



# State of the State: Tribal Public Health Accreditation Readiness

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# Overview

- ▶ Tribal Sovereignty
- ▶ California Tribes
- ▶ Tribal Public Health
- ▶ Tribal Public Health Accreditation
- ▶ Tribal Public Health Accreditation in California
  - Past
  - Present
  - Future



# Tribal Sovereignty

- ▶ Inherent rights for tribes to govern themselves
- ▶ The US government recognizes tribes as “Domestic Dependent Nations”
- ▶ Tribes have their own governments inclusive of health, education, housing, roads, public safety, and other such entities much like a county or state government

# Public Law 280

- ▶ Transferred jurisdiction from federal governments to state governments
- ▶ Congress gave states extensive criminal and civil jurisdiction over tribal lands within 6 mandatory states (California is included)



# Tribal Public Health



# Tribal Health Program Structures

- ▶ Under PL 93–638 Tribe contract directly with Indian Health Service to administer their own health programs
- ▶ Many California Tribes chose to pool their resources into creating 1 tribal health program governed by multiple tribes
- ▶ There are no Indian Health Service Facilities in California



# Tribal Health Program

- ▶ THP is a **government function of one or more federally recognized Tribes** to provide public health services within its jurisdiction(s).
- ▶ THP has **jurisdictional authority** to promote and protect the Tribe's health, wellness and safety, prevent disease, and respond to issues and events of public health importance.
- ▶ THP's jurisdictional **authority is evidenced through legal action by the Tribe's** governing authority, such as a Tribal Chair and/or an entity, such as Tribal Council.



# PHAB Eligibility for Tribes

- ▶ A Tribal health department is defined, for the purposes of PHAB accreditation, as a **federally recognized Tribal government**[1], **Tribal organization**, or **inter-Tribal consortium**, as defined in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, as amended. Such departments have **jurisdictional authority** to provide public health services, as evidenced by constitution, resolution, ordinance, executive order, or other legal means, intended to promote and protect the Tribe's overall health, wellness and safety; prevent disease; and respond to issues and events.
  - ▶ Federally recognized Tribal governments may carry out the above public health functions in a cooperative manner through formal agreement, formal partnership, or formal collaboration.
1. As evidenced by inclusion on the list of recognized Tribes mandated under 25 U.S.C. § 479a-1. Publication of List of Recognized Tribes.

# Tribal Public Health Accreditation in CA

## Past

Tribal Accreditation Readiness through  
Guidance, Education, and Technical  
Assistance (TARGET)

## Present

Gaining Ground Coalition

## Future

Advancing California Opportunities to Renew  
Native health Systems (ACORNS)



# Tribal Accreditation Readiness through Guidance, Education, and Technical Assistance (TARGET)

Past



# TARGET

## Aim

To develop an accreditation readiness model that is based on targeting capacity-building activities in order to help tribal health departments prepare for public health accreditation.

## Goal

Increase communication and strengthen cooperation among tribal and state health departments by conducting Tribal-State Relations Roundtables.

# Roundtable

When? October 2, 2013

Where? Sacramento, California

Who? Stakeholders

- Tribal Leaders
- Tribal Health Program Staff
- Indian Health Service (IHS) Staff
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Staff
- California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc. (CRIHB) Staff
- California Tribal Epidemiology Center (CTEC) Staff



“We have no public health laws. We follow many state laws without interactions or arguments. We may not be keeping up with any changes...we need liaison and agreements to meet with state officials. We can learn the public health laws and help disseminate data for state and our population.”

“Clarification is needed for tribal public health for responsibilities and authority when dealing with public health issues...”

“This is important because it permits tribes and states to recognize the authority of the tribal public health agencies to work as equals with local, county, and state health agencies to proactively address those public health concerns critical to all involved...”

“Tribal consultation is not occurring with the state in this area, [we] need to outline a legal concept for state consultation.”

“[The] first step is to start conversations and start to collaborate/partner better...”

