



Crystalizing the Role of Traditional Healing in an Urban Native American Health Center

Community Mental Health Journal

Available at: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25536940/>

One-Sentence Summary: A non-profit American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) health center in the Midwestern U.S. conducted a needs assessment surveying AI/AN, with an emphasis on traditional Native healing.

Reviewer: Amiya Fellows

Methods: Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) model was utilized so community members could fully participate, 38 interviews were conducted with 27 community members and 11 service providers. A \$20 gift card, transportation, and childcare were provided to participants. Interviews lasted approximately one hour and were conducted in community member's homes, in private rooms at the center, and/or providers' places of employment. This project used the conscious selection of certain subjects and a non-probability sampling technique, called a purposive sampling technique. An open coding method was used first, where the researcher analyzed the text for emerging themes (see below). A constant comparison approach was used next to separate these categories that further illustrate the theme that provides new perspectives about the codes themselves. Lastly, NVivo software was used to code transcripts from the interviews, where analysis was summarized.

Main Findings / Recommendations:

- Theme 1: Inclusion of services as it relates to mind, body, and spirit finding. Respondents emphasized the belief that the path to true wellness and health implies matters of physical well-being, and functions of spiritual and mental health.
- Theme 2: Role of traditional healing as a complement to Western medicine. Respondents believed traditional healing complements Western medicine and is significant when one considers the tribal diversity of an urban center.
- Theme 3: Appropriate uses of traditional healing. Respondents and service providers indicated there were several benefits to offering traditional healing along with Western medicine health services.

Potential Issues:

- The participants were self-selecting and self-reporting which means the results may not accurately represent behaviors.
- The results came from one urban health center with a small sample group resulting in limited data.

Useful Summary Stats, Quotes:

- "The intention of this study was to capture the ways in which both community members and service providers conceptualized the medical and mental health services that are both offered and received at the center.
- Most interviewees were tribal affiliated, female, married, had some college education, and employed full-time.

Reviewers Opinions:

Strongly Disagree (1)

Strongly Agree (5)

	1	2	3	4	5
Impactful for Indian Country?				X	
Novel?				X	
Trustworthy?		X			

Reference:

Moghaddam, J. F., Momper, S. L., & W. Fong, T. (2015). Crystalizing the role of traditional healing in an urban Native American Health Center. *Community Mental Health Journal*, 51(3), 305–314.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10597-014-9813-9>

