Beyond the Camp Crier: Tribal Data Dissemination Using Video-Teleconference Technology

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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 months in 2010
- Tribal Executive Board declared State of Emergency

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

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)

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 that 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.
Constructs/Variables

Primary Dependent Variables:
• lifetime suicide ideation
• lifetime suicide attempts

Primary Independent Variable:
• historical trauma (family history of a negative boarding school experience)

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

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
  o Educate the community about the long-term implications of trauma, including historical and childhood traumas
  o 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

Works Cited


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