Overview

• NCAI Mission: Grow & Strengthen the Roots of Tribal Sovereignty

• Why do we need to tell our own stories?

• What’s research got to do with sovereignty?

• How do we achieve partnerships that inspire innovation and shape better futures for Native Nations?

• How do we build a tribally-driven research agenda?
Roots of Tribal Sovereignty

We were a people, before “We the People”...
– 20th President of the National Congress of American Indians, Jefferson Keel, 2013

Core Principles

- Our Communities Know Best
- Tribal Governance Matters
- The Federal Trust Matters, Too
Why We Need to Tell Our Own Stories

NON-WHITE BABIES NOW OUTNUMBER WHITE BABIES IN AMERICA FOR THE FIRST TIME.

SECOND.
Why We Need to Tell Our Own Stories

- Deficit storylines prevail

- What we see from the Administration:
  Impact of the President’s visit to Indian Country

- What we hear from Congress:
  Need to balance personal experiences with data, impacts
Flipping the Script

• Strengths-based Storyline

At least 24% of AI/AN speak a language other than English at home.

48.9% of young Native men (ages 17-24) are active duty, reserve, and National Guard servicemembers, compared to 34.6% of all other races (U.S. Veterans Affairs, 2012).

• Native-to-Native Comparisons

• Case Studies of Success

Real Stories about the Impact of Community Investment

Insights from Tribes that Can Help Other Communities

www.ncai.org
Why We Need to Tell Our Own Stories

10/10 Native youth want to learn their language.

3/10 Native youth are taking the initiative to learn.

What are you doing about it?
What’s Research Got to do with Sovereignty?

• Establishing the NCAI Policy Research Center

• Mission: Provide tribal leaders with the best available knowledge to make strategic and proactive policy decisions that positively impact the future of Native peoples.

• Priorities:
  - 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
Core Research Values:

1. Indigenous knowledge is valid and should be valued.
2. Research is not culturally neutral.
3. Responsible stewardship includes learning how to interpret and understand data and research.
4. Tribes must exercise sovereignty when conducting research and managing data.
5. Research must benefit Native people.
Research to Protect & Benefit

• Developing the AI/AN Genetics Resource Center

• Website with tools for communities: http://genetics.ncai.org/

• A *Spectrum of Perspectives: Native Peoples and Genetics Research*
  National Museum of the American Indian, June 2014
  • Can Genetics Research Improve Native Health?
  • The Ethics of Blood
  • Genomics & Ancestry: Ethics, Origins, and Policy
Disseminating Research, Sharing Success

Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum

Research Topics for the 10th Anniversary of the Forum

- Trauma and Resilience
- Environmental Justice
- State-Tribal Relations
- Identity and Reunification
- Research and Data Sovereignty
- Justice for our Youth

BACK TO OUR FUTURES: RE-SEARCHING FOR JUSTICE

NCAI TRIBAL LEADER / SCHOLAR FORUM 2015
ST. PAUL - MINNESOTA
JUNE 30, 2015
Disseminating Research, Sharing Success

- Research to advance policy advocacy
  - Policy Briefs
  - Backgrounders
  - Tribal Insights Briefs
  - Regional Memos
  - Infographics
  - Demographic Profiles
  - Research Updates

Executive Summary

Unintentional injuries — such as accidents involving motor vehicle crashes, falls, drowning, poisoning, or even burns resulting from fires — are the leading cause of death among people aged 1-44 years. As a group, American Indians and Alaska Natives (AIANs) experience the highest rates per capita of unintentional injury and injury-related death when compared to other groups by race/ethnicity status. The primary cause of unintentional injury-related death is motor vehicle collisions, which are preventable.

In a continuing effort to draw attention to matters of public health concern in tribal communities, this Tribal Insights Brief serves as an addendum to the Policy Insights Brief, Reservation Road Safety: Reducing Unintentional Injury through Tribal Public Health Law (Summer 2013). While the earlier brief provided information on tribal public health laws and policies in place to promote seat belt use, pedestrian safety, child passenger restraint, and prevent distracted driving, this brief emphasizes the broader context of transportation policy within which tribes developing public health laws to reduce unintentional injury must contend.

By highlighting the efforts of five tribes and tribal organizations, we hope to draw attention to the opportunities and challenges facing tribes in establishing, implementing, and enforcing public health law. The five case examples presented here reflect the experiences of tribes with large and small populations, “checkerboarding” and contiguous land, unique jurisdictional authority, and a range of geographic characteristics. In the vignettes, we see that some tribes and tribal organizations have developed innovative approaches to implementing and enforcing transportation-related tribal public health laws, while others are in the process of establishing seat belt or DUI laws to prevent unintentional injury.

As part of using tribal public health law as a tool, tribes come up against a broader policy context that either enables or constrains their use of public health law to prevent injury. In this way, we use the cases to demonstrate how policy dynamics related to sustainable federal funding, infrastructure investment, intergovernmental cooperation, and education and outreach efforts have bearing on tribal transportation law.
Partnering for Native Futures

University of Arkansas
- Supporting the Next Generation of Native Food Producers

Arizona State University
- Evaluating the Scope of the School-to-Prison Pipeline in Indian Country

Washington University-St. Louis
- Enhancing the Cultural Translation of Diabetes Research

University of Pennsylvania
- Developing Tools to Enhance Native Youth Resilience

Universities of Washington, New Mexico, and North Carolina
- Strengthening Community-Academic Partnerships

www.ncai.org
Partnering for Native Futures

National Science Foundation:

*Using Science to Build Tribal Capacity for Data-Intensive Research*

**Purpose:** To improve tribal data quality and capacity by building community across tribes, social scientists, and federal agencies.

**Objectives:**

- Build the capacity of tribal communities that are committed to improving the quality of data collection on their lands
- Work with social scientists to improve reliability, validity, and long-term sustainability in data collection and dissemination processes
Building a Tribally-Driven Research Agenda

Human Resources
- Education
- Health
- Indian Child and Family Welfare
- Disabilities
- Elders

Land/Natural Resources
- Trust Lands, Natural Res, & Agriculture
- Energy and Mineral Policy
- Environmental Protection and Land Use

Litigation and Governance
- Tribal Gaming
- Jurisdiction and Tribal Government
- Human, Religious, & Cultural Concerns
- Taxation

Economic, Finance, & Community Dev
- Housing
- Economic Development, Finance & Employment
- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Telecommunications

Veterans
Building a Tribally - Driven Research Agenda

• What anchors the relationship between tribes and universities in this region? What is the history of partnership? What are the current opportunities?

• How do you come to know about each other? To understand each other’s stories?

• Do you each have similar views about the role and purpose of research?

• What is the goal of your potential work together? What does innovation look like? Are there existing models to draw on?
Thank You

Embassy of Tribal Nations
1516 P St NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 466-7767