

Waponahki Tribal Health Assessment

Currently there is little data on the health status and quality of care for enrolled members of the federally recognized tribes in Maine. The purpose of the Waponahki Tribal Health Assessment Survey is to gather data on the health status of Tribal Members. By having access to improved data, tribal leaders will be able to shape the current and future health services that are beneficial to tribal communities. The survey is a collaboration between the tribal health departments of the Aroostook Band of Micmac-Micmac Service Unit, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, Passamaquoddy Tribe-Indian Township, Passamaquoddy Tribe –Pleasant Point, Penobscot Indian Nation and researchers at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Public Health (CoPH). The tribal principal investigator is Pat Knox-Nicola, Health Director at Penobscot Indian Nation and the UNMC principal investigator is Patrik Johansson, MD MPH, Director of the Rural Health Education Network, UNMC CoPH.



Patricia Knox-Nicola, Penobscot Nation Health Director is the Tribal Principal Investigator/Project Director (PD)/Project Manager. The Tribal PD provides the primary fiscal and administrative responsibility of the Waponahki Tribal Health Assessment and oversees the survey.



Patrik Johansson, M.D. MPH is with the University of Nebraska Medical Center research team. Doctor Johansson is a Consultant and Principal Investigator of the Waponahki Tribal Assessment.

The survey will serve as a guide for:

- Health Program Planning
- Education and Research
- Development of Services
- Seeking future funding

The survey questions will relate to your health status, health risk behaviors, and your thoughts on what health care services should be available to tribal elders.

Your Input Is Important

Surveys will be administered to a random sample of tribal members, ages 18 and older, which live within their respective tribal health service delivery area.

What you can expect?

- If you are randomly selected for an interview you will be contacted by a tribal staff member to find out if you are interested in participating with the survey.
- Reasonable steps will be taken to protect your privacy and confidentiality of your data.
- The interviewer has signed a statement of confidentiality to protect your privacy.
- The survey does not include your name, but will have an ID number assigned by the researchers.
- Data will be reported as a summary. No data from individuals will be reported.

Interviews will take place in a designated private area such as the Tribal Health Clinic, or other designated Tribal facility.



Acknowledgement

The Maine Tribal Health Directors recognized and addressed the need for a crucial up to date comprehensive community health assessment at the individual tribal level and with combined data from all five tribes. The Tribal Health Directors believe the findings from the Waponahki Tribal Health Assessment will allow tribal health departments to better understand the current health needs of tribal members and to learn what health care services the tribe should provide to members.

The Maine Tribal Health Directors are: Ann Stevens, Houlton Band of Maliseets, Andrea Hanson, Indian Township Health Center, Patricia Knox-Nicola, Penobscot Health Center, Sandra Yarmal, Pleasant Point Health Center, and John Ouellette, Micmac Service Unit.

The Tribal Councils from each of the tribal sites have approved and supported this health assessment with a resolution. The Waponahki Tribal Health Assessment is the first ever multi tribal health assessment to be conducted in Maine. Each Tribe maintains ownership of their respective tribal data. No findings will be published or otherwise distributed without express written approval from designated tribal authorities.

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