



AUG 26 2016

Indian Health Service
Rockville MD 20857

Dr. Marilyn Malerba
Chairwoman
Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee
c/o Self-Governance Communication and Education
P.O. Box 1734
McAlester, OK 74501

Dear Chairwoman Malerba:

I am responding to your March 29 letter on behalf of the IHS Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee (TSGAC), which requests access to the following Agency data sets: 1) health insurance status of active Users by Service Unit (all Service Units); and 2) IHS appropriation by Service Unit (all Service Units). The update that follows is provided by the IHS Office of Public Health Support (OPHS).

The enclosed report, "User Population Insurance Eligibility - Summary by Service Unit, Area, and All," presents summary reports for fiscal year (FY) 2015 by IHS Area and provides data for Service Units with populations of 20,000 or more. The data provided covers the period from October 1, 2014, through September 30, 2015.

The above report provides data in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), as amended. Due to the HIPAA privacy restrictions on the release of data for research and the absence of an available encryption framework that allows us to de-identify Service Unit names or code sets with geographic- and population-specific data, the IHS is unable to release Service Unit-level data for Service Units with populations under 20,000. I discussed your concerns with CAPT Francis Frazier, Acting Director, OPHS. If your research requires this information, or you have additional questions or concerns, please directly contact him by telephone at (301) 443-0222 or via e-mail at Francis.Frazier@ihs.gov.

With regard to your second request for data on IHS appropriations by Service Unit, we will be providing this information separately once our work is complete.

The IHS fully supports the *Joint Initiative of the Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee* and the TSGAC's activities to ensure that Tribal Leaders have the information they need to make informed decisions as to whether or not to participate in Tribal Premium Sponsorship.

Sincerely yours,

RADM Sarah Linde, M.D.
Acting Chief Medical Officer

Enclosure