

Sisseton-Wahpeton Tribal Research Office

Current Research Projects on the Lake Traverse Reservation

1. **Understanding the Context of Northern Plains American Indian Teen Pregnancy: Phase 2 (My Journey)**

Project Principal Investigator (PI): DenYelle Kenyon, Ph. D

Permit Approval date: 9/3/13

Abstract: The purpose of the study is to evaluate the effectiveness of a newly developed teen pregnancy prevention program with youth in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

2. **American Indian and Alaska Native Beliefs and Practices: What are the perceived barriers to access and utilization of healthcare?**

Project PI: Lisa Daniel, RDH

Permit Approval date: 10/29/15

Abstract: This project intends to explore the health beliefs and the barriers to access and utilization of healthcare services provided by Indian Health Service.

3. **The impact and challenges experienced by tribal governments' implementation of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA)**

Project PI: Melissa E. Riley, Ph.D.

Permit Approval date: 2/16/16

Abstract: The purpose of the research is to inform SMART of the successes, challenges, and experiences of tribes who have successfully implemented, preparing to implement, or considering whether or not to implement.

4. **Project Ina: Holistic Improvement of Maternal Health on the Lake Traverse Reservation**

Project PI: Nivedha Kannapadi

Permit Approval date: 6/21/16

Abstract: This study seeks to assess the climate of maternal health on the Lake Traverse Reservation during and shortly after pregnancy, specifically focused on the accessibility, significance, and socialization of information surrounding this topic. The data collected from this pilot study will be used to inform future studies and potential interventions based on sharing information about pregnancy.



5. **Our Youth, Our Future**

Project Co-PIs: Randall C. Swaim, Ph.D., Linda R. Stanley, Ph.D.

Permit Approval date: 6/21/16

Abstract: The Tri-Ethnic Center for Prevention Research at Colorado State University proposes to conduct a survey of substance use and related risk and protective factors among the 7th - 8th grade students at Enemy Swim Day School (ESDS). The study is part of an ongoing effort to understand the attitudes, beliefs and behaviors regarding substance use among youth living on or near American Indian reservations. The ESDS was selected randomly from among over 500 schools nationwide. No individual student, ethnicity, tribal affiliation, or community will be identified in the report of the students' responses.

6. **A Community Readiness Assessment (CRA) as the First Stage of Safe Healthy Children: Improving Immunization Series Completion in Rural American Indian Communities**

Project PI: Linda Littlefield, MSW

Permit Approval date: 9/20/16

Abstract: This project seeks to improve the immunization completion and coverage levels in American Indian children in the Great Plains Area.

7. **Dissemination, Implementation, and Evaluation of Native STAND in American Indian Communities**

Project PI: William Lambert, PhD

Permit Approval date: 9/20/16

Abstract: This project will disseminate and implement an evidence-based culturally-specific curriculum to reduce high risk behaviors in AI/AN teens.



Current Research Projects

8. **Adapting and testing the feasibility of Tribal Head Start REDI with Native American children in South Dakota**

Project PI: Janet Welsh, Ph.D.

Permit Approval date: 11/29/16

Abstract: The Head Start REDI (Research based, Developmentally Informed) program was developed with the goal of improving the long-term success of at-risk children. The REDI program incorporates evidence based curricula and professional development activities for teachers into regular Head Start programming.

9. **Today and Beyond Project: An Educationally-based Mentorship Intervention**

Project PI: Crystal Aschenbrener, DSW, MSW, APSW

Permit Approval date: 1/23/17

Abstract: This project is a mixed methods case study of an educationally-based mentorship intervention program that supports an underrepresented at-risk group of youth at the 7th and 8th grade level. Following a strengths based approach with the intervention occurring at the tribal school, the project supports the tribal school youth who are the mentees while the mentors are college students from two universities.

