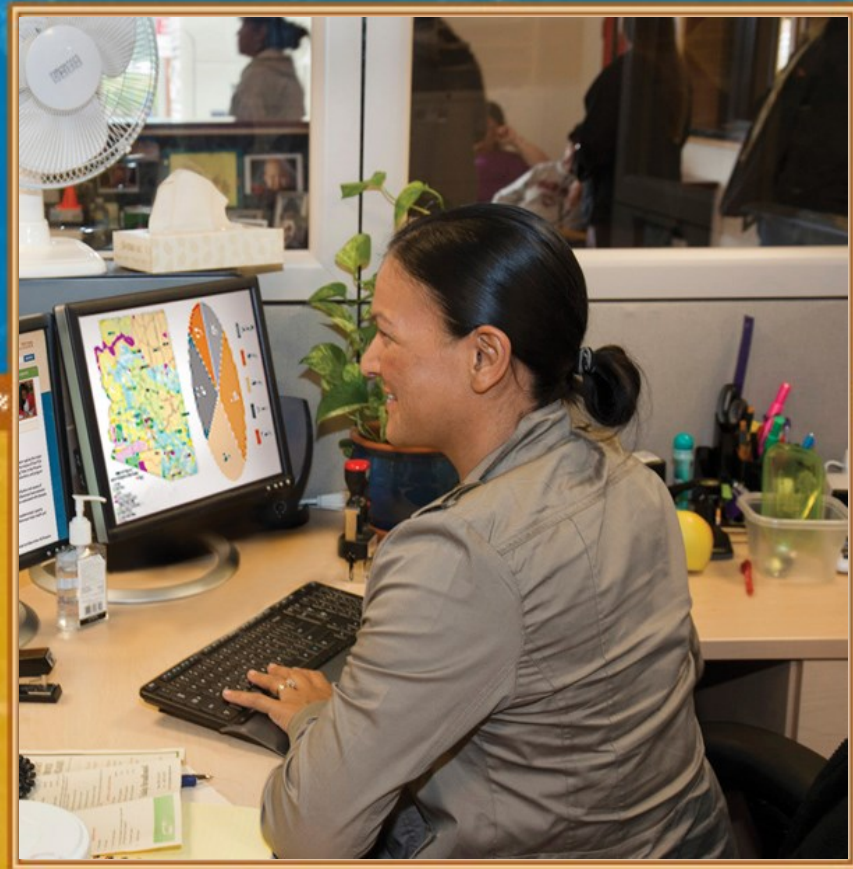


# Tribal Community Health Assessment for Public Health Accreditation: A PRACTICAL GUIDE AND TOOLKIT





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# Preface



June 1, 2013

To: Tribal Leaders, Tribal Health Directors, and Toolkit Users

As sovereign nations, tribes are responsible for the overall health and wellness of their communities and are increasingly involved in public health activities, regulation, and service delivery. Such efforts may include, but are not limited to, community health assessment (CHA) and improvement planning, health promotion and disease prevention, public health policy development and law enforcement, and quality improvement in service delivery. Many tribal health departments are engaging tribal and community leadership in CHAs to identify and prioritize important health issues in order to plan, adapt and respond to important health concerns in their community.

Assessment is a critical public health function and a national strategic priority for tribes, states and local health departments. Efforts to develop model standards for public health began in the late 1970s when the US Department of Health Education and Welfare released the *Healthy People: The Surgeon General's Report on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention*.<sup>1</sup> Over the decades, a number of approaches to measure public health performance were developed, such as the *Assessment Protocol for Excellence in Public Health* and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) *National Public Health Performance Standards Program*, in which approximately 25 tribes participated.<sup>2-3</sup> These efforts, among others, launched the development of an accreditation program for local, state, tribal and territorial health departments.<sup>4</sup>

Founded in September 2011, the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is the accrediting body for national public health accreditation. The goal of accreditation is to improve and protect the health of every community by advancing the quality and performance of tribal, state, local and territorial public health departments. Public health accreditation was developed on the premise that, regardless of how a health department is structured or governed, everyone should reasonably expect the health department to meet certain standards.<sup>5</sup> Public health accreditation provides a set of public health standards by which a tribe can systematically strengthen its self-determination and raise the level and quality of services it provides to the community.

We hope this resource provides support for tribal leaders, health professionals, and community members in the planning and implementation of CHAs.

