

# TRIBAL RESEARCH



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## THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH WITH TRIBAL NATIONS

### DEFINING RESEARCH

Research is defined as a systematic investigation, including evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. This is a structured process to answer a question, gain knowledge, or search for a solution to a problem.

<https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/regulations/45-cf-46/index.html>

### TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

Tribes can use research to exercise their sovereign rights, regarding what research can be done in their communities and prioritizing topics vital to their tribal members. Tribes can do this by developing law and policy and establishing a formal research review mechanism. This allows tribes a more active role in the research study design and methodology ensuring that research benefits the Tribe.

### DATA SOVEREIGNTY

Research produces data. We live in an information age where governments, institutions and organizations are claiming a right to gather information making data a global currency and valuable asset. There has been a call to action for tribes to assert their inherent right to data sovereignty. Data sovereignty is the right of tribes to govern the collection, ownership and application of its own data through formal research review and data management.

## WHY ESTABLISH A TRIBAL RESEARCH REVIEW BOARD

A tribal research review board assumes the responsibility for the ethical review and oversight of research occurring on tribal lands. Tribes that have established their own research review boards have the authority to approve or disapprove research being done in their communities. Benefits of a tribal research review board allows for greater and more consistent research protections for the community, allows for the incorporation of tribe-specific values to policy regulating research, creates clear policy for collaborations between the tribe and the researcher (making the research review process more efficient), effectively prevents research related harms to individuals and the community as a whole, facilitates the development of tribal researchers and more tribal based research and facilitates the cataloging of evidence-based information (from the records of research and research data).

# R-ETHICS

In May, CRCAIH and tribal partner staff participated in a 2 day train-the-trainer workshop on Research Ethics for Health in Indigenous Communities (rETHICS) with Dr. Cynthia Pearson. This training was developed for anyone conducting research with tribal communities. Federally funded research grants and research review boards require researchers who are conducting research to be trained in research with human subjects. The purpose of this training is to culturally adapt a research training that prepares researchers to conduct ethical research with tribes.

CRCAIH staff Michaela Seiber, Melissa Buffalo and Jessica Heinzmann along with tribal partner Simone Bordeaux will be hosting a rETHICS training session on December 13, 2018 in Rapid City, S.D. This one day training is free of charge with lunch provided. This training is written for tribal community members who may conduct research in their community or those who want to gain a better understanding of research occurring in their community. Please contact Michaela Seiber at 605-312-6228 to RSVP December 3, 2018.



Tribal partners and CRCAIH staff with Dr. Cynthia Pearson at the rETHICS train-the-trianer workshop at the Sanford Center

**WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCERNS. CONTACT US ANYTIME!**

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