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# Gaining Ground

Present



# Gaining Ground

## California's Goal

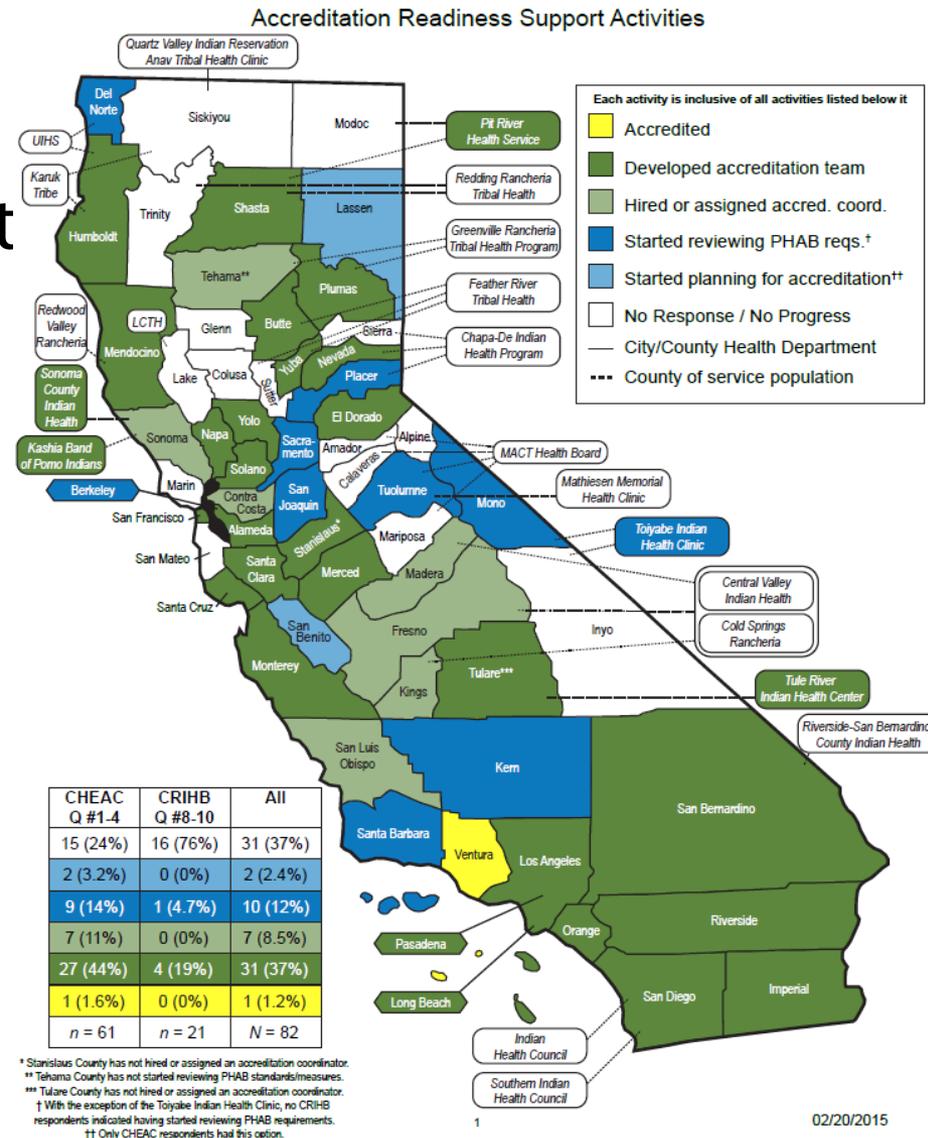
To develop sustainable statewide systems to catalyze public health accreditation and support performance improvement in tribal and small, rural local health departments.

## Tribal Objectives

- ❑ Increase public health accreditation readiness in California's tribal jurisdiction.
- ❑ Increase cross-jurisdictional collaboration between CDPH, local health departments, and California tribal jurisdictions.

