

TURTLE MOUNTAIN HOME VISITING

Prepared by Turtle Mountain Home Visiting Staff
Presented by Amy Gourneau, Home Visiting Director

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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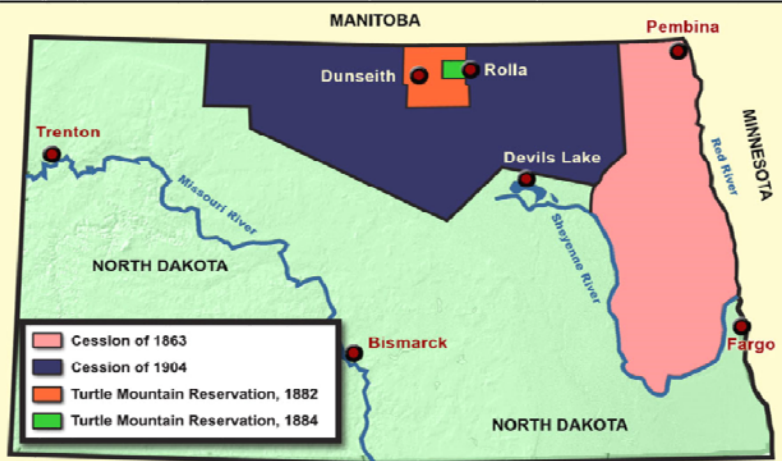
The Turtle Mountain Home Visiting Program partners with:

- ❖ Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota (PCAND)
- ❖ The North Dakota State University (NDSU) Department of Public Health
- ❖ McDaniel and Associates Consulting, LLC



TURTLE MOUNTAIN LANDS

CHIPPEWA LAND CESSIONS IN NORTH DAKOTA



- ❖ Ten miles south of the Canadian border, the Turtle Mountain Reservation is but a mere shadow of the original **11,000,000 acres** of tribal lands secured after the migration from the Great Lakes
- ❖ Turtle Mountain's current land base is only **6 x 12 miles**

TURTLE MOUNTAIN CLIMATE



- ❖ Weather extremes are the norm... heat in summer and bitter Arctic cold in winter
- ❖ Estimated that up to **50%** of a family's monthly budget goes toward heating/utilities in the winter

TURTLE MOUNTAIN CULTURE



- ❖ The **Chippewa** proudly refer to themselves as **Anishinaabe** meaning "**THE ORIGINAL PEOPLE**." The people practiced the Midewiwin religion, believing that Mother Earth is a living thing, and that all plants and animals are part of the Divine Creator.
- ❖ The practice of the Midewiwin instilled values to the individual and the Tribe. Such characteristics as **sharing, honor, and learning** throughout one's life were attributes of proper conduct for adult and child alike.
- ❖ Given the early French influence, intermarriages took place, thus, many family names are French: **Azure, LaFromboise, Desjarlais, and Parisien**, etc. are common among tribal enrolled members and or descendants.

TURTLE MOUNTAIN HOUSING



- ❖ Sufficient and **healthy housing is a challenge**
- ❖ Not uncommon to hear of **several families living together, black mold**, etc.
- ❖ **Lack** of housing



TURTLE MOUNTAIN **ECONOMY**

Nearly **70%** unemployment

Economic opportunities are limited with the main employers being the BIA/Tribe, schools, health care, and casino operations.

Challenges

- ❖ Geographically Isolated
- ❖ Disadvantaged in creating "drive through" economic development due to **lack of interstate highway access**;
- ❖ Disadvantaged from limitations due to **lack of breadth in their natural resource base**, e.g., small reservation, limited natural resource base;
- ❖ Disadvantaged from participating in the virtual internet economy due to **lack of access to high speed, reliable internet service**;

TURTLE MOUNTAIN **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

- ❖ Programs include: **Indian Health Services, Head Start, Healthy Start**, and the **Schools**.
- ❖ There are **not many services** for families with babies or young children (**age birth to five**).



TURTLE MOUNTAIN MIECHV



❖ The Home Visiting Program, which is a partnership with the State MIECHV, provides services for families with children from birth to age three.

❖ Serves approximately **100 families** per year

2013

12 Families Participated

42 Home Visits Made

2014

68 Families Participated

838 Home Visits Made

2015

222 Families Participated

1,741 Home Visits Made

2016

271 Families Participated

2,562 Home Visits Made

2017

228 Families Participated

2,932 Home Visits Made

TURTLE MOUNTAIN CNRA

The Community Needs Readiness Assessment Revealed:

Having an evidence-based home visiting program is a critical foundation to improving the lives of children and families in this highly at-risk community.

