# CHEROKEE NATION® Health Services

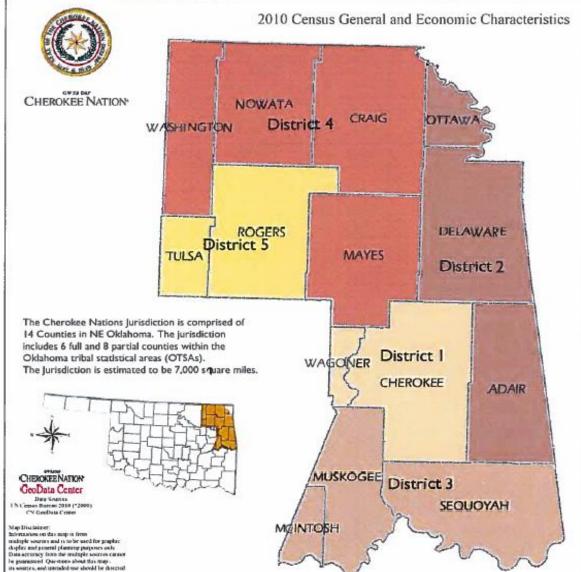


# Cherokee Nation Comprehensive Cancer Control

## Cherokee Nation

CHEROKEE VALUE OF SEPT. 6, 1839

- Located in Northeast Oklahoma
- Main headquarters in Tahlequah
- Largest Tribe in the U.S. with more than 317,000 citizens
- 14 County Jurisdictional Area
- Jurisdictional area is estimated to be at 7000 square miles
- Just over 200,000 Native Americans live in the CN TJSA



to the Cheroker Nation Geoffuta Center

7. Workspace: MND 4-14-County to A Glance: AL JO 2010614-read

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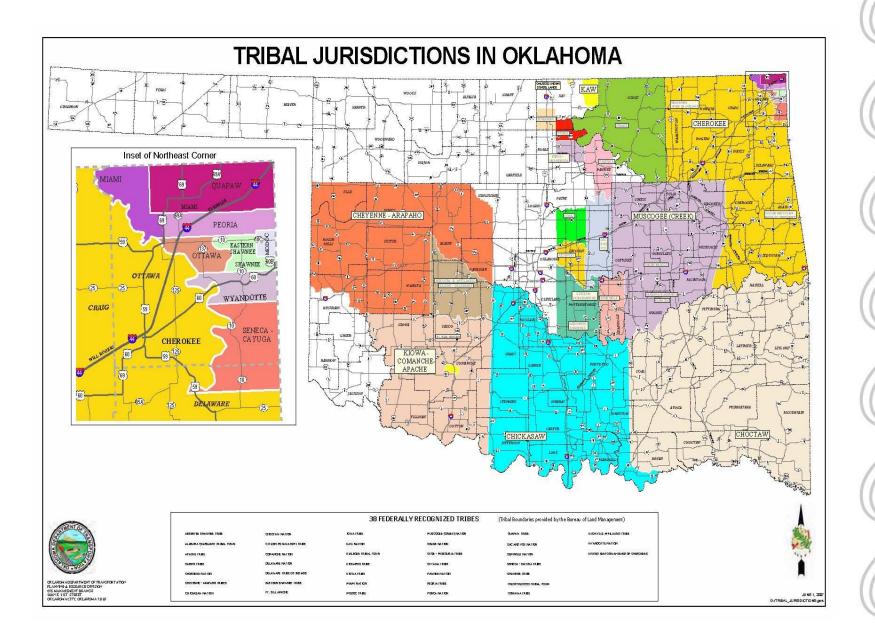
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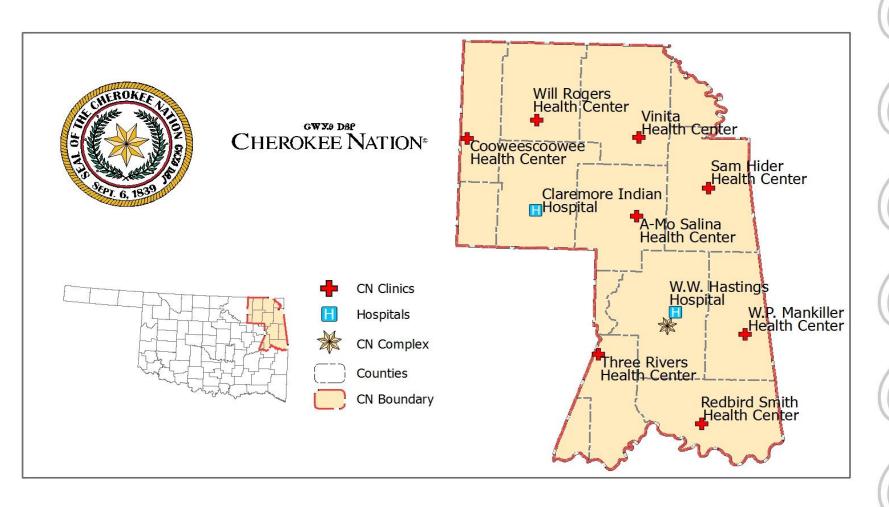
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## Cherokee Nation Health Services