10. **Eat Smart, Play Hard—The Oyate Way**

Project PI: Suzanne Stluka, MS, RD, LN

Permit Approval date: 3/20/17

Abstract: The overall objective of the Eat Smart Play Hard (ESPH) project is to test the efficacy of a 6-week nutrition and physical activity curriculum that is culturally relevant to South Dakota's American Indian population in changing diet and physical activity knowledge and behavior.

11. **The Association of Developmental Defects of Enamel with Severe-Early Childhood Caries: a retrospective chart review**

Project PI: John Zimmer, DDS

Permit Approval date: 3/20/17

Abstract: The retrospective chart review would be limited to children age 1-6 years old and will record the presence of: 1) decayed, missing, and filled teeth, 2) enamel defects, and 3) the need to utilize a general anesthetic to restore the decayed teeth. The data will be analyzed to determine if an association exists between developmental enamel defects and the number of decayed primary teeth.

12. **Preliminary study on the socio-economic factors affecting microbiome, nutrition, and health outcomes in American Indian population**

Project PI: Joy Scaria, Ph.D.

Permit Approval date: 4/24/17

Abstract: We hypothesize that health gradients are present among the members of the American Indian community in South Dakota and it is likely impacted by socio-economic status and dietary habits. Our overall goal in this study is to analyze the relationship between socio-economic status and dietary habits and to determine whether this has an impact on digestive health measured using microbiome diversity in fecal samples.



13. **Project Ina: Holistic Improvement of Maternal Health on the Lake Traverse Reservation (Phase 2)**

Project PI: Nivedha Kannapadi

Permit Approval date: 5/10/17

Abstract: This study seeks to understand if SWO pregnant women are able to use and benefit from the Project Ina mobile app, and, if so, how they benefit. To address this research question, the study is split into two parts: short-term co-design workshops and long-term (3 months) interaction with the mobile app. Data collected will help the research team to understand how, specifically, the mobile app is beneficial to SWO pregnant women and ways that it can be improved.



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14. **Impacts of Commercial Tobacco Marketing on American Indian Reservations – Tribal Retail Environment (TREE) Study**

Project Co-PIs: Kristine Rhodes, MPH & Rachel Widome, PhD

Permit Approval date: 6/19/17

Abstract: The prevalence of commercial tobacco use among American Indian (AI) adults in the Upper Midwest has been estimated to be 60%; compared to the general population's smoking rate of 18%. It is known that greater exposure to tobacco advertising, promotion, and certain retail practices increase the likelihood that adolescents start smoking, encourage continued smoking and lead to relapse among quitters. The goal of this project is to learn more about attitudes towards marketing and retail practices related to commercial tobacco via key informant interviews with up to 6 community members (at least one tribal leader, one person working in tobacco control, and one person who sell commercial tobacco).

15. **Examining Matriculation, Transfer, and Capabilities of Tribal College Students in the form Educational Opportunities**

Project PI: Francis Arpan, MA

Permit Approval date: 6/19/17

Abstract: The project will examine matriculation, transfer, persistence, and capabilities of Native American students in the form of educational opportunities. The research will also examine how students' decisions in higher education are affected by barriers, motivating factors, and the educational opportunities available to them. When finished, the approach can be applied by Sisseton Wahpeton College as they work to increase student success and capabilities in the community. Within the framework of the proposed research project is a student research component that is designed to present SWC student researchers with the opportunity to gain knowledge in methods, analysis, and reporting.

16. **Documenting Dakota: Informal Ways with Words in the Santee-Sisseton Dialect Spoken at Lake Traverse Reservation**

Project PI: Josh (Richard) Wayt, MA

Permit Approval date: 6/19/17

Abstract: This project creates audio-visual records of fluent elders using the Santee-Sisseton dialect of Dakota spoken at Lake Traverse Reservation. Focusing on informal genres of speech, this work investigates the form and function of linguistic patterns that are prevalent in (and perhaps unique to) playful or humorous speech, e.g. entertaining guests, telling jokes, teasing relatives. This research thus addresses a serious gap in existing studies, which have focused on compiling dictionaries, describing grammatical structures, and producing textual records of very formal genres of speech, e.g. sacred narratives. However, there is little documentation of more informal ways of speaking Dakota.

