

# A Collaboration between UTA and the Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas:

## Assessing the needs of the American Indian Population in Texas - Phase I

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### BACKGROUND

Seventy-eight percent of all American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) now live in cities, rather than on reservations. The Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area illustrates this history of urbanization with its population of more than 60,000 American Indians. Community organizations focusing on the needs of this community face a number of challenges, including limitations on available data to fully assess community needs.

The Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas (UITCT) is a key community organization that provides limited social services and health care services to clients representing 174 federally recognized tribes. Data limitations have impeded it from obtaining funding to expand services or to fully assess the medical, social and cultural needs and interests that may exist. UT-Arlington faculty, UITCT staff, and community members collaborated in the development and conduction of a community-based needs assessment of the American Indian Population of North Texas.

### PURPOSE OF PHASE I

Develop a replicable, culturally appropriate measurement tool to be used to assess community needs of the American Indian population across several domains on a periodic, ongoing basis

### DESIGN

Participatory community research design

### METHODS

#### Recruitment Flier



- 3 focus groups
- October - November 2016
- 41 persons: 31 women and 10 men

#### General needs information received from the focus groups:

- Transportation
- Medication-better and different
- Access to specialist and health insurance
- Access to specialist - 75% are not insured
- Education on how insurance works = ACA Barrier of information, navigation to get insurance
- Affordable insurance

The focus groups informed the categories for the survey instrument. Researchers distributed surveys at the 3 three venues in DFW:

- Pow Wow at UTA
- Santa Fe Days
- Urban Inter-Tribal Center

### SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Please rate each of the identified areas of need below using the following scale:  
 Critical need area = 4  
 Moderate need area = 3  
 Low need area = 2  
 Not a need area = 1

Mental Health Services for Youth	4	3	2	1
Mental Health Services for Adults	4	3	2	1
Substance Abuse Treatment for Youth	4	3	2	1
Substance Abuse Treatment for Adults	4	3	2	1
Sober Living Alternative Housing for Youths	4	3	2	1
Sober Living Alternative Housing for Adults	4	3	2	1
AI/AN Specific Domestic Violence Shelters	4	3	2	1
AI/AN Specific Child Care	4	3	2	1
After School Programs for Children/ Youth	4	3	2	1
AI/AN Specific Parenting Classes	4	3	2	1
Access to Specialist for Medical Reasons	4	3	2	1
Access to Eye Care	4	3	2	1
Access to Eye Glasses	4	3	2	1
Access to Medications	4	3	2	1
Access to Birth Control	4	3	2	1
Access to Health Insurance	4	3	2	1
Availability to AI/AN recreational Activities	4	3	2	1
Availability to AI/AN Cultural Events	4	3	2	1
Employment	4	3	2	1
Transportation	4	3	2	1
Affordable Housing	4	3	2	1
Rent Assistance	4	3	2	1
Food Assistance	4	3	2	1

### NEXT STEPS

In Phase II, data will be analyzed and presented at The Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas and UTA community.