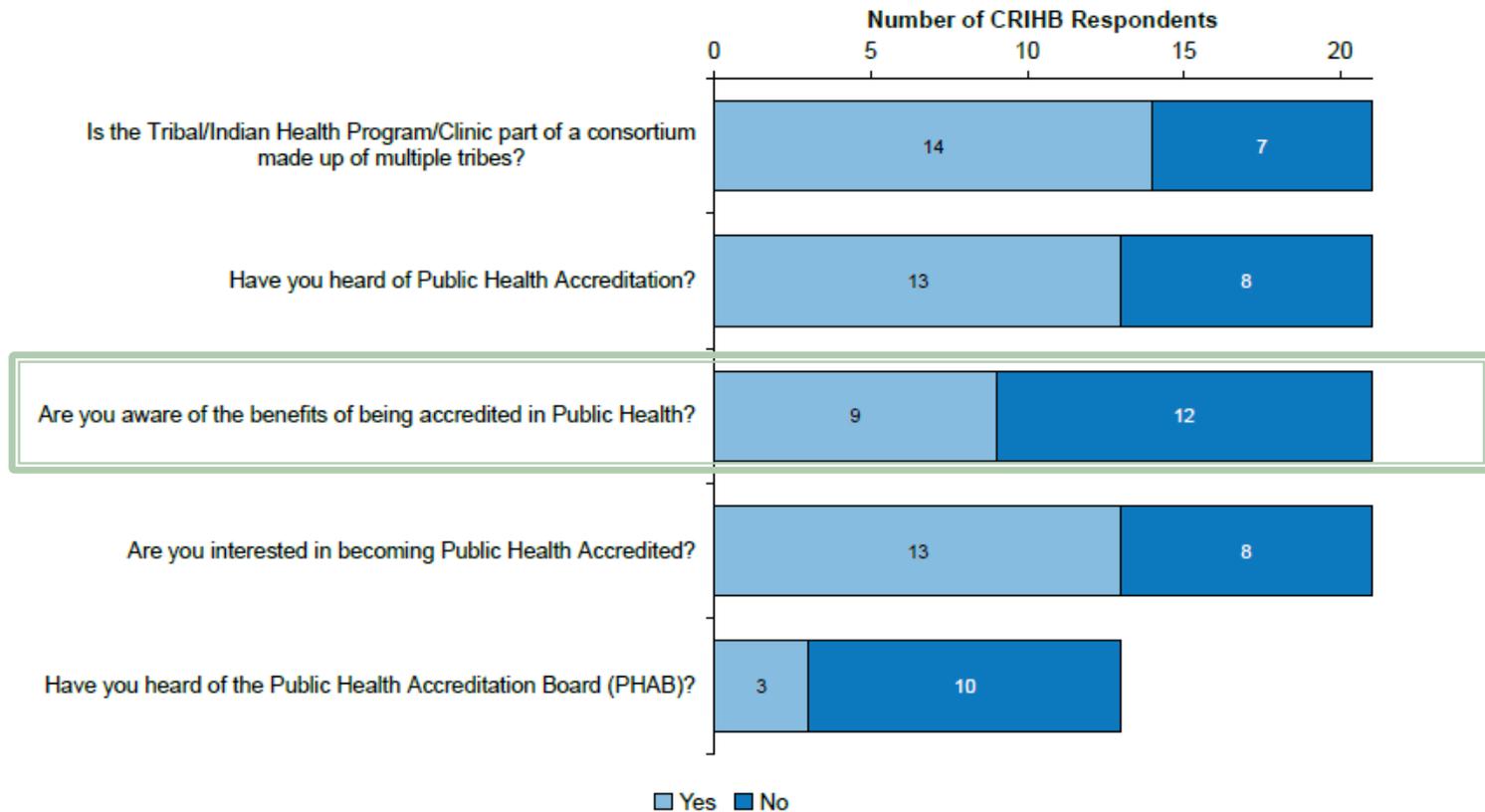
# Readiness Assessment Results

- ▶ 76% of Tribal respondents have not started accreditation readiness support activities



