

# National Cancer Policy Forum Cancer Care and Cancer Research during Covid-19 Pandemic

## U.S. Tribal Communities Perspective

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INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

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# Indian Health Service

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- Provides a comprehensive health service delivery system for approximately **2.56 million** American Indians and Alaska Natives
- Serves members of **574** federally recognized tribes
- FY 2020 budget appropriation is approximately **6 billion**
- IHS total staff consists of about **15,370** employees
  - Includes approximately 2,380 nurses, 776 physicians, 798 pharmacists, 195 sanitarians, 104 physician assistants and 270 dentists



Data as of August 2020. Source: <https://www.ihs.gov/newsroom/factsheets/ihsprofile/>

# Indian Health Care System

*Data as of August 2020*

|        | Hospitals | Health Centers | Alaska Village Clinics | Health Stations | School Health Ctr | Youth Reg. Tx Ctr. |
|--------|-----------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| IHS    | 24        | 51             | -                      | 24              | 12                | 6                  |
| Tribal | 22        | 279            | 59                     | 79              | 6                 | 6                  |

**The IHS also provides funding to 41 urban-centered organizations.**



# COVID-19 DATA

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- Total testing
  - 2,550,887
- Total positive cases
  - 202,000
- Total 7 day rolling positive average
  - 6.4%
- Total vaccine doses given
  - 1,460,000



# Challenges: Social Determinants of Health

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- Multi-generational homes
- Lack of running water and utilities
- Lack of transportation/lack of roads
- Food insecurity
- Poverty
- Access to Education



# Additional challenges

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- Lack of broadband
- Poor cell service
- Access to specialists
- Culturally appropriate care
- Trust
- Environmental issues



# Possibilities

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- Increase use of telehealth for cancer care access
- Satellite clinics for cancer care supported by cancer centers
- Collaborative agreements to support access to cancer centers
- Investment in culturally appropriate education for tribal members
- Support for community based cancer screening





