

# Global Health Equity: You, Me, Everyone

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# Acknowledgements and Disclaimers

*Evaluation was made possible (in part) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does the mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.*

*No disclosures to report*

# Case Example: Georgina


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32 year-old woman living in Peru with her son. Treated for tuberculosis four years prior. Despite DOT with strong adherence, persistent culture-positive.

Younger sister diagnosed with multi-drug resistant tuberculosis.

Failed second round of tuberculosis treatment with progressive weight loss.



A photograph showing a woman in a white shirt and dark pants standing next to a young child in a blue shirt and shorts. They are positioned in front of a structure with laundry hanging on a line. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting an outdoor or semi-outdoor setting.

# Case Example: Georgina

When treatment options arrive for drug-resistant tuberculosis, Georgina does not show up for evaluation appointment.







# Social Determinants of Health

Transportation

Food

Water

Shelter

Safety

# Community-based treatment of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB)



Community health workers  
Food assistance  
Directly-observed therapy in homes





Accompaniment



# Accompaniment

To accompany someone is to go somewhere with him or her, to break bread together, **to be present on a journey with a beginning and an end...**

There's an element of mystery, of openness, in accompaniment: **I'll go with you and support you on your journey wherever it leads.** I'll keep you company and share your fate for a while. And by "a while," I don't mean a little while.

Accompaniment is much more often about **sticking with a task until it's deemed completed by the person or people being accompanied**, rather than by the accompagnateur."

Paul Farmer

Co-Founder, Partners In Health





## Community Health Workers

Cornerstone of Accompaniment:

For three decades, Partners In Health has hired and trained more than 16,000 community health workers to help patients overcome obstacles to health care.



**Accompaniment**



## **Community Health Representative Program**

- ❖ Established in 1968
- ❖ Sovereign program, tribally-run
- ❖ 1700+ CHRs across 250 tribes in U.S.

# Case Example: Cornelia

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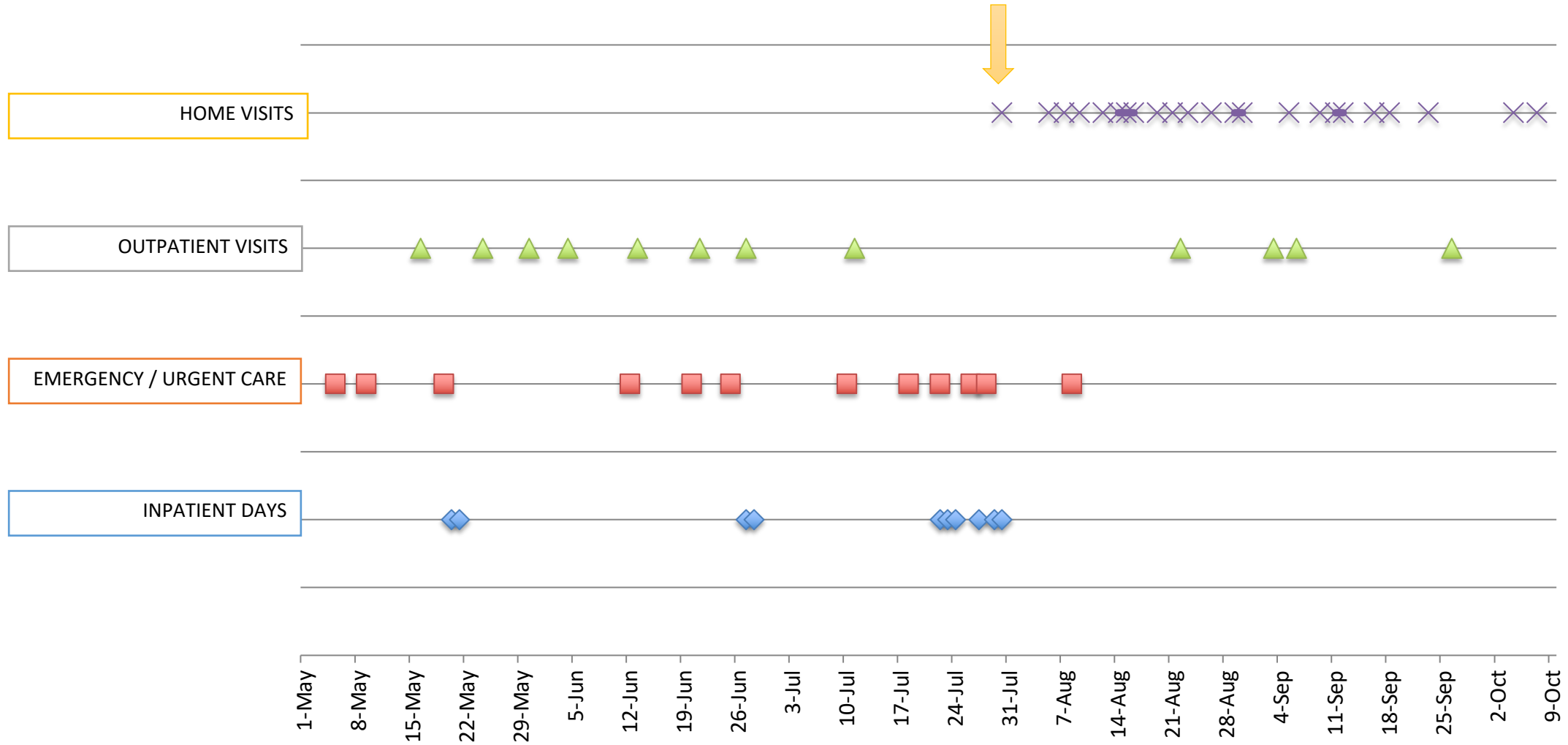
58 year-old woman living with HIV and Type 2 diabetes

- Diabetes not optimally managed, A1c ~ 10
- HIV viral load suppressed, CD4 360
- Multiple visits to Emergency Room each month for chronic pain

HIV health tech begins home visits...



# Case Example: Cornelia



# Health Systems Strengthening

## Addressing barriers to care by...

- Shifting blame away from patient
- Shared accountability
- Healthcare system is responsible for overcoming barriers to care

## Reframing “patient-centered medical homes”

- Community outreach & home visits
- Cultural humility and trauma-informed care
- Medication adherence support
- Transportation
- Food as Medicine

**Equity lens: Preferential support to the most vulnerable**





Strengthening  
health systems  
requires...

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Public Sector  
Accompaniment

"...And by 'a while,' I don't  
mean a little while."



# Health Systems Strengthening: Inter-professional teams





# Tackling Social Determinants of Health

Transportation  
Food  
Water  
Shelter  
Safety

An aerial photograph of a vast, arid landscape. A winding dirt road leads from the bottom left towards the center. In the foreground, there are several small, simple buildings, including a prominent one with a red roof. A small pond is visible on the left side. The terrain is dry and hilly, with sparse vegetation. In the distance, a range of mountains is visible under a clear blue sky.

