

Appendix III

COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Indian Health Service (IHS) National Diabetes Program developed and built upon partnerships and collaborations with federal and private organizations as a result of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. These partnerships with organizations involved in diabetes-related programs and activities added to the already extensive Indian health system diabetes network. This chapter highlights the many new and strengthened partnerships and collaborations that resulted from the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

A. Partnerships with Department of Health and Human Services Agencies

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

IHS National Diabetes Program Became a Deeming Entity for Diabetes Education Certification

In March 2002, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved the IHS National Diabetes Program as a deeming entity for diabetes education recognition. As a result, the IHS National Diabetes Program, with agency and tribal leader support, established an IHS Integrated Diabetes Education Recognition Program. The program certifies Indian health diabetes education programs, allowing them to seek Medicare reimbursement for diabetes education. Thus far, eight programs have been certified by the IHS National Diabetes Program, and several new applications are under review.

Medical Nutrition Therapy and Diabetes Self-Management Training for Medicare

The IHS National Diabetes Program disseminated information on Medical Nutrition Therapy and Diabetes Self-Management Training for Medicare beneficiaries who have diabetes or kidney disease to IHS, tribal, and urban Indian health programs. The IHS National Diabetes Program also provided technical assistance and consultation to IHS, tribal, and urban Indian programs on the following third party billing activities:

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APPENDIX

Collaborations and Partnerships

- Electronic billing
- Medical records documentation
- Claims tracking
- Reimbursements
- Examination of the outcomes and cost-effectiveness of services

These activities will benefit tribes and tribal communities by increasing access to diabetes education, nutrition services, and other primary prevention activities.

National Institutes of Health

National Diabetes Education Program

The National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) is a program sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). NDEP aims to improve the treatment and outcomes for people with diabetes, to promote early diagnosis, and to prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes. The Director of the IHS National Diabetes Program served as a member of the NDEP Steering and Evaluation committees. In addition, IHS National Diabetes Program staff served on the NDEP American Indian Campaign, Diabetes Prevention Program Lifestyle Tools, and the Diabetes in Children and Adolescents workgroups. The IHS National Diabetes Program also distributed NDEP materials to IHS, tribal, and urban Indian programs.

The Diabetes Prevention Program

The NIH sponsored the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), which demonstrated that type 2 diabetes can be prevented or delayed in high-risk groups, including American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs). The IHS National Diabetes Program disseminated and translated information on the DPP for the diabetes grant programs to help them expand upon their diabetes prevention efforts. The Director of the IHS National Diabetes Program served as a member of the Translation Committee of the DPP.

Diabetes Education in Tribal Schools

In FY 2001, at the request of the Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC), the Diabetes Education in Tribal Schools project was developed to encourage AI/AN students to pursue careers in biomedical research and diabetes. The IHS National Diabetes Program collaborated with the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, CDC, and American Indian Higher Education Consortium to develop a multicultural, science-based diabetes education curriculum for AI/AN students from kindergarten through high

school. By engaging AI/AN youth in the biomedical sciences at an early age, the IHS National Diabetes Program hopes that AI/AN youth will be motivated to work toward a career in health care and research.

Diabetes Mellitus Interagency Coordinating Committee

The Director of the IHS National Diabetes Program serves as a member of the Diabetes Mellitus Interagency Coordinating Committee (DMICC). The committee includes representatives from Federal departments and agencies whose programs are relevant to diabetes and its complications. The DMICC membership includes representatives of 23 Federal organizations, including the IHS National Diabetes Program, and liaison representatives from the American Diabetes Association and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

The DMICC was authorized by Public Law 93-354 and established in the fall of 1974. It facilitates cooperation, communication, and collaboration among agencies that conduct or support diabetes-related activities. These activities may range from support for biomedical research to direct provision of health care services. Current DMICC meetings and projects focus on bringing together in-depth information from the varied programs represented by the member organizations, serving as the catalyst for the initiation of projects, and guiding the progress of projects involving several agencies. The DMICC publishes an annual report that summarizes the diabetes-related activities of the organizations represented on the DMICC. The IHS National Diabetes Program has presented data from the Special Diabetes Program for Indians to the DMICC on several occasions for discussion and guidance.

Diabetes Research and Training Centers

The Diabetes Research and Training Centers (DRTCs) are centers of diabetes excellence for diabetes translation funded by the NIH and located at universities throughout the U.S. DRTC professionals at the University of Indiana and the University of Michigan have provided guidance and input on the Special Diabetes Program for Indians to the IHS National Diabetes Program and the TLDC.

