



Data and Policy Implications for Tribal Leaders



United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

U.S. last member state to sign onto this declaration

Article 31:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs and sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions



Research and Use Data are Tribal Traditions

- Important to have an indigenous lens
- Role of non indigenous anthropologists and archeologists
- Tribal Data Sovereignty
- Uses of data for tribal leaders
- Informal vs. formal research
- Use of data at the federal level
- Who gets to decide
- Why having a Tribal Sovereignty Data Review Board is essential



Data Sovereignty

- Protections for tribal communities
- Who determines what studies are approved?
- Who approves access to the data base?
- Who owns the data
- Who reviews all publications requests, how and where data is shared?
- Research access and research review boards must have tribal representation
- OCAP™ –Ownership, Control, Access, Possessionⁱ



Goals

- The Mohegan Tribe will “own” the process of how research is conducted on its culture, artifacts, land, health and community. How do we ensure that research is done with an indigenous lens and an indigenous voice?
- Ensure research has tribal community benefit
- Ensure tribe has ownership of all research products and final approval for publication
- Prevent tribe from stigmatizing research
- Ensure that all research provides the tribe with valuable insights about the tribe which have not previously been explored in depth and will benefit decision making and good governance



Resources

- Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network

<https://usindigenousdata.org/>

- First Nations Governance Center

<https://fnigc.ca/>

- Maori Data Sovereignty Network: Te Mana Raruanga

<https://www.temanararaunga.maori.nz/>