# Tackling Social Determinants of Health

Transportation  
Food  
Water  
Shelter  
Safety

# Health Systems Strengthening: Tackling social determinants of health

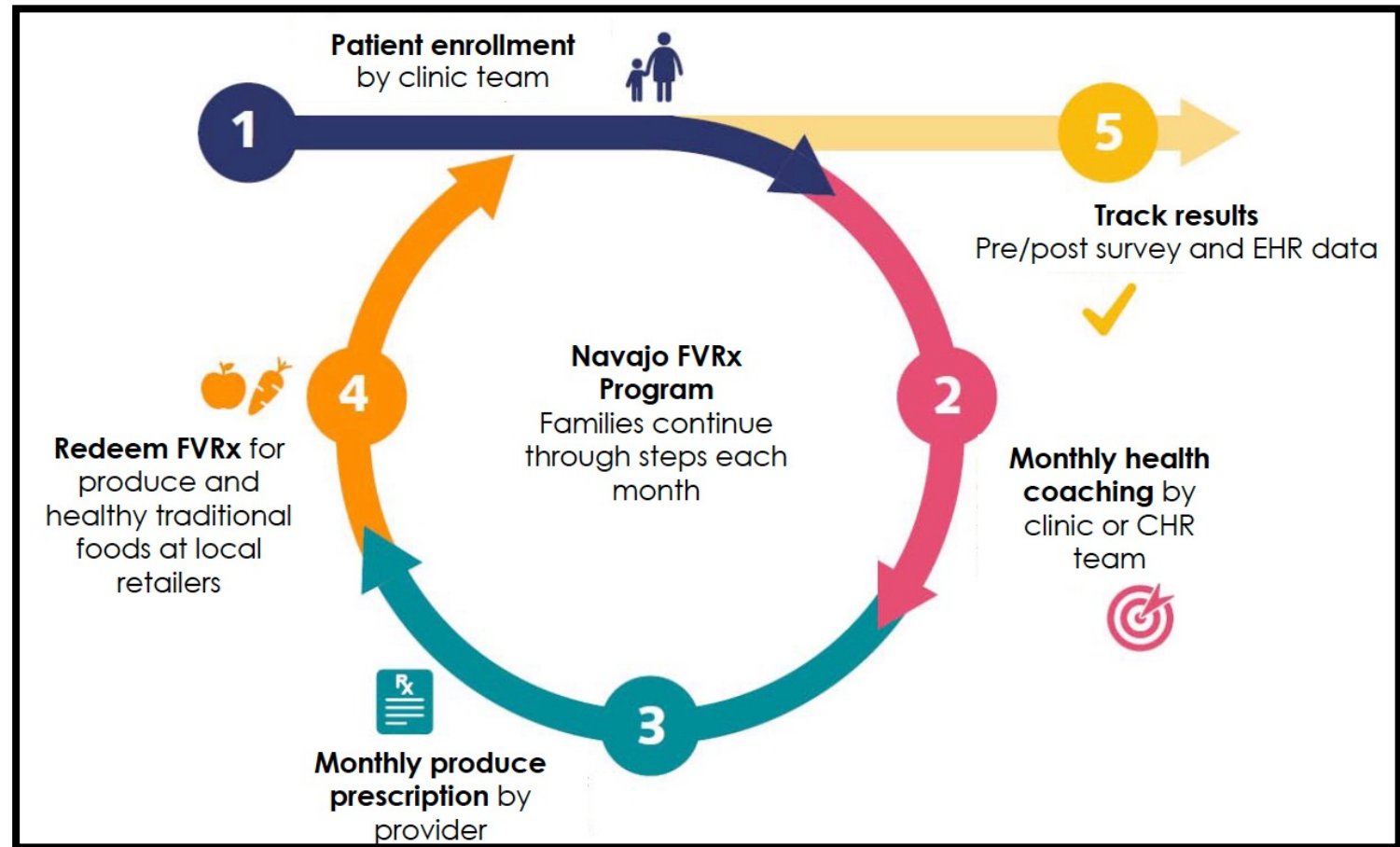
## Navajo Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program

Increased **consumption** of F&V and traditional foods

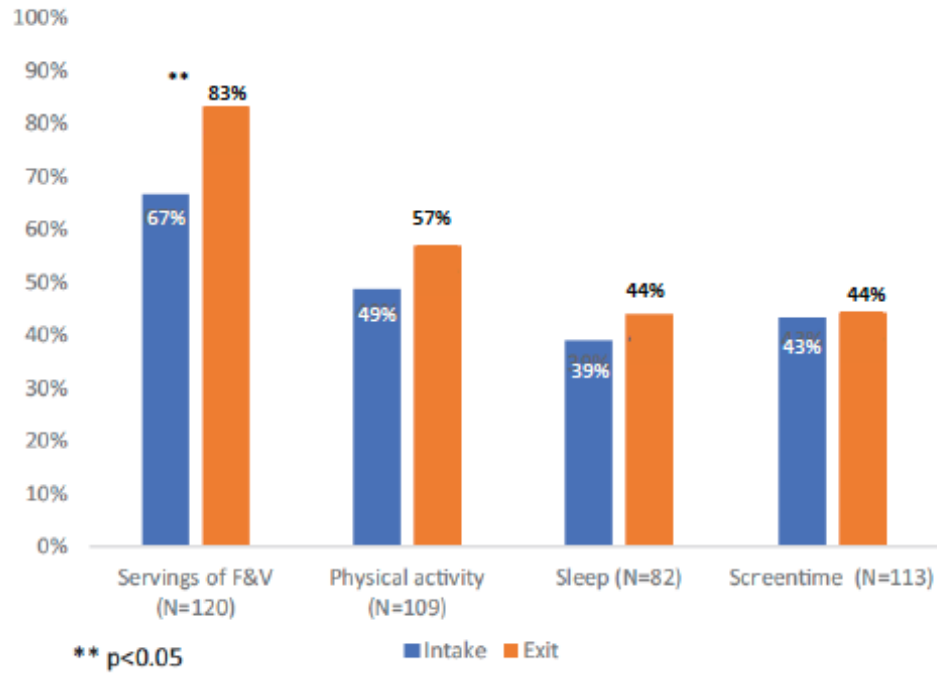
Improved inter-generational **health** outcomes

