



Annotated Bibliography of Research Conducted with Native American Populations

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Partners for Prosperity (P4P) is a non-profit organization dedicated to reduce poverty in the sixteen counties in Eastern Idaho and the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Because P4P takes a grassroots approach to development, it is important to gather information about poverty from the people experiencing it most directly. The poverty rate in Fort Hall is the highest in the region, however, community partners have suggested that some methods of research inquiry are more appropriate when dealing with Native American populations than others. The purpose of this annotated bibliography is to begin to identify research methods used with Native American populations and to understand which methods of inquiry are most appropriate for use with the Fort Hall population. This annotated bibliography looks at several research methods used to answer a variety of questions with Native American populations.

Baker, Stanley B., & Alfred Bryant Jr. (2003). The feasibility of constructing profiles of Native Americans from the People of Color Racial Identity Attitude Scale: A Brief Report. *Measurement & Evaluation in Counseling & Development*, 36 (1), pp. 2-9.

Through the use of **qualitative data, obtained in the form of the People of Color Racial Identity Attitude Scale (PRIAS) survey**, the author seeks to answer the question of whether or not the PRIAS is a legitimate scale to assess the rate of racial identity within the Lumbee Indian tribe. **One hundred and fifty Lumbee Indians from two higher education institutions in North Carolina** were sampled, all volunteered and no incentive was given for participation. The findings suggested that indeed the PRIAS may be useful in constructing racial identity attitudes among Native Americans. The author does admit that further research needs to be done with Native Americans from other tribes to further validate the research.

Benin, Andrea L., Connie Donaldson, Scott Katz, Katherine L. O'Brien, Alan Parkinson, Raymond Reid, Mathuram Santosham, Anne Schuchat, James P. Watt, Cynthia G. Whitney, & Elizabeth R. Zell, Elizabeth (2003). Effectiveness of the 23-Valent Polysaccharide Vaccine against Invasive Pneumococcal Disease in Navajo Adults. *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, 188 (1), pp. 81-90.

Among **Navajo adults** there exists a chance of acquiring a pneumococcal disease that is two to three times greater than that of the rest of the adult population. The goal of this study was to investigate whether or not the 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV23) had any effectiveness on this particular population. The research implemented the use of a **case-control study** to examine this population. Case patients were identified as adult Navajos who registered at one of the nine medical facilities that were participating in the study, (all of the hospitals were Indian Health Services hospitals on the Navajo Reservation of Arizona and New Mexico). The control patients were randomly selected from medical records of adults who were registered at any one of the nine participating hospitals. This was



a very sophisticated study and involved multiple cross referencing of control and case patients so that they all were close in age, amount of time with disease, sex and number of previous vaccinations, along with other variables. **The data was analyzed using multivariable, conditional, logistic regression to calculate matched, adjusted odds ratios for vaccination.** The results of this study vary somewhat from previous studies in that it shows the vaccine was not particularly effective among this population, at a rate of only 26 percent. Others have shown rates from 47-81 percent effectiveness. This study concludes that Navajo adults are at a high risk for this particular disease and that the PPV23 is not an adequate vaccination.

Benson, Molly A., Bruce E. Compas, Traci Rieckmann, & Martha E. Wadsworth, (2004). Coping and responses to stress in Navajo adolescents: Psychometric properties of the Responses to Stress Questionnaire. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 32 (4), pp. 391-412.

The researchers of this study were particularly interested in discovering whether or not the Responses to Stress Questionnaire (RSQ) would be a valuable tool for assessing stress among **American Indian adolescent populations.** The research up until this point had really only been done on middle class whites and transferability of this test to other ethnic groups was unknown. The study was conducted on the Navajo Reservation with children who attended public schools and represented a random stratified sample of age and gender. In all 332 Navajo adolescents aged 13-18, 57 percent were female, with a mean socioeconomic status of 3.2 with 1 being the lowest and 9 the highest, participated in the study. **The researchers used both the RSQ and the Ways of Coping Checklist (WCCL) to determine results. A factor-analytic approach, along with a first-order confirmatory factor analysis, and finally a multi-trait, multi-method analysis was employed.** On the basis of reviews and research done on the Navajo culture the researchers concluded that the RSQ would be an adequate measure to use. The results confirmed this hypothesis. Therefore the RSQ may be a useful tool in assessing the coping methods of American Indians. Limitations to this may be other culturally-specific strategies and responses that may exist within a given culture.

