



**HAPPY
20TH
ANNIVERSARY**



**TRIBAL
EPIDEMIOLOGY
CENTERS**



In 1996, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) authorized the establishment of Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TEC) to serve each Indian Health Service (IHS) service area. However, it wasn't until 2006 that IHS provided funding to establish a TEC for each area. It is with great honor that the United South and Eastern Tribes celebrates the TECs' 20 years of service to Indian Country.

In 2010, the reauthorization of the IHCIA designated TECs as public health authorities and authorized TECs access to data held by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The reauthorization also defined the seven core functions of TECs:

1. Collect data
2. Evaluate data and programs
3. Identify health priorities with Tribal Nations
4. Make recommendations for health service needs
5. Make recommendations for improving health care delivery systems
6. Provide epidemiologic technical assistance to Tribal Nations and Tribal organizations
7. Provide disease surveillance to Tribal Nations

In accordance with the seven core functions, the USET TEC plans to continue to monitor and report on the health status of member Tribal Nations in an effort to reduce disease and improve wellness. The USET TEC strives to improve quality of life by evaluating Tribal Nation health data, monitoring health trends, providing technical assistance in data collection, analyzing population health data, and supporting initiatives that promote health. The USET TEC joins in this 20-year celebration and looks forward to many more years serving Indian Country.