

Family Caregiving in Indigenous Communities

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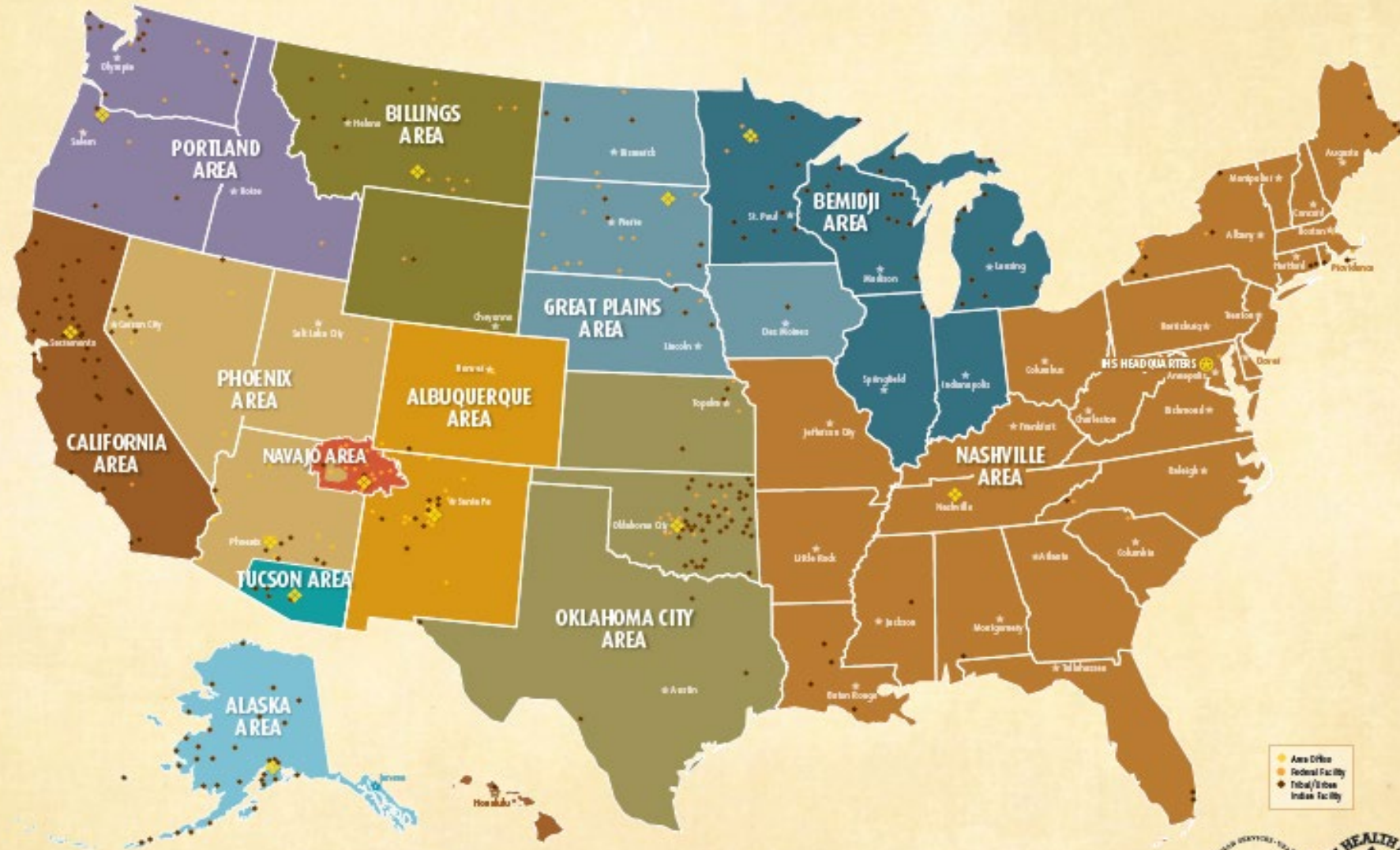


IHS Mission and Vision

- **The IHS mission** is to raise the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level.
- **The IHS vision** is healthy communities and quality health care systems through strong partnerships and culturally responsive practices.



THE 12 INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE AREAS



December 2017



 Christina Pilgrimage



Rural Health Care

- Minimal home care services available
 - The Public Health Nursing program provides home visits to assess and evaluate patients
 - The Community Health Representative program are available to visit patients and provide assessments and education to the patient and families
 - Care provided is culturally appropriate and sensitive providing assistance in the native language





Social Determinants of Health

- In the provision of care there are many challenges
- Lack of running water
- Lack of basic utilities including broadband for telehealth
- Food insecurity
- Transportation
- Poverty which makes buying food and supplies difficult





Access to Cancer Care

- Most of the tribal communities are not near cancer care
 - Patients are referred for care in urban/suburban areas
 - Family members cannot often afford to accompany the patients for care and follow up
 - Families members often provide the care at home
- Understanding of cancer is variable amongst the tribal members
- Tribal members are uncomfortable seeking care outside the community or their regular healthcare facility





Family Caregiving Strategy

- Work with partners to define the need in Indian Country
- Provide education and resources including family caregivers in the care and planning for each patient
- Create support for family caregivers
- Enhance the scope of work for public health nursing and community health representatives
- Bring cancer resources to the tribal communities





Family Caregiving Strategy

- Ensure that the diverse needs of the Indigenous communities are included in the strategy
- Develop support systems for family caregivers
- Working with partners to create education and information specifically focused on tribal communities
- Discussions concerning data collection and analysis to improve outcomes





Ahe'hee'
Thank you!