Burhansstipanov, Linda, Julie Erb, Jennie R. Joe, Kathryn L. Kenyon, Paula M. Lantz, Edward B. Liebow, & Carlyn E. Orians, (2004). Public Education Strategies for Delivering Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening in American Indian and Alaska Native Populations. *Journal of Public Health Management & Practice*, 10 (1), pp. 46-54.

This purpose of this study was to examine the effect that direct funding from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has had on tribal communities. The author utilized a multiple site case study design with **five tribal programs. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews of 141 individuals, 16 focus groups that consisted of 132 program eligible women, and a review of published and unpublished documents.** A code book was developed for analysis based on study questions and important themes; coding agreement had to exceed 80% to move to the next transcript. Information gained through this study showed that many of the tribes had little if any experience in providing and participating in federally funded programs. This led to a poor information system within the tribe and little knowledge by tribal members that care did exist. One of the main challenges found through the research was that an old mindset was still in place and many were



skeptical of new technology, and since much respect is given to the older generations within the Native American community this has stifled the advancement of that knowledge of technology. This study also shows that outreach programs are starting to make a difference in the tribal communities and that more work is needed to continue broadening the levels of awareness.

Chaplesk, Elizabeth E., Charles Fisher, & Joanne L. Sobeck, (2003). Conducting Research with American Indians: A Case Study of Motives, Methods, and Results. *Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 12(1), pp. 69-85.

Through previous research conducted with Native peoples as well as data collected through interviews with tribal representatives the authors raise questions and then provide guidelines for how to conduct research with Native Americans. The first question raised by the researchers is: what are the motives behind the research being conducted? The authors suggest every research proposal that goes to a tribe must contain how the tribe will benefit from the study. A true benefit must be seen by the tribe to really gain access. The question of the researchers benefit must also be raised. Those who are willing to put aside personal accolades will be able to gain more access than those who are purely out for academic publication. The second question refers to the methods and approaches that will be used in the study. It is suggested that, when possible, the team include Natives and that everyone on the team be seen as an expert. Also, because most instruments have not been validated for use with the Native populations the researchers found that focus groups were of particular advantage when conducting their own research. The third question raised by the researchers examines how the results of studies will be used. The researcher suggests because data evaluation involves judgment, it is essential to understand the value system of those who are being studied and to come to a conclusion about how the data will be assessed. This should be done before any research begins. This particular article will be of assistance to Partners for Prosperity because it involves and illustrates how to gain acceptance into Natives cultures.

Chisholm, Anita, Janette Cline, Grace X. Ma, & Jamil Toubbeh (1998). Native American adolescents' views on fetal alcohol syndrome prevention in schools. *Journal of School Health*, 68(4), pp. 131-137.

The Fetal Alcohol Syndrome rate among Native Americans is six times that of the national average. This study was designed to ascertain strategies for developing culturally appropriate FAS prevention for **Native American middle school students.** **The survey took place in four southwest middle school sites, 2 urban, 1 suburban and 1 rural Native American school, representing 60 tribal affiliations.** A total of 163 6th and 8th grade students were surveyed. An interesting aspect of this article is that most of the students were considered to be high risk. **The survey was comprised of questions used during student focus groups and qualitative findings were reviewed to assure content and face validity.** The survey indicated that there is a difference in awareness of the relationship between drugs and FAS among the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders and 6th graders need to be targeted for education on the subject. Also strategies which include peer resistance training may be of particular importance due to the fact that peer acceptance is a major determinant of alcohol usage. Studies such as this show there is a high risk for young usage



in this population and there need to be preventative programs in place to divert some of the problems afflicting this population.

Dexter, Don, & Roberta L Hall (1988). Smokeless tobacco use and attitudes toward smokeless tobacco among Native Americans and other adolescents in the Northwest. *American Journal of Public Health*, 78(12), pp. 1586-1589.