**Economic stimulation** to food systems on Navajo Nation

**Increased food** to healthy foods for **all** Navajo families

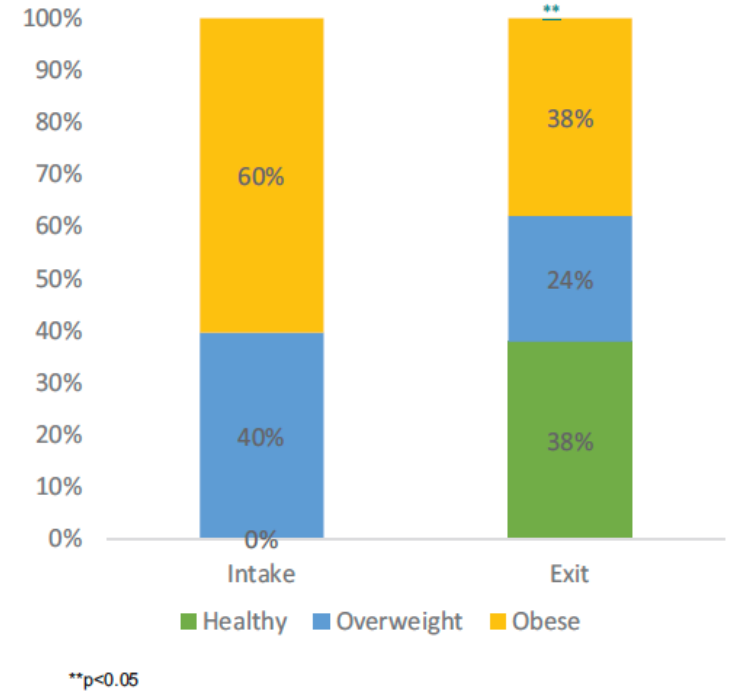


# Health Impact of FVRx among Young Navajo Children



**FIGURE 2** Changes in children meeting AAP recommendations, n = 120. AAP, American Academy of Pediatrics.

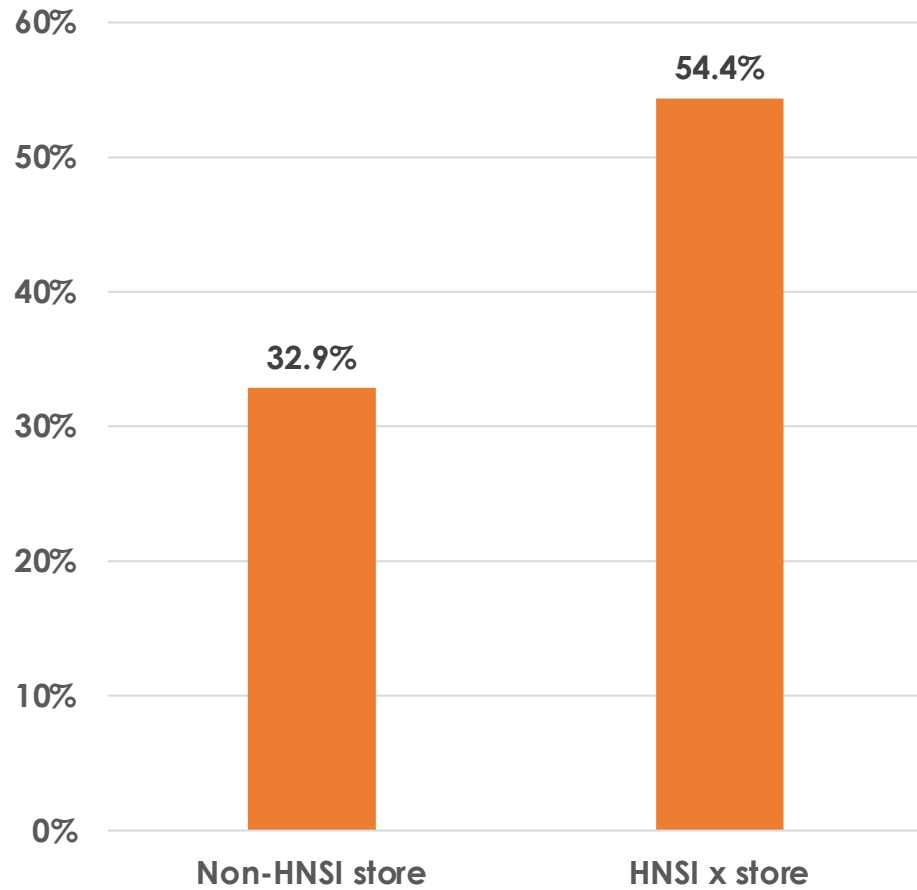
CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NUTRITION



**FIGURE 3** Changes in BMI categories among children classified as overweight or obese at baseline (n = 58).

# Addressing food security at the community level: positive “spill-over effect”

Shopper bought Fruits and/or Vegetables within the past week



HEALTHY NAVAJO STORE INITIATIVE

*"When we put veggies out, they sell. I enjoy being part of this process."*

*- Store Owner*

*"I had to approach [my kids] in a different way. She said, you have to be the role model to show them. When they see you eating it, when they see you buying it, they will take up after you."*

*- Mother*

*"FVRx vouchers motivate our patients to come back for follow-up testing and care after ."*

*- Dietitian*





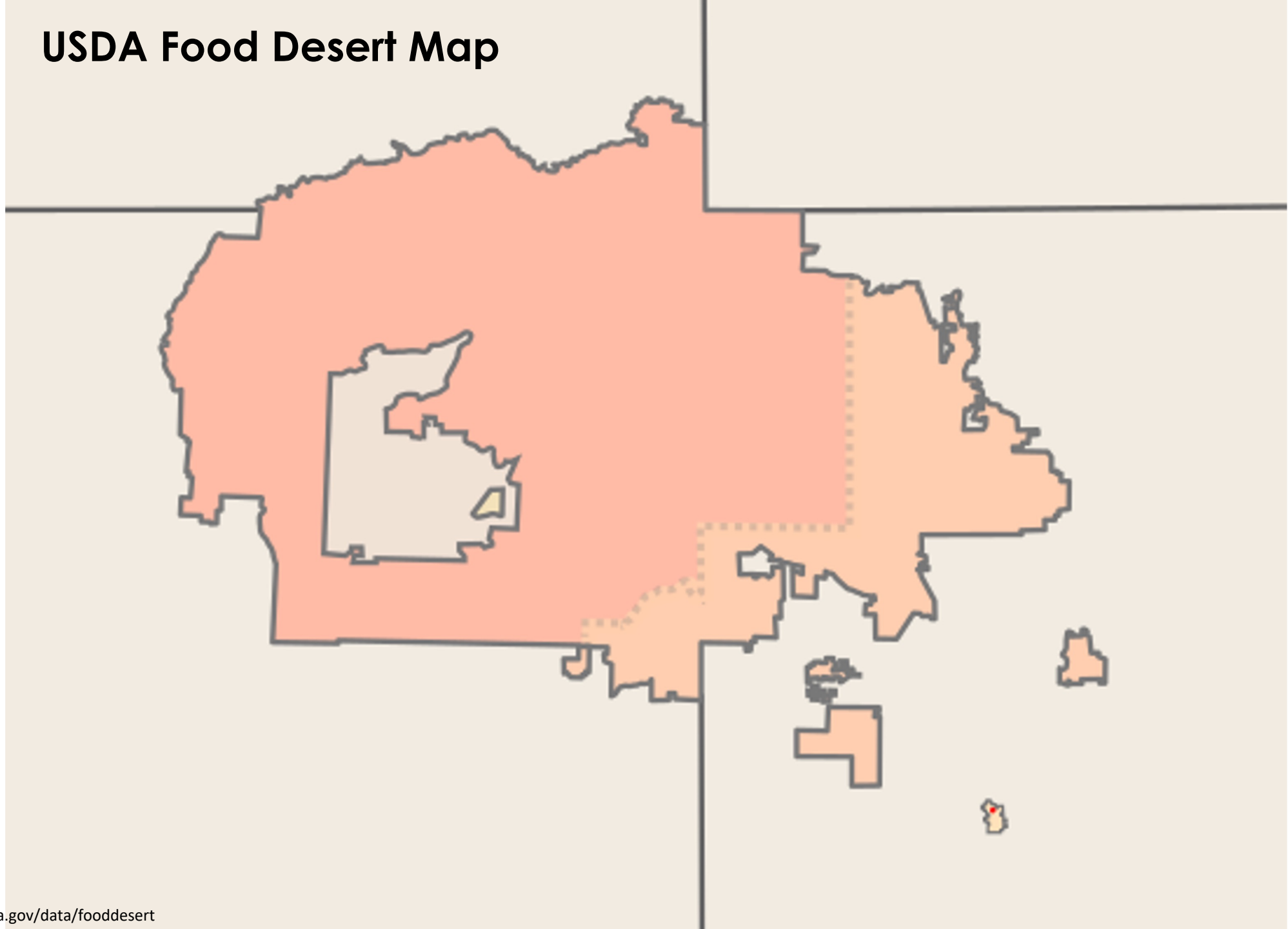
INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