Head Start Bureau

Since 1999, the IHS National Diabetes Program has coordinated an obesity and diabetes prevention initiative targeting Head Start children (up to five years old), Head Start families, Head Start staff, and AI/AN communities. Five tribal Head Start pilot sites, in collaboration with their respective community health partners and the IHS National Diabetes Program, developed obesity and diabetes prevention interventions in their local communities. Each of the pilot sites developed and implemented a community action plan that focused on

healthy eating, physical activity, healthy behavior, and community partnerships. The IHS National Diabetes Program is expanding the initiative to include a breastfeeding initiative for Early Head Start programs.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Diabetes Translation

CDC Epidemiologist Assigned to the IHS

The CDC Division of Diabetes Translation provided diabetes epidemiologic support to the IHS National Diabetes Program through one full-time epidemiologist. The CDC epidemiologist automated the program's prevalence and complications surveillance system and calculated and adjusted diabetes prevalence data from 1999 through 2001. The IHS National Diabetes Program disseminated this data to the TLDC, IHS Area Directors, Area Diabetes Consultants, and others.

National Diabetes Prevention Center

The IHS National Diabetes Program and the TLDC worked with the CDC Division of Diabetes Translation in FY 2001 to restructure the National Diabetes Prevention Center (NDPC) in Gallup, New Mexico.

The goal of the restructuring efforts was to ensure that the NDPC provided diabetes outreach, information, and technical assistance to tribes throughout the U.S. To achieve this goal, the NDPC, IHS National Diabetes Program, TLDC, and CDC have developed the following:

- A variety of tools, resources, curricula, and data approaches to assist diabetes care and prevention efforts.
- A series of reports about information technology, community diabetes care, prevention planning activities, and educational resources.
- The *Health for Native Life* magazine, which is a publication developed for members of tribal communities who have diabetes and their families.

The NDPC also established the Tribal College Initiative to address President Bush's Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities, which directed federal agencies to work in partnership with tribal colleges and universities. Partners in the Tribal College Initiative included the National Indian Council on Aging, American Indian Higher Education Consortium, Association of American Indian Physicians, Native American Diabetes Program at the University of New Mexico, NIH, and Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health.

State Diabetes Control Programs

Several IHS Area Diabetes Programs formed partnerships with CDC's State Diabetes Control Programs (DCP) to share skills, resources, and training. For example, in 1997, the Montana DCP, the IHS Billings Area Diabetes Program, and each of the diabetes grant programs in Montana, formed partnerships to identify the burden of diabetes among Montana AI/ANs, evaluate the effectiveness of diabetes prevention activities, and identify opportunities to improve care for people with diabetes. The Montana DCP provided technical and epidemiologic support to help the diabetes grant programs address surveillance, health system, and health communications.

B. *Partnerships with American Indian and Alaska Native Organizations*

American Indian Higher Education Consortium

The IHS National Diabetes Program collaborated with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) to build capacity and infrastructure for diabetes training and program activities at tribal colleges and universities. As described earlier, the IHS National Diabetes Program also collaborated with AIHEC, as well as the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and the CDC, to develop a program to encourage AI/AN youth to pursue careers in biomedical research and health science.

National Indian Council on Aging

The IHS National Diabetes Program formed a partnership with the National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) to translate and disseminate diabetes data to tribal communities and tribal leaders. The partnership:

- Developed the Diabetes Monograph Series to address diabetes and other health issues in AI/AN communities. Recent issues included *A Critical Issue: Blood Sugar Control*; *Diabetes among Alaska Natives: An Emerging Epidemic*; *What Kills Indian Elders*; and *Lung Cancer Deaths and Smoking among American Indians*.
- Developed a newsletter series titled CLEAR VISIONS, which provided updates on the Special Diabetes Program for Indians to the diabetes grant programs.
- Collaborated with Cimarron Medical Informatics to automate the IHS Diabetes Care and Outcomes Audit.
- Produced a video titled *Diabetes and Indian Elders*, which shares Medicare beneficiary information with the AI/AN elder population.

Association of American Indian Physicians

In 1998, the CDC awarded a grant called the “National Minority Organizations, Strategies for the Prevention and Control of Diabetes,” to the Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP). The grant allowed AAIP to launch and coordinate the NDEP American Indian Campaign. The purpose of the campaign was to provide culturally-appropriate diabetes education and awareness materials to AI/AN communities and the diabetes grant programs. The IHS National Diabetes Program served on the NDEP American Indian Campaign Workgroup to help develop culturally-appropriate diabetes messages and provide diabetes expertise and guidance.

