



Research and Evaluation in Native Communities

Targeted Resources for Tribal Child Welfare, September 2017

Developing tribal capacity to understand and conduct research and evaluation in tribal communities is an exercise in sovereignty. These resources can provide information to get you started.

[A Roadmap for Collaborative and Effective Evaluation in Tribal Communities](#)

This comprehensive guide represents a shared vision for the future of tribal child welfare research and evaluation. Collaboratively developed by tribal child welfare administrators, academic and community evaluators and researchers, TA providers and federal partners, the roadmap highlights tribal sovereignty and the meaningful inclusion of tribal voices to enhance tribal research and evaluation capacity.

[Exploring Pathways to Trust: A Tribal Perspective on Data Sharing](#)

Tribal perspectives emerged from a discussion on federal data access and the collection, management, and use of secondary data in the context of university-tribal research/evaluation partnerships. Authors describe how to hold partners accountable through the use of data-sharing procedures that respect tribal sovereignty and tribal oversight of research/evaluation.

[Making Decisions about Genetics Research: A Guide for American Indian/Alaska Native Communities](#)

This interactive tool from NCAI can assist tribes make research/evaluation decisions that support tribal sovereignty. While the primary focus is on genetic research, the same protocols can apply to other research and evaluation efforts. Tribes can use this guide to help:

- [Define guiding values](#),
- Decide if participation is right for them (with questions for [individuals/communities](#) to determine their own views and [questions tribal leaders can reflect upon](#)), and to
- Review [cases and examples from other Tribes](#).

[Walk Softly and Listen Carefully, Building Research Relationships with Tribal Communities](#) (NCAI, MSU)

This document provides practical advice for those tribes who are interested in developing research and evaluation capacity. Authors emphasize the importance of building trusting community relationships in order to effectively develop an indigenous community-centered approach.

To guide tribes in asserting sovereignty in research and evaluation in their communities, the [National Congress of American Indians \(NCAI\)](#) developed a series of policy and research papers. Sample tools, data sharing agreements, and examples can be found in the following documents:

- [Sharing Data and Protecting Your Community](#)
- [Research Regulation in American Indian/Alaska Native Communities: Policy and Practice Considerations](#)
- [Research Regulation Options for American Indian/Alaska Native Communities](#)
- [Principles and Models for Data Sharing Agreements with American Indian/Alaska Native Communities](#)
- [Data Control Options for American Indian/Alaska Native Communities](#)
- [Curriculum link to NCAI](#)
- Example from the Akwesasne Research Advisory Committee: [Protocol for Review of Research](#)



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