**AWARDS \$2.5 MILLION**

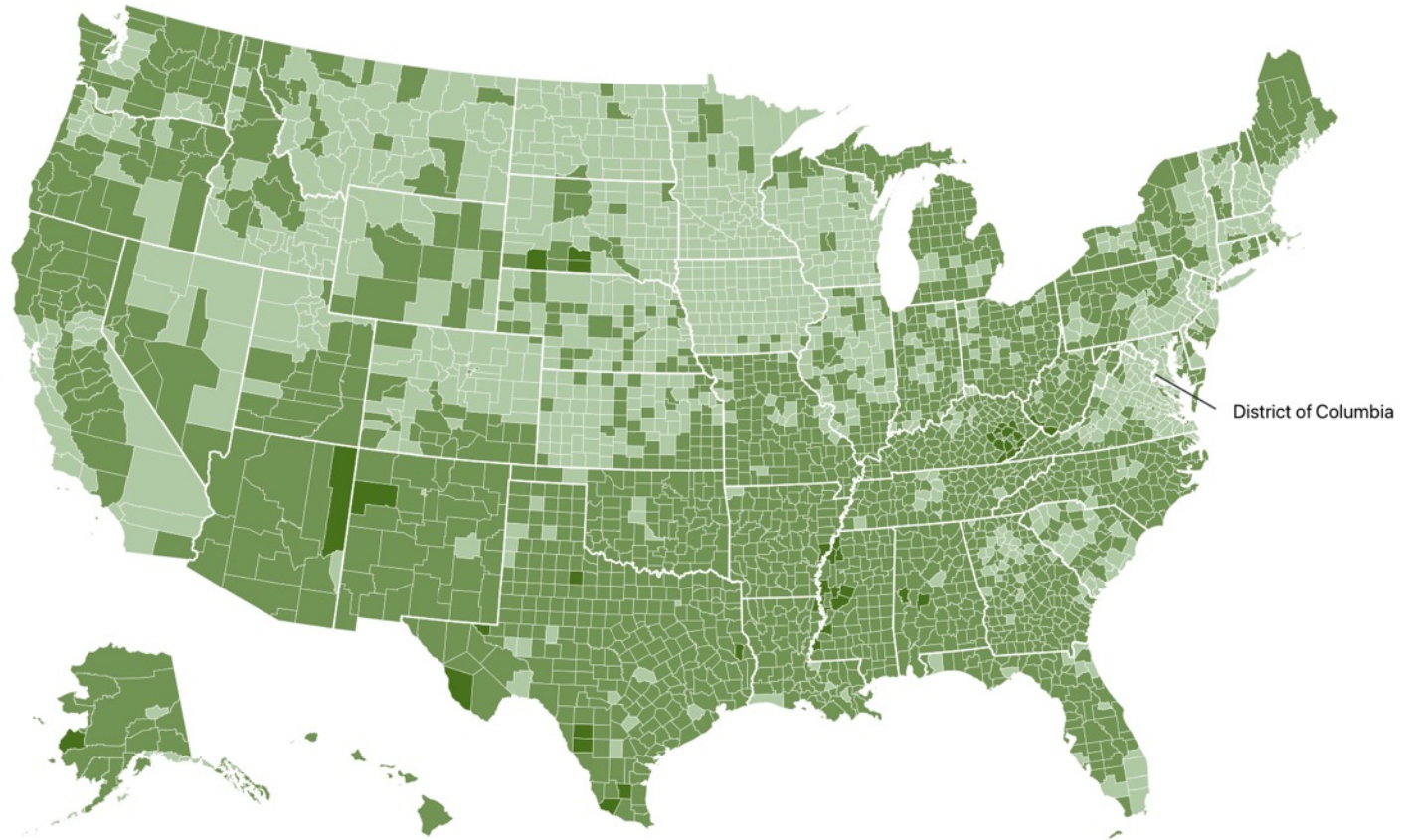
to Reduce Food Insecurity in  
Tribal Communities