National Indian Health Board

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) has a long history of collaboration with the IHS. The NIHB advocated for the passage of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2001. In addition, the NIHB formed partnerships with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the American Diabetes Association to advocate for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. Two former and the current Chairperson of the NIHB serve on the TLDC.

American Indian Epidemiology Centers

The IHS National Diabetes Program collaborated with several tribal epidemiology centers to promote diabetes data improvement at the local level. For example, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, located in Portland, Oregon, used Special Diabetes Program for Indians data improvement funds to establish the Western Tribal Diabetes Project in 1998. The project developed and implemented a sustainable and systematic approach to capture diabetes data among AI/AN communities located in the Northwest and California by providing technical assistance on data improvement activities. Tribal epidemiology centers in the Nashville and Bemidji Areas are using data improvement funds to develop similar types of projects. In addition, the Seattle Indian Health Board, located in Seattle, Washington, used data improvement funds to develop and produce a web-based diabetes survey and audit tool for diabetes grant programs that delivered non-clinical services. The IHS National Diabetes Program also collaborated with the tribal epidemiology centers to compile the Special Diabetes Program for Indians Compendium Report, which documented the individual activities and accomplishments of 66% of the diabetes grant programs.

Urban Indian Nurses Association

Many members of the Urban Indian Nurses Association played a major role in coordinating the diabetes grant programs at their urban Indian health centers. The IHS National Diabetes Program provided diabetes-related information and programmatic guidance to this association.

C. Partnerships with Diabetes Expert Organizations

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) is the world's leading non-profit, non-government diabetes research funding organization. The JDRF was established to help define research priorities and to lead advocacy efforts in research for the prevention of juvenile diabetes and diabetes-related complications. The IHS National Diabetes Program and the JDRF collaborated on efforts, such as the National Diabetes Education Program, to educate the public on diabetes its complications. The JDRF also served as an important advocate for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

American Diabetes Association

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) is the nation's leading non-profit health organization providing diabetes information, advocacy, and research. The mission of the ADA is to prevent and cure diabetes, and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes. The IHS National Diabetes Program collaborated with the ADA, as well as the University of New Mexico Native American Diabetes Program, to launch and support a national AI/AN outreach campaign called *Awakening the Spirit: Pathways to Diabetes Prevention and Control*. This campaign provided tribal communities and the diabetes grant programs with a research-based, community diabetes education curriculum and information on the resources and networking opportunities available through the ADA. The ADA also advocated for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians at the Congressional level.

Joslin Diabetes Center

Joslin Vision Network Teleophthalmology Project

In FY 2002, Congress provided \$1.5 million to address diabetic retinopathy among AI/ANs. In collaboration with the Joslin Diabetes Center, the IHS National Diabetes Program developed a project to evaluate AI/ANs for diabetic retinopathy using the Joslin Vision Network (JVN). The JVN is a telemedicine system that uses low-level illumination and no-pupil dilation to diagnose diabetic retinopathy. IHS, tribal, and urban Indian clinics can electronically send retinal images to a reading center, which returns analyses of the level of diabetic retinopathy to the clinics.

The IHS National Diabetes Program deployed imaging sites at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center, Sells Public Health Service Indian Hospital, Tuba City Indian Medical Center, Parker Indian Hospital, Hopi Health Care Center, and the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center. Certified readers at the IHS/JVN National Reading Center in Phoenix evaluated the retinal images acquired from these sites. Since entering its clinical phase, the program has evaluated more than 1,500 patients that had not met the prescribed level of care. Between ten and fifteen additional sites will be deployed during the next year at locations throughout Indian Country.

Comprehensive Diabetes Management Program

The IHS National Diabetes Program collaborated with the Joslin Diabetes Center in development of the Comprehensive Diabetes Management Program (CDMP). The CDMP is a web-based system that uses the case management model to track diabetes care and education. The CDMP includes clinical assessment, behavioral assessment, and education and reinforcement modules. The goal of this project is to integrate the CDMP with the IHS electronic medical record.

American Association of Diabetes Educators

In 1999, the American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE) formed a taskforce to explore the role of the lay health worker (i.e., paraprofessionals, such as community health representatives and community health aides) in diabetes education. The taskforce included representatives from a variety of health care organizations including the IHS National Diabetes Program, which hosted the *Lay Health Workers Summit* in April 2002.

