



A Project to Protect Our Native Young (PONY)

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Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

7 communities in MS

- 1 community in TN

- Demographics

- Population appr. 9500

- Females – appr. 5000

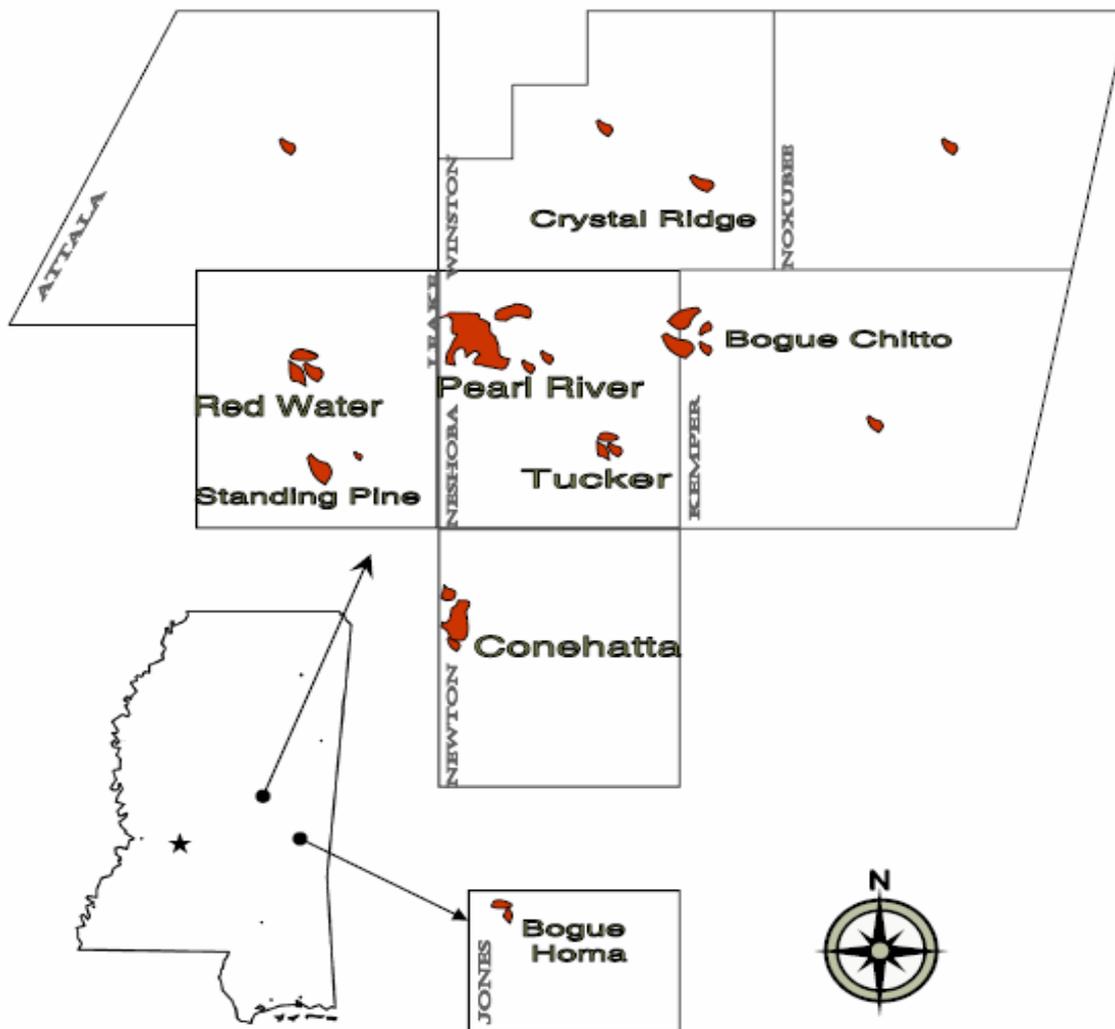
- Male – appr. 4,500

- 0 – 18 appr. 4,300





TRIBAL LANDS



History of Program



- Adapted from Family Advocate Model -Initiated at the National Children's Advocacy Center, Huntsville, AL
- Integrally linked with the multidisciplinary team in child abuse investigations
- Gap in services to families

Choctaw MDT



- Mission Statement - *Project PONY is designed to provide education and support to the non-offending caregiver in child abuse cases so they can protect and support the victimized child.*



Program Parameters

- Staff – Program Director, PT Data Processor, IN-KIND case mgr
- Duration – 12 weeks
- Caseload – 16 per session
- Target population – non-offending caregivers



Program considerations

● Strengths

- Vibrant culture
- Choctaw speaking providers
- Interested elders
- Written stories/legends
- Multi-disciplinary team support
- Extended families

● Challenges

- Transportation
- Child care
- Communication
- NOC dynamics
- Length of sessions
- Group format



Overcoming Challenges

- Face to face contacts to solicit participation
- Incorporate into MDT case plans
- Planned fun activities
- Vary Delivery of educational topics
- Provide transportation
- Home visits for missed sessions



Program Outcomes

- Ensure safety of child and family
 - Safety plan
 - Identify 2 family & 1 community support systems
 - Completion of case plan with DSS
- Educate the non-offending caregiver
 - Attend 75% of participant will complete 8 sessions
 - Retrospective pre-post test
 - Understand role in investigative process
- Empower NOC to rebuild safe and stable home
 - Resource contact name and number of contact
 - Improved ability to navigate system





Yakokih!