17. **Empowering Native Youth through Trauma-Informed Practices**

Project PI: Michael Gerard Mason, PhD, LPC

Permit Approval date: 7/17/17

Abstract: There are few local resources to address the challenge of historical trauma. This is a mixed methods study focused on:

- i. collecting cross-sectional quantitative/qualitative data from youth supporters about critical issues they and the youth they serve are facing, coping strategies that both groups employ, and the individuals they turn to help them cope and
- ii. using findings to develop trauma-informed workshops and to assess how the SWO Native community can better leverage cultural practices to respond to and prevent stressors.



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18. **Ignite: Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Model in preventing overweight and obesity among 6th – 8th grade youth in low-income racial/ethnic communities**
Project PI: Kendra Kattelman, PhD, RD, LN, FAND
Permit Approval date: 11/02/17
Abstract: This project proposes to use a quasi-experimental design to determine the effectiveness of the CBPR Model to assist communities in identifying behavioral and environmental factors that influence overweight and obesity in 6th-8th grade youth in selected communities; and engaging selected communities to implement effective and sustainable strategies to increase dietary intakes of fruits and vegetables; increase the variety of vegetables in the diet; decrease dietary intakes of foods high in solid fats and added sugars; and increase physical activity among 6th-8th grade youth.
19. **Today and Beyond Project: An Educationally-based Mentorship Intervention**
Project PI: Crystal Aschenbrener, DSW, MSW, APSW
Permit Approval date: 1/17/18
Abstract: This project is a mixed methods case study of an educationally-based mentorship intervention program that supports an underrepresented at-risk group of youth. The middle school students are the mentees while the mentors are college students from two universities with the intervention occurring at the tribal school. The intervention supports the youth by providing role models who host three components: a college visit, a career day visit, and educationally-based, career-related activities carried out in the classroom. The study focuses on the mentees' perceptions about their educational futures.
20. **North Dakota Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)**
Project PI: Grace Njau, MPH
Permit Approval date: 5/07/18
Abstract: ND PRAMS is an ongoing, population-based surveillance system designed to identify and monitor selected maternal experiences and behaviors that occur before and during pregnancy and during the child's early infancy among a stratified sample of women delivering a live birth. It was initiated to help state health departments establish and maintain an epidemiologic surveillance system of selected maternal behaviors and experiences.
21. **Revitalizing the Dakota Language and Reproducing Cultural Values at Lake Traverse Reservation, S.D.**
Project PI: Josh (Richard) Wayt, MA
Permit Approval date: 5/31/18
Abstract: This research project investigates how cultural values shape language revitalization efforts, and how those efforts address broader social concerns that animate the SWO. Specifically, the researcher hopes to examine how, when teaching the Dakota language, fluent elders and their semi-fluent apprentices simultaneously transmit broader cultural values and principles for appropriately conducting relationships. This dissertation research will thus contribute to and support ongoing efforts to revitalize Dakota Language at SWC.
22. **Great Plains Area Good Health & Wellness Qualitative Study (Partnership)**
Project PI: PJ Beaudry, MPH
Permit Approval date: 5/31/18
Abstract: As part of the larger regional evaluation and documentation of impacts of the Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country initiative, the Great Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center (GPTEC) is conducting a qualitative study to add to the data being collected/compiled for these purposes. Given the importance of partnerships to the project in driving the policy, systems, and environmental changes that are foundational to it, GPTEC has decided to focus on the question: "what are the impacts of the various partnerships formed as a result of GHWIC programming?" As such, GPTEC plans to inquire about the nature of partnerships formed, how these partnerships have proceeded, and what the perceived impacts have been.



