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CHEROKEE NATION®  
PUBLIC HEALTH



# Stronger Together: Public Health Leadership Opportunities in Indian Country

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Cherokee Nation Health Services

# Presentation Overview



- A quick look of Cherokee Nation
- What is public health and what does it mean to Tribes?
- What is our collective vision as Tribes?
- What will it take for us to unite and achieve our vision?

# CHEROKEE NATION PUBLIC HEALTH

We Are Public Health



Gathering and preparing traditional foods strengthens our culture and our health. Learn more at [cherokeepublichealth.org](http://cherokeepublichealth.org).

Cherokee Nation Public Health  
Prevent.Promote.Protect

GWYD DBF

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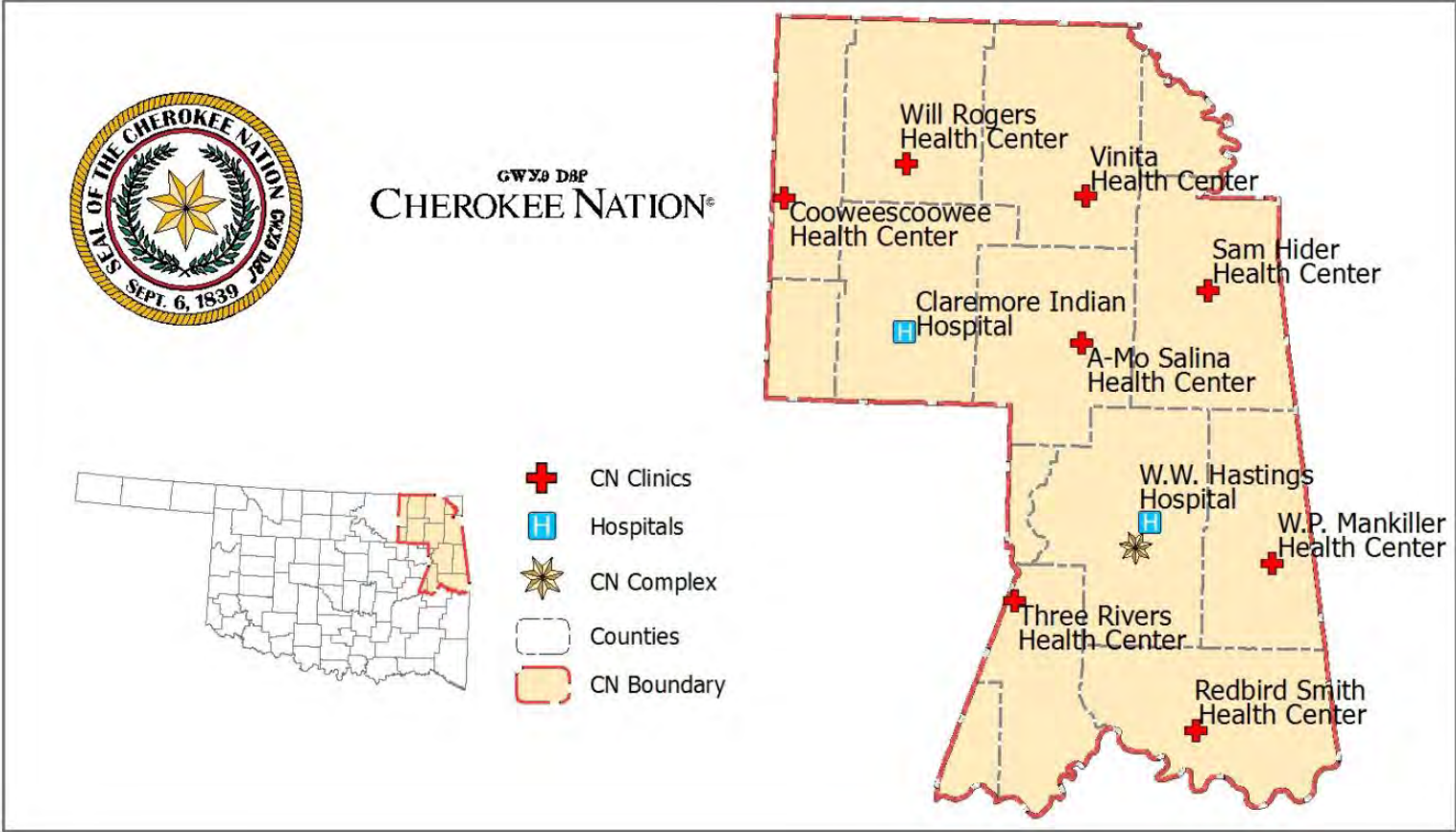