# USDA Food Desert Map



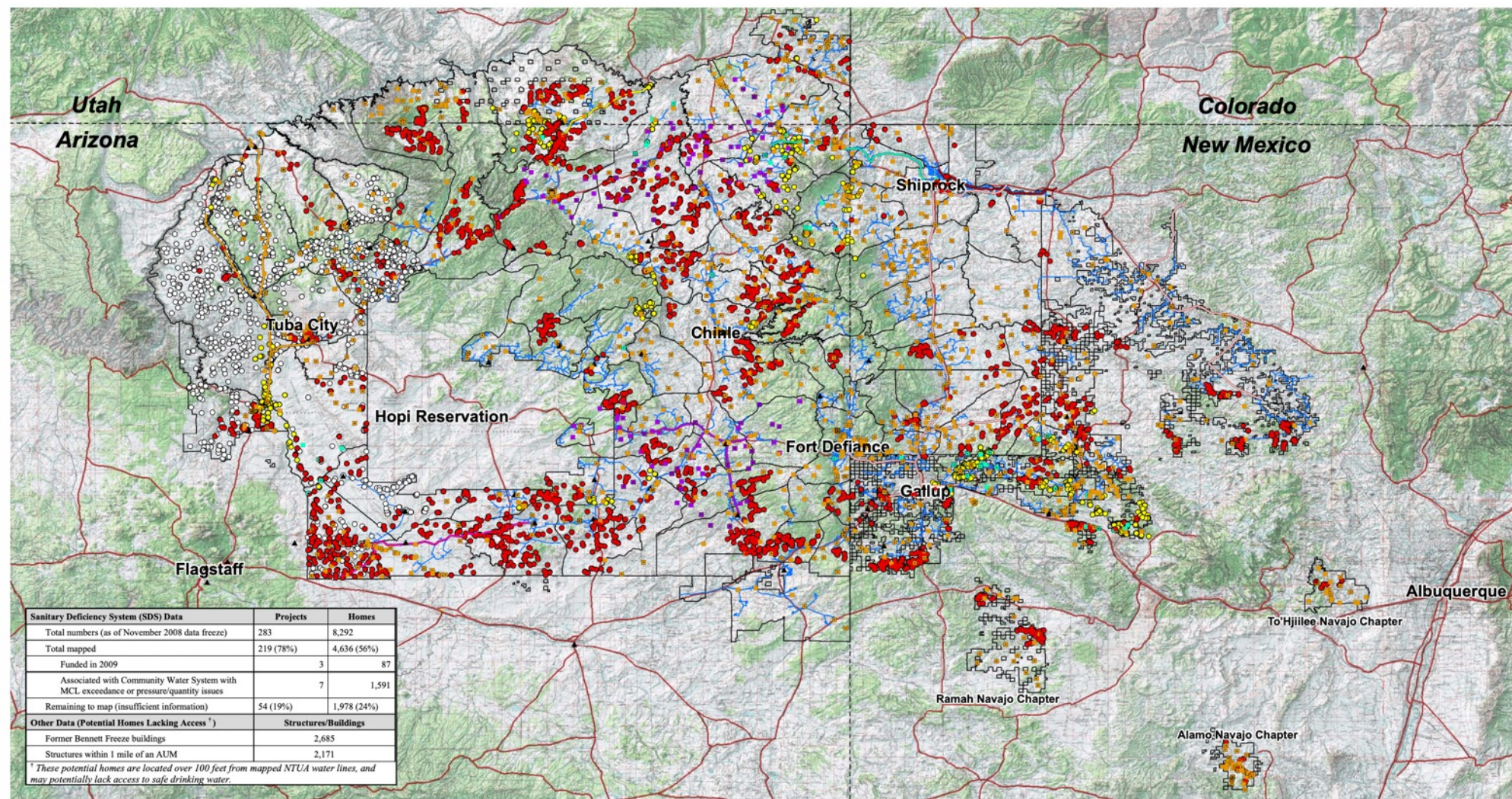
# Food Insecurity Rates



Food Insecurity Rates ⓘ



ⓘ "Overall" refers to all individuals, including children, regardless of race or ethnicity



### Legend

- State Line
- Navajo Chapter
- Major Roadway
- Home without Access to Safe Drinking Water and/or Basic Sanitation \*
- Former Bennett Freeze Home Potentially not Connected to a Public Water System (PWS) \*\*
- Structure within 1 Mile of Abandoned Uranium Mines (potential homes without connection to a PWS) \*\*
- EPA Sampled Well
- CDC Sampled Well
- Regulated Safe Drinking Water Hauling Point
- Unregulated Livestock Watering Point
- Navajo Tribal Utility Authority Existing Pressurized Water Main
- Proposed Western Navajo Pipeline Project
- Proposed Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project
- Proposed Utah Water Supply Project
- Proposed Leupp-Dilcon Water Supply Project
- Proposed Ganado Groundwater Supply Project
- Proposed Farmington-Shiprock Water Supply Project
- Proposed Shiprock to Sweetwater Pipeline Project

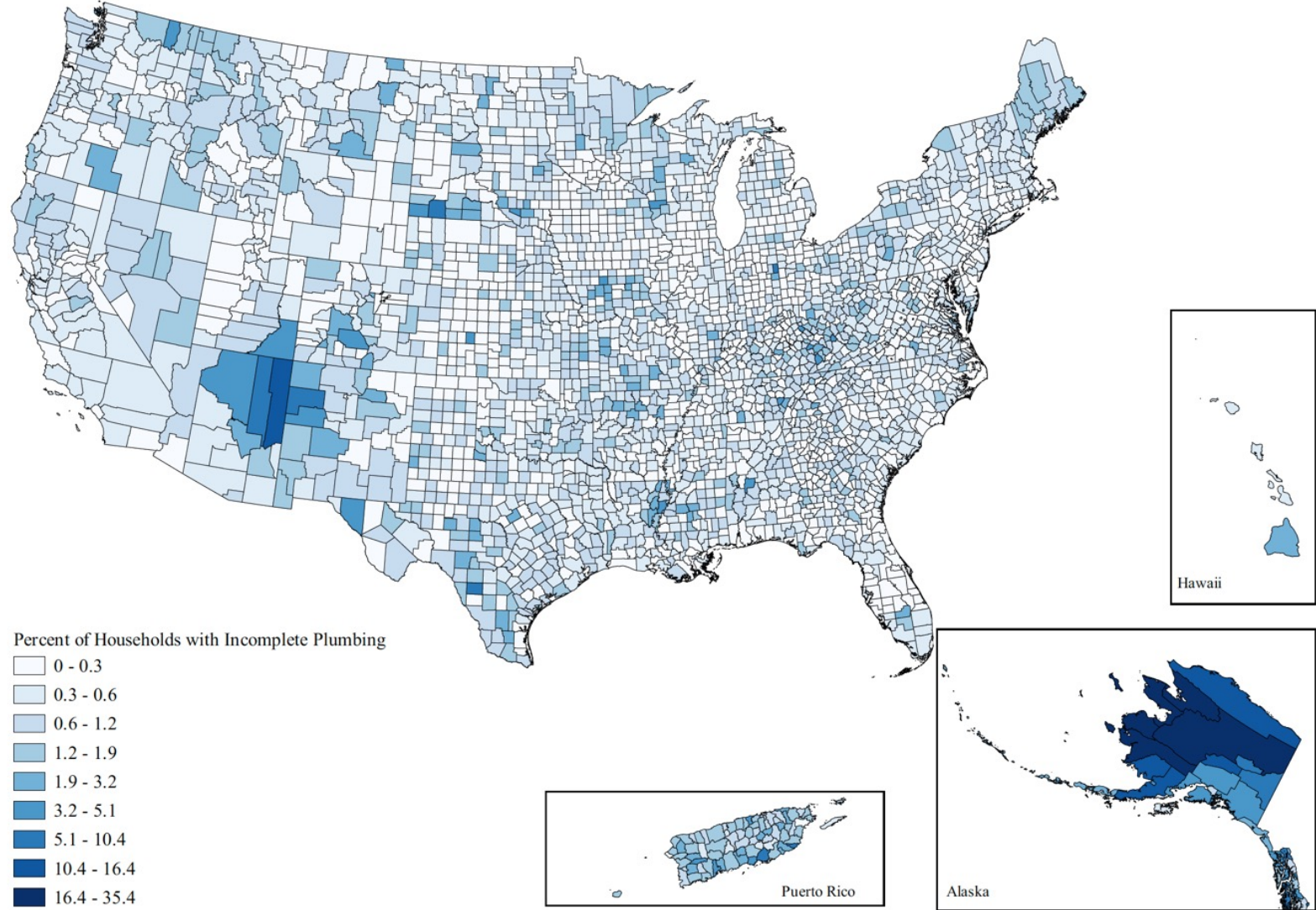
- N
- 10 Miles

*\* This map does not represent all the known homes lacking access to safe drinking water or basic sanitation in the IHS database. These are only those that had sufficient information to be mapped at the time of this study.  
 \*\* Former Bennett Freeze homes, and Structures within 1 mile of Abandoned Uranium Mines were sorted to identify potential homes without access to safe drinking water and/or basic sanitation.*



