



Indian Health Service Statement

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Native American Heritage Month Statement from IHS Director Roselyn Tso

It's an honor to celebrate National Native American Heritage Month. This month, we recognize not only the vibrant legacy of Indigenous peoples, but also our shared commitment to upholding tribal sovereignty, which lies at the heart of the IHS mission. As Indian Country continues to experience significant health and socio-economic disparities, advancing the federal government's trust responsibility to tribal nations is fundamental to supporting the well-being of tribal citizens. Together with tribal nations, urban Indian organizations, health care professionals, and patients, we're working to reduce health disparities and elevate care quality across Native communities. We are inspired by the strength and leadership of tribal nations, who are ushering in a new era for our nation-to-nation relationships and reaffirming the resilience of Indigenous ways of life.

As we reflect on Indigenous history, we acknowledge the trauma and intergenerational impacts of federal policies, such as the boarding school era, which continue to affect health and well-being today. This year, President Biden's historic apology for this chapter in history marks a powerful step toward healing and justice—a commitment we share at IHS.

While we recognize Native heritage throughout the year, this month reminds us to celebrate, honor, and learn from the legacy of Indigenous peoples, whose contributions shape and strengthen our nation. At IHS, we recommit to supporting Native communities and honoring this profound heritage as part of our nation's collective story.

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