The Researchers in this study set out to understand the thoughts and use of smokeless tobacco by the young Native American population. **Three Washington school districts who reported a high number of Native American youths were selected to participate in this study.** There were three different test sites: one a small rural community, another, a large isolated reservation and the third area was urban. **All 6th, 9th, and 11th graders in attendance on the day of the survey at 14 different schools participated. The total number of surveys obtained was 1,180. The survey studied respondent's use, individual traits, family and friend usage and attitudes about usage.** The results of this study are surprising because of the high usage among the population, and suggest intervention programs need to be implemented. This study uncovers what is most likely a nationwide phenomenon of heavy tobacco use which will lead to a greater risk of health problems for this population.

Deyo, Richard A., David C. Grossman, & Carol Milligan (1991). Risk Factors for suicide attempts among Navajo adolescents. *American Journal of Public Health*, 81(7), pp. 870-875.

Suicide rates for **Native American adolescents in 1987** were double that of the national average. The researchers in this study, through the use of the **Indian Health Service Adolescent Health Survey conducted in 1988, sought to identify risk factors among native adolescents.** The survey which consisted of 162 questions was given during school time and was voluntary. The data collected came from **47 different schools** representing students in grades 6-12. The response rate exceeded 70 percent and totaled 7,241 students. The study identified many areas of risk with the two strongest being previous exposure to suicide through family and friends, with interestingly, the friend component being a stronger risk, and also previous mental behavioral or emotional problems.

This was the first large scale study done of this nature, and while the prevalence to attempt suicide is high among Navajo adolescents the results are similar to those of that reported in other studies across America. Authors admit that due to the cross-sectional form of this study the relationship between risk factors was hard to establish.

Dillinger, Teresa L., & Stephen C. Jett (1999). Feast or famine? Supplemental food programs and their impacts on two American Indian communities. *International Journal of Food Sciences & Nutrition*, 50(3), pp. 15-23.

A cross section technique was used in this study with 40 families from the Round Valley Reservation and 40 families living in the Sacramento area. Those living in the Sacramento area consisted of a variety of Native American descent. The participants completed a survey that examined the similarities and differences between urban and rural health and nutrition related programs. **An interview of an adult resident was also conducted at each of the homes involved in the study. Interviews and surveys were**



analyzed using SPSS 7.5 and descriptive statistics were obtained with a chi-square test used to determine statistically significant differences in responses between the two groups being studied. The data shows that there exists a heavy reliance on the supplemental food programs among both the Native American communities tested and that this could lead to unhealthy diets and increased risk of obesity. Also there is a lack of access to culturally relevant foods in both of the populations.

Eisenberg, Marla E., Dianne Neumark-Sztainer, & Cheryl L. Perry (2003). Peer harassment, school connectedness, and academic achievement. *Journal of School Health*, 73(8), pp. 311-317.

The author's original hypothesis is students who report peer harassment would report lower levels of both school achievement and school connectedness. **The survey used in this study was put together by Project EAT**, though it went through many revisions so that it would be relevant to the target population and study. **Students in grades 7-12 at 31 public schools in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area were given the 221 item survey during regular class periods. Total student participation was 4,746. Eight percent of the total population was Native American.** The study showed as peer harassment increases so does the dislike for school and the students who are least likely to be the target of harassment are B students while F students are the most likely to be the target of peer harassment. White and Native American students reported the highest degree of peer harassment.

Gaiko, Sylvia S., Raphael R. Kavanaugh, & Michelle Wikle (1999). An employment programme to preserve the Native American culture. *Innovations in Education & Training International*, 36(2), pp. 161-169.

The authors of this study sought to institute a training program for chronically unemployed Native Americans to improve job knowledge levels and abilities to get and maintain jobs. **The target population of this study was the five North Central Oklahoma Native American tribes served by the Pawnee Bureau of Indian Affairs. Among these tribes the unemployment rate was between 60-75%.** A coalition of representatives was put together and utilized throughout the project for project analysis of needs, curriculum development, delivery of program and evaluation. **This was a longitudinal study encompassing 3 years.** The program was designed to combine interpersonal skills and work related skills training techniques that were culturally relevant. Of the 71 participants in the program, 53 graduated and 85% showed mastery on their curriculum post-tests. The program also had some unexpected results in that a number of participants went back to school after the program. There was a large effect on the youth population between the ages of 4-18, showing that a youth group could also be helpful for this population.

