# Tribal Community Obesity Prevention: Youth Defining Health through Photovoice

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## The Purpose for the Research



- Examining differences between medical and communal views of health and wellbeing
- How this influences obesity intervention for NIHLB/NCI prevention study

### Importance of the Study



- Indigenous populations' childhood obesity rate are at least 15% higher than all other groups in U.S.A
- Communities' voice is often missing in health research design

#### Methods Used to Gather Data

- ✓ Photographs as tangible things are therefore no longer solely depictions of decontextualized places or moments, but can be viewed as touchstones that fuel discussion, generate stories, and bring to bear memories among those whom view them. (p.55, Schneider, 2007).
- Photographic representation connects meaning to culture (Hall 1997).



















#### More on Methods: For Youth

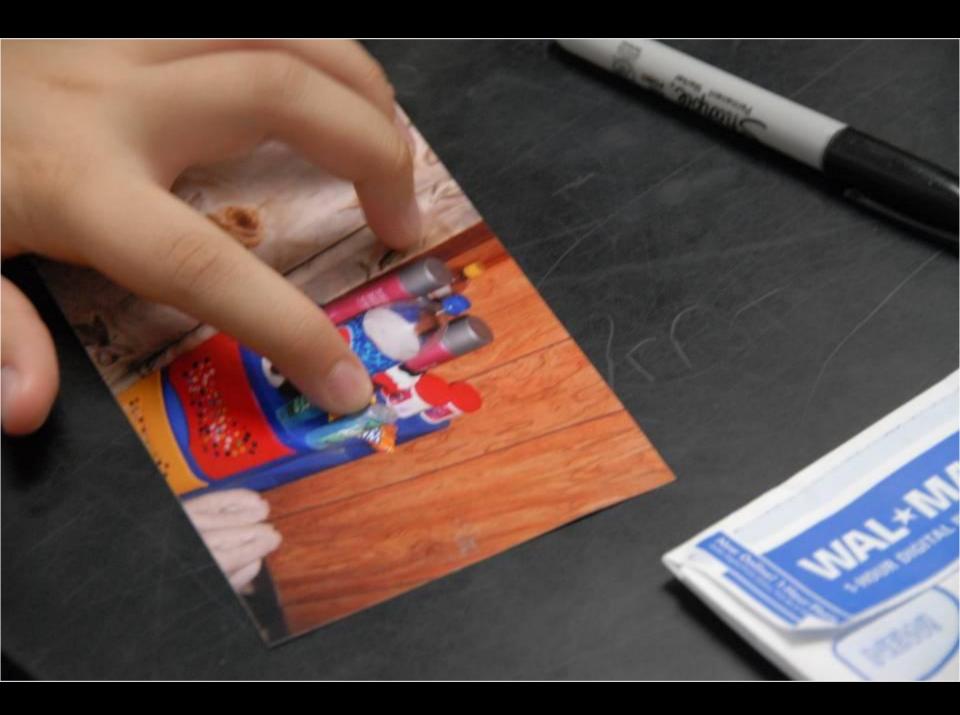


- Less threatening than writing
- More holistic representation for abstract concepts: health in context
- Lessens power differential
- Their perspective is heard throughout data generation

















## Initial Findings of Youth Defining Health

- Family
- Nature
- Pets
- Environmental Pollution
- Cultural Teachings
- Subtle theme: Play and Exercise

