

THE MATERNAL, INFANT, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING PROGRAM

SUPPORTING STATE-TRIBAL LOCAL IMPLEMENTING AGENCY
COLLABORATION FOR IMPROVED DATA PRACTICES

May 2018



Technical Assistance Resource

Design Options for Home Visiting Evaluation

SUPPORTING STATE-TRIBAL LOCAL IMPLEMENTING AGENCY COLLABORATION FOR IMPROVED DATA PRACTICES: THE MATERNAL, INFANT, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING PROGRAM

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About DOHVE

The purpose of the Design Options for Home Visiting Evaluation (DOHVE) contract is to provide research and evaluation support to the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program.

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For additional DOHVE resources, visit <https://www.jbassoc.com/project/design-options-home-visiting-evaluation-dohve>

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Supporting State-Tribal Local Implementing Agency Collaboration for Improved Data Practices

Collaboration between state and tribal governments is fundamental to effectively supporting the health and well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) children and families. The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program presents an opportunity to support state-tribal coordination to implement evidence-based home visiting services in tribal communities.

States and tribal nations are already working closely to provide home visiting services, collect necessary data, and comply with legislated requirements. States and tribal local implementing agencies (LIAs) must collect and report data on program implementation and performance for eligible families participating in the program in the legislatively mandated benchmark areas of: (1) improvements in maternal, newborn, and child health; (2) prevention of child injuries, child abuse, neglect, or maltreatment, as well as reductions of emergency room visits; (3) improvements in school readiness and child academic achievement; (4) reductions in crime or domestic violence; (5) improvements in family economic self-sufficiency; and (6) improvements in coordination and referrals for other community resources and supports. MIECHV is administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau in collaboration with the Administration for Children and Families.

The goal of this guide is to provide state home visiting leadership with resources to support improved collaboration with tribal LIA home visiting service providers.

The goal of this guide is to provide state home visiting leadership with resources to support improved collaboration with tribal LIA home visiting service providers. The guide describes and links to briefs, articles, curricula, websites, and other materials across a range of topics relevant to supporting state-tribal collaboration within MIECHV. The resources are organized under the following topic areas:

- Supporting child and family health and well-being in tribal communities
- Tribal-state relations: legal and historical considerations
- Research and data collection in tribal communities

The topics provide a primer on the historical and current context of state-tribal collaboration with a focus on data practices. The guide is not intended to serve as a comprehensive list or systematic review of current literature. Material was chosen based on the following criteria:

- Relevance: Resources are relevant to both the topics selected and to the audience.
- Accessibility: Resources are free and publicly available.
- Utility: Resources contain information or frameworks that are practical and actionable.

Supporting Child and Family Health and Well-Being in Tribal Communities

To understand issues facing AIAN children and families, it is important to have an awareness of the lasting effects of individual and collective trauma across native nations. It is also critical that practitioners and policy makers understand the protective factors and strengths present in native families and communities.

Historical Trauma and Its Implications for Health and Well-Being

These resources provide a basic description of historical trauma and highlight some of its lasting impacts on the health and well-being of tribal communities.

Resources

[*The American Indian Holocaust: Healing Historical Unresolved Grief*](#)

Authors: Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart and Lemyra DeBruyn

This peer-reviewed article defines historical trauma, discusses the contributing historical events, and draws on literature about the Holocaust, trauma, and grief to explain the way in which past traumas affect present-day AIAN families.

[*Indian Health Disparities*](#)

Author: Indian Health Service

This brief fact sheet from the Indian Health Service describes current disparities in leading health issues and mortality between native and non-native populations. The fact sheet was released in April 2017 and contains data collected from 2008 to 2010.

[*Poverty and Health Disparities for American Indian and Alaska Native Children: Current Knowledge and Future Prospects*](#)

Authors: Michelle Sarche and Paul Spicer

This peer-reviewed article provides an overview of current health and socioeconomic realities facing AIAN children, as well as the strengths present in tribal communities and promising early childhood interventions.

Identifying and Supporting Strengths in Tribal Communities

These resources describe American Indian and Alaska Native community strengths and provide tools for using research methods to highlight these characteristics and behaviors.