TURTLE MOUNTAIN DATA COLLECTION

Primary Data

- ❖ Primary data collected included the MIECHV Client and Elders **Focus Groups, Partner Interviews**, and the **Community Survey** along with discussion with existing MIECHV staff.

Partner Interviews (27 conducted)

- ❖ **92%** were American Indian, enrolled citizens of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians.
- ❖ Of the organizations represented **24%** were school or educational providers, **36%** were city/county/tribal government programs, and **40%** were community organizations.

Community Survey (197 respondents)

- ❖ **97%** were American Indian – Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indian Enrolled Citizens, **2%** were American Indian other than Turtle Mountain, and the remaining **1%** was divided between Africa American, Hispanic, and Caucasian.
- ❖ Majority were parents/grandparents. All ages. **61%** female. **39%** male.
- ❖ **28%** had high school degree as highest level of school completed.
- ❖ **56%** indicated their average household income was **\$0 to \$24,999**

TURTLE MOUNTAIN DATA COLLECTION: ELDER FOCUS GROUP

Focus Group Participants

- ❖ All age **60 and older**
- ❖ All born at Turtle Mountain or had family from Turtle Mountain
- ❖ Combined they had over 10 children and had "lost count" of the numbers of "lots and lots" of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Participant Reflections

- ❖ "Nowadays, mothers are **really young** (teens)."
- ❖ "Young parents today only do this (made motion of texting on phone with thumbs). They text. They are not teaching kids how to talk. **Not bonding** with them. I have a niece who would be breastfeeding and still be on that phone."
- ❖ "We can't get them off '**the system**' unless there are jobs."
- ❖ "**Transportation** is also a big need, my granddaughter could go to college but she doesn't have a car or way to get there."
- ❖ "They need **life skills, education, and jobs.**"

TURTLE MOUNTAIN DATA COLLECTION: ELDER FOCUS GROUP

Thoughts on the **biggest challenges** for young families now:

- ❖ Not having enough **money** for daily necessities
- ❖ **Education**
- ❖ **Drug Abuse**

Thoughts on potential solutions to those problems:

- ❖ Kids need something to do that is **positive**
- ❖ **Respect** of parents and grandparents

And, finally, tears were shed as the ladies wrapped up their thoughts:

- ❖ "These kids don't have a chance. They don't have enough money to survive, they need jobs."
- ❖ "Council don't have enough money to **help young families** grow up right."

TURTLE MOUNTAIN DATA COLLECTION: MIECHV CLIENT FOCUS GROUP

Focus Group Participants

- ❖ **Four mothers** with children ages three months up to 2.5 years

Participant Reflections

- ❖ "I like the **one-on-one**; I can ask my questions in private and get **good information**."
- ❖ "Group meetings give us a lot of information, too."
- ❖ "The handouts are good, as are the **developmental tips**, pictures, and books."
- ❖ "I went to all my check ups and meetings to get my points. The points add up so you can "buy" things that really help!"
- ❖ "The points **rewards** really help. I work to pay for day care and that doesn't leave money for much else."
- ❖ "The HV program helped me see I need to get **tradition** in my kids' lives. Now I can tell them the stories I've learned through the program. We usually just go to the **Powwows**, but now I am learning how to make **regalia** so they can participate too."

TURTLE MOUNTAIN DATA COLLECTION: MIECHV CLIENT FOCUS GROUP

Favorite Things About the Program

- ❖ "PAT, it really is useful."
- ❖ "Knowing about the **developmental milestones** and learning how to see if my child is at the right place or what we need to work on, makes me feel like a **better mom.**"
- ❖ "The **Educators** aren't just workers, they become your counselor and your friend. They help you get things like a protection order."
- ❖ "The Educator has always been there for me."

Suggestions for Improvement

- ❖ "The program is great! It helped me save a lot of money."
- ❖ "Don't change anything, except extend it until the kids are age five!"
- ❖ "It needs to **serve** families from **pre-birth to age five.**"

