

**Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences  
Final Report**

**Exploring community members' views, values, benefits, and barriers to  
traditional food and traditional food practices: a Photovoice project**

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**Project summary**

This Photovoice project put cameras into the hands of American Indian people to gain a deeper understanding of community and cultural opportunities to improve health and wellness among this population. The project used both a social ecological model and the Indigenist Stress Coping Model to theorize cultural protective factors on individual, interpersonal, and community-levels. In effect, the results encourage the use of multiple levels when developing intervention and prevention programming. In addition, this project developed meaningful posters displaying the results of the project in order to share with community stakeholders and to encourage an ongoing discussion of health issues and health promotion techniques.

**Financial summary**

The Consortium funds were used to develop Community Research Council in order to guide the project to uphold community needs and ethical principals, serve as a liaison to the participants and the community, and finalize procedural strategies including recruitment, site location, and timeline. The funds were also used to print photos that were used in daily reflection with participants. These photos were the jumping off point to meaningful narrative exploring local resources to improve health and wellness. Each session, I provided a meal and participant incentives as well. My travel to the location was also funded by the grant. Finally, digital cameras were purchased for data collection.

**Publications (planned, in press, or published)**

I plan to publish results this spring and during the following year as a post-doctoral fellow.

**Presentations (planned or completed)**

I completed three poster presentations at the National Children's Research Exchange Conference (2014), the Research for Indigenous Community Health Institute Conference (2014), and the Native Research Network Conference (2014). I received 1<sup>st</sup> place in the student poster exhibit at the Native Research Network Conference.

**Future project plans**

I plan to defend my dissertation in April 2016 for graduation May 2016. I am finalizing data analysis now and writing up my dissertation paper.

My project has been well received by my community. I will host a community-wide exhibit to showcase the participants' work and to encourage further discussion of next steps at a local level. I hope to use the results of this study to defend my next independent project. More broadly, I hope to publish many articles on the results to encourage the use of culturally based programming in order to improve health and wellness in American Indian communities.