Resources

[*A Journey Toward Strong Programs and Thriving Families: The Story of Three Tribal Home Visiting Grantees*](#)

Author: Deborah R. Stark

This issue brief draws on interviews with staff from three tribal home visiting programs funded under Tribal MIECHV. The document describes family and program strengths and the ways in which the federal funding has supported system change efforts in all three communities.

[*Seeing the Protective Rainbow: How Families Survive and Thrive in the American Indian and Alaska Native Community*](#)

Authors: Charlotte Goodluck and Angela Willetto

This Annie E. Casey Foundation brief accompanies a larger mixed-methods study of American Indian family resilience. The study defines a framework for understanding cultural and community protections.

[*Strength-Based Well-Being Indicators for Indigenous Children and Families: A Literature Review of Indigenous Communities' Identified Well-Being Indicators*](#)

Authors: Jennifer Rountree and Addie Smith

This peer-reviewed article summarizes current literature that describes well-being indicators specific to tribal populations.

Home Visiting and Other Promising Service Delivery Practices With Tribal Communities

As state and federal leaders look to collaborate with tribal nations, these resources highlight successful strategies for improving the health and well-being of children and families.

Resources

[*A Summary of Research and Publications on Early Childhood for American Indian and Alaska Native Children*](#)

Authors: Ellen L. Marks, Melinda K. Moyer, Michelle Roche, and Elliott T. Graham

This Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation report is a broad review of existing early childhood research with information on AIAN children and families. It was published in 2003 as a component of the Early Head Start Research and Evaluation Project.

[*Best Practices in American Indian and Alaska Native Public Health*](#)

Author: Tribal Epidemiology Centers

This report, authored by the 12 Tribal Epidemiology Centers, highlights current challenges and best-practice public health strategies across the 12 centers.

[*The Healing Power of Heritage*](#)

Author: Heather Stringer

This newsletter article describes four indigenous interventions focused on suicide and substance abuse prevention across the United States.

[*Tribal Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness*](#)

Author: Administration for Children and Families

This website includes a federal report that is a companion to the Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness review. The report synthesizes existing intervention research on home visiting models that demonstrate effects with AIAN populations. The website also includes an addendum review of tribal home visiting implementation research, as well as three briefs based on the larger report:

[*Designing and Conducting Home Visiting Evaluations in Tribal Communities: Takeaways from the HomVEE Tribal Review*](#)

[*Developing Home Visiting Models for Tribal Communities: Takeaways from the HomVEE Tribal Review*](#)

[*Implementing a Home Visiting Model in Tribal Communities: Takeaways from the HomVEE Tribal Review*](#)

Tribal-State Relations: Legal and Historical Considerations

Effective collaboration between state and tribal governments relies on an understanding of sovereignty and governance structures as well as the context of state and tribal relationships. These resources provide clear information on the complex relationships between states and tribes and best practices for collaboration.

Understanding Tribal Sovereignty and Governance

These resources provide information on tribal laws and governing structures, including information about tribal sovereignty.

Resources

[*Fundamentals of Contracting by and With Indian Tribes*](#)

Author: Michael P. O’Connell

This comprehensive article was developed for government and non-government agencies contracting with tribal nations or entities. The article describes key considerations for entering into contracts with a sovereign nation, the types of tribal entities, and relevant federal and tribal case law.

[*Tribal Law Gateway*](#)

Author: Native American Rights Fund

This website from the National Indian Law Library is a comprehensive and well-maintained repository of existing tribal codes and law. The library is organized alphabetically by tribe.

[*Tribal Nations and the United States: An Introduction*](#)

Author: National Congress of American Indians

This manuscript provides readers with a comprehensive overview of tribes across the United States; a history of federal policy affecting tribal nations, tribal sovereignty, and governance; and current issues facing tribes and AIAN citizens.

Context of State-Tribal Relations

These resources describe the historical and current context of state and tribal relationships and provide examples of current agreements and legislation between states and tribes.

Resources

[*Database of State-Tribal Legislation*](#)

Author: National Conference of State Legislatures

This website catalogs all state legislation affecting tribal governments. The database is searchable by topic area or state. As of 2018, a search for state legislation under the Health and Human Services category yielded 53 bills across 13 states.

