

THE WORKFORCE OF TRIBAL UTILITIES



**Presentation to
Indian Country Energy & Infrastructure Working Group**

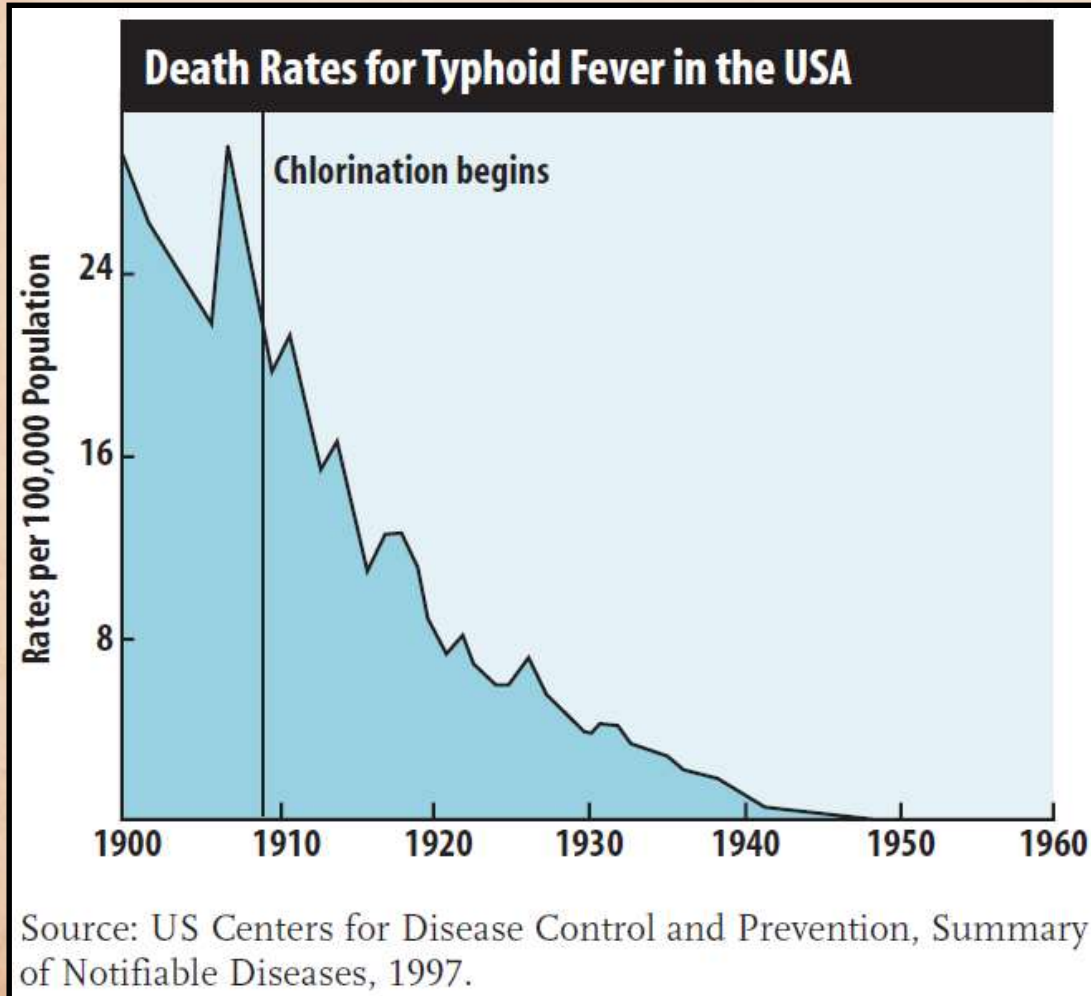
**February 24, 2020
Fort McDowell We-Ko-Pa Resort & Conference Center in Arizona**

Funding Acknowledgement





Safe Drinking Water & Sanitation



Top Five 20th Century Achievements Contributing to the Quality of Life

- 1**  **Electrification**
- 2**  **Automobile**
- 3**  **Airplane**
- 4**  **Safe, Abundant Water**
- 5**  **Electronics**

Source: National Academy of Engineering, 2000.