**Navajo Nation:  
Homes without Access  
to Basic Sanitation Facilities**

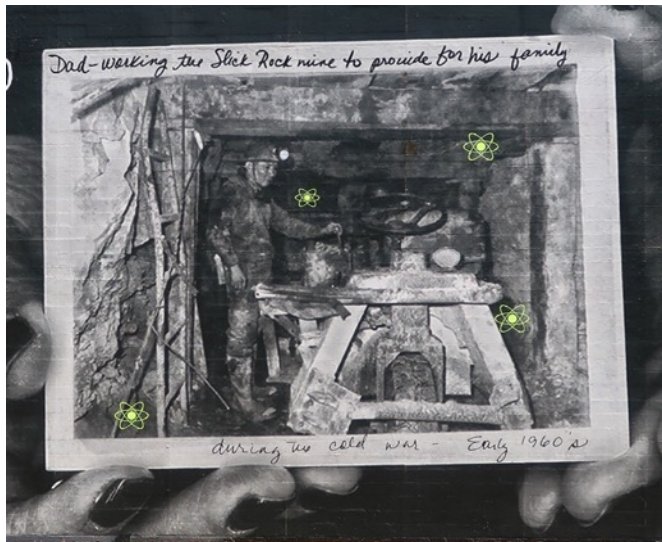
# Percent of county households without full indoor plumbing



**Fig. 1 Map of the percent of county households without full indoor plumbing as reported by the 2014–2018 American Community Survey.** Households are determined to have incomplete plumbing if they do not have access to hot and cold water, a sink with a faucet, a bath or shower, and—up until 2016—a flush toilet.

# Social determinants of health are human constructs

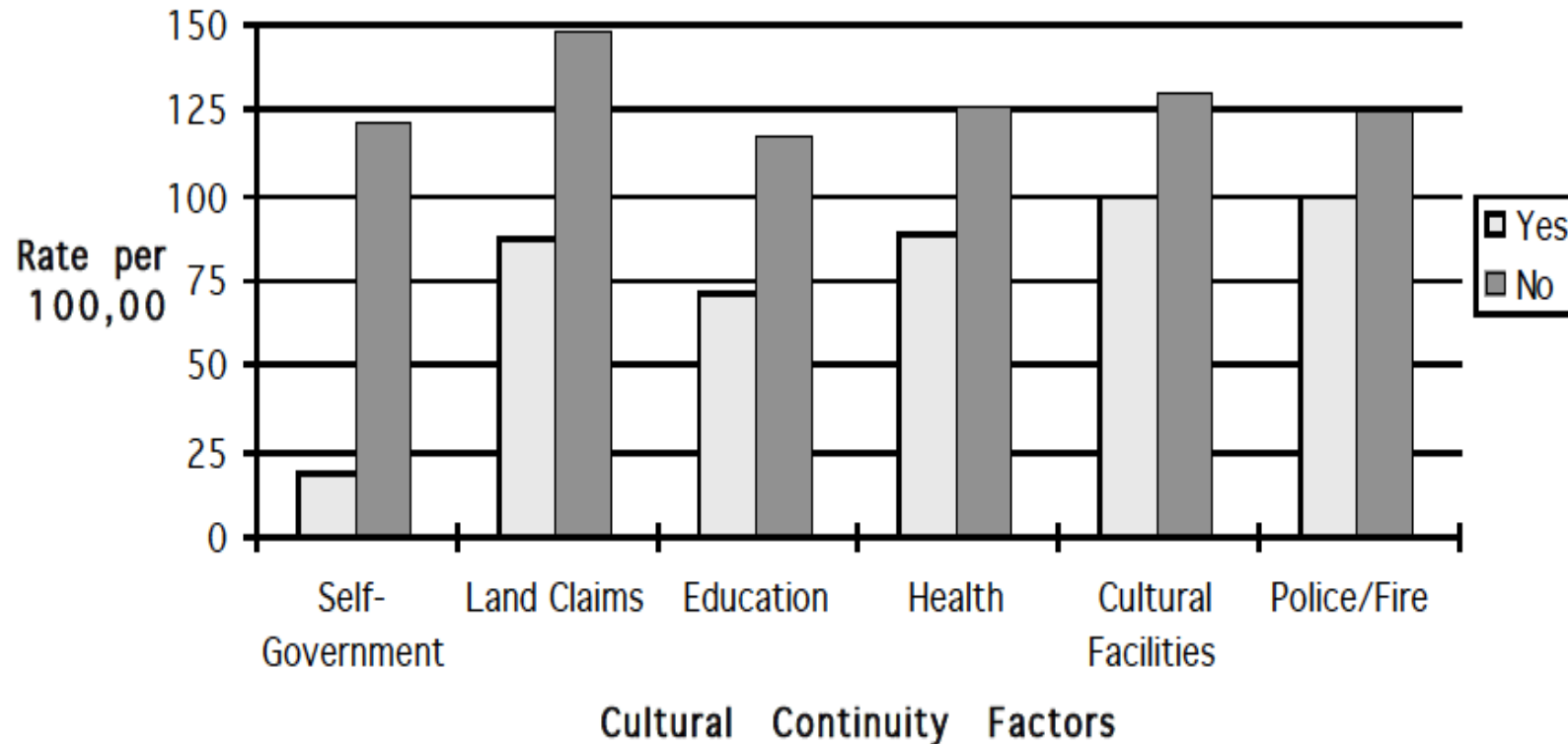
Colonization policies designed to destroy the Diné food system, extract and divert natural resources, and disrupt intergenerational transmission of indigenous knowledge