# Overview of Cherokee Nation (Tribal Jurisdiction)

- Comprised of 14 counties in NE Oklahoma
- Tribal Jurisdictional Service Area (TJSA) – 9,200 square miles
- Over 315,000 citizens
- 210,000 in OK
- 140,000 in TJSA
- Multi-jurisdictional



# Health Services in Cherokee Nation



# What is public health?!



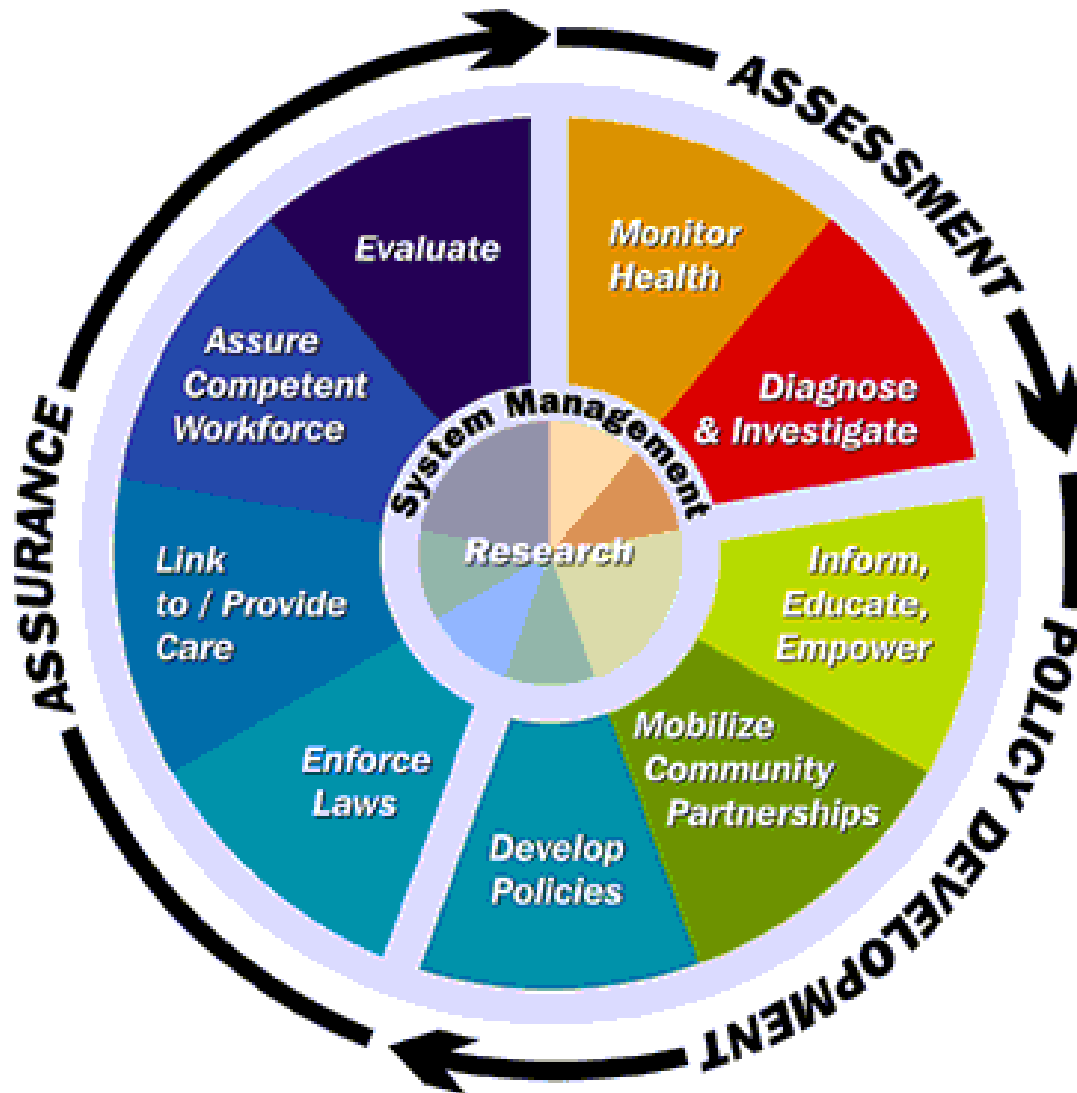
- What does public health mean to Tribes?
- Why should we “invest” in public health?
- Why should we care?
- Why has it been difficult to articulate in Tribes?