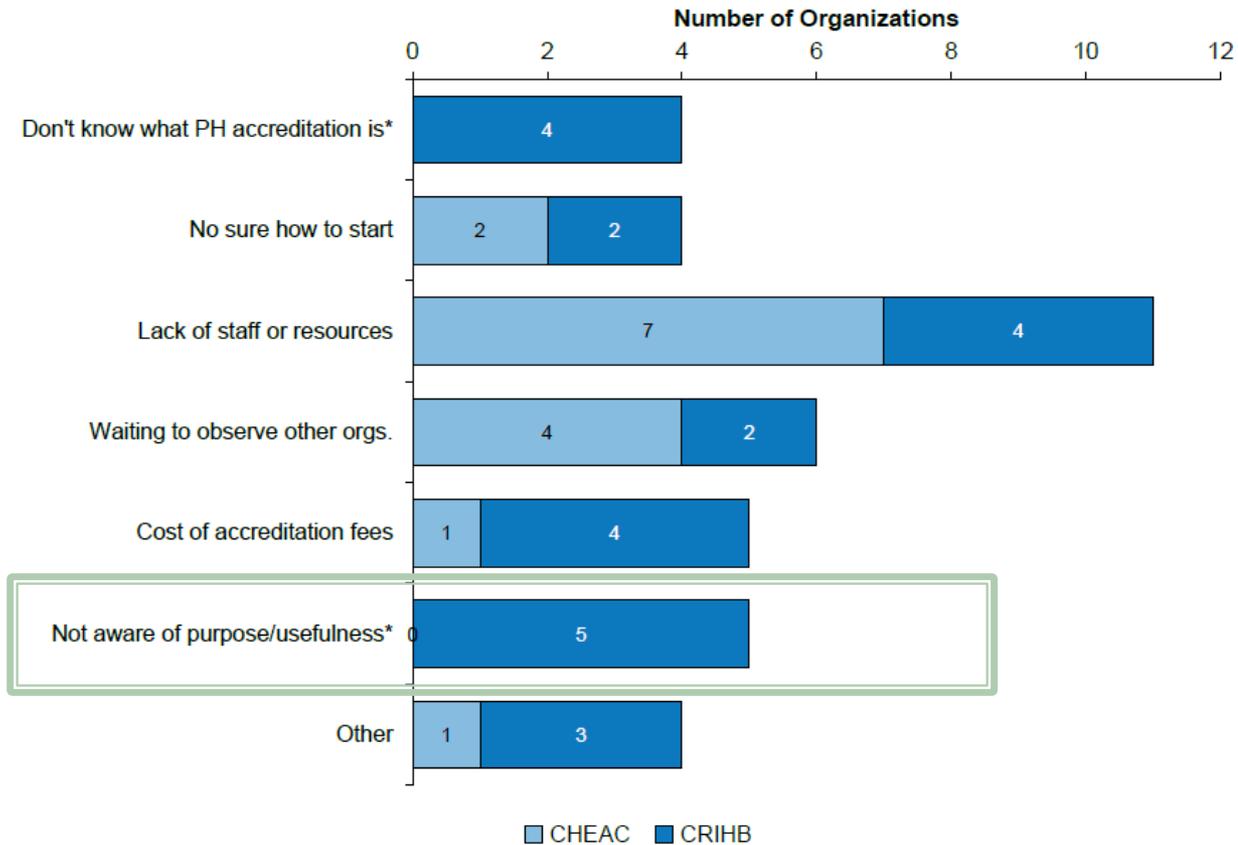
# Readiness Assessment Results

## CRIHB-Specific Survey Items



# Readiness Assessment Results

## Reasons Why Organizations Are Not Working on Accreditation



\* Only CRIHB respondents were given this option.



# Advancing California Opportunities to Renew Native health Systems (ACORNS)

Future



# CRIHB ACORNS

CDC Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country initiative that seeks to empower AIAN communities in California to promote PSE change strategies –focused on reducing tobacco use and exposure, promoting physical activity and healthy eating and preventing chronic disease and the related risk factors.

## Phase 1

Community Health Assessments

## Phase 2

Community Action Plans





**“Having this roundtable is [an] amazing forum to get different points of view. It was very useful to see everyone’s point of view, and get to understand what the gap is. A THP cannot function on its own, [its] important to have relationships with others.”**

**– from 2013 Roundtable**



# Local and Tribal Health Department Collaboration

- ▶ Gaining Ground is seeking to support (financial and technical assistance) one Local Health Department to collaborate with its Tribe(s) for community health improvement planning purposes (linked CHA and CHIP) by April, 2016



# Thank You

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