

## Pawnee Nation Diabetes Program Receives National Recognition

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On Nov. 21, 2011, the Pawnee Nation (PN) Special Diabetes Program for Indians (PN SDPI) was notified that we were one of three Oklahoma tribal diabetes programs selected for a Community Diabetes Screening Best Practice Revision for FY 2012.

This acknowledgment comes after a successful year of blood glucose screenings within the community.

Although the number of participants has steadily improved over the year, the Diabetes Program staff continues working to improve diabetes awareness throughout the community.

Listed below are a few screenings that took place during 2011:

1. Twice a week a PN SDPI representative provided blood glucose and blood pressure screenings at the Title VI Building from 11 a.m.– noon. The screenings are open to the public (diabetics and non-diabetics). Participants were informed of their results, educated on how to improve glucose levels and overall nutrition.
2. For the first time, the Pawnee Public School Board approved and allowed PN SDPI to provide voluntary blood glucose screenings at the 2011 Pawnee Middle School/High School Health Fair. As a result, 14 students and six teachers were screened.
3. To recognize national health observances throughout the year, the PN SDPI collaborated with the Pawnee Nation Community Health Representatives, PN Wellness and Health Promotion Program (WHPP) Committee and the Indian Health Services Community Health Department.

The goal was to promote personal health and wellness. Also provided were prevention tips, diabetes awareness and blood pressure and blood glucose screenings.

4. Each year the PN SDPI sponsors 10-15 native youth (ages: 8-12) to attend the Native Youth Preventing Diabetes (NYPD) Summer Camp. In 2011, eight native youth were sponsored to attend.

The Diabetes Program staff would like to thank all participants and organizations for helping and encouraging others to become aware of the health concerns happening in our community.

For more information, please contact the Diabetes Program at (918) 762-4045.