Strengthening Research that Benefits Native Youth

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73rd Annual NCAI Convention & Marketplace
Putting First Kids 1st: Creating Wise Practices in Native Youth Policy Breakout Session
October 12, 2016

www.ncai.org/prec  www.ncai.org  www.crcaih.org
Agenda

1. Context

2. Tips for Researchers and Tribal Leaders
   - Centering Youth Voices
   - Engaging Tribal Communities
   - The Power of Place-Based, Small-Scale Inquiry
   - Expanding to Urban and National Settings
   - Ethical Considerations

3. Key Take Aways & Additional Resources
1. CONTEXT
Youth (prenatal to 24 yrs)

- 42% of total US AI/AN population
- 50% of some state AI/AN populations

Adapted from: https://www.jisc.ac.uk/guides/implementing-a-virtual-research-environment-vre
Adapted from: http://www.bu.edu/datamanagement/background/whatisdata/
NCAI PRC

NCAI Policy Research Center (PRC), est. 2003

- Ensure research protects and benefits Native sovereignty
- Foster regional support for research
- Share tribal success to build capacity and advance policy
- Synthesize and disseminate new data
- Partner to improve data quality

www.ncai.org/prc
Supporting Research Ethics & Partnership

Research Regulation
• Curriculum - Research that Benefits Native People: A Guide for Tribal Leaders
  1. Foundations of Research: An Indigenous Perspective
  2. Managing the Design and Planning of Research
  3. Ethics as a Guide for Managing Research
  4. Conducting Research with Others
  5. Understanding Evaluation

• Walk Softly & Listen Carefully: Building Research Relationships with Tribal Communities

Research Partnerships
• Strengthening Tribal-Academic Research Partnerships

Tracking Federal Research Priorities
• Comments in response to the NPRM to revise the Common Rule
Supporting Our Youth

Native Children’s Policy Agenda: Putting First Kids 1st

Strength in Numbers: Using Data to Advance a Deeper Understanding of Native Youth and Families
Affirming Native Youth: Making Visible, Making Valuable Project

Aims

• Create space for Native youth leaders to convene, set an agenda, learn, and network.

• Expand partnerships to ensure the collection and reporting of data on the status and experiences of Native youth; and

• Train Native youth and others involved with developing policies and practices that affect them to do so in a coordinated and effective manner.
2. TIPS FOR RESEARCHERS AND TRIBAL LEADERS
Resource Goals

• Serve as a partnership tool for those stewarding research in Native youth contexts.

• Draw on insights from scholars who have a demonstrated commitment to Native youth, including:
  • Greg Tafoya, MPH
  • Catherine Burnette, PhD, LMSW
  • Tarajean Yazzie-Mintz, EdD
  • Michelle Sarche, PhD
  • Deana Around Him, DrPH, ScM

• Provide a starting point for community discussions about strengthening Native youth research.
• Youth are treasured and part of relationship-driven, inter-connected networks.

• Contextual factors to acknowledge:
  1. AI/AN youth bring values from their cultures and age-specific groups
  2. Place or status of youth in their community(ies)
  3. Definition of AI/AN that has relevance to youth, tribe, and/or community
  4. Role of tribal governance, sovereignty, and politics in research
  5. Variability in community research capacities and resource availability
  6. Investments in youth by local, state, and national organizations
  7. Researcher knowledge and relationships with AI/AN youth in a particular place
Engaging Tribal Communities

- **Considerations:**
  - Social distance between researchers and communities
  - Context of historical oppression
  - Relationship-building and power-balancing

- **Aims:**
  - Create mutual respect and trust
  - Find harmony among multiple world-views
  - Foster deep commitment and responsibility
  - Honor the sacred aspects of research

- Acknowledge community variation in infrastructure, norms, methods/approaches, and recruitment strategies.
The Power of Place-based, Small-scale Inquiry

- Inquiry-driven, context-specific, small-scale efforts make contributions to immediate local change

- **Starting Place Questions** can lead to **Shared Place Questions**

Small scale inquiries: Rooted in the particular

Purpose & themed intersections

Intentional larger contributions

Universal knowledge

Youth

ECE Centers

Parents

Native youth collective

Researcher

12
Expanding to Urban & National Settings

- Community-based and -grounded approaches should be extended to expand knowledge of AI/AN youth in urban, national, and regional settings.

- Value add:
  - Documentation of common strengths and needs across backgrounds and communities
  - Provide evidence of youth health, education, and justice issues that transcend geographic and tribal boundaries.
  - Powerful program and policy advocacy tool
  - Reference point for Native to Native comparison

- Complement rather than replace.
Ethical Considerations

Confidentiality
• Protection of individual and, if desired, community privacy

Consent
• Role of kinship/extended family care; age of consent preferences

Referral Context
• Identification of service needs outside of study or in limited resource setting

Law & Jurisdiction
• Differences in state/tribal mandatory reporting laws; determination of oversight authority

Study Design
• Reluctance around certain designs in high-need settings

Sustainability
• Assurance when resources and human capital are limited; obligation?
3. KEY TAKE AWAYS & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
• No one-size-fits-all approach to research with Native youth

• Wise practices include:
  • Centering youth voices
  • Fostering relationships with youth and communities
  • Celebrating diversity of each context
  • Building mechanisms to understand shared strengths and needs across contexts
  • Committing to ethical approaches that account for needs of Native youth and communities

• Researchers and communities have a role in strengthening research that benefits Native youth.
Additional Resources


• Others?
Goal: Address Social Determinants of Health through Transdisciplinary Collaboration.
In addition to the “Tips for Researchers” contributors, we also gratefully acknowledge grant funding from the Administration for Native Americans, which supported creation of the resource.