**Social determinants of health**  
are  
human constructs

Sovereignty  
K'é  
Language  
Culture  
Self-Identity

# Tribal Sovereignty and Cultural Continuity

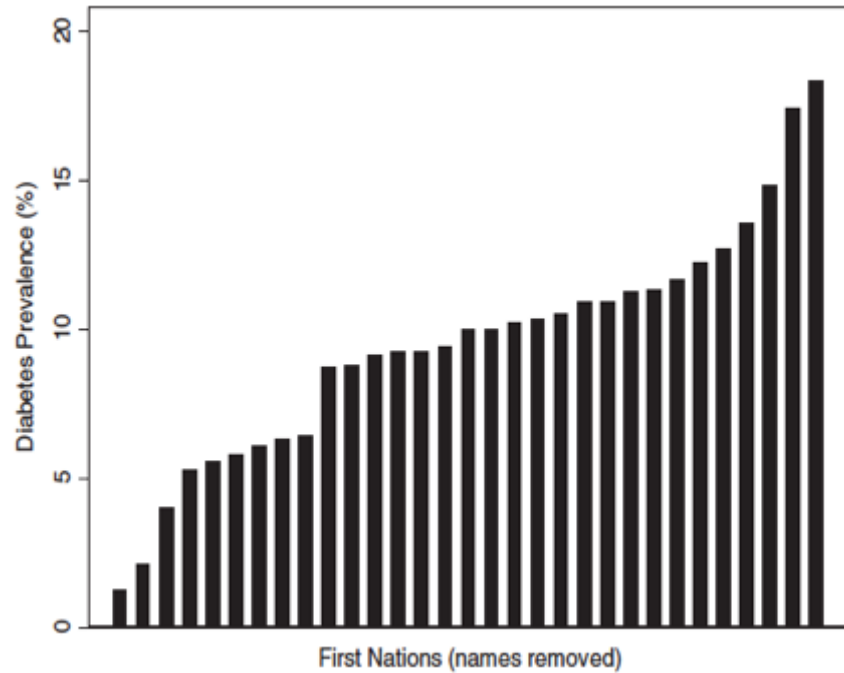


**Figure: Youth Suicide Rate by Cultural Continuity Factors in Alberta First Nations**

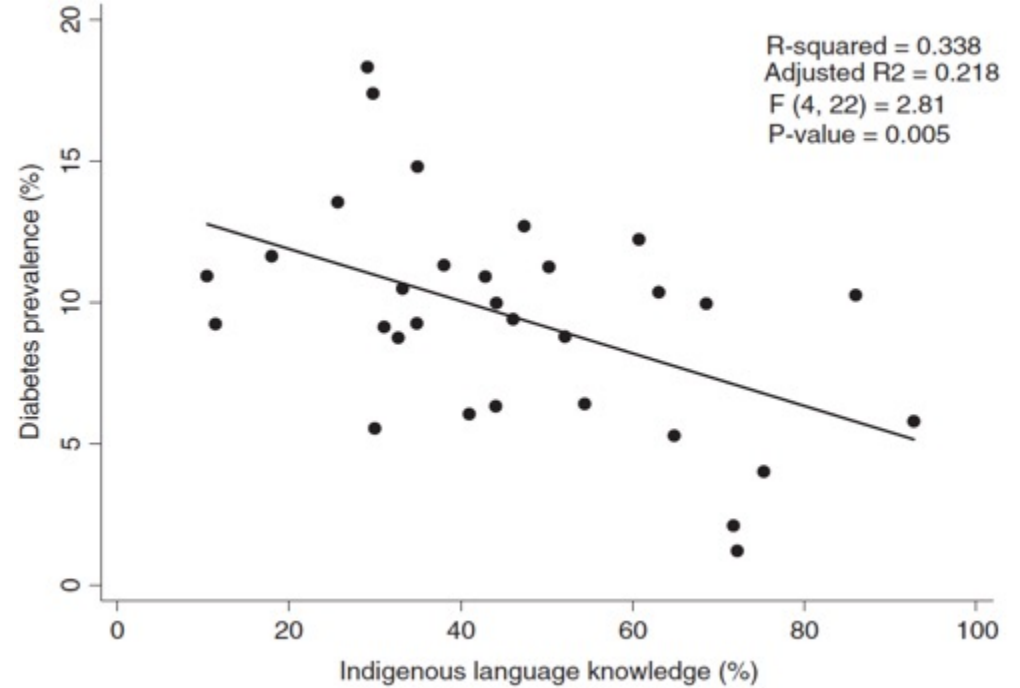
*“Communities that have taken active steps to preserve and rehabilitate their own cultures are also those communities in which youth suicide rates are dramatically lower.”*



# Language and traditions



**Figure 1: Diabetes prevalence by First Nations community in Alberta, 2005**



**Figure 2: Diabetes prevalence by Aboriginal language knowledge, 2005**

# Healthy Diné Nation Act

## IT'S A FACT!

The **Healthy Diné Nation Act** (Junk Food Tax) benefits everyone on Navajo Nation.



## THIS IS A PROUD MOMENT FOR EVERYONE.

We're eating healthier. This is a project where everyone wins! Individuals, communities, all of the Nation. Our Chapters are using those tax monies to build trails, to buy exercise equipment, to help people be active and to live healthier lives. The HDNA Act is now permanently authorized.

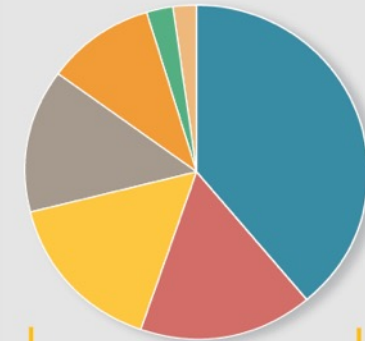
# 2%

If you think two percent is a pretty small number... think again.

Back in 2014, the Nation started putting a 2 percent tax on junk food. What happened next? People gradually started choosing healthy foods and drinks.

### Navajo researchers and other experts

noticed that people are changing their eating habits. They are buying water instead of sugary drinks. Convenience stores are now carrying more fresh fruit and vegetables. Costs are coming down for fresh fruit.



● Built recreational environment	\$1,807,461   245 projects
● Equipment and supplies	\$767,810   178 projects
● Instruction and education	\$731,162   333 projects
● Food, water, and cleanup	\$651,425   225 projects
● Social setting	\$475,790   225 projects
● Emergency preparedness	\$115,420   81 projects
● Other	\$92,870   28 projects

# \$4,641,938!

## Where does the Junk Food Tax (HDNA) money go?

**It goes back to the communities.**

Over 4.6 million dollars went back to Chapters, allocated for health-related projects. Tax money will continue to come to the communities now that the Act is permanently authorized.

### The money can be used for:

- Exercise equipment
- Traditional food classes
- Building trails
- Clean water
- Taking health classes
- Creating playgrounds
- Vegetable gardens
- Waste management
- Recycling
- Cultural activities
- Arts and crafts
- Language classes