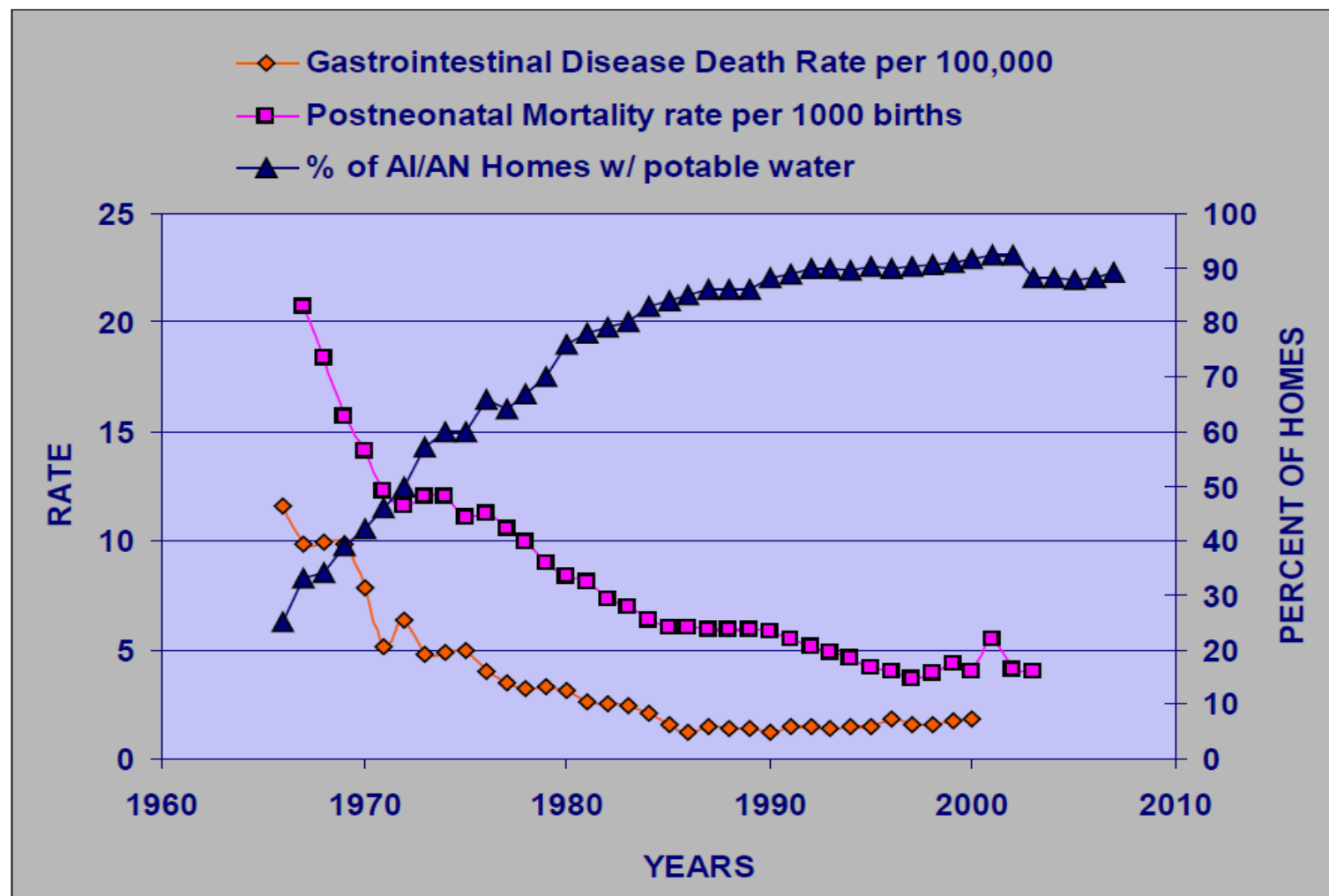
The Importance of Safe Drinking Water & Sanitation

The need for safe and reliable drinking water and effective wastewater management is fundamental to the health, safety, welfare, economic viability and self-determination goals of Tribal communities throughout Indian Country.



