

Providing evidence-based, data-driven, and culturally rooted research that honors Indigenous knowledge, empowering and uplifting communities.

Why Choose KAI

Indigenous Values

Our team of Native and ally researchers/evaluators honor Indigenous knowledge, traditions, and data sovereignty to deliver culturally relevant insights.

Interdisciplinary

We offer expertise in public health, psychology, education, tribal courts, food systems, and more, using Indigenous and participatory research methods.

Impact

KAI uses culturally responsive methods like digital storytelling and participatory research for inclusive, trauma-informed community engagement.

Overview

At KAI, we believe effective research is rooted in the ownership and active participation of the communities we engage. Our research and

evaluation services prioritize objectivity, robust methodologies, and insightful analysis to yield meaningful results that can transform communities.

Focusing on participatory, community-based, and Indigenous research methods, we honor the values of each target population. Our collaborative relationships with clients—such as tribal governments, federal/state agencies, nonprofits, and philanthropies—enables us to tailor our services to meet unique research and evaluation needs.

We uphold the highest standards of privacy and data

ownership, recognizing that data sovereignty encompasses the right of communities to access and understand their data. Our research and evaluation work fosters rapid community ownership, builds trust, and empowers communities to maximize the potential of their data.



Services

- Research Planning & Design
- Instrument Development
- Sampling Plans
- Needs Assessments & Capacity Building
- Program Evaluation & Impact Studies
- Process & Outcome Evaluation
- Epidemiological Studies
- Interpretative & Policy Research
- Secondary Research (e.g., Literature Review)
- Qualitative & Quantitative Research
- OMB & IRB Clearance
- Data Collection & Tabulation
- Community Engagement (e.g., Focus Groups, Listening Sessions)
- Database Development
- Research Analysis & Synthesis
- Data Visualization
- Community-Focused Translation & Dissemination

Project Examples



Indian Health Service (IHS) Evaluations:

Conduct national evaluations of various IHS programs and supports, including for tribal epidemiology centers, the Community Opioid Intervention Pilot Projects program, the 4-in-1 grant program, the Community Health Representatives program, as well as strategic planning and a readiness assessment for implementing trauma-informed care policy.



Food and Nutrition Service Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) Study:

Conduct a national evaluation of the FDPIR participant characteristics and program operations, along with an evaluation of the newly implemented self-determination demonstration projects. This national study aims to engage with more than 38 tribal communities through a multi-faceted approach that includes site visits, discussion groups, survey interviews, and key informant interviews, along with establishing and facilitating a technical working group.



Michigan State Native American Boarding School Study:

Conduct a preliminary assessment of the Native American boarding school history in the state, including an examination of the boarding school system's implementation, conditions, experiences, and operations. Engage extensively with tribal leadership, survivors, descendants, and communities, offering trauma and healing supports throughout the study.



Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Assessment:

Conduct a community needs and readiness assessment to support the tribe's Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting grant, looking at community health, well-being, economic, and developmental indicators. Data collection activities included focus groups and a community-wide survey, engaging nearly 900 respondents to ensure broad and diverse input.



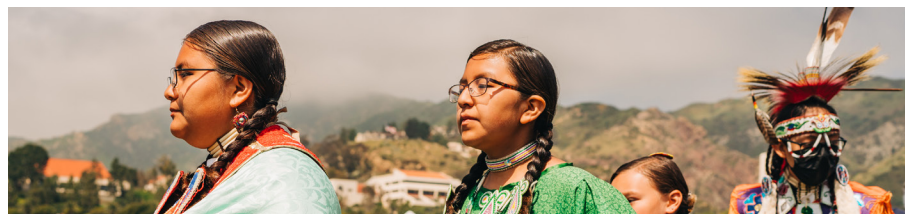
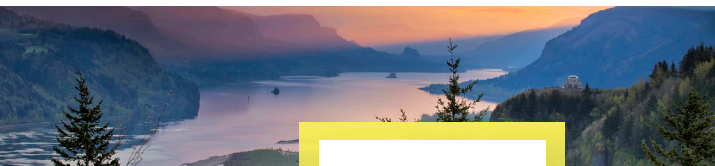
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board Boarding School Toolkit:

Develop a **toolkit** to provide educators, health professionals, tribal administrators, and public-safety professionals with essential information on the historical trauma resulting from the U.S. Native American boarding schools. Based on a thorough literature review, SME input, and focus groups, the toolkit features infographics, maps of schools, discussion guides, worksheets, etc. that foster understanding and dialogue.



NDN Collective Abundance Study:

Lead rigorous, culturally grounded community engagement among American Indian and Alaska Native populations in ND, SD, and MN to support planning, design, and implementation of the \$50M Bush Foundation Community Trust Grant initiative. Engage nearly 5,500 individuals through workgroup and advisory committees, interviews, focus groups, surveys, and participation in community events, ensuring robust collaboration and representation.



Contact Us

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