TURTLE MOUNTAIN RESERVATION

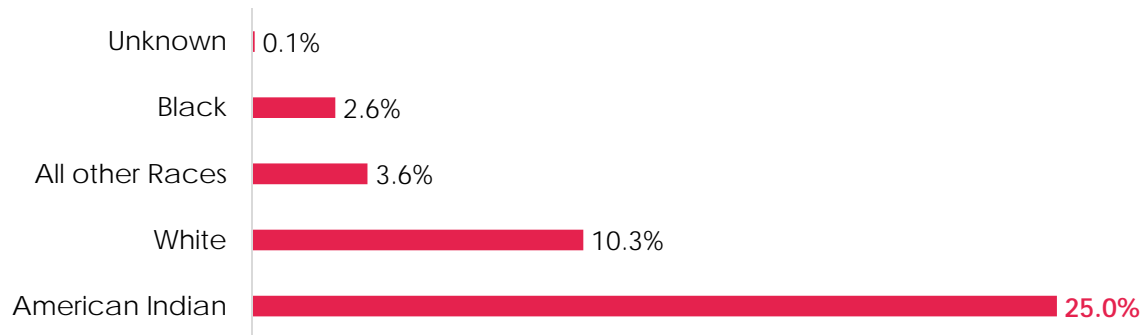


- ❖ Rolette County population **14,616**. Fully **86.2%** of Rolette County is identified as **American Indian**.
- ❖ The Reservation is located on a 6 by 12 mile land base and is considered one of the most densely populated reservations in the US. The Tribe's enrollment is **33,830** members, of which **16,500** live on or adjacent to the Turtle Mountain Reservation.
- ❖ Tribal data reveals that **48%** of the Reservation population is **under** the age of **21** years.
- ❖ Turtle Mountain Tribe is the fastest growing population segment in North Dakota. For the past two decades, the Tribe has been growing at a **20%** rate while the national average has been **13%**. The US Census Bureau projects North Dakota as the state with the second fastest growth in Native Americans by 2025.

TURTLE MOUNTAIN DATA

❖ According to the North Dakota Title V Maternal Child Health Five-Year Assessment (2011-2015), American Indians had more than **two-and-a-half-times higher rate** of not receiving prenatal care than all other races.

Total Births in North Dakota, Percentage of Infants Born to Pregnant Women Receiving Inadequate Prenatal Care by Race, 2008.



TURTLE MOUNTAIN PREGNANCY DATA

❖ Tribal data reveals that **48%** of the Reservation population is **under** the age of **21** years.

	Turtle Mountain (2015)	North Dakota (2015)
Births to Teens Ages 12 to 19	12.9%	5.0%

State MIECHV Program Data on Births			
	Number of Births	Preterm Births	Low Birth Weight
2013	11	1	1
2014	33	1	3
2015	53	0	4
2016	48	1	1
Totals	145	3	9

TURTLE MOUNTAIN ABUSE AND NEGLECT DATA

❖ "Law Enforcement officers report that children and youth are showing up on their doorsteps asking to please take them as they don't want to live with their parents anymore because they are on drugs." (Director of Indian Child Welfare)

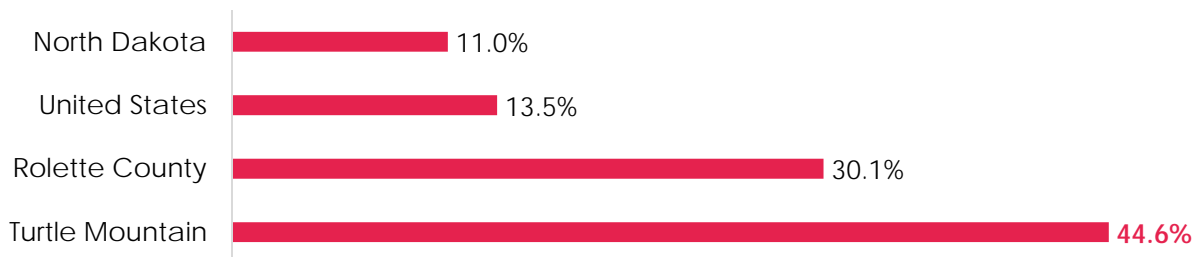
TM Total Reports (2015)	Substance Abuse	Child Abuse/ Neglect	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse
848	111	518	37	43

TURTLE MOUNTAIN EXTREME POVERTY DATA

❖ Turtle Mountain (**44.6%**) poverty is far higher than other tribes, e.g., Navajo (**38%**), Fort Peck, Montana (**35%**), and Choctaw (**32%**) mainly because those tribes have economic advantages that Turtle Mountain does not.

❖ Turtle Mountain has **over three times the national poverty rate** (based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 estimates)

❖ **21%** of Turtle Mountain families and **18%** in Rolette County live on less than \$10,000 as compared to **16%** at Pine Ridge and **17%** at Navajo