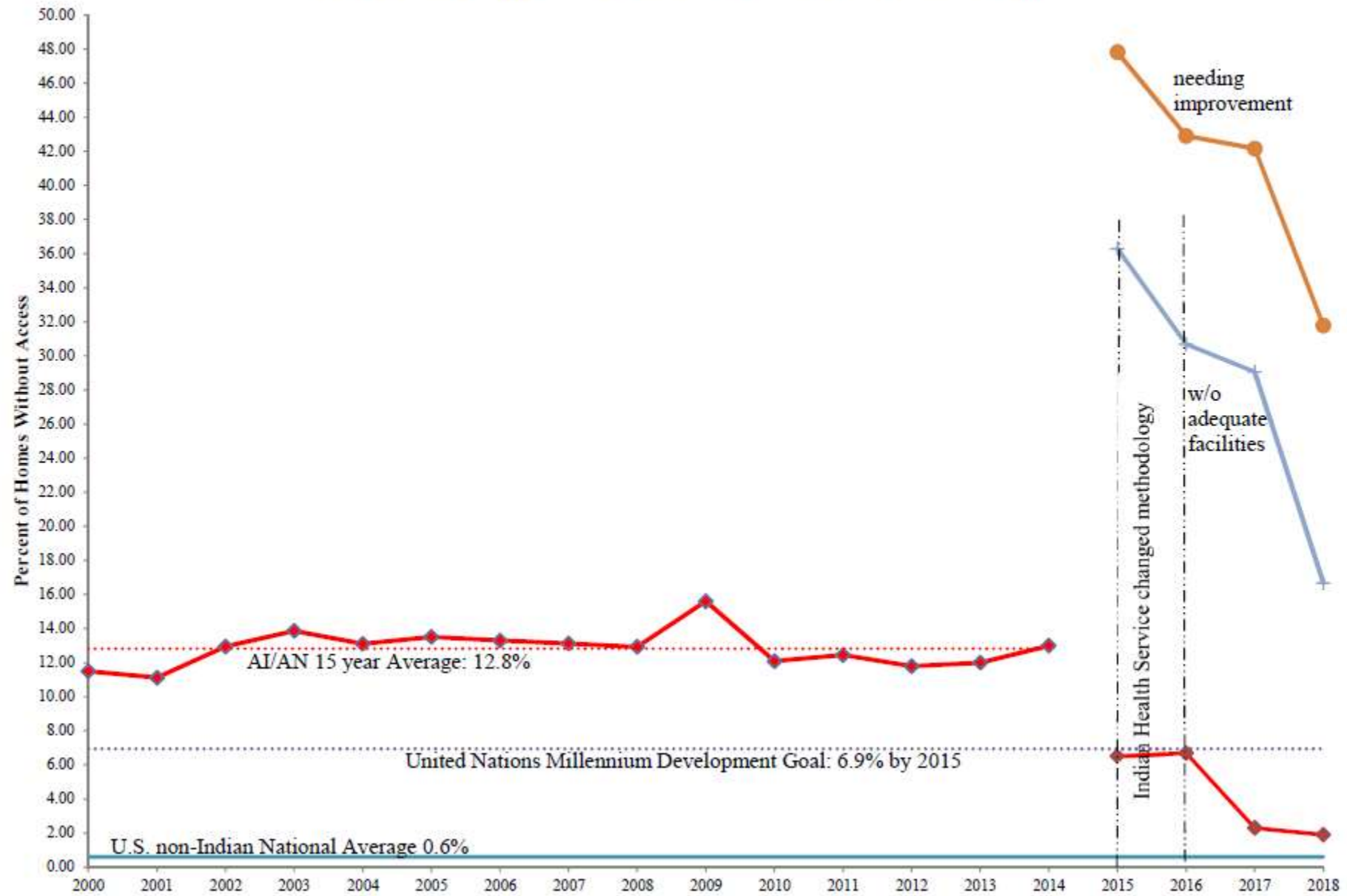


Safe Drinking Water & Adequate Sanitation



Source: Safe Water & Waste Disposal Facilities Fact Sheet, Indian Health Service, January 2013

American Indian / Alaska Native Homes without Access to a Safe Water Supply System and/or Sewage Disposal System



2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014



Tribal Water & Wastewater Infrastructure





Tribal Water Utilities Workforce

United States Environmental Protection Agency Office of Water (4606) EPA 816-K-01-006 July 2001

EPA

Building Water System Capacity: A Guide For Tribal Administrators

Capacity Development:

The process through which drinking water systems acquire and maintain the technical, managerial, and financial capabilities to consistently provide safe drinking water.



US Department of Labor Competency Models

[www.careeronestop.org/
CompetencyModel/
competency-models/
pyramid-home.aspx](http://www.careeronestop.org/CompetencyModel/competency-models/pyramid-home.aspx)

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Renewable Energy

Water and Wastewater

View the skills necessary for workplace success in the Energy and Utilities industry.