# What is Public Health?

- Public Health focuses on the health of ENTIRE populations BEFORE illness onsets – while people are still healthy.
- Rather than on individual patients AFTER they become ill.



**\*\*The proactive preventative approach is the single most important distinction between Public Health and Clinical Medicine\*\***





# Health Impact Pyramid



# CHEROKEE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM



Cherokee Nation Public Health  
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TRIBAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2013-2017



*By Cherokee for all. People living happy  
and healthy for this and future generations.*

PREPARED BY



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# WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT PUBLIC HEALTH?

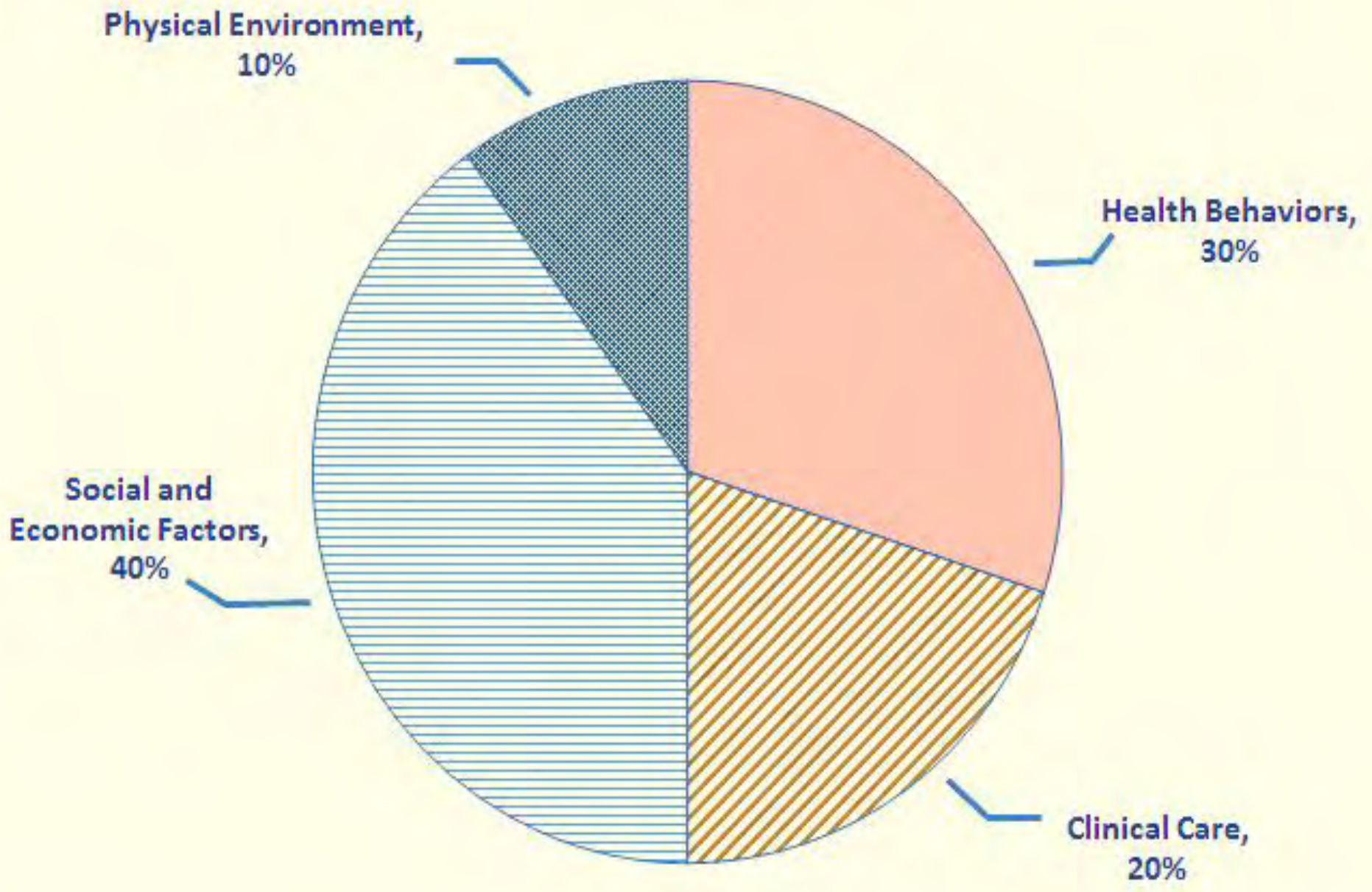
• <u>Indian Health Service (2013)</u>	<u>\$2,741</u>
• Bureau of Prisons (2006 estimate)	\$3,986
• Medicaid recipients (2014)	\$7,565
• Veterans Administration (2009)	\$4,457/\$12,658
• Medicare (2014)	\$12,051
• US General Population(2014)	\$9,255

