

# 2026 Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board Conference

*Bíhoo'áa'ánideegii bee'ilééhózin áadoo bee'haa'honi dóó bee'adziil:*  
New Knowledge for Insight, Courage, and Strength

Diné College – Tsaile, Arizona | June 16 – 18, 2026

## Draft Agenda

### Day 1 | Tuesday, June 16

#### Plenary Session

8:30am	Master of Ceremony	TBD, IRB Board Member
	Invocation and Blessing	Helena Nez Begay, NN Council Delegate
8:45am	Welcome	Carl Slater, NN Council Delegate
	Opening Remarks	Dr. Jackson-Dennison, President, Diné College Sherylene Yazzie, Executive Director, NDOH Jonathan Hale, Chair, NNHRRB
9:00am	Traditional Research Approaches	Michelle Kahn-John, PhD, Johns Hopkins University

#### Session 1 | 10:30am- 12:00pm

##### Room A: Environment

**Facilitator: TBD**

Carrying Black Bear Research: Community, Knowledge, and Responsibility on the Navajo Nation

Deandra Jones, PhD

Examining Collaborative Forest Management in the Southwestern United States: A Social-ecological Systems Analysis of Wood Banks in New Mexico

Julia Nelson

Socio-economic and Health Impacts of Coal Mining and Well-being of Diné Residents Living within the Peabody Coal Leasehold Area using the Diné Health Model

Renee Tsinigine, PhD

##### Room B: Cancer

**Facilitator: TBD**

Learning in Harmony: Assessing the Psychosocial Impact of Cancer on Navajo Adults

Sheila Hammer, MSW, LCSW

Hozhoogoo Nasashaa Do (I Will Live in a Good Way): Breast Cancer Prevention

Priscilla Sanderson, PhD

Pilot Testing a Community Health Representative Led Liver Disease Screening Program

Caitlin Baird, MPH

**Room C: Education****Facilitator: TBD**

A randomized waitlist controlled group trial of an evidence-based autism parent Education and training program with Diné families: Preliminary results

Olivia Lindly, PhD

Advancing Hózhó in Autism Assessment with Caregiver Perspectives – Aim 1 and 3

Candi Running Bear, PhD

Advancing Hózhó in Autism Assessment with Practitioners – Aim 2

Davis Henderson, PhD

**Lunch | 12:00pm – 1:15pm****Session 2 | 1:15pm – 2:45pm****Room A: Public Health – Water Access****Facilitator: TBD**

Data Driven Evaluation of the Transportation Barriers to Water Access on the Navajo Nation

Chelsea Kettering, DrPH

Cultivating Water Resilience with an Indigenous Community in the Southwestern United States

Andee Lister, PhD

Diné Household Water Survey: A Research-to-Action Model for Water Access in Naschitti Chapter

Ty Yellowman, BA

**Room B: Behavioral and Mental Health****Facilitator: TBD**

Findings from the Pilot Validation of the ASQAdapted Validation Study with Chinle Service Unit

Kristin Mitchell, MA

Changes in Traumatic Violence for Women Living on and off Tribal Lands (Arizona) Before, During, and After COVID Emergency Responses

Juliet Lee, PhD

Patient Perceptions of the use of Artificial Intelligence in Suicide Risk Assessment Models

Kristin Mitchell, MA

**Room C: Diabetes****Facilitator: TBD**

The Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study Alzheimer's Diseases and Related Dementias

Vallabh Shah, PhD, MS, FASN

New Learning and Understanding from the Action for Health in Diabetes (Look AHEAD) Research Study

Harelda Anderson, LMSW

DISCOVERY of Risk Factors of Type 2 Diabetes among Youth: The Navajo/Shiprock Site

Cristy Geno, PhD, MPH

**Break | 2:45pm – 3:00pm**

## Session 3 | 3:00pm – 4:30pm

### Room A: Maternal and Child Health

**Facilitator: TBD**

Implementing Home Visiting in Native Communities: Findings from the Multi-site Implementation Evaluation of Tribal Home Visiting (MUSE)

Nancy Rumbaugh Whitesell, PhD

Family Spirit Strengths: Supporting Resilience and Healing among Indigenous Mothers Caregivers

Summer Todecheene, BA

The Adaptation and Implementation of the Family Listening Program with Two Navajo Communities

Lorenda Belone, PhD, MPH

### Room B: Education - Language

**Facilitator: TBD**

Ólta' Siláagi Diné Bi'Óhoo'aahígíí Bee Níjítł'ó: Reweaving Schooling using Diné Bi'óhoo'aah – Challenges, Successes and Considerations

James McKenzie, PhD

Indigenous-Language Immersion and Native American Student Achievement: Findings from a National Study

Teresa McCarty

Navajo Children with and without Speech Sound Disorders

Davis Henderson, PhD, CCC-SLP

### Room C: Public Health

**Facilitator: TBD**

Comprehensive Task Analysis of Diné (Navajo) Rug Weaving

Ramona Yazzie, OTD, OTD/L

Healing through Empowerment, Ancestral Wisdom, and Love-in Resilience (HEAL-R) Study: Exploring Traditional and Faith-based Healing for Individuals who have Experienced Child Abuse and Neglect in New Mexico

Brooke Betsuie, MPH

Connected Care: A CHW-based Linkage Model for American Indian Alaskan Native Radiation Oncology Care

Jerren Begay

## Return to Main Room

4:40pm Closing

4:50pm Announcements

## Day 2 | Wednesday, June, 17

### Poster Session | GCB Hall | 9:00am – 10:30AM

Community Perceptions of Indoor Air Pollution and Air Cleaner Adoption among Diné Families	Alison Watson, MS
Use of Passive Silicone Wristbands to Measure Community and Individual Level Chemical Exposures Associated with Trash Burning Activities	Brittany Van de Moere, BA
Priorities for Genetic Research Practices: Perspectives from a Deliberation with Diné Community Members	Isabella Eaton
Soil Analysis from Navajo Reservation in Search of Novel Antibiotics	Kaitlan James, MS
Evaluating Hastiin Bidziil (Strong Man): A Randomized Controlled Trial Protocol for Reducing Substance Abuse among Native Men on the Navajo Nation	Matthew Greyeyes, BS
Tribal Community Resilience under Climate Change: Harnessing Controlled Environment Agriculture to Secure Sustainability and Economic Growth (Tri-CEA)	Kevin Lombard, PhD
Non-Invasive Screening for Vitamin A Deficiency in Pregnant Women and Children Living in the Navajo Nation: Preliminary Findings	Konrad Willey, BS
Thinking Zinc: An Intervention Study for Mitigation of Metal Toxicity	Laurie Hudson, PhD
Examining Perspectives on Genetic Research in the Navajo Nation with Community Members	Luke Nez
Family Spirit Long-term Follow-up Project: Study Overview and Progress	Maria Welch, BA
Restoring Natural Water to Potable Quality in Off-grid Areas on Navajo Nation	Neilroy Singer
Co-creating a Culturally Appropriate Type 2 Diabetes and Cancer Intervention for Navajo Adults and their Families	Sheila Hammer, PhD
Potential microRNA Based Inhibition against the Nucleocapsid Protein in Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus: A Surrogate Model for Hepatitis C Virus	Harrison Cayatineto
Alcohol Use and Risk of Chronic Kidney Disease: A Population-Based Study from the All of Us Research Workbench data	Vanessa Chicharello
University-Community Research Response to COVID-19 Amplified Water Insecurities on the Navajo Nation	Ruth Pannill
Pneumococcal vaccine coverage among adults with invasive pneumococcal disease in the Navajo Nation	Ladonna Becenti

### Break | 10:30AM- 10:45PM

## Session 1 | 10:45AM- 12:15PM

### Room A: Infectious Disease

**Facilitator: TBD**

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Burden and Prevention Products among American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Children <5 Years and Adults  $\geq 50$  years, November 2019-May 2025

Rachel Hartman, MSPH

Serotype 4 Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD) in Navajo Nation

Sarah Zylstra, BSN

Incidence of Invasive Group A Streptococcal Infections and Comparison of EMM Types from Carriage, Pharyngitis, and Invasive Infections in Navajo Nation

Ladonna Becenti

### Room B: School Health

**Facilitator: TBD**

Evaluating the Impact of COVID-19 on Navajo Nation Indigenous High School Student Population

Shazia Tabassum-Hakim, PhD

Prevalence of Amblyopia, Strabismus, and Refractive Error in School-Aged Children on the Navajo Nation

Kaydee McCray, OD

A School-Based Partnership with Rural Tribal Schools for Primary Prevention of Obesity among American Indian Youth (P2)

Regina Eddie, PhD, RN

### Room C: Environment – Uranium/Metal Exposures

**Facilitator: TBD**

Environmental Exposures from Legacy Mining on Navajo Lands as a Social Determinant of Health Linked to Cancer

Jani Ingram, PhD

Biomarkers of Chronic Kidney Disease among Navajo Community Members Living in Proximity to Abandoned Uranium Mines and Associated Waste Sites

Esther