- [Advanced Commercial Buildings Energy Management](#)
- [Energy Generation, Transmission and Distribution](#)
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- [Water and Wastewater](#)

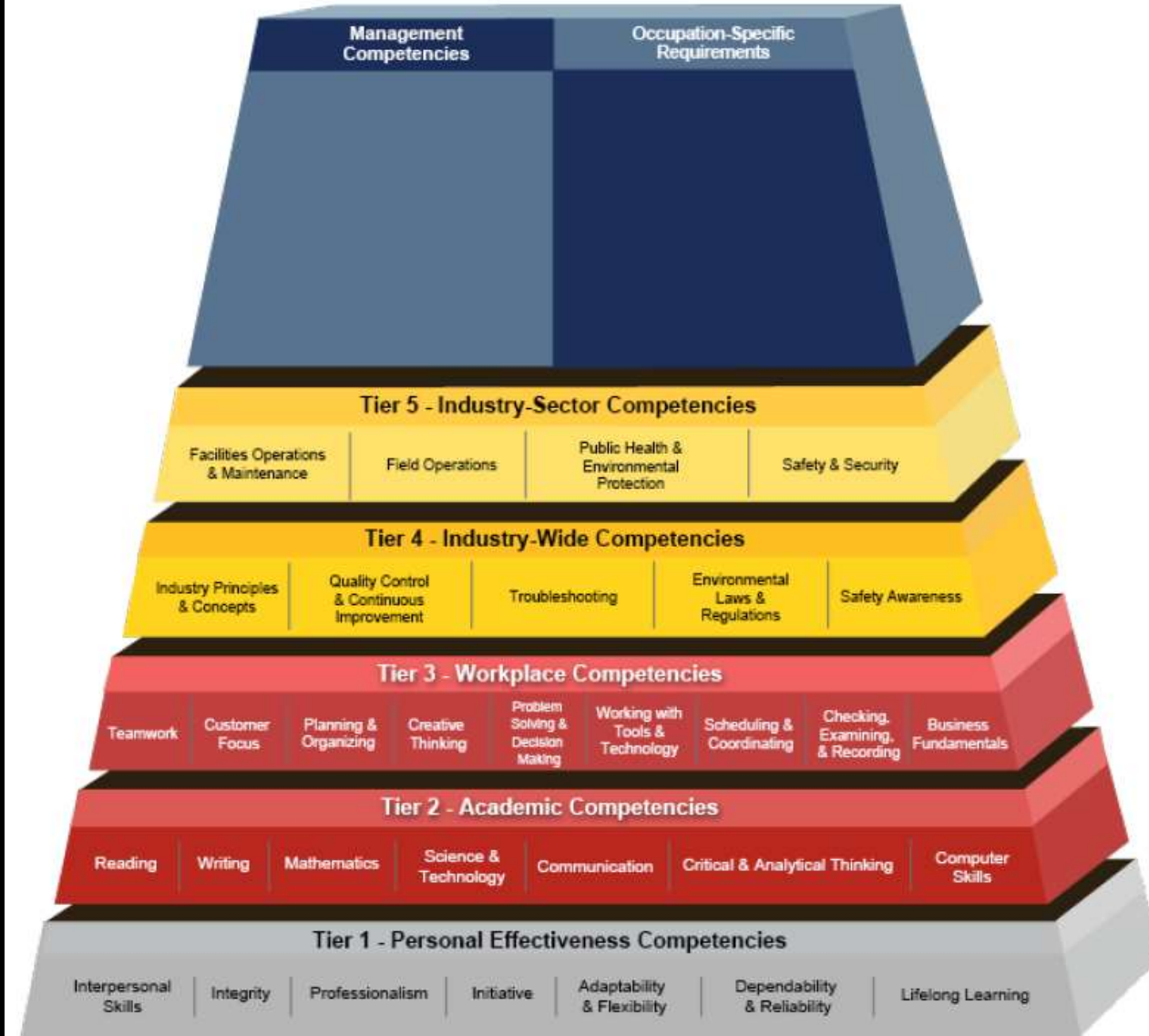
• Renewable Energy
• Water and Wastewater

• Long-term Care, Supports,
and Services



Water and Wastewater Competency Model

Updated January 2018





Operator Certification

Certification designates the water/wastewater system operator as a **public health professional** and demonstrates the operator has the skills, knowledge, education and experience necessary to deliver safe water / adequate sanitation.

