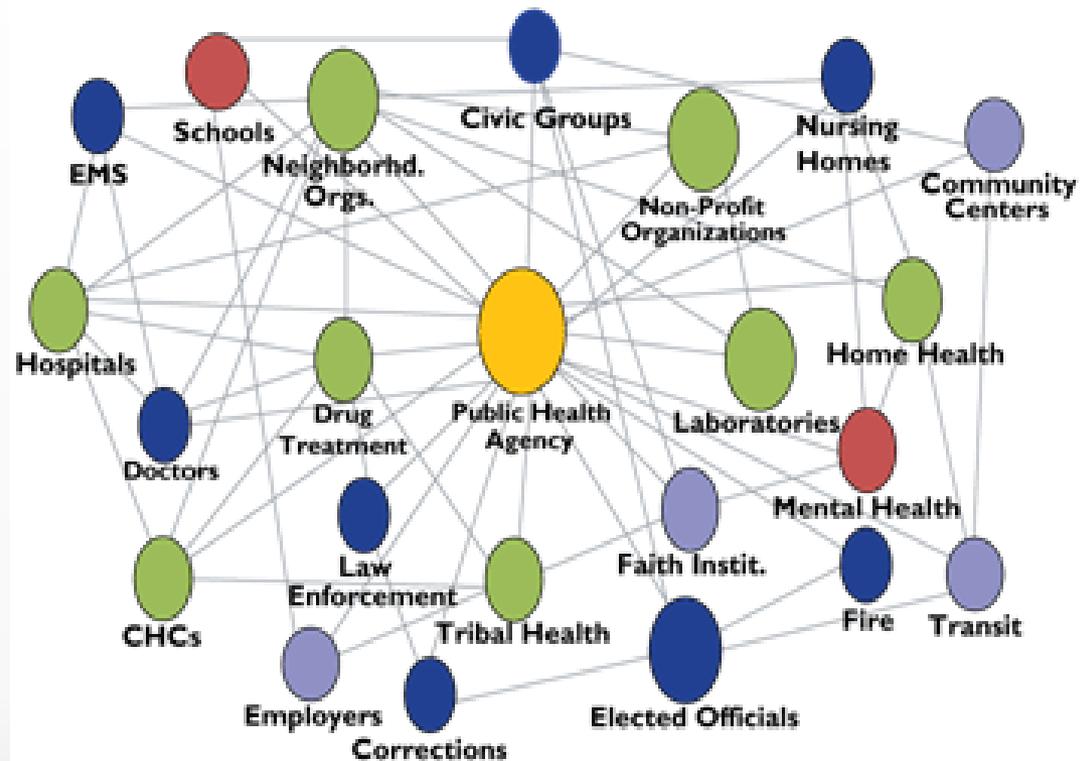
Public Health



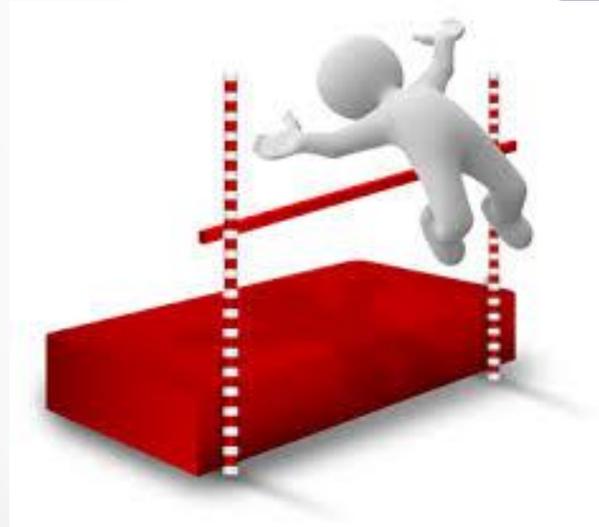
“The set of activities that society undertakes to monitor and improve the health of its collective membership.”

Public Health Systems

- * **Public health systems** include all entities that work together to deliver **essential public health services** within a jurisdiction



PHAB Standards



- * National standards “set the bar” for judging the overall **quality, strength, and performance of public health systems.**

- * National PH standards are **based on the 10 Essential Services**
- * The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) grants accredited status to public health agencies that meet these standards.

What about *Tribal* Public Health?

- * We hear how public health in tribal communities looks and acts somewhat differently than in other communities, stories describe how:
 - * Health care and public health services often share a home – the systems are more integrated than divided
 - * Federal funds for public health services in Tribal communities are very inadequate, unstable, and competitive
 - * Partnerships are necessary to protect and promote population health, and tribal systems have additional layers of complexity related to governance, law, jurisdictional service area, and resource capacity.

