



Indigenizing Academics Through Leadership, Awareness, and Healing: The Impact of a Native American Health Seminar Series for Health Professionals, Students, and Community

Journal of Community Health

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One-Sentence Summary: A quasi-experimental mixed methods design using a 15-item survey assessing the impact of a Seminar Series on knowledge of American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) health issues-its influence, among students, on health career choices.

Reviewer: Amiya Fellows

Methods: The Northwest Native American Center of Excellence (NNACoE) in partnership with Oregon Health & Science University, Portland State University, and the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, conducted a Native American Health three-part series. The series focused on contemporary topics in AI/AN health and was open to all students, faculty, and the public. Experts in AI/AN health topics, who were AI/AN and senior leaders in their respective disciplines, gave presentations of AI/AN health issues and how to address social determinants of health in this population. They administered a 15-item survey at the end of each seminar that ascertained demographic information including age, gender, race, and role, the intention to pursue a career pathway that addresses Native American health issues, and how participants learned about the Native health seminar series.

Main Findings / Recommendations:

- Increased knowledge about social determinants of health following the seminar was highest among students with a mean score of 4.30 compared to 4.21 for Faculty/Researchers/Staff and 3.96 among the public, although the difference was not statistically significant. The five-point scale was as follows—1=not all aware to 5= extremely aware.
- Among student participants, 65.6% indicated that they were not initially planning on pursuing a career in Native health prior to attending the seminars. 36.9% of learners who were not planning to pursue Native health careers reported being unsure about that decision following the seminar. 40% indicated that they were somewhat likely, and 16.9% indicated they were extremely likely to pursue a career in Native health because of having attended the seminar.

Potential Issues:

- This program was held in one specific region of the country, which imitates generalizability of findings.
- There were less faculty than they wanted, so they need better marketing for future seminars.

Useful Summary Stats, Quotes:

- "The program also appears to influence career choices among learner participants toward pursuing a career that would work to improve the health and wellness of Native people.
- "While we were pleased to see the highest proportion of participants were students, nearing 50%, we had hoped to attract more faculty, which represented just over 21% of participants."

Reviewers Opinions:

| | Strongly Disagree (1) | | Strongly Agree (5) | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Impactful for Indian Country? | | | X | | |





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|--------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| Novel? | | | | X | |
| Trustworthy? | | | | X | |

Reference:

Carney, P. A., Taylor, C., Frutos, R., Spector, D., & Brodt, E. (2019).

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