- A network of eight tribal outpatient clinics, one student/employee health center, one tribal hospital, and several health programs.
- Largest tribal operated health system in United States
- Serves more than 130,201 eligible patients
- FY'14 patient visits: 1,096,332
- 2000 + employees

### **Health Services in Cherokee Nation**



## Cancer

Cancer is a major illness and is the second leading cause of death in Cherokee Nation

CN TJSA Native Americans continue to have higher incidence rates than the state population for some of the most common types of cancer

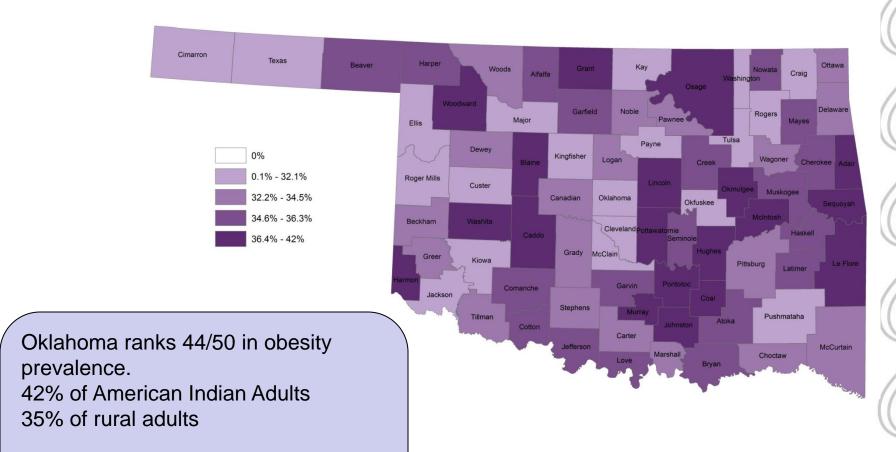
Lung cancer is a leading cancer for Cherokee Native Americans

Breast, Prostate, Colorectal, and Cervical cancers

# Public Health Program Survey

- In 2011 a survey conducted by CN Public Health Programs
  - 40% of Cherokee adults reported that they exercise vigorously for at least 150 minutes per week (lower than the OK and U.S. pop.)
  - Less than 2 % of Cherokee adults reported
     eating 5 or more fruits and vegetables per day

### Obesity Prevalence by County, BRFSS 2012



50/50 in fruit and vegetable consumption 40/50 in physical activity

# Learn to Grow Garden Project



A gardening project for licensed child care facilities in Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware, Mayes, Nowata, Ottawa, and Sequoyah Counties in Oklahoma!

# Learn to GROW Gardening Project

With a desire to increase awareness about the benefits of eating healthy, the Learn to Grow Gardening Project has already impacted over 3000 youth!

Hands on experiences in the garden and in the kitchen have already proven that young children can learn about fresh fruit and vegetables and even encourage their parents to start a garden at home!

We hope to continue this project in our area for years to come!



#### November 3, 2012:

#### Idea for a Garden in all Childcare Providers yards springs into action!

Lisa Evans, Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource and Referral Specialist had a dream of putting a garden in the yards of all child care providers in her area. She enlisted partners: Oklahoma Cooperative Extension and Cherokee Nation Child Care Licensing... and the idea of a conference to educate providers and youth was born!

#### January 9, 2013:

#### Planning, Planning, Planning!

Beginning partners included Cherokee Nation Resource and Referral, Cherokee Nation Child Care Licensing, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension, and DHS Childcare Licensing. Goals and objectives were discussed and plans were underway for a five county 'Learn to Grow' Gardening Conference. The conference objectives were to educate childcare providers on the basics of gardening, especially keeping children in mind. Research-based information was provided by OSU Extension Educators and other partners.

#### March 4, 2013:

#### Partners working together!

After learning the expenses involved in putting in a garden in 80 childcare facilities, Lisa gained a new partner that could bring the project to fruition... Cherokee Nation Healthy Nations. Cora Flute and Margie Burkhart pledged to help find funding. \$9000 was offered to pay for all of the raised beds, soil, and delivery! Carol Sapp provided the plants free of charge! Then, NE Community Action and Cherokee Nation Resource and Referral paid for the tomato cages!