Harvey, Richard D. (2001). Individual differences in the phenomenological impact of social stigma. *Journal of Social Psychology*, 141(2), pp. 174-190.

It is said that social stigma is placed upon individuals by their society and not by their individual attributes; the author of this study seeks to develop and validate a measure of social stigmatization. **A total sample of 197 individuals was used of whom 28 were Native American.** The author recruited students in entry level psychology classes. The Native American participants were recruited from a predominantly Native American university. **The**



author used a survey, and analyzed the different components of the survey which consisted of a **Stigmatization Scale, Goal Disruption, Powerlessness Scale, Mastery Scale, Interaction Anxiousness Scale, Personal self-esteem, and Collective self-esteem**. Native Americans reported significantly higher levels of stigmatization than their European American counterparts. For Native Americans the results showed their particular levels of stigmatization were associated with a tendency to regard their lives as fatalistically ruled and also with the tendency to experience social anxiety. The author believes this scale marks a start in the process of refining a complete stigmatization scale.

Horner, May R., Christine M. Olson, & Dorothy J. Pringle (1977). Nutritional status of Chippewa Head Start children in Wisconsin. *American Journal of Public Health*, 67 (2), pp. 185-187.

This study uses **multiple research methods**. The researchers conducted **medical examinations, reviews of medical records, and interviews of the sample child's parents**. The researchers also **observed parenting techniques** associated with the parenting of food habits among the children. Overall there were **67 children sampled from a Head Start program, 45 percent were Native American**. The survey found a minimal percent were under height for age, 28 percent exceeded the weight for height measurement, and hemoglobin values were low in 25 percent of the sample. The high rate of obesity is of high concern because of the high rate of diabetic health problems in the adult population within this particular population.

Horner, Ronnie D. (1990). Cancer mortality in Native Americans in North Carolina. *American Journal of Public Health*, 80(8), pp. 940-945.

The authors of this study **utilized a trend study format to assess the rates of cancer mortality within the Native American population in the state of North Carolina between the time periods of 1968-1972 and 1978-1982**. Population data came from the **1970 and 1980 U.S. census, while cancer mortality data was obtained from the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics**. The authors reviewed all deaths from cancers among Caucasians and Native Americans. Rates of Cancer mortality followed the previous national trend for Native Americans in that they are generally lower than that of other ethnic groups, even with extensive breeding among other ethnic groups.

Kerbo, Harold R. (1981). College achievement among Native Americans: A research note. *Social Forces*, 59(4), pp. 1275-1281.

This study attempts to test for cultural factors along with other aspects related to the general concept of assimilation and acculturation among Native Americans. **The study analyzes quantitative data gathered from both a control group (white college students) and a treatment group (Native American students). The sample consisted of 253 individuals, of which 102 were Native American**. The study relied on counselors at four Universities throughout Oklahoma to administer the **questionnaire** to N.A. students, while the white sample was obtained by distributing **the survey** in 6 different social science classes at 2 Universities in Oklahoma. The results of the study showed race which was a dummy variable as having the second strongest correlation to college Grade point average (G.P.A.) Even with the use of **stepwise multiple regression to assess the independent effect of race**



on G.P.A. race still showed the 2nd strongest correlation. The overall results of this study show that when Native Americans identify themselves as more White than Native American, and have more interaction with Whites than with other Native Americans they have a better feeling about being involved in the Whiteness of most American Universities and therefore do much better in school.

Merskin, Debra (1998). Sending up Signals: A Survey of Native American Media Use and Representation in the Mass Media. *Howard Journal of Communications*, 9(4), pp. 333-346.

The main emphasis of this study is to answer two questions pertaining to Native Americans: what media are used by Natives living in the Northwest and what do they think about native representations in television programs and films.