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23. **Tribal Public Health Assessment**

Project PI: PJ Beaudry, MPH

Permit Approval date: 7/30/18

Abstract: Primary in pursuing our initiatives is the undertaking of an assessment of tribal public health workforce, infrastructure, and systems, as well as priorities, needs, and other details. The general purpose of this assessment is to guide the formation of a comprehensive tribal public health training program and other initiatives the GPTEC plans to develop and undertake. This project will provide baseline data for us and our tribal partners to track progress on our collaborative work in this area and will contribute to the understanding and reduction of health risk behaviors and disparities in order to contribute to their mitigation through informed programs and services in the future.

24. **Wiyukcan ka Eacunpi Social Media Research Project**

Project PI: Heather Flute, M.A.

Permit Approval date: 4/05/19

Abstract: The purpose of this research project is to study what effect social media has as a support tool for mentoring youth on the Lake Traverse Reservation. This research targets at risk youth in hopes of spreading awareness of suicide prevention. The youth will partake in Facebook posts directed at the youth who are part of the study. Texting, messaging and Facebook posts will be implemented as a form of mentoring at risk youth. The mentors involved in this study will undergo mandatory reporting training and will be instructed to follow a developed protocol on how to help at risk youth while providing mentorship and available resources for those who may need additional support outside of our area of research.

25. **Effectiveness of Pregnancy Health Research Dissemination**

Project PI: DenYelle Kenyon, Ph.D.

Permit Approval date: 4/05/19

Abstract: This study will evaluate previous work done through a partnership between Sanford Research and the SWO health education team. This study will evaluate the dissemination of the SWO Pregnancy Health Survey key findings to the SWO community through infographics and determine if the approach taken was effective in informing and educating the community. The SWO health education team will assist with data interpretation once the analysis is complete and work with the research team to disseminate the findings through reports and infographics. The findings from this study will help inform SWO programs on effective ways to communicate with SWO community members. Additionally, the results may be used to inform future researchers on appropriate dissemination methods.

26. **Improving awareness of opioid safety and naloxone education and distribution in high risk patients at a rural health clinic**

Project PI: Leah Weiss, PharmD

Permit Approval date: 10/22/19

Abstract: We propose to conduct a retrospective chart review of the patients at Woodrow Wilson Keeble Memorial Health Care Center who are receiving greater than or equal to thirty milligram morphine equivalents daily. The primary objective of this study is to determine if education regarding opioid safety and naloxone availability increases the amount of naloxone prescriptions picked up by patients. Subjects and their loved ones will be invited to a live naloxone training course where they will learn about proper administration techniques of the lifesaving medication and they will be encouraged to go to the pharmacy to pick up a prescription from the standing order at no cost to them.



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27. **Survey of Head Start Grantees on Training and Technical Assistance**

Project PI: Carol Hafford, PhD

Permit Approval date: 12/18/19

Abstract: The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is conducting a national survey of Head Start grantees about their use of, need for, and experiences with training and technical assistance (T/TA). The purpose of this survey is to inform ACF and the Office of Head Start (OHS) about how Head Start programs use and experience T/TA services offered by various providers, including local, regional, tribal, and federal providers. The information will help OHS and ACF ensure that the OHS T/TA system meets program needs.

28. **Will Tai Chi Decrease the Number of Elder Falls and Increase Strength in the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Elder Population?**

Project PI: Veronica Leaf-Bellile, BS

Permit Approval date: 12/18/19

Abstract: Local clinic data identifies elder falls as the number one unintentional injury for the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate elders. This project seeks to identify two aspects of fall prevention efforts for tribal members: 1) the effectiveness of Tai Chi for Fall Prevention classes, measured by improvements in strength among class participants and by reduction in fall incidents; and 2) an assessment of existing services the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate offers (and opportunities for additional services) to assist in the prevention of elder falls. Based on data collected (through questionnaires and interviews) and analyzed, and a literature review of evidence-based practices for fall prevention, the project will include recommendation for enhancing existing Tai Chi for Arthritis for Fall Prevention classes, and recommendations for considering opportunities to address gaps/overlap for fall evidence-based fall prevention programs for the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate elder population.

Last updated - 2/24/20

