

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER FOR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

NAVAJO NATION BAR ASSOCIATION 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

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Water and Tribes Initiative and The Pandemic

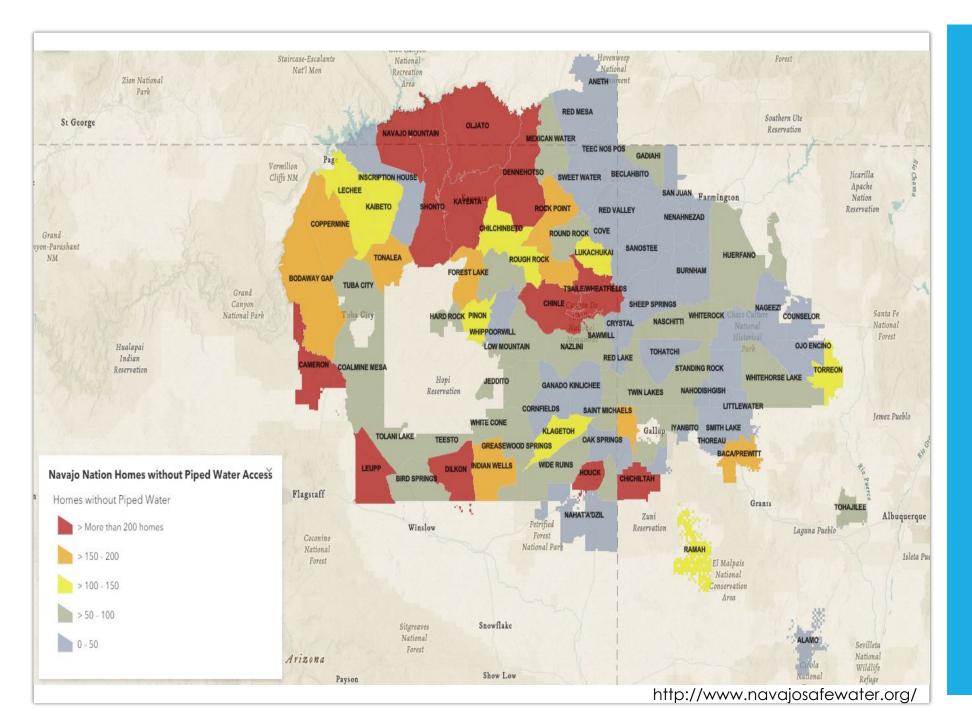
- Al/ANs are at least 3.5 times more likely than white persons to contract COVID-19
- Research shows correlation between COVID-19 incidence and lack of indoor plumbing
- Al/AN households are 19X more likely than white households to lack indoor plumbing
- Race is the strongest predictor of water and sanitation access, with AI/AN more likely than any other group to face water access issues.

www.tribalcleanwater.org



Artist Chad Yellowjohn

- Partners
- Resources
- Legislation
- Proposed Solutions



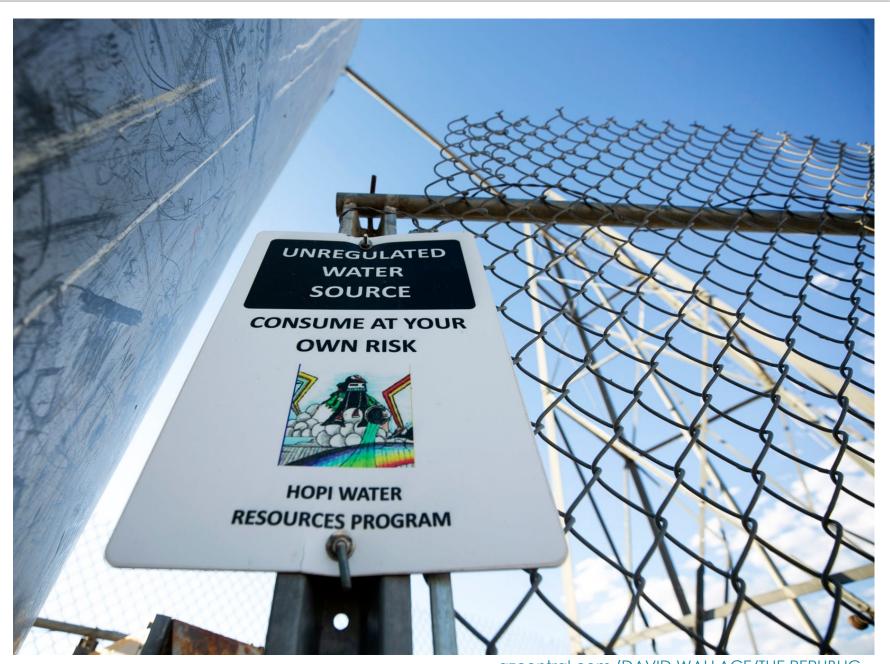
SERVICE:

Native American households are more likely to lack piped water services than any other racial group

Navajo Nation

- Estimated that 30 40% of homes on Navajo Nation lack piped water
- IHS estimates are lower
- Mhys
 - Different definitions of home
 - Must live in home 24/7

