

Summary of the 2008-2012 Northern Plains American Indian Cancer Plan



Prevention of Cancer – This area includes plans to promote healthy lifestyles that can reduce cancer risks and potentially lead to the prevention of cancer

PREVENTION GOAL: Reduce the incidence and mortality rates of cancer in Northern Plains American Indian communities by promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing cancer related risk factors by:

1. Increase tribal knowledge and awareness regarding cancer
2. Increase youth knowledge regarding cancer prevention
3. Decrease Adult tobacco use
4. Decrease Youth tobacco use
5. Increase physical activity
6. Improve healthy eating
7. Decrease the rate of those who use alcohol more than moderate amounts
8. Increase knowledge regarding links between environment and cancer
9. Increase efforts to make the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine accessible and available

Screening and Early Detection – This area includes plans to increase the accessibility and use of appropriate cancer screenings


SCREENING GOAL: Increase appropriate cancer screening for Northern Plains Native Americans so cancer is detected at earlier stages by:

1. Determine and improve use of culturally appropriate screening guidelines
2. Improve cancer screening knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs of community
3. Improve cancer screening knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs of health care providers
4. Increase access to cancer screenings
5. Increase the number of persons who get regular cancer screenings

Treatment/Traditional Medicine – This area includes plans to improve access to appropriate and timely cancer treatment, that would eliminate or reduce barriers

Treatment/Traditional Medicine Goal: Ensure that all tribal and community members with cancer at all Northern Plains tribes receive access to quality western and traditional cancer care services and aftercare by:

1. Increase awareness and use of current and culturally appropriate guidelines for treatment among health care providers
2. Increase knowledge and awareness about current and culturally appropriate cancer treatments for cancer patients and family/caregivers
3. Increase the financial and travel support available to patients
4. Increase efforts to improve payment for care
5. Improve continuity of care and access during cancer treatment
6. Improve access and support for cultural, traditional, and spiritual treatment services

 **Survivorship/Caregivers – This area includes plans to address the needs of people who have ever had a cancer diagnosis. “Native Families” include family members, friends, other cancer patients, traditional healers, and community health providers**

Survivorship/Caregivers Goal: Assure that Northern Plains American Indian cancer patients and their families will have access to programs and services that address their physical, mental, and spiritual needs to improve the length and quality of life by:

1. Increase celebration and awareness of cancer survivors
2. Improve the knowledge and skills of Native Families responsible for caring for cancer patients in their homes during and after their treatment
3. Increase the social support available to cancer survivors
4. Assess and improve workplace policies so they address the needs of cancer survivors

 **Palliative/End of Life – This area includes plans to improve the quality of a seriously ill person’s life and to support that person and their families during and after treatment**


Palliative/End of Life Goal: Assure the best quality of life and access to needed services for every person affected by cancer their families and their caregivers by:

1. Assess and identify the areas of palliative/end-of-life care services that need to be increased
2. Increase knowledge, awareness, and beliefs of Native Families and their providers about the importance and need for culturally appropriate hospice/end of life and palliative care services
3. Increase the number of end-of-life/hospice programs available
4. Improve communication between Native Families and their medical care providers
5. Improve the quality of pain control and symptom management for Native cancer patients

 **Workforce – This area includes plans to improve the capacity, knowledge, and abilities of those who provide culturally appropriate and quality comprehensive cancer care**

Workforce Goal: Ensure a sufficient and competently trained workforce who can provide culturally sensitive/competent comprehensive cancer care for the Northern Plains Tribes by:

1. Increase the number of people who receive support and information that will help them enter the cancer care workforce
2. Increase the quantity of community health workers that can provide support services
3. Increase the number of health care providers who receive cultural sensitivity/competency training
4. Increase health care providers’ knowledge of the challenges and barriers Northern Plains American Indians face as they access cancer care through IHS and contract health facilities

 **Surveillance and Research – This area includes plans to increase the accessibility and availability of Native American cancer data and improve the knowledge and processes used to conduct cancer research in tribal communities.**

Surveillance Goal: Make complete, accurate, and timely data on cancer available and accessible to the Northern Plains American Indian tribal communities in order to inform and improve cancer health status by:

1. Increase support for the gathering of data, maintenance of data systems, and the dissemination back to tribes
2. Increase the support of efforts to collect additional cancer related data for Northern Plains American Indians, ensuring that data collection is conducted in a culturally appropriate manner
3. Increase access of cancer related data among tribal communities and key partners

Research Goal: Increase awareness of cancer research projects and facilitate clinical trials and community-based participatory research to improve cancer health status among American Indians in the Northern Plains region by:

6. Start a database of current cancer research in the Northern Plains American Indians and disseminate updated research lists to tribal communities and cancer researchers yearly
7. Increase training and education on community participatory research to tribes, medical and academic institutions
8. Increase access to clinical trials