# IMAGES FROM THE KIDS: HEALTHY



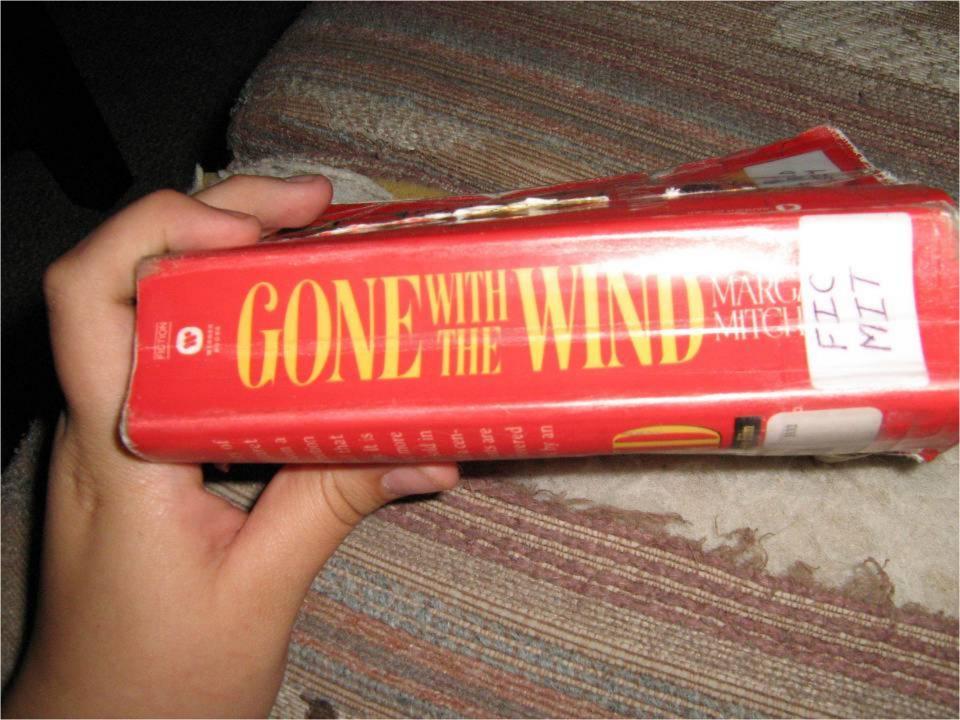




























































## IMAGES FROM THE KIDS: UNHEALTHY















































## NEOPIT STORE























#### Images from the Kids: Voted Both



- ✓ Lack of healthy food knowledge
- Debating Balance

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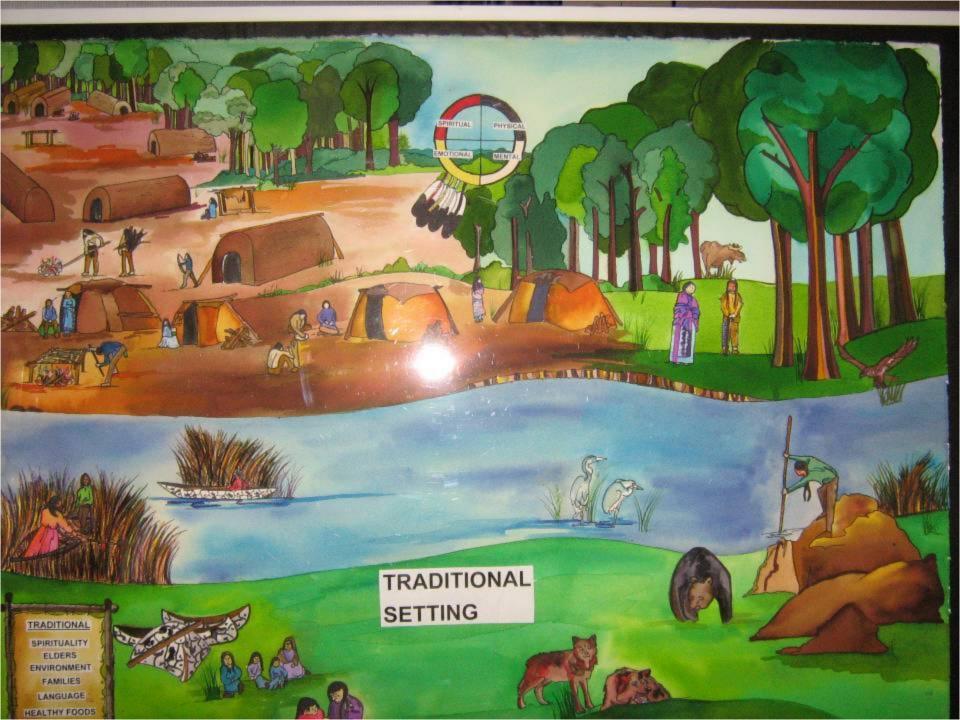










