NATIONAL COUNCIL *of* URBAN INDIAN HEALTH

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Exploring Urban Indian Organizations' Participation in MMRCs

- Hosted virtual dialogue for 41 Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) to introduce NCUIH's Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) project and foster discussion around American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) maternal mortality prevention.
- Developed a feedback assessment plan to understand current UIO engagement with MMRCs.
- Distributed questionnaire to 41 UIOs to gauge maternal health service capacity and understand UIOs' level of interaction with their jurisdictional MMRCs.
- Conducted key informant interviews with three UIOs to understand barriers around UIO engagement with MMRCs.
- Launched the **NCUIH Urban Indian Maternal Health Alliance** to establish and maintain productive relationships between UIOs and MMRCs.

CONNECTING POLICY AND MATERNAL HEALTH

- NCUIH contributed to the HRSA Advisory Committee on Infant and Maternal Mortality report to HHS on improving the health of Native mothers and children to ensure the needs of Native mothers and children living in urban areas were included.
- NCUIH-endorsed legislation to improve Native maternal health outcomes:
  - Data to Save Moms Act (H.R. 925/S.347)
  - Maternal Health Momnibus Act (H.R. 3305/S.1606)
  - Moms Matter Act (H.R. 3312/S.1602)

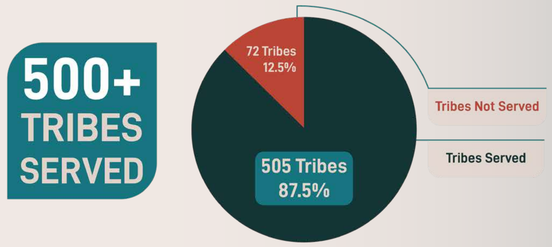
Scan the QR code to access materials related to MMRC.

For additional information, visit NCUIH.org or contact Mattie Curry, NCUIH Public Health Program Manager at mcurry@ncuih.org.

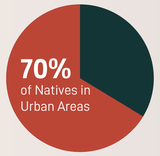
ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

- NCUIH is a national 501(c)(3) organization devoted to the support and development of quality, accessible, and culturally competent health services for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) living in urban settings.
- NCUIH is a national representative advocating for the 41 Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) contracting with the Indian Health Service pursuant to the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.
- Today, over 70% of AI/AN people live in urban areas. UIOs provide essential health care services to patients from over 500 Tribes in 38 urban areas across the United States.

Total Number of Tribes Served at UIOs



Source: Indian Health Service, Calendar Year 2021 Data



Source: 2010 United States Census

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Engaging Urban Indian Organizations in Tribal Maternal Mortality Review Committees

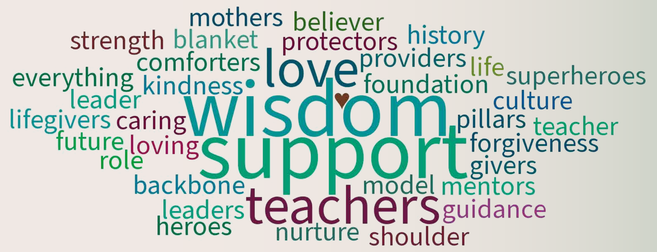
- Project period: August 1, 2022 – July 31, 2024
- Collaborate with UIOs, the CDC, and state/jurisdictional MMRCs to develop recommendations for increasing UIO representation on MMRCs.
- Establish partnerships with UIOs as a part of the NCUIH Urban Indian Maternal Health Alliance and encourage collaboration and information sharing between the UIO and its respective MMRC.

Expected Outcomes

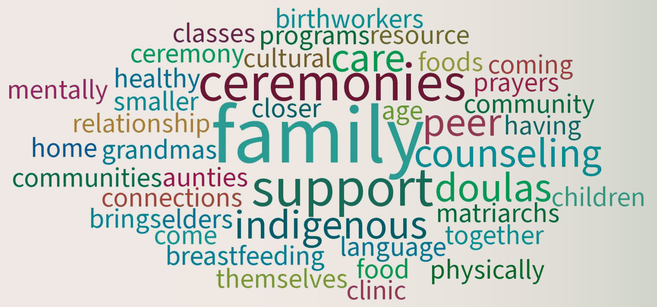
- Build an understanding of how UIOs will contribute to Tribal-led and state/jurisdictional MMRCs.
- Educate organizations on increasing UIO involvement in MMRCs, connect UIOs to partners, and gather relevant information from local and community experts.

FEEDBACK FROM UIOS: CENTERING ROLES AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS IN URBAN NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Roles that Mothers, Birthing People, and Matriarchs Play in Urban Native Communities



Protective Factors in the Urban Native Communities that Contribute to Maternal Health Promotion



RECOMMENDATIONS

UIO MMRC representatives should:

- Be someone who understands and values the role of AI/AN cultural practices and ceremonies in the pregnancy, birthing, and post-partum periods;
- Be compensated for time and travel to MMRC meetings; and,
- Be emotionally supported in this work.

MMRCs should:

- Be committed to diverse representation, examining biases, and addressing underlying systemic issues; and,
- Include AI/AN protective factors in case abstraction.

PROGRAM CHALLENGES

- Many UIOs have unmet needs for providing maternal health care to patients, including low staffing and funding, that would be remediated via changes supported by implementing the UIO MMRC recommendations.
- A majority of jurisdictional/state MMRCs lack awareness of the role UIOs play in providing maternal health care services to urban Indians.