The author undertook this study because of a lack of empirical knowledge with regard to the two questions above and because of a self-perceived negative portrayal of Native Americans in the media. **Quantitative data was gathered through a mail survey sent to 190 self-identified Native Americans enrolled in a Northwest college in January 1995.** The survey consisted of 37 total questions of which 36 were forced answer and 1 was open ended. The overall results showed many Natives are readers of newspapers and magazines and they view and listen to television and radio. The respondents believed with regard to television 31 percent of the time the portrayal was negative and inaccurate while 20 percent of the time it was positive but inaccurate. With regards to film, 36 percent of the time portrayals were inaccurate. More research needs to be done in this area to gain a fuller understanding of the negative stereotyping that Natives receive due to media presentations in America.

Moore, R. Paul, & Michael F. Weeks (1981). Ethnicity-of-interviewer effects on ethnic respondents. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 45(2), pp. 245-250.

The intention of this study was to see if the disparity in race will affect the responses of non-sensitive questions given in a face to face interview. The surveyors hypothesize that the results from black/white findings can be generalizable to other ethnic minorities. **The surveyors used qualitative data obtained through a face to face interview with a member of the respondent's home over the age of 14 who responded on behalf of the sample child and two "pencil and paper tests" given to the sample child over a three week period. Sample children were selected from lists provided by the school district of elementary aged children in the N.E. Arizona area.** Interviews were conducted by teams of non-ethnic and ethnic interviewers. The results of the study back-up the original hypothesis in that responses given to non-sensitive questions did not seem to be affected by the race of the interviewer.

Weaver, Hilary N. (1999). Indigenous people and the social work profession: Defining culturally competent services. *Social Work*, 44(3), pp. 217-226.

The purpose of this research was to fill in the gaps in the social work profession in reference to the cultural competence of social workers. The author using **data obtained through the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) identified 8 different schools that reported a high number of Native American students, and sent out surveys to 7 of**



the 8 schools. Two schools provided lists of graduate students for which surveys were also sent out to. The author also sent surveys to those who were registered in the American Indian Social Work Educator's Association, and other Native American social workers. In all 240 surveys were sent out and 78 were received back. The author then reviewed and categorized the data. The data indicated four areas important for social workers to understand when working with Native American populations: diversity, history, culture and contemporary realities.

Young, Thomas J. (1991). Locus of control, depression, and anger among Native Americans. *Journal of Social Psychology*, 131(4), pp. 583-585.

Lester, David (1989). Relationship between locus of control and depression mediated by anger toward others. *Journal of Social Psychology*, 129 (3), pp. 413-415.

Thomas Young in his article, Locus of Control, Depression, and Anger among Native Americans, refers to David Lester's research to gain an understanding of the research methods that Young himself used. The purpose of this research was to test Lester's original hypothesis, that depression is positively correlated with a belief in control by powerful others only for those who were unable to express their anger physically, verbally, or indirectly, on a group of non-White subjects. **Young's subjects, 53 Native American college students, were given a measure of belief in locus of control, a self-report measure of depression, and three scales from the Buss and Durkee Hostility Inventory.** The highest 20 percent and the lowest 20 percent of scores on the Buss and Durkee test were selected for examination. The research shows that for the lower 20 percent in the assaultive, verbal and indirect hostility test there was a correlation between depression and belief in control by powerful others. The top 20 percent did not show this correlation.

Young, Thomas J. (1992). Locus of control and self-reported psychopathology among Native Americans. *Social Behavior & Personality: An International Journal*, 20(4), pp. 235-237.

The researcher seeks to determine if locus of control and self-reported psychopathology are correlated among groups with a sense of fatalism. **Fifty-three Native American college students are used and given the adult Nowicki-Strickland Internal-External Locus of Control Scale (ANSIE) along with the Belief Symptom Inventory (BSI).** Scoring on the BSI is based on three subscales of Anxiety, Depression, and Global Severity Index. The findings in this study show a moderate positive correlation between the ANSIE scores and depression, anxiety and The Global Severity Index, suggesting a relationship between locus of control and self-reported psychopathology.