#### April 2013:

#### Delivery of garden beds, soil, and tomato cages!

Frisby Greenhouse began delivery of 90 raised bed gardens, the soil, and tomato cages. 69 Child Care Facilities and 11 Relative Child Care Providers received a garden. The larger facilities received two so that there was enough space to provide hands on experiences for their kids! Providers helped choose the location for their garden and were now prepared to attend a 'Learn to Grow' gardening conference where they would learn about their specific plants.



#### April 19, 2013:

#### Preparing for the Conference

Each center or home was to receive at least 6 good sized plants.

Carol Sapp of Cherokee Nation grew the plants and donated them at no cost. Others who learned about the project wanted to get involved. Providing seeds were Green Country Co-op of Grove, S & L Feed Store of Jay, and Sweet Annie's Herb Club of Grove. Cherokee Nation Tribal Council Member, Curtis Snell donated money to help purchase shovels. Cherokee Nation also provided each facility with a Dramatic Play Garden Set and a Traditional Food Book. Extension Educator, Jeff Parmley of Ottawa County provided a plastic mineral tub that could be used for additional plants.

#### April 20, 2013:

#### Learn to Grow Gardening Conference

Child Care providers who wanted to receive a raised bed and plants were required to attend a 6 hour training provided by Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service. Each owner/manager had the option to bring a co-worker with them. 111 Child Care providers attended the 'Learn to Grow' Gardening Conference. Special Guests included Cherokee Nation Tribal Council Member, Chuck Hoskin, Jr. who supported the project and welcomed the attendees, along with NE District OCES Director, Divie Ferrell. OCES County Agriculture Educators provided research based information on topics such as: Selecting a Good Garden Site, Choosing Crops Based on the Season, Rules are Rules, Basic Gardening, Insects, and Growing Techniques. Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Science Educators gave hands on experiences to use with children including gardening related activities and recipes. Worm composting was also introduced by Community Action and Master Gardeners. Cherokee Nation specialists gave an overview of the gardening project and requirements.

#### Summer, 2013:

#### Learning to Grow!

The 90 raised bed gardens and 79 mineral tubs are in full swing!

Many providers even added more to their garden than we expected! Children as young as 2 years old were able to identify plants! Stories are being told of how the children want a garden at home and many have received them! Parents have gotten involved and the children are excited! Extra learning activities are also taking place such as growing wheat, measuring, weighing and recipes! We could not be more pleased with this gardening project and we will work hard to keep it going throughout the fall and for summers to come!









## **Impact**

The Learn to Grow garden project has put gardens in eight counties in Northeast Oklahoma. The counties include Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware Mayes, Nowata, Ottawa, and Sequoyah.

Learn to Grow is serving family child care homes, centers, and Head Starts.

The approximate impact is based upon enrollment of the facilities. There were 4,000 children enrolled this year.

The average size of household families in child care is 3.5 which allows for the Learn to Grow to reach approximately 14,000 children and families!

The child care providers had guidelines to follow in order to participate:

Attend trainings and conferences, reporting with pictures, stories and documentation of the children's experiences with gardening.

# Partners and sponsors in the Learn to Grow Gardening Project

Cherokee Nation Cancer Program
Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource and Referral
Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
D.H.S. Child Care Licensing
Cherokee Nation Child Care Licensing
NE District community Action
Grange Community Organization
Native American Association of Adair
Carol Sapp (plants)

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

August 6, 2014

Principal Chief Bill John Baker Cherokee Nation Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for taking the time to promote health and wellness in your community. I am always encouraged to hear about this important work being done all across our country.

As you know, improving the health of our next generation is one of my defining missions as First Lady. That is why we launched the Let's Move! initiative to help ensure all Americans have the basic nutrition they need to learn, grow, and succeed.

By supporting parents, providing healthier foods in schools, helping kids to be more physically active, and making sure all families have access to affordable and healthy food, we can help our children live full and active lives. I truly believe our strength as a country and our ability to responsibly shape our fulture depends colving this challenge, and people like you are vital to our success. We need your ideas, your hands, and your heart to lead us to a brighter, healthier tomorrow.

Again, thank you for all that you are doing, and please remember to stay connected with our efforts and share your success stories at www.LetsMove.gov. I wish you the best.

Sincerely,



Margie Burkhart
Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
Cherokee Nation Public Health
margie-burkhart@cherokee.org
www.cherokeepublichealth.org

918-453-5440