

# Reporting New Cancer Cases: A Successful Partnership

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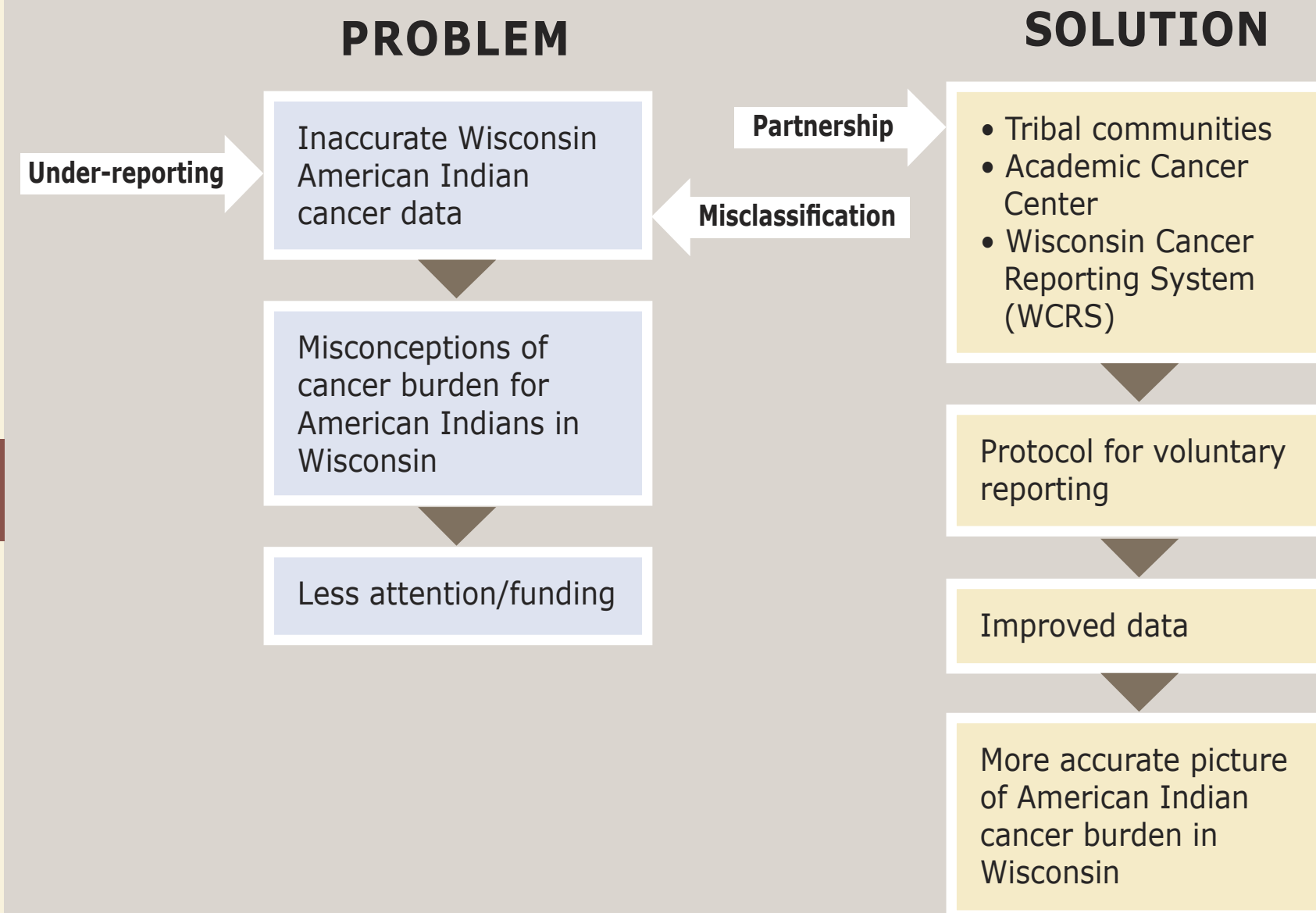
## INTRODUCTION

- American Indian cancer rates have been increasing over the past 20 years.
- Cancer is the second leading cause of death among American Indians over age 45.
- Cancer mortality rates for American Indians living in the Northern Plains are the highest of all the Indian Health Service regions.
- The Building Cancer Surveillance Capacity project in Wisconsin found a significant number of American Indian cancer cases not in the state registry for the year 2001.
- Preliminary findings of an Indian Health Service (IHS)/Wisconsin Cancer Reporting System (WCRS) cancer incidence data match for American Indians suggests a significant increase in cases.

## OBJECTIVES

- Ongoing voluntary reporting by Tribal/Urban Clinics to WCRS to improve and maintain the accuracy of American Indian/Alaska Native cancer incidence data in Wisconsin.
- More accurate data to help address American Indian cancer burden in Wisconsin.

## CONCEPT AND METHODS



- A user friendly form was developed to be completed by Tribal/Urban clinics for each new American Indian cancer patient they see in Wisconsin.
- Each Tribal/Urban Health Director was contacted to discuss the concept, the process involved, and their interest in participating.
- An administrative protocol was collaboratively developed for reporting 2004 cancer cases in 2005.
- Each clinic/urban center will choose a reporting schedule and method to suit them.
- WCRS will provide each tribal/urban clinic with an annual report describing their cancer incidence rates, and an aggregate WI rate.

## RESULTS

- All the Tribal Health Directors and the Director of the Urban Clinic endorsed the project.
- All WI Tribes and the Urban Health Center committed to participate.
- To date eight of twelve clinics have returned signed protocols to WCRS. Two more are being processed, and two more are under consideration.

## CONCLUSIONS

- Mutually beneficial partnerships to improve American Indian cancer data can be successfully established between academic cancer centers, tribal communities, and state cancer registries.
- Factors contributing to a successful outcome are:
  - trustful relationships
  - clear rationale
  - active involvement of all partners
  - concise forms
  - flexibility in reporting

## OUTCOMES

- Improved Tribal/Urban Clinic cancer data.
- Improved state cancer incidence data for American Indians in WI.
- Improved Tribal/Urban Clinic cancer surveillance with the potential for American Indian clinics to focus their cancer control efforts.
- Productive and positive partnership between Tribal/Urban Clinics, academic center, and state institution.

## INFORMATION

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