



## Learning Objectives

Learner will be able to:

1. Describe the process of tribal data dissemination
2. Discuss tribal data-informed decision-making points and lessons learned from this process



## Background: Conducting Research with Tribes

- Respecting tribal sovereignty by formally requesting permission to conduct research & following tribal protocols
- Understanding tribal history and tribal differences
- Understanding tribal politics and the implications it has for research stability
- Identifying key community collaborators
- Establishing a communications network
- Building & maintaining trust
- Involving the community in planning & decision making
- Evaluating throughout the research process
- **Presenting results to tribal leadership & community**



## Background: Tribal Context & Partnership

Fort Peck Indian Reservation

- 6 deaths by suicide and 20 attempts in 5 month period in 2010
- Tribal Executive Board declared State of Emergency

Partnership

- Tribal Advisory Board
- Community-based Participatory Research (CBPR)



Image Credit:  
<http://api.mt.gov/GetAnswers/questions/356/Which+American+Indian+tribes+are+located+on+what+reservations+in+Montana+%3F>



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## Historical and Contemporary Factors Influencing the Lives of Reservation-based Native American Youth: Non-Lethal Suicidal Behavior

- In 2010, after 6 suicides and 20 attempts in 5 months, tribal leadership declared state of emergency
- In 2011, using an anonymous web based survey we collected data from two tribes on one reservation in the northern plains
- Our sample included 288 participants 15-24 years of age who were equal by gender and school attendance, primarily members of tribe 1 (66%). Half of our sample reported an annual income of less than \$2500 (76% reported less or equal to \$10,000)

Brockie TN, Dania-Sacco G, Wallen GR, Wilcox HC, Campbell JC. The Relationship of Adverse Childhood Experiences to PTSD, Depression, Poly-Drug Use and Suicide Attempt in Reservation-Based Native American Adolescents and Young Adults. *American Journal of Community Psychology*. Apr 2015; 55(3-4).

## Community Sample

- Reservation within county listed among 100 poorest and 10 least healthy in the US.
- Extremely remote and covers over 2 million acres.
- The tribal law enforcement including 18 police officers and 3 criminal investigators is 50% of what is needed to police this area and population.
- The violent crime rate in 2011 was five times higher than the rest of the state and 3 times higher than the United States.
- Nearly half of those living on the reservation live below the federal poverty level.

U.S. Census Bureau. Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2010;  
<http://www.census.gov/sai/www/saipmethods/statescount/2010county.html>

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps: A Healthier Nation, County by County. 2010; [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)

## Constructs/Variables

### Primary Dependent Variables:

- lifetime suicide ideation
- lifetime suicide attempts

### Primary Independent Variable:

- historical trauma (family history of a negative boarding school experience)

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## Other Variables

- Communal Mastery
- Cultural Identity
- Childhood Trauma
  - emotional, physical, and sexual abuse
  - physical and emotional neglect
- Historical loss associated symptoms
- Perceived discrimination
- Exposure to Interpersonal Violence
  - Witnessing violence
  - Victim of violence
  - Learned of Violence
- Bullied
- DV Exposure (witness to violence directed at mother)
- PTSD Symptoms
- Depression Symptoms
- Poly drug use
  - Methamphetamine use
  - Prescription drug misuse
  - Inhalant use
  - Alcohol use
  - Marijuana use

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## Tribal Data Dissemination: Moving knowledge into action

- Utilized video teleconference technology
- Community site visits at the beginning and end
- Variable order was selected by Tribal Advisory Board
- Biweekly meetings included interactive discussion about research findings—variable definition, questions, findings and comparisons to other native communities and national findings
- In-depth understanding of the data helped in making a decision about the next phase of this collaborative partnership
  - Educate the community about the long-term implications of trauma, including historical and childhood traumas
  - Address trauma and ACEs with early intervention among parent-child dyads in Head Start



## Lessons Learned & Best Practices

- Building collaborative tribal community partnerships requires time & persistence
- Broad-based collaboration provides a basis for building tribal research capacity
- Tribal Resolution (tribal law) provides formal support & approval of research
- Tribal review & approval for all materials in lieu of Tribal IRB
- Respect for tribal sovereignty demonstrated by formally requesting permission to conduct research & following tribal protocols
- Tribal Data Ownership requires tribal approval of all research publications including this poster
- Acknowledge tribal differences is key to trust building
- Staff and tribal leadership turnover can slow and sometimes stop the process



## Works Cited

Brockie TN, Dana-Sacco G, Wallen GR, Wilcox HC, Campbell JC. The Relationship of Adverse Childhood Experiences to PTSD, Depression, Poly-Drug Use and Suicide Attempt in Reservation-Based Native American Adolescents and Young Adults. *American journal of community psychology*. Jun 2015;55(3-4):411-421.

U.S. Census Bureau. Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. 2010; <http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/methods/statecounty/2010county.html.com>

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps: A Healthier Nation, County by County. 2010; [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org).

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