[Government to Government: Understanding State and Tribal Governments](#)

Authors: Susan Johnson, Jeanne Kaufmann, John Dossett, and Sarah Hicks

This report is a thorough introduction to the relationship between state and tribal governments. The report was developed as a resource for state legislators.

Best Practices in State-Tribal Collaboration in Human Services and Early Childhood Programming

These resources highlight successful collaboration in child welfare and childcare.

Resources

[Promising Practices in Tribal-State Collaboration: Partnerships Strengthen Tribal Child Welfare](#)

Author: National Indian Child Welfare Association

This newsletter article provides a succinct overview of tribal-state interaction in child welfare and offers best practices and accompanying examples from current tribal-state collaborations.

[Tribal-State Relations: Issue Brief](#)

Author: Administration for Children and Families

This brief provides a succinct overview of tribal-state interaction in child welfare and offers best practices and key components of successful tribal-state collaborations.

[Tribes and States Working Together: A Guide for Tribal-State Child Care Coordination](#)

Author: Administration for Children and Families

This federal report describes the principles of tribal sovereignty and government-to-government interaction between tribal nations and state governments. The report also includes examples of successful childcare partnerships.

Research and Data Collection in Tribal Communities

Supporting ethical research and data collection practices is critical for all those involved in research or data collection with tribal communities. The resources summarized here describe the historical and legal context unique to tribal research. These resources may also support future state research and evaluation work, as they reference frameworks and principles for improving research relationships with tribal communities. Finally, the guide provides information on a particularly salient topic for home visiting: the unique measurement and assessment challenges in working with American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Understanding the History of Unethical Use of Tribal Data

Many tribal communities have had experiences with unethical research. These resources describe this difficult history and a vision for research and policy practices that could begin to repair past damage.

Resources

[*No Meaningful Apology for American Indian Unethical Research Abuses*](#)

Author: Felicia Hodge

This peer-reviewed article describes past unethical treatment of AIAN communities at the hands of researchers. The author presents potential solutions to repairing the current mistrust of researchers by tribal communities.

[*Research in and With Tribal Communities: History, Evolution, and Vision*](#)

Authors: Nancy Whitesell and Michelle Sarche

These presentation slides provide a useful overview of the history of research with tribal communities and approaches for conducting ethical, community-driven research.

Understanding and Respecting Tribal Data Ownership and Sovereignty

Many tribes have drawn on their sovereign rights to protect the information collected and reported about their citizens. These resources describe ways tribes are regulating and governing research.

Resources

[*A Culturally Tailored Research Ethics Training Curriculum for American Indian and Alaska Native Communities: A Randomized Comparison Trial*](#)

Authors: Cynthia Pearson, Mayra Parker, Chuan Zhou, Caitlin Donald, & Celia Fisher

This peer-reviewed article describes the process of developing a research ethics training for human subjects research with AIAN populations. The curriculum is copyrighted by the University of Washington and available free of charge if individuals complete a [survey](#) describing the intended use.

[*Data as a Strategic Resource: Self-Determination, Governance, and the Data Challenge for Indigenous Nations in the United States*](#)

Authors: Stephanie Carroll Rainie, Jennifer Lee Schultz, Eileen Briggs, Patricia Riggs, and Nancy Lynn Palmanteer-Holder

This peer-reviewed article discusses the importance of active tribal participation in improving the quality and protection of data collected about AIAN populations.

[*Research Regulation*](#)

Author: National Congress of American Indians

This website describes the importance of tribal regulation of research. The site is designed as a resource for tribal leaders but has useful information for anyone wanting to learn more about tribal regulation of research.

Supporting Ethical and Effective Evaluation Practice With Tribal Communities: Frameworks and Principles

Tribal research and evaluation experts have articulated frameworks to guide collaborative, ethical data practice in AIAN communities. While these resources differ in specific content, they share a vision of partnerships that are guided by tribal priorities and emphasize research methods that underscore community strengths and indigenous worldviews.