—from U.S. EPA (75 Federal Register 48329, Aug. 2010)

- Certification = a professional credential designed specifically to protect public health





Certification Eligibility Criteria

Generally, there are 3 primary eligibility criteria:



Education & Training



Work Experience



Standardized Proficiency Exam



Facility classification level determines the level of operator certification needed (the bar height)





The ITCA National Tribal Water & Wastewater Operator Certification Program

Annual Averages:

41 trainings/year

702 attendees/year

10,000 training hours/year

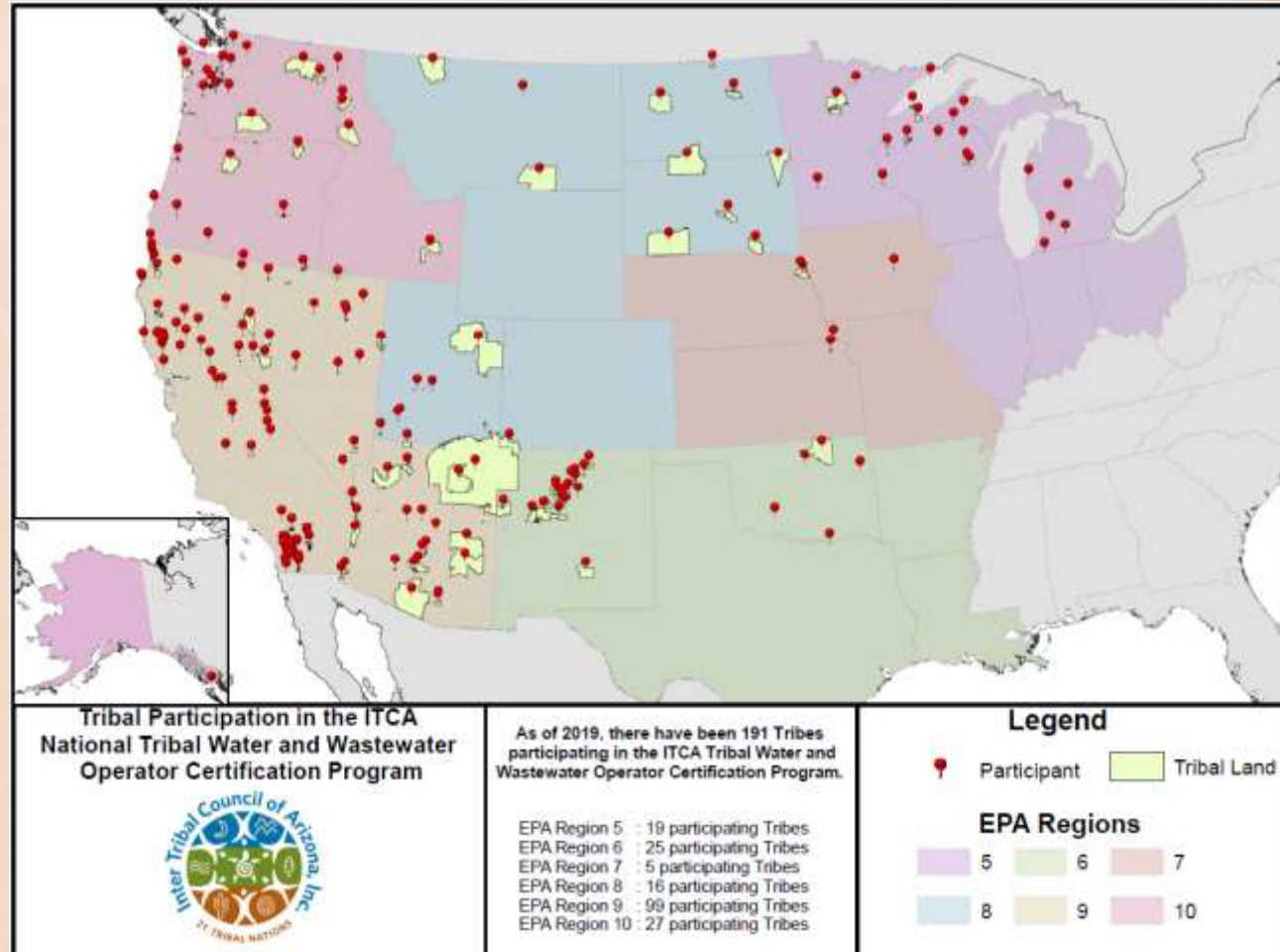
574 applications/year

400 exams proctored/year

155 certifications earned/year

As of today:

712 active tribal certifications





ITCA National Tribal Water & Wastewater Operator Certification Program

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