This study aims to...

- * Explore the partnerships within a tribal public health system that protect and promote health.
- * Examine how and through what relationships a tribal public health system delivers the 10 Essential Public Health Services.
- * Assess the key characteristics of a tribal public health system that address health disparities.

Community Research Partner: Sault Tribe Health Division

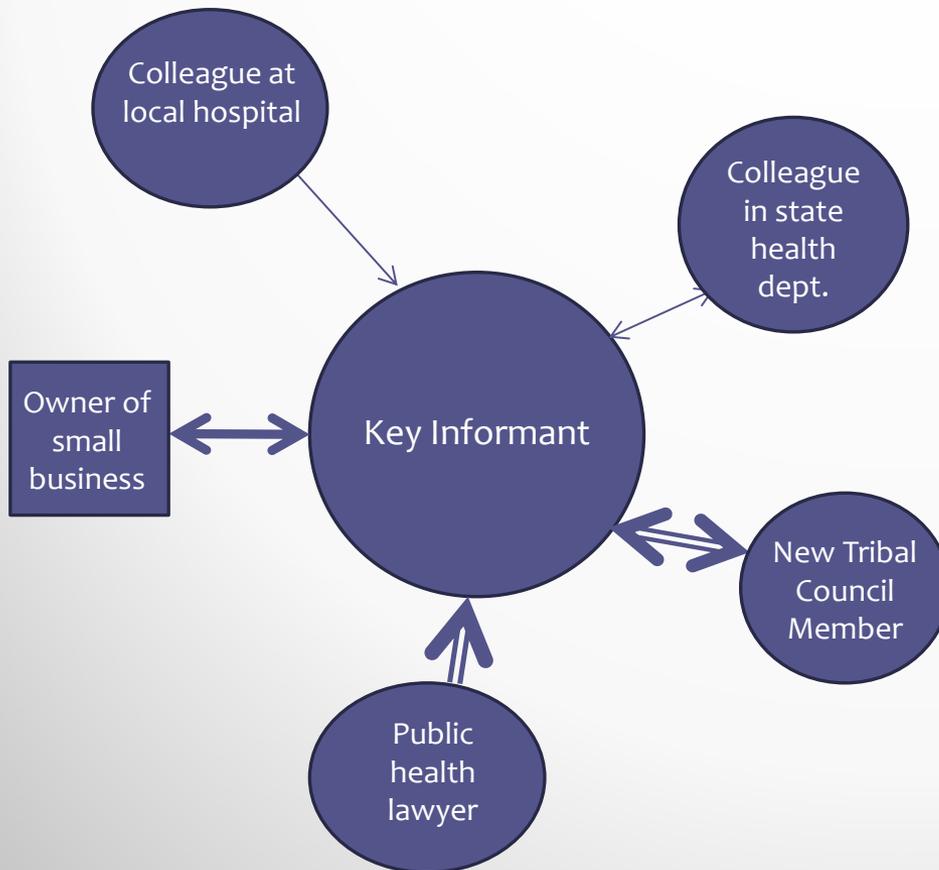


- * Reasons for participating in the study
- * Roles and responsibilities
- * Benefits to Sault Tribe

Study Design & Methods

- * Case Study Design
 - * Beginning with an open mind and a blank slate!
- * Methods:
 - * Interview key stakeholders and create ecomaps
 - * Focus groups w/community members/groups
 - * Review existing data and documents
 - * Social network survey and analysis

Eco-Mapping



- * Eco-mapping
 - * Created with key informants at the end of their interview
 - * Identified individuals they interact with on the essential services
 - * Described key characteristics of their interactions with each individual

Preliminary Results

- * Eco Maps
 - * Whole Public Health System
 - * Public Health System ES# 1, 5, 9
 - * Tribal and Non-Tribal agencies
- * Social Network Analysis
 - * Metrics

By the end of the study, we plan to...

- * Identify promising practices for organizing & strengthening tribal public health systems that can be shared broadly;
- * Document lessons that can be used to strengthen partnerships between tribal and non-tribal agencies;
- * Suggest avenues for further research that will support tribes & PHAB to improve national accreditation standards and processes.

Roundtable Discussion

1. How does your experience relate to the results? What seems similar and what seems different?
2. What information and tools would PH partners find useful for partnering in collaborative efforts to improve tribal population health?

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