\* \$1 spent on prevention saves \$5.60 in health spending

Source: Department of Health and Human Services, [www.dhhs.gov](http://www.dhhs.gov), Source published January 2006. Indian Health Service. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Office of the Actuary, National Health Statistics Group; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis; and U.S. Bureau of the Census.

\*<https://www.apha.org/news-and-media/multimedia/infographics/funding-public-health-protects-our-lives-and-saves-money-text-version>

# Modifiable Factors That Influence Health

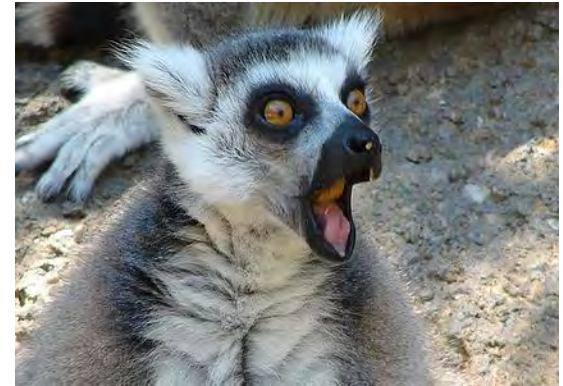


# HARD TO DEFINE?!

- Diverse and Unique
- Linked closely to direct care
- Trying to “fit” rather than “define”
- Terminology
- Strengths/Weaknesses



- **Where are we?**
- **Collective Vision**
- **How do we get there?**
- **Who is PHAB?**
- **Why accreditation?**



# What is Public Health Accreditation?

- Nationally recognized, practice-focused and evidenced-based standards
- Continual development, revision, and distribution of public health standards.
- Visibility and public awareness
- Greater public trust
- Credibility and stronger constituency for public health funding and infrastructure



**Cherokee Nation Public Health**  
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# STATE OF THE CHEROKEE NATION HEALTH REPORT AND PLAN 2014

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# IMO....



- Leadership
- Shift in Thinking
- Humility
- Partnerships
- Flexibility
- Patience

# LEADERSHIP



Source: *Cherokee Phoenix* January 2013

# SHIFT IN THINKING

- Job Sharing
- Inclusion
- Clinical to Community
- Embracing What is Good Now
- Creative Financing
- No Longer Optional

# HUMILITY

Cherokee syllabary:

hᵛi DT4oᵛW0ᵛ  
DᵛGT0ᵛA

Pronunciation:

*tsigav aquasesla adeloquasdi*

English translation:

Learn From All I Observe

# PARTNERSHIPS

- National Organizations
- Other Tribes
- Clinical Providers
- State/Local Health Departments
- Communities (not just locations)
- Mutually-Beneficial



# PATIENCE



# FLEXIBILITY



# In Closing.....

