



American Indian Development Associates, LLC

2401 12th St., NW, Suite 206N • Albuquerque, NM • 87120

Office: (505) 842-1122 • Fax: (505) 842-9652 • Email: info@aidainc.net • Web: www.aidainc.net

Who are we?

American Indian Development Associates, (AIDA) LLC, is an American Indian owned small business that provides research, evaluation, training and technical assistance services to tribal, state, and federal agencies, service providers, and community members seeking resources and information related to tribal justice, victimization, health and wellness, and community development issues in American Indians (AI) and Alaska Natives (AN) communities.

What is our challenge?

More and focused research on violence and victimization affecting young AIs and ANs is needed to address the gaps in national studies and to learn the best study methods to obtain information from this population. AIDA received a research award from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to conduct the *Tribal Youth Victimization Methods' Study (TYVS)*.¹

About the Study

The purpose of the study is to develop and pilot test the tools and methods for conducting a future national level study on violence and victimization experienced by AI and AN youth and young adults (12-20 year olds) in tribal communities and other settings (e.g., boarding school and tribal colleges). This project builds on the work of the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) previous work, existing AI and AN youth studies, and NIJ's Indian Country research initiatives.

The study and the survey process will be designed to measure experiences of violence and victimization that young people are exposed to or encounter as witnesses, victims, and offenders as well as measure a range of risk, resiliency and protective factors. The survey and the methods will reflect the cultural and community context and seek to understand how youth interact with cultural and community resources and services. Before the study team engages tribal partners, they will obtain input from stakeholders, review existing instruments and research, and develop TYVS instrument and implementation protocols.

In partnership with NIJ, AIDA, and several tribal communities and organizations in four regions of the country, the study team will conduct cognitive testing with 48 tribal youth to ensure comprehension. A pilot test of the final instrument will be administered with 375 youth.

What is the study goal?

Our goal is to develop a research strategy and survey instrument for collecting information on the violence and victimization experiences of AI and AN youth living on and off tribal lands throughout the United States. Based on the method study findings, recommendations for a future study will be provided to NIJ, OJJDP, and OVC.

What type of feedback would we like?

Compensation for participation in the study

1. To what extent do you feel compensation and incentives facilitate recruitment?
 - a. Does the type of compensation impact participation?
 - b. Does the amount of compensation increase participation rates?
2. What tribal/community considerations should we think about in providing or not providing compensation?

¹ NIJ Award Number 2014-MU-MU-K001.

3. Do you feel the use of compensation raises any ethical concerns?
4. What do you feel are reasonable compensations based upon the complexities, inconvenience, and sensitiveness of the study?
5. What do you feel are youth and young adults' motivations in participation in a study of this kind?
6. What if compensation is not offered, what would be the estimated impact on the study?
7. What do you feel are the forms of compensation that would be most appropriate for youth and young adults?

Engagement of Tribe/Community, Parents/Guardians, and Youth and Young Adults

1. What are the best ways to approach tribal communities and their leadership knowing that this study is on very sensitive topics that involves tribal youth and young adults?
2. What are the best ways to engage parents/guardians to inform them about the study to determine if their child/guardian should or should not participate?
3. What are some ways to engage youth and young adults?
4. Are there specific factors the research team should keep in mind when working with all three groups (1) tribe, 2) parents/guardians, and 3) youth and young adults)?

Modes of Survey Administration

1. What modes do you think would work best with youth and young adults (12-20 year olds) and why?
2. Do you think the modes used should differ by age group and if so, why?
3. Do you think each age group would have access to computers for administration?
4. What types of settings should interviews take place? What types of settings should not be used for interviewing and why?

Survey/Interview Content

1. Which topics should be made a priority knowing we cannot ask everything we would like to?
2. What do you feel is the maximum length of the survey/interview?

Potential Impact of the Study

The primary outcome of this project will be a foundation for future research on this topic. If funding becomes available, a national level study of violence and victimization experienced by AI and AN youth and young adults could be conducted. As a result of this project:

- Tribes and researchers will have the tools needed to measure and understand issues such as exposure to abuse, neglect, sexual offenses, property crimes, hate crimes, bullying, peer and school assault, and exposure to domestic and community violence.
- Tribes and researchers will be confident that the measures are appropriate for AI and AN populations.
- Tribes and researchers will know the best ways to collect this kind of information from young people living in tribal communities and settings.
- Tribes and researchers will be able to compare tribal data with mainstream population data.

How can you help us achieve our goal?

We welcome all opinions and ideas. Any and all feedback will be greatly appreciated and thoroughly considered as we move forward with this study. If you have any suggestions, feedback or questions, please contact us at info@aidainc.net