



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESEARCH UPDATE



Mid Year Conference – June 12-15, 2017

The mission of the NCAI Policy Research Center (PRC) is to provide tribal leaders with the best available knowledge to make strategically proactive policy decisions in a framework of Native wisdom that positively impact the future of Native peoples. This Research Update includes information on PRC projects, recent research results, new policy research resources, and more. An electronic copy of this update is available on our website: www.ncai.org/prc.

NCAI Policy Research Center PROJECTS & RESOURCES

Get to know the PRC Team! Over the past few months, we have grown and are building our team's capacity to further serve the research & data needs of Tribal leaders and communities!

				
<p>Yvette Roubideaux, MD, MPH, serves as the new Director of the Policy Research Center</p>	<p>Deana Around Him, DrPH, ScM, serves as the Postdoctoral Research Fellow</p>	<p>Amber Ebarb, MPP, has served as the Budget & Policy Analyst since 2003</p>	<p>Sarah Cline Pytalski, MPP, serves as the Policy Research & Evaluation Manager</p>	<p>Natasha Anderson, JD, serves as the Native Youth Strategy Coordinator</p>

Updates on our work

- **The 12th Annual Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum.** The NCAI Policy Research Center's annual forum at the NCAI Mid Year Conference provides an opportunity for researchers, practitioners, community members and others to present their findings to tribal leaders, policymakers, and tribal members. To review the agendas, visit: <http://www.ncai.org/policy-research-center/initiatives/tribal-leader-scholar-forum>

- **Join us for our Quarterly Tribal Research Webinars!** Our last webinar was held in March and it featured the Collaborative Research Center for American Indian Health (CRCAIH), based in Sioux Falls, SD. Stay tuned for details on the next event in July! Email us at research@ncai.org to receive future announcements.
- **Our analysis of the President's FY2018 Budget Request.** NCAI recently released its analysis of the FY2018 budget request, highlighting significant impacts on funding for Indian programs. NCAI urges tribal leaders to review the proposals and voice support for tribal programs to Congress. The analysis is live at: <http://bit.ly/2qkvEKC>.
- **Releasing a State of the Art Report on Tribal Data Capacity.** With the support of the National Science Foundation, the PRC has worked with six tribal pilot sites to build existing research capacity to identify gaps in data and conduct tribal censuses and demographic surveys. In July, we will release the full 70+ page report on the quality of existing tribal-level data and we will be reviewing an Executive Summary of the report at our Data Partners Pre-Conference, on Monday, June 12.

- **Confronting the opioid epidemic in Indian Country.** Many tribal nations are facing extreme impacts of drug abuse on their citizens and the safety of their communities. The PRC has an update on how health care providers and communities can respond to the growing crisis of opioid addiction. Visit: <http://bit.ly/Opioidv2>.

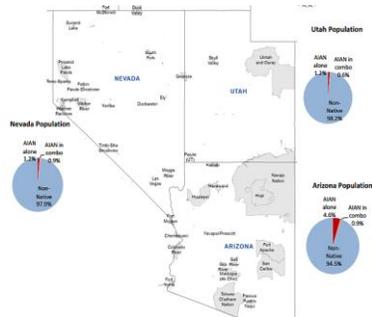


- **Tribal authority affirmed in federal research guidelines.** The Department of Health and Human Services posted its final Common Rule in January 2017, incorporating revisions to the federal policy governing research with human subjects. NCAI and its partners actively fought for the protection of tribal sovereignty over research. Please review our update at: <http://bit.ly/PRCCCommonRule>.
- **PRC featured in Gen-I Live panels on health & human trafficking.** The Generation Indigenous (Gen-I) Initiative has recently hosted two critical conversations of interest to Native youth and their communities. The PRC's staff participated as expert panelists in two of these live Facebook events, and they can be viewed online at the following links:
 - *Suicide and Mental Health in Indian Country:* <http://bit.ly/GenILive1>
 - *Human Trafficking in Indian Country:* <http://bit.ly/GenILive2>
- **RED Talks: The Native TED Talks available.** The PRC has partnered with Missouri Breaks Industries Research, Inc. to produce "RED Talks" as a way to share the right roads to tribally-driven research. These short videos are designed to support tribes in

building their research capacity with concrete examples of community success. View them at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGSdSFOXt5uVK43i67N9-Vg>.

