

Key Terms

Biobanks- serve to collect and store human biological tissue specimens from volunteers with and without disease for purposes of research to identify genetic and environmental factors that contribute to human disease (National Cancer Institute, 2005)

Biocolonialism- an act of Western imposition on Indigenous traditions and cultures (Indigenous Peoples Council on Biocolonialism, 2004)

Homogenous populations- populations that may be more isolated relatively from large-scale crossbreeding with other populations of dissimilar genetic background (Sigurdsson, 2001)

Genetic research- uses information from 1 or 2 genes to explain a disease state (e.g. mutations in the *NOTCH3* gene cause Cadasil, an inherited condition that causes stroke and other impairments) (Genomic Health, 2010; U.S. National Library of Medicine, 2010)

Genomic research- examines all genetic information to determine biological markers predisposing an individual to disease (e.g. diabetes in Native Hawaiian population) (Genomic Health, 2010)

Indigenous peoples- people, communities and nations who claim a historical continuity and cultural affinity with societies endemic to their original territories that developed prior to Western civilization (United Nations, 2008)

Population genetics- discipline of genetics that considers the characteristics of genes within a population as opposed to a description of the genes in a particular individual (e.g. sickle-cell allele in Africa, in which heterozygotes are more resistant to malaria because genetic variation is preserved in the population) (UNESCO, International Bioethics Committee, 1995)