Resources

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

Author: Tribal Evaluation Workgroup, Children's Bureau

This document describes the values, knowledge, and skills necessary for "building a new narrative" in evaluation with tribal communities. The resource was developed with a focus on child welfare but has broad relevance for those interested in supporting tribal evaluation efforts in other service areas. The website also includes links to videos and presentations describing the document's content and approach.

[*Indigenous Evaluation Framework: Telling Our Story In Our Place and Time*](#)

Authors: Joan LaFrance and Richard Nichols, American Indian Higher Education Consortium

The American Indian Higher Education Consortium framework guides researchers in a process of developing community-driven research rooted in indigenous methods.

[*Promoting Ethical Research With American Indian and Alaska Native People Living in Urban Areas*](#)

Authors: Nicole P. Yuan, Jami Bartgis, and Deirdre Demers

This peer-reviewed article provides recommendations for improving research ethics with urban Indian populations.

[*Walk Softly and Listen Carefully: Building Research Relationships With Tribal Communities*](#)

Authors: National Congress of American Indians Policy Research Center and Montana State University Center for Native Health Partnerships

This report is intended for researchers in and outside of tribal communities looking to improve collaboration with tribal nations. The report offers values for building ethical partnerships and practical steps that can be taken by researchers.

Measurement Challenges and Opportunities With Tribal Communities

Few assessment tools have been validated with AIAN populations. These resources present compendia and processes for assessing child and family progress through research.

Resources

[*Developing a Plan for Measuring Outcomes in Model Systems of Care for American Indian and Alaska Native Children and Youth*](#)

Authors: Douglas Novins, Michele King, and Linda Son Stone

This peer-reviewed article describes the process of developing community and culturally appropriate outcome measures for Systems of Care grantees.

[*Risk and Protective Factors for Substance Abuse and/or Mental Health Problems Among Alaska Native and Native American Populations*](#)

Author: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

This federal report synthesizes risk and protective factors for AIAN populations and includes appropriate indicators and relevant peer-reviewed literature for each factor.

[Tribal Early Childhood Measures Compendium](#)

Author: Tribal Early Childhood Research Center

This website was developed for Tribal MIECHV grantees. The site serves as a searchable compendium of existing screening and assessment measures across early childhood domains.

Organizations

Numerous national organizations are engaged in the work of improving the lives of AIAN children and families and supporting positive state-tribal collaboration. Following are examples.

[Indian Country Child Trauma Center](#)

The Indian Country Child Trauma Center provides research, training, and resource development related to understanding and addressing trauma in tribal communities.

[Indian Health Service](#)

The Indian Health Service (IHS) is a federal agency within the Department of Health and Human Services. IHS is charged with providing health services in accordance with the federal trust responsibility to tribal nations. Its mission is “to raise the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level.”

[National Congress of American Indians](#)

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is the largest governing body of tribal nations in the United States. Its mission is to—

“Protect and enhance treaty and sovereign rights. Secure our traditional laws, cultures, and ways of life for our descendants. Promote a common understanding of the rightful place of tribes in the family of American governments. Improve the quality of life for Native communities and peoples.”

NCAI includes the Tribal Policy Research Center, which supports tribal governments in conducting and regulating research.

[National Indian Child Welfare Association](#)

The National Indian Child Welfare Association is “dedicated to the well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native children and families.” The association is a leading voice on child welfare and a strong advocate for improved state-tribal collaboration.

[National Indian Health Board](#)

The National Indian Health Board “seeks to reinforce Tribal sovereignty, strengthen Tribal health systems, secure resources, and build capacity to achieve the highest level of health and well-being for our People.” The board is the leading public health voice for AIAN populations.

[Native American Rights Fund](#)

The Native American Rights Fund has been a leader in providing legal support to tribal nations since its founding in 1971. The fund focuses on five priority areas: (1) preserving tribal existence, (2) protecting tribal natural resources, (3) promoting Native American human rights, (4) holding governments accountable to Native Americans, and (5) developing Indian law and educating the public about Indian rights, laws, and issues.

[Native Nations Institute, University of Arizona](#)

The Native Nations Institute is focused on a model of tribal development known as Native Nation Building. The mission of the institute is to “work with Native nations and organizations to support Indigenous self-determination, strengthen Indigenous governance capacities, and achieve Indigenous community and economic development objectives.”

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