# 2010 Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement Act on the San Juan River Basin

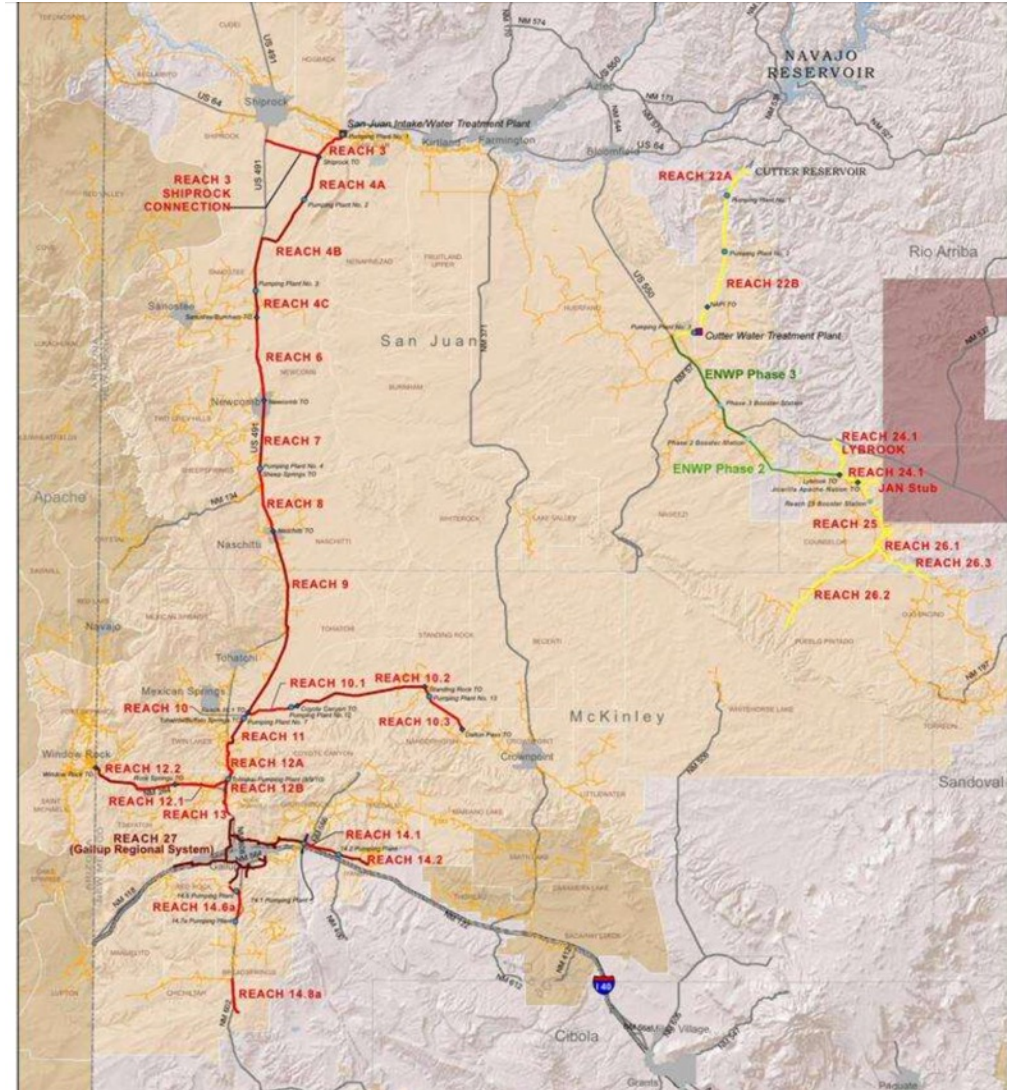


The Cutter Lateral Water Treatment Plant was completed in 2020. It delivers clean water to 1,500 households in eight Navajo communities in New Mexico. Photo courtesy of U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

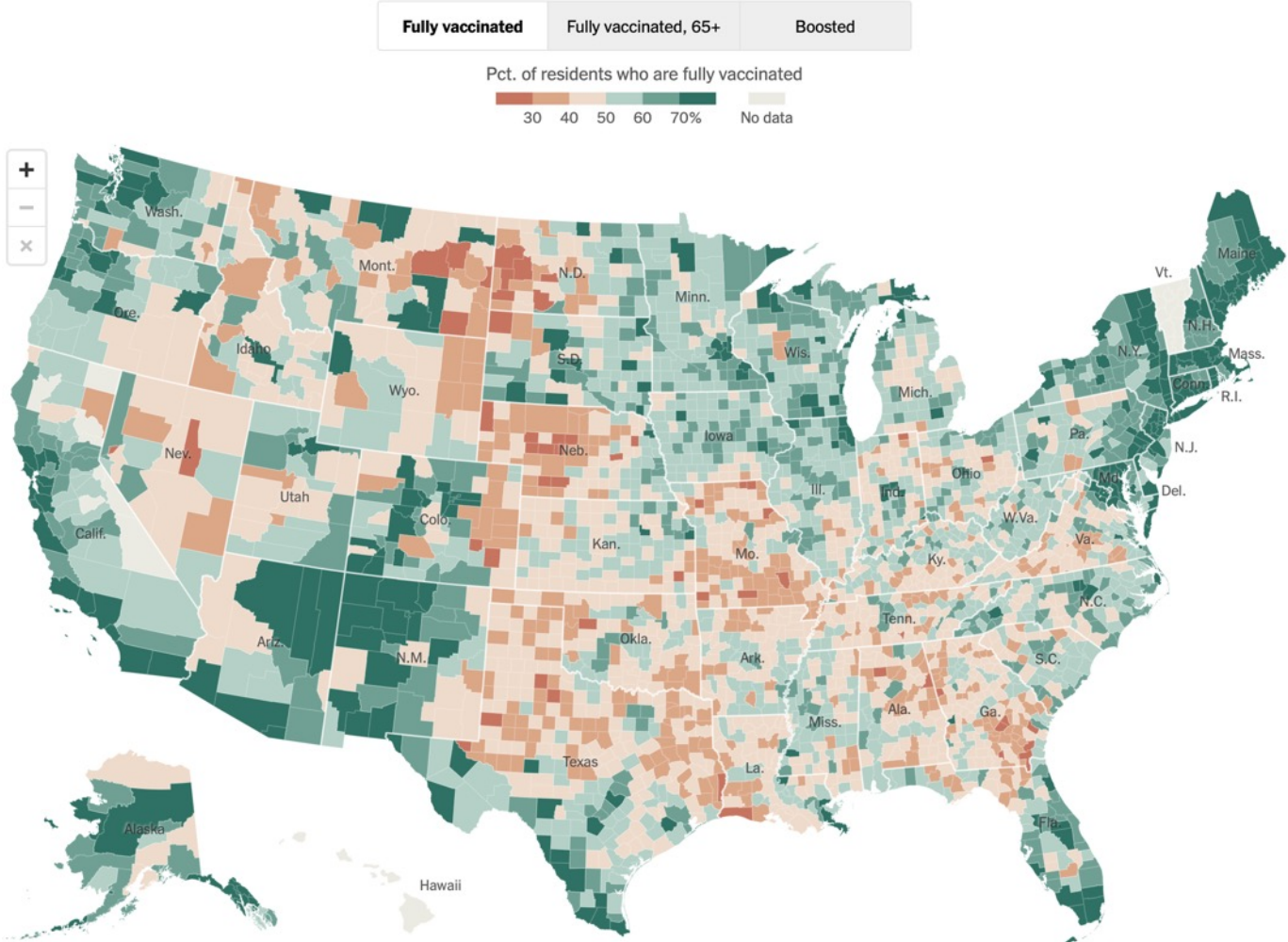
## Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project projected to serve thousands of people

Thursday, January 27, 2022

By Emma VandenEinde



# Percent of residents fully vaccinated against COVID-19



Sources: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#); [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#); U.S. Census Bureau | Note: No C.D.C. data available for some counties. Vermont was excluded because more than a quarter of data is missing. On Dec. 9, 2021, the C.D.C. capped its vaccination rate figures at 95 percent.

Community  
Wisdom



# Global Health Equity ...



# We accompany each other

“It’s not work driven by anxiety, or guilt or fear. It’s really work to save others and accompany others in difficult circumstances. This kind of work is impelled by real conviction that it’s the right thing to do. But it’s a joyful thing to do as well.”

Paul Farmer



*Ahéhee'*  
*Gracias*  
*Thank you*

COPE Program

Gallup Indian Medical Center

CDC REACH

Partners In Health

Brigham & Women's Hospital

Navajo Department of Health

Navajo Area Indian Health Services

Navajo Nation CHR Outreach Program

The patients who teach us every day

Chip Thomas

And so many others

