

The Spirit of Community Health Study

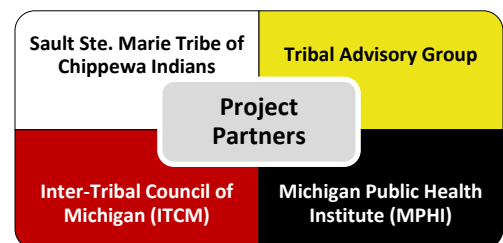
In May 2014, the Sault Tribe Board passed a resolution to partner with the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI), Inter-tribal Council of Michigan (ITCM), and a national Tribal Advisory Group on a study that explores the Tribe's capacity to fulfill the Ten Essential Services of Public Health. This study is funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Public Health Services and Systems Research (PHSSR) program. PHSSR examines the organization, financing, delivery, and quality of services that promote health and wellbeing. RWJF funds PHSSR studies with a goal of improving performance and efficiency of community health agencies.

- This research study will:
 - Be overseen by Sault Tribe staff and leadership;
 - Honor principles of a community-based participatory approach;
 - Seek to answer questions about how organizations communicate, share resources, and work together to protect and promote wellbeing of tribal community members;
 - Use methods and approaches that are culturally relevant and appropriate for Sault Tribe; and
 - Receive guidance from an Advisory Group made up of professionals working in tribal communities and conducting research with Native Americans across the nation.



Ten Essential Services of Public Health

- The role of Sault Tribe as the Community Research Partner in this study is to:
 - Help inform and oversee research activities to make sure study goals are met while honoring culture;
 - Get community members, leaders, and partners involved in the study;
 - Lend expertise and insight for understanding the results; and
 - Create and share the findings and recommendations of this study to tribal leaders and partners to guide future efforts to improve health in Indian Country.
- The questions to be explored through this study are:
 - How does Sault Tribe view their community health system?
 - Who are the key actors and decision-makers within the tribal community health system?
 - In what ways are community partner agencies monitoring system performance and tracking health data?
 - How do agencies, leadership, human resources, financial support and other infrastructure elements within the tribal community health system influence how the Tribe addresses pressing health issues?
 - What influence do organizational relationships have on the Tribe's capability to improve health of community members?
- Sault Tribe can use the results and information created through this study to:
 - Strengthen partnerships with agencies that can help better ensure wellbeing of the tribal community;
 - Guide strategic planning, grant writing, and decisions about financial resources;
 - Make decisions about services and programs that will help the Tribe achieve its community health goals; and
 - Guide efforts to assure capacity to protect and promote health and wellbeing in the future.



This groundbreaking study will fill critical gaps in knowledge of tribal community health and guide future research efforts by tribal agencies. Results of the study will be shared widely to help improve health and wellbeing in Indian Country.