Data for Indigenous People, by Indigenous People: Best Practices for American Indian/Alaska (AI/AN) Native Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting

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Data Practices

Current standard data collection practices of many federal, state, and local entities effectively omit or misclassify American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) populations, both urban and rural.

To address these incomplete, inaccurate, and unreliable standard data collection and analysis practices, Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) has created best practices for methods to collect, analyze, and present data on AI/AN populations. **The following data collection best practices recommendations are grounded in and stem from Indigenous values and practices.**

Two Areas to Improve AI/AN Data

1. Multiple, disparate descriptions of Native people found in data sources between federal, state and local public entities.

2. Methodologies for collection, analysis, and presentation of data are inconsistent in available datasets.

Data Collection

1. Race (select all that apply)

☑ American Indian/Alaska Native
☐ Asian
☑ Black or African American
☑ Hispanic or Latino
☐ Middle Eastern or North African
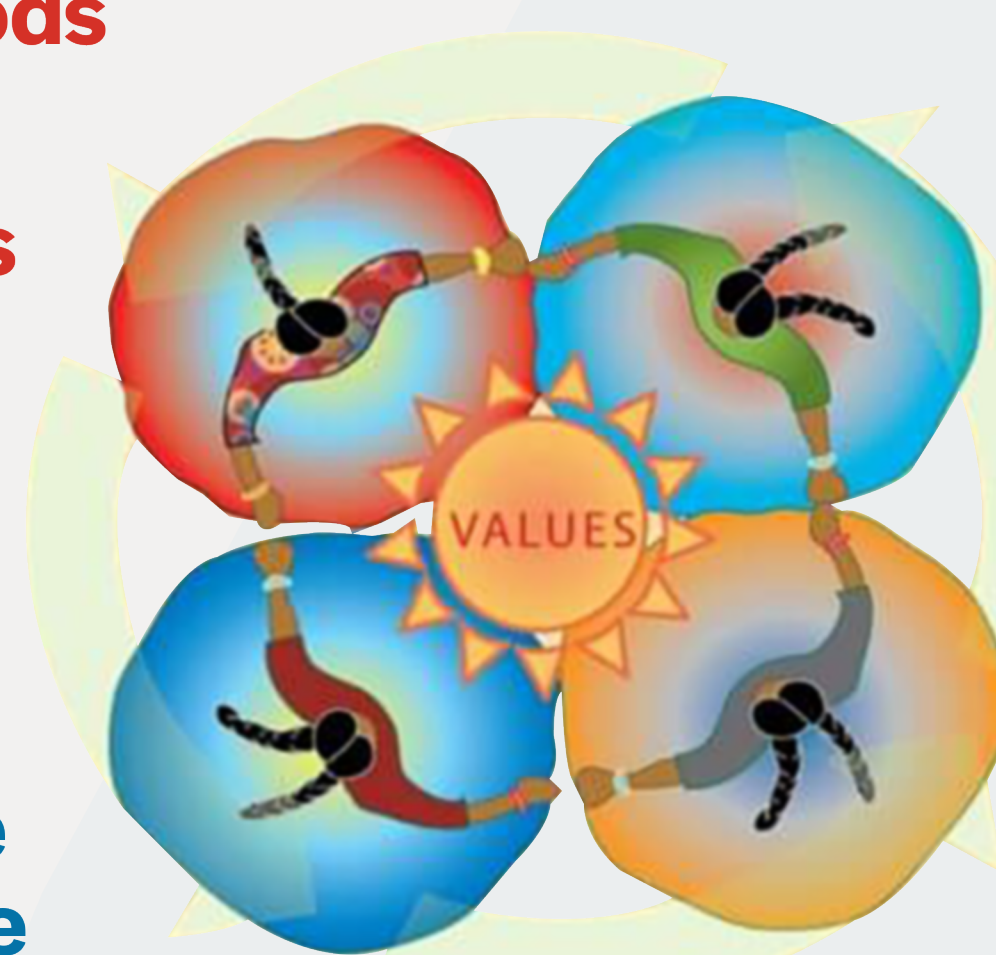☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
☐ White

AI/AN defined alone; and, if the AI/AN individual identifies as another race, **include the individuals who are AI/AN in any combination with any other race** and include those who identify as Latinx/Hispanic.

Collect tribal affiliation. If using electronic data collections tools, this should be an inclusive list of all federal—and state–recognized tribes with a write-in option affiliations not listed.

Data Analysis

Mixed methods analysis/ Indigenous
Oversample
VALUES
Aggregate across time
Protect privacy in small counts

Mixed methods analysis/Indigenous Evaluation:

- Resilient and Strengths Based
- Centering of the Community
- Community is Created Wherever Native People Are
- Decolonizing Data

Data Reporting

PHYSICALLY DISTANT BUT SOCIALLY CLOSE
Indigenous Resilience and COVID-19
Ideas to adapt our cultural practices and love our people in new ways

Report **strength-based and positive outcomes** that focus on effective results illustrating the **strength and resiliency** of Indigenous people.

Report limitations of data collection and analysis.

Solutions and Implications

In order to conduct Indigenous epidemiology, we must honor and uphold tribes' inherent right to govern their peoples, lands, resources, and data.

The **answers** to preventing health disparities in AI/AN communities are carried in **our stories, our practices of honoring elders, and our generational practice of ensuring a great future for the next generation.**