Research & Sovereignty

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RESEARCH & SOVEREIGNTY

United Tribes Technical College

2015 Collaborative Research Center on American Indian Health Summit
June 11, 2015
Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn
Rapid City, South Dakota
Leander R. McDonald, PhD, President, UTTC
Introduction

- United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) was founded in 1969 as an intertribal organization, the United Tribes of North Dakota Development Corporation.

- The nonprofit corporation is chartered in the State of North Dakota by the five North Dakota tribal nations to include: Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation, Spirit Lake Tribe, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians.

- The ten member UTTC Board of Directors directs activities and is comprised of the chairperson and one delegate from each of the five North Dakota Nations.

- UTTC is a member of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) comprised of 37 tribal colleges, 36 in the United States and one in Canada.
MISSION STATEMENT

United Tribes Technical College is dedicated to providing American Indians with postsecondary and technical education in a culturally diverse environment that will provide self-determination and economic development for all tribal nations.
Sovereignty Definition

- According to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Sovereignty is a legal word for an ordinary concept—the authority to self-govern. Hundreds of treaties, along with the Supreme Court, the President, and Congress, have repeatedly affirmed that tribal nations retain their inherent powers of self-government. These treaties, executive orders, and laws have created a fundamental contract between tribes and the United States. [http://www.ncai.org/policy-issues/tribal-governance](http://www.ncai.org/policy-issues/tribal-governance)

- Individual perception of sovereignty in contemporary times is based in land and the ability to govern within the lands we occupy
  - Ex. We own land on Spirit Lake Reservation...
Historical Research Context

- Research is not a new concept to Native populations
  - Ex. Oral tradition – grass dance story
Community Based Research Definition

According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, four issues should be considered by researchers when conducting community research:

- Interaction with the community as partners not just subjects.
- Use of community knowledge to understand issues and develop interventions.
- Community involvement in the design and outcomes.
- Immediate *benefits* from results to participating communities.
Native focused research emphasizing sovereignty should ensure:

- Tribes retain ownership of the data
- Data analyses, publication, and/or presentation must be approved by tribal council
- Data archives in chronological order assists in tracking research that could assist in better research being conducted
  - i.e., trend analysis
- Research benefits to the tribe
  - Compensation to participants
  - Tribal research capacity is developed or enhanced
  - Reports are provided to tribal council and/or research contact person(s) or team for dissemination and cataloging
  - Graduate students may wish to utilize data to complete thesis or dissertation requirements
QUESTIONS

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Tribally Driven Research

CRCAIH Annual Conference
June 11, 2015
Rapid City, SD

Donald Warne, MD, MPH
Oglala Lakota
Chair, Department of Public Health
North Dakota State University
Epidemiology & PH Data

Morbidity & Mortality

• Life Expectancy (2013)
  
  AI/AN     73.6 years
  US        77.7 years

• Average Age at Death in ND (2005-2010)
  
  AI        54.7 years
  White     75.7 years
### State Mortality (All COD) Rates by Race, 1990-2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Rate Ratio</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(95% CI)</td>
<td>(95% CI)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>North Dakota</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>381,129</td>
<td>2,470</td>
<td>1542 (1471, 1615)</td>
<td><strong>2.0</strong> (1.9, 2.1)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>7,866,524</td>
<td>73,738</td>
<td>771 (766, 777)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>South Dakota</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>760,486</td>
<td>5,937</td>
<td>1638 (1591, 1686)</td>
<td><strong>2.1</strong> (2.0, 2.2)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0005</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>8,690,598</td>
<td>82,261</td>
<td>778 (773, 784)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Underlying mortality data provided by NCHS (www.cdc.gov/nchs). Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 US Std Population (19 age groups, Census P25-1130) standard; Confidence intervals (Tiwari mod) are 95% for rates. Population estimates represent a total over the 12 years from 1990-2002.
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH PARADIGM

Research Institution

Funding Agency

Community

Results
Tribally Driven Research

- Sovereignty and Control of Research
  1. Core Values
  2. Partnership
  3. Protection
  4. Agenda Setting
  5. Cultural Factors

- Involve the Communities—
  “participatory research” v “Tribally-Driven”
Evaluation and Research in a Cultural Context

Helps us to understand the effectiveness of new approaches and intervention design
Evaluation and Research in a Cultural Context

• Storytelling
• Science—objective, distant, factual
• Culture—subjective, close, experiential
MEDICINE WHEEL

NORTH

WEST	EAST

SOUTH
MEDICINE WHEEL

MENTAL

PHYSICAL

SPIRITUAL

EMOTIONAL
MEDICINE WHEEL & Determinants of Public Health

EDUCATIONAL

ENVIRONMENTAL

CULTURAL

SOCIAL
MEDICINE WHEEL & Evaluation of Public Health

PLAN

ENVISION

IMPLEMENT

EVALUATE
NDSU MPH Specializations/Tracks

American Indian Public Health

• Required Courses
  – American Indian Health Policy
  – American Indian Health Disparities
  – Cultural Competence in Indian Health
  – Research Issues in Tribal Communities
  – Case Studies in Indian Health

• Elective Courses (Choose 1—any other MPH course)
  Under Development:
  – American Indian Elder Care
  – Indigenous Food Systems and Nutrition
Research Issues in Tribal Communities
(MPH 774)
Questions