TURTLE MOUNTAIN EXTREME POVERTY DATA

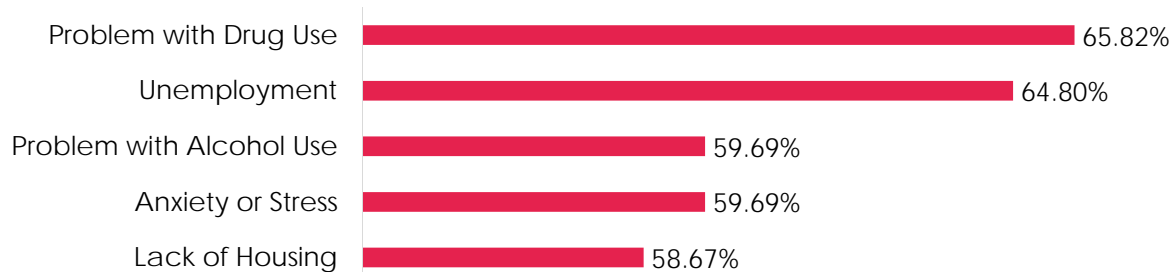
- ❖ **Over half** of Turtle Mountain children **live in poverty**.
- ❖ **27%** of the entire State's Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) caseload is in Rolette County. **41%** of residents age 0 to 19 years at Turtle Mountain are on TANF, as compared to only **3.3%** for the State of North Dakota. (Rolette County Social Services)
- ❖ An incredible **92%** of families with a female householder with children under age 5 live below the poverty level at Turtle Mountain.

Living Arrangements and Poverty	TM/Rolette	North Dakota	United States
Children in single parent households (0-17 yrs.)	53%	23.3%	35%
Children age 0-17 Living with Grandparents	14.1%	4.1%	NA
Children 0-4 living in Poverty (Note: US is 0-5)	55.4%	18.8%	24%
Children in Extreme Poverty (2014)	32.4%	7.1%	10%

TURTLE MOUNTAIN OTHER CHALLENGES

- ❖ Tribal officer, Indian Health Services and child welfare reported **960 females tested positive** for illegal drugs during prenatal exams or upon giving birth.
- ❖ In 2015, **1 in 4 mothers** on the TM Reservation tested positive for meth upon giving birth (Indian Health Services, 2015).

Potential Family Challenges as Ranked by the Community Survey Respondents



TURTLE MOUNTAIN SUMMARY OF NEEDS

There is a highly at risk, highly in need population to be served at Turtle Mountain:

- ❖ TM is one of the most densely populated reservations in the US
- ❖ There is a significant population of tribal children/youth - **48% under the age of 21**
- ❖ There is a waiting list for the existing State MIECHV program, which only birth to age three
- ❖ **92%** of TM families with a female householder with children under age 5 live below the poverty level

The program needs to **target a wide range of primary caregivers:**

- ❖ Eligible pregnant and parenting women, expectant fathers, parents, grandparents raising grandchildren (**14.4%**), and foster parents all serve as TM primary caregivers.
- ❖ Teen mothers will be a priority population to be served: the teen birth rate at Turtle Mountain is **12.9%** as compared to **5%** for the State of North Dakota.

Families within the community face **tremendous challenges:**

- ❖ Multi-generational, persistent poverty (**44% poverty**)
- ❖ High unemployment (nearly **70%**)
- ❖ Poor housing
- ❖ Troubling alcohol, tobacco, and substance use with a recent significant rise in mothers using substances during pregnancy and of babies being born with negative impacts.

Significant **lack of resources** (Tribal and Family)

TURTLE MOUNTAIN SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS

The flip side is, when external support such as the State MIECHV and Tribal MIECHV programs are awarded and positive support is provided, **Turtle Mountain families respond** almost miraculously.

The existing MIECHV program through which Turtle Mountain is a service provider under the direction of **Amy Gourneau** has accomplished great successes with TM families according to the State MIECHV composite report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016:

- ❖ **64%** of mothers enrolled prenatally/within 4 weeks of giving birth received the recommended postpartum care visit with a doctor (up from 48% in FY14)
- ❖ **75%** of children received their recommended well-child visits within 6 months of birth/enrollment in the program (up from 60% in FY14)
- ❖ A smaller percentage of enrolled children with a report to Child Protective Services during the fiscal year (4% in FY16 from 17% in FY14) and a smaller percentage of substantiated reports (1% in FY16 from 9% in FY14)
- ❖ **88%** of children received the ASQ-3 developmental screening by 6 months of age/post-enrollment (also 88% in FY14)
- ❖ **91%** of mothers who indicated improving education was a goal saw an improvement in their educational status during the year (up from 50% in FY14)
- ❖ Among children who were identified as needing follow-up for developmental concerns, all received referrals for services and received services.



TURTLE MOUNTAIN PRIORITIES

The main lesson that Turtle Mountain has come to know through its CNRA is visceral realization of the conditions of our families. They are more highly at risk and struggling than even the data indicates. That is why the Home Visiting is so critical.

For the future of our families, children and community it is imperative that the Turtle Mountain Home Visiting program provide effective parenting training, access to resources that better support family stability and parent knowledge and practice opportunities to best support age-appropriate child development.