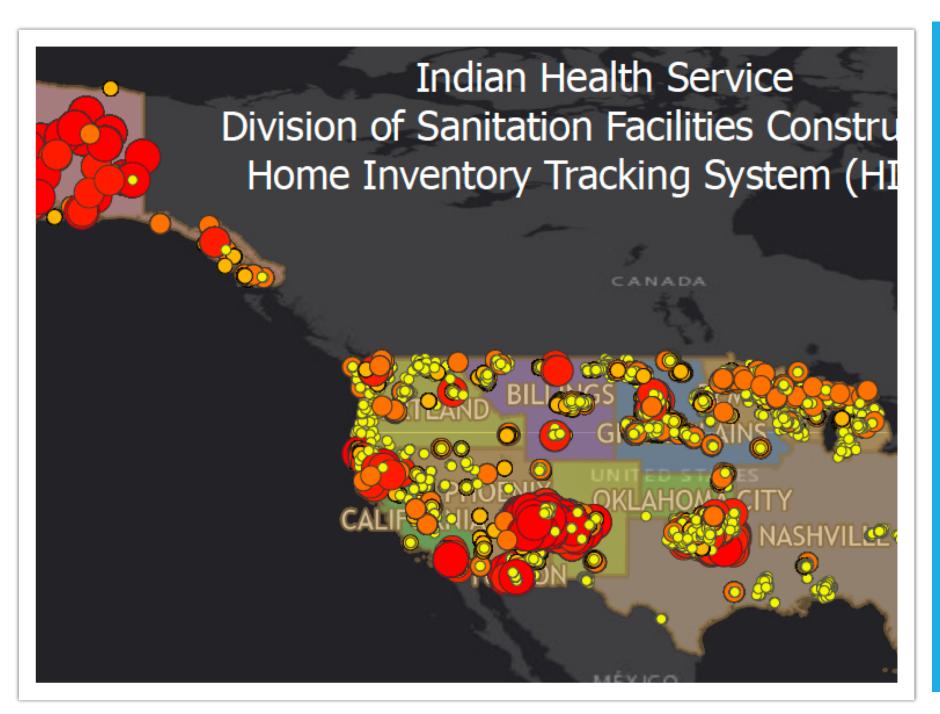




QUALITY:

Inadequate water quality is pervasive in Indian country

azcentral.com (DAVID WALLACE/THE REPUBLIC



INFRASTRUCTURE:

Existing water infrastructure is deteriorating or inadequate.



nawainc.org

O&M:

Operation and maintenance of water systems is a critical component of ensuring longterm water security

Solving the Problem

<u>Directive</u> to correcting this wrong

<u>Funding</u> at the level of unmet need

Whole of government approach





PRIMARY FEDERAL TRIBAL DRINKING WATER PROGRAMS

Indian Health
Services

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Sanitation Facilities
Program Construction
(SFC)

Provides American Indian and Alaska Native homes and communities with essential water supply, sewage disposal, and solid waste disposal facilities.

> 2020 Program Funding: \$193.5 million Project Cap: N/A

U.S. EPA

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Drinking Water Infrastructure Grants Tribal Set Aside (DWIG-TSA)

Funds can be used only for planning and construction expenditures for drinking water systems that facilitate compliance with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations or will further the health protection objectives of the SDWA.

2020 Program Funding: \$22.5 million Project Cap: N/A U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

\$

Native American Technical Assistance Program (TAP)

Activities funded under the NAA TAP must pertain to the management, protection, or development of water and related resources for federally recognized Indian Tribes.

Program Funding: \$2-3 million/year Project Cap: \$200,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture

\$

USDA Section 306C Loan/Grant Program

Provides low-income communities (including Federal tribal lands) that face significant health risks access to safe, reliable drinking water and waste disposal facilities and services through the construction of basic drinking water and waste disposal systems.

2020 Program Funding: \$15 million Project Cap: \$2 million

Introduced: Tribal Access to Clean Water Act of 2021 (S. 2369)

o IHS

- Approx \$3.41 Billion for the Sanitation Facilities Construction Program
- \$150 million for Technical Assistance
- \$500 million for O&M costs

USDA RD

- \$500 million for 306C and D Grants
- Removed Contribution and "No Funding Elsewhere"
 Requirements

Reclamation

 Established a competitive grant program for Indian Tribes to provide for pre-project costs

• EPA

- Increased TSA to \$200 million (\$100 million each under CWA and SDWA)
- \$5 million in Technical Assistance

Funding

Passed: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684) AKA Senate Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan

- IHS \$3.5 Billion for Sanitation Facilities
 Construction Program
- EPA Increases appropriations for SRF (\$2.4 \$3.25 Billion)
- Reclamation \$1 Billion for legacy rural water supply projects

Funding

A coordinated agency approach to enhancing
 Tribal access to clean drinking water

 Capitalize on different agencies' strengths where their missions overlap

- Options to Implement "whole of government"
 - Interagency Task Force/Working Group
 - Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) Goal
 - Interagency MOU
 - Agency Regulations/Policy

Whole of Government