American Academy of Pediatrics

The IHS National Diabetes Program served as the IHS liaison to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Native American Child Health. In partnership with the IHS National Diabetes Program, the committee:

- Offered its expertise to individuals and groups concerned about issues facing AI/AN children.
- Conducted annual site visits to IHS Areas.
- Developed programs that support healthy lifestyles and optimal physical, mental, and social health in AI/AN children.
- Identified challenges in AI/AN child health care and suggested innovative ways to solve them.

- Developed guidelines for the prevention, identification, and treatment of diabetes among AI/AN children. The IHS National Diabetes Program will disseminate these guidelines through the extensive Indian health diabetes network once they are published.

The AAP widely circulated information on the breastfeeding intervention of the Phoenix Indian Medical Center's Diabetes Center of Excellence through its *Breastfeeding: Best for Baby and Mother* newsletter. The AAP distributed the newsletter to AAP Chapter Breastfeeding Coordinators, members of the AAP Breastfeeding Promotion in Pediatric Office Practices program, and members of the AAP Provisional Section on Breastfeeding.

The IHS National Diabetes Program also served on the AAP Indian Health Special Interest Group. The mission of the group is to identify, prioritize, and promote education and training opportunities related to AI/AN health issues. In the fall of 2002, the group sponsored an education program on childhood obesity and diabetes in AI/AN youth at the *AAP Annual Conference and Exhibition Meeting* in Boston.

International Diabetes Center

The International Diabetes Center based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, runs an outpatient clinic for people with diabetes, trains and educates health care professionals who care for people with diabetes, develops methods to improve diabetes screening practices, and educates the public about diabetes.

The Center has been an important partner for the IHS National Diabetes Program in several ways. A diabetes expert from the Center served on the original Indian Health Diabetes Workgroup, which was formed by the Director of the IHS in 1997 to develop recommendations on the distribution of funds from the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. The Center provided training and technical assistance to AI/AN communities on the use of Staged Diabetes Management in the clinical treatment of people with diabetes. The Center also developed a complete diabetes education curriculum, called Type 2 Diabetes BASICS, which has been utilized by many AI/AN communities.

MacColl Institute of Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound

The MacColl Institute of the Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound developed the Chronic Care model to help health systems develop the basic elements necessary to improve care at the community, health system, provider, and patient levels. The IHS National Diabetes Program used the Chronic Care Model to evaluate the effectiveness of its systems of care in dealing with diabetes as a chronic disease. Although the IHS National Diabetes Program

has successfully implemented elements of the Chronic Care Model to improve diabetes care and management since the 1980s, the Special Diabetes Program for Indians allowed more Indian health programs, particularly tribal programs, to build the infrastructure needed to implement the model. The Special Diabetes Program for Indians also enabled these programs to measure their effectiveness in implementing the system changes recommended by the model.

D. Partnerships with Academic Institutions

University of New Mexico

Native American Diabetes Project

The Native American Diabetes Project (NADP) at the University of New Mexico developed a community-based diabetes curriculum and training program called *Strong in Body and Spirit*. NADP provided training and assistance to the diabetes grant programs.

Earth Data Analysis Center

Using information provided by the IHS National Diabetes Program, the Earth Data Analysis Center at the University of New Mexico used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping technology to map the sites of the diabetes grant programs based on location and funding amount.

University of Arizona College of Public Health

The IHS National Diabetes Program collaborated with the University of Arizona College of Public Health and other organizations to coordinate the *Diabetes Prevention in American Indian Communities: Turning Hope Into Reality* Conference, held December 11–13, 2002, in Denver, Colorado. Yvette Roubideaux, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor in the University of Arizona College of Public Health, coordinated the conference and planning committee.

The conference celebrated and disseminated the results of the Diabetes Prevention Program, and highlighted the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. Each plenary session and the majority of workshops showcased the diabetes prevention and treatment activities implemented by the diabetes grant programs. Over 700 diabetes grant program coordinators and staff members, health professionals, and tribal leaders attended the conference.

University of Southern California

The IHS National Diabetes Program collaborated with the Statistical Consultation & Research Center Department of Preventative Medicine at the University of Southern California to integrate statistical, epidemiological and computing resources to conduct public health evaluation of the SDPI.

E. Partnerships with Other Organizations and Agencies

U.S. Department of Agriculture

The IHS National Diabetes Program and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Special Nutrition Programs developed intervention projects to address the rising prevalence of overweight, obesity, and diabetes in AI/AN children and youth. The two agencies are currently formulating interagency agreements that will enable them to implement the interventions.

“Diabetes is in our family. We eat a lot of fruits and vegetables. Our son doesn’t eat much candy. And, he’s always running around, always active. I hope it will help him to prevent diabetes.”

Shay Jaramillo (Isleta Pueblo)



