

OKLAHOMA CITY URBAN INDIAN HEALTH PROJECT

The pending contract year will be the third year of the program. The first year work was primarily concerned with identifying and defining health needs of the Oklahoma City Indian population. Also, it was concerned with defining technical, social, or other barriers restricting access of Indian people to local health delivery resources. The second year of the program was primarily concerned with further expanding and defining health education needs, researching certain childhood diseases and attempting to identify patient factors involved in the course of the illness. Also, we continued our efforts to improve the access to health delivery for the American Indian population.

Experience to date has shown some improvement of health delivery for the Indian population, but not significant. We have an Indian Clinic which is now open 1/2 day - 5 days a week. Physicians from the Family Medical Clinic are providing professional manpower on Tuesday, Wednesdays, and Fridays, with volunteer help on Monday and Thursday evenings. We have a working relationship with the Shawnee Indian Health Service Clinic for prescriptions, and have a referral relationship with Lawton Public Health Service Indian Hospital for many births. We receive assistance from the Medical Arts Laboratory and Radiology Associates for lab and x-ray work. While we have attempted to ease the problems with admitting Indian patients at local hospitals the problems are still present. We are presently working to establish a billing, accounting and patient record system. Also, we are attempting to establish a third-party reimbursement system to tap programs administered by the State.