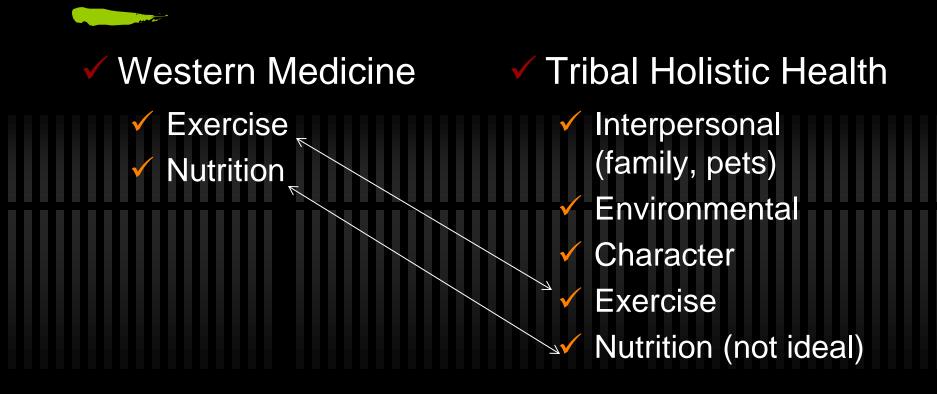






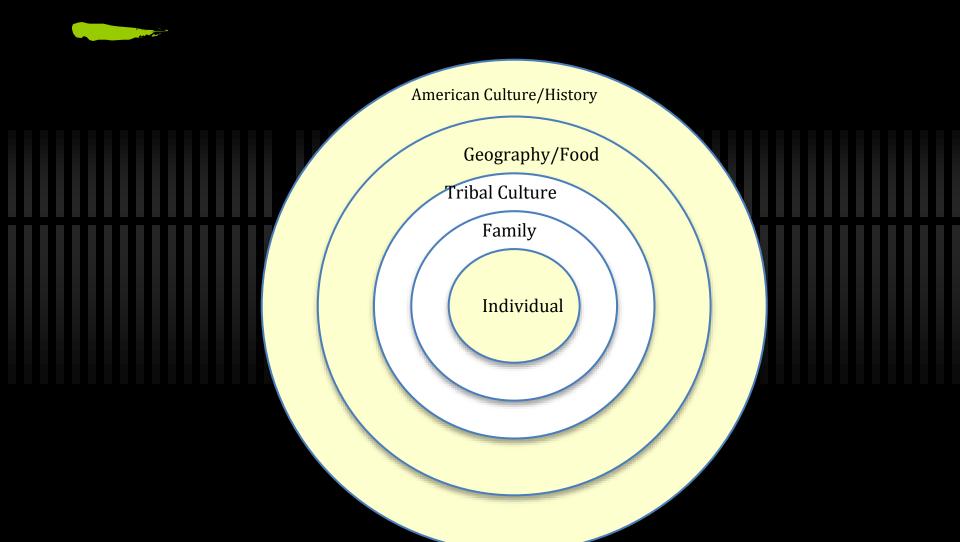


#### Summary of Findings

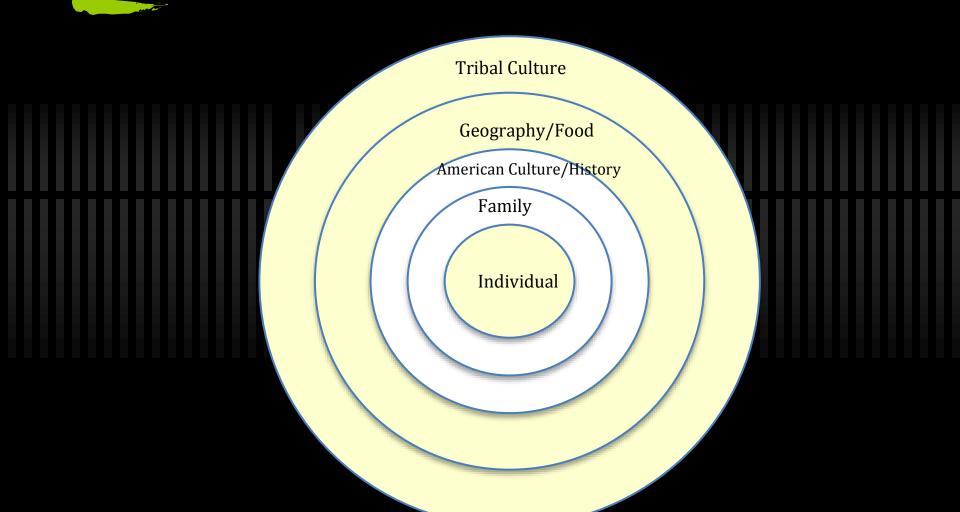


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### Health Interventions



# Implications: Community Transformation for Health

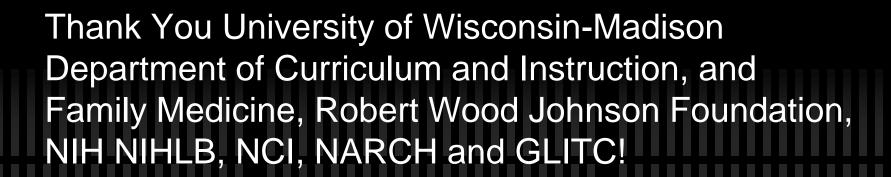


#### Next Steps



- Continue conducting health research within American Indian communities
- Research with community transformations for health in obesity and related health disparities
- Exploring the idea of health sovereignty and how it can be implemented

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