- **Tribal data profiles available for all NCAI regions.**

The PRC has developed a series of Regional Data Profiles for all 12 NCAI Areas. These profiles provide region-level population demographic data and some information on trends in education, household, and economic characteristics by states in each region. To view your region's profile, visit: <http://www.ncai.org/about-tribes/regional-profiles>.



- **Profiling Native youth system involvement.** In a condensed profile, the PRC reviewed existing data on the experiences of Native youth in juvenile justice, child welfare, and school correctional systems for four states with proportionally large Native populations. Both Native-to-Native and Native/non-Native outcomes are analyzed and recommendations for future data collection are advanced: <http://bit.ly/PRCSysInv>.

- **Advocating for critical civil rights data.** This month, NCAI joined a coalition of civil rights leaders in submitting comments on proposed revisions to the 2017 National Survey of Children's Health—opposing the removal of questions pertaining to the disciplinary experiences of preschoolers. As American Indian/Alaska (AI/AN) children are disproportionately removed from schools, these data are critical to our advocacy.

FEATURED RESEARCH

A synopsis of the latest research findings to propel your policy advocacy

- **Food security remains high for AI/ANs—and it's worse in urban settings.** A recent study mapped food insecurity trends among AI/AN populations from 2000 to 2010. Over that timeframe, 25 percent of AI/ANs remained consistently food insecure—and were twice as likely to be food insecure as compared to non-Hispanic Whites. Among urban AI/ANs, rates were even higher. This study highlights the need for policies that expand food assistance programs, promote and support increased access to healthy foods and community food security, and reduce the burden of diet-related disparities.

Citation: Blue Bird Jernigan, V., Huyser, K.R., Valdes, J., & Simonds, V.W. (2017). Food Insecurity Among American Indians and Alaska Natives: A National Profile Using the Current Population Survey—Food Security Supplement. Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition 12 (1), pp. 1-10. View at: <http://bit.ly/FoodIns17>.

- **Tracking changes in racial reporting from 2000-2010.** The US Census Bureau was interested in understanding why the AI/AN race category has consistently experienced higher-than-projected population increases over time. Using linked (but not nationally

representative) data from the 2000 and 2010 decennial censuses and the 2006-2010 American Community Survey, the researchers found that those who consistently reported American Indian (including those who added or dropped another race response) were relatively likely to report tribal affiliation, live on tribal lands, report Native ancestry, and live in the West.

Citation: Liebler, C. A., Bhaskar, R., & Rastogi, S. (2017, February 14). Dynamics of Race:Joining, Leaving, and Staying in the American Indian/Alaska Native Race Category between 2000 and 2010. SocArXiv Preprints. View at: <http://bit.ly/RaceCounts>.

- **Fighting adolescent obesity with infant breastfeeding.** A recent article compared the health data of AI/ANs and non-Hispanic Whites to determine if breastfeeding during infancy had an impact on weight (or Body Mass Index, BMI) later in life. The data spanned 1994-2008. Adjusting for demographic and socioeconomic variables, the researchers found that AI/AN adolescents who were breastfed for 6-12 months had BMIs that were 2.6g units lower than those that were never breastfed.

Citation: Zamora-Kapoor, A., Omidpanah, A., Nelson, L.A., Kuo, A.A., Harris, R., & Buchwald, D.S. (2017). Breastfeeding in Infancy Is Associated with Body Mass Index in Adolescence: A Retrospective Cohort Study Comparing American Indians/Alaska Natives and Non-Hispanic Whites. Journal of the American Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (Article in Press). View at: <http://bit.ly/P4NH0117>.

- **Recommendations for increasing retention and graduation.** A recent study reviews the challenge of high dropout rates among AI/AN students in public universities from a systems lens instead of focusing on the individual. It advances three recommendations to improve retention: (1) living and learning communities, (2) social belonging intervention, and (3) self-regulated learning activities.

Citation: Patterson Silver Wolf, D.A., Butler-Barnes, S.T., & Zile-Tamsen, C.V. (2017). American Indian/Alaskan Native College Dropout: Recommendations for Increasing Retention and Graduation. Journal on Race, Inequality, and Social Mobility in America 1 (1), pp. 1-15. View at: <http://bit.ly/WUSTL17>.

- **Availability of opioid addiction therapy options on tribal lands.** This study reviewed differences in the number of opioid agonist therapy (OAT) facilities and physicians with Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA) waivers for rural versus urban, and tribal reservation/trust land versus non-tribal reservation/trust land areas in Washington State. There was no statistically significant difference found in availability across geographies, however the research highlights the importance of expanding health care insurance and providing support for DATA-waivered physicians.

Citation: Hirchak, K.A. & Murphy, S.M. (2017). Assessing Differences in the Availability of Opioid Addiction Therapy Options: Rural Versus Urban and American Indian Reservation Versus Nonreservation. The Journal of Rural Health 33 (1), pp. 102-109. View at: <http://bit.ly/OATTribal>.

NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE

A compilation of recently launched data tools to support your analyses

- **US Census Bureau launches My Tribal Area!** The US Census released a new data tool called “My Tribal Area” that allows users to easily access and navigate select demographic and economic statistics for each of the nation’s tribal areas. These data are pulled from the 2011-2015 American Community Survey and include important statistics on population, jobs, housing, the economy, and education. My Tribal Area provides comprehensive maps, data profiles, and other features you can download for each tribal area and is available at www.census.gov/tribal.



- **USA Facts compiles government databases.** USA Facts is a new data-driven portrait of the American population, our government’s finances, and government’s impact on society. The recently launched <http://usafacts.org> website houses publicly available federal, state, and local data from over 70 government sources and helps users understand the following questions of the data: Where does the money come from? What are the results? Where does the money go? On their site, they provide a comprehensive list of the data sources they have used in populating their database.

UPCOMING SCHOLAR FORUMS

Ways to connect with scholar networks across Indian Country and beyond

- The PRC will be convening tribal researchers, epicenter staff, health clinicians, and other health advocates for a Data Institute at the upcoming **Association of American Indian Physicians National Health Conference** on July 27-30 in Shawnee, OK. For information, please visit: <https://www.aaip.org/events/calendar/>.
- The **2017 Pathways to Respecting American Indians Civil Rights Conference** will be held August 9-10 in Denver, CO. Professor S. James Anaya, former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, will serve as the keynote presenter. For more information and for free registration, please visit: <http://bit.ly/PRAICR17>.
- The Call for Proposals for the **2017 SACNAS National Diversity in STEM Conference** is now open! The deadline for submissions is July 14 at 5:00 pm (Pacific). For more information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/SACNAS17>.

- The **American Indigenous Research Association** will be hosting its 2017 meeting on October 20-21, with a Pre-Conference on October 19. Stay tuned for updates at: <http://americanindigenousresearchassociation.org/annual-meeting/>.
- The **American Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Expo** will be in Atlanta, GA from November 4-8. The theme is "Creating the Healthiest Nation: Climate Changes Health." For more information, visit: <https://www.apha.org/annualmeeting>.
- The **American Evaluation Association** will convene its annual meeting in Washington, DC on November 6-11. To learn more about the agenda and its professional learning opportunities, visit: <http://www.evaluationconference.org>.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

New announcements to fund research and data collection efforts

- **Agriculture and Food Research Initiative: Childhood Obesity Prevention Challenge Area.** The US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced \$6.3 million in available funding for projects to help combat childhood obesity, which affects more than 12 million children in the United States. Funding is made through NIFA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. Applications for funding are due June 28. For more information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/USDAObes17>.
- **Interventions for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in Native American Populations (PAR-14-260).** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has an open funding announcement to develop, adapt, and test the effectiveness of health promotion and disease prevention interventions in Native populations. The intervention program should be culturally appropriate and promote the adoption of healthy lifestyles, improve behaviors and social conditions and/or improve environmental conditions related to chronic diseases, the consumption of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, mental illness, oral disease, or HIV-infection. Applications are due August 24. For more information, please visit: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=257851>



Look for new updates on our website in the coming weeks, including a more accessible format, new data resources and publications, webinar opportunities, and more!

www.ncai.org/prc