# Research with Native American Populations

If you are planning to conduct research with a Native American Population, please plan to submit your protocol to the CSU IRB well in advance of when you wish to begin recruitment. Keep in mind that your protocol may need to be reviewed by both the CSU IRB and the Tribal IRB.

## Below are tips to think about when planning your research.

* Each tribe handles research review differently and each has their own time frame. Be sure to contact the tribe well in advance of your start date. Find out who you need permission from within the tribe; in addition to a review board; will you need a signed resolution?
* Remember to consider the data you are collecting and what you will be sharing; will the data do the community harm, will the research stigmatize the community?
* Work with a collaborator to make sure your materials are culturally appropriate.
* What benefit will help the tribe; as well as you? Do not conduct your research as “helicopter” research; do not fly in and fly out with your data without giving back.
* Possible items to review with the tribe: who owns the data; should the community be named; what will happen with unused samples; who will review the material before published; how will the community be protected?
* Media Resource Examples
  + Positive research conducted with Alaskan Natives: [People Awakening Project](http://canhr.uaf.edu/Research/PeopleAwakening.html)
  + [The Havasupai Indians gave DNA samples for the study of diabetes, but were devastated when they realized it was also used for other research](http://lens.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/04/23/must-40/).
* Native American tribal IRBs or research review contacts:
  + Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board. The following six points are requirements of the Navajo Nation IRB:
    - The Navajo Nation retains ownership of all data obtained within its territorial boundaries. The PI shall submit to the NNHRRB a plan and timeline on how and when the data/statistics will be turned over to the Navajo Nation.
    - Only the approved informed consent document(s) will be used in the study.
    - Any proposed future changes to the protocol or the consent form(s) must again be submitted to the Board for review and approval prior to implementation of the proposed change.
    - If the results of the study will be published or used for oral presentations at professional conferences, the proposed publication, abstract and/or presentation materials must be submitted to the Navajo Research Program for Board review and prior approval.
    - Upon Board approval, three copies of the final publication must be submitted to the Navajo Research Program.
    - All manuscripts must be submitted to the Navajo Research Program for Board Review and prior approval.

For Complete requirements and guidelines, visit <http://www.nnhrrb.navajonsn.gov/>

* + [Oglala Sioux Tribe Research Review Board](http://www.unmc.edu/publichealth/docs/OSTRRB_PP_Presenttaion_-_1.pdf)

## Resources

[Indian Health Service (IHS)](http://www.ihs.gov/Research/index.cfm?module=hrpp_about)  
[IHS IRB listing with Contacts](http://www.ihs.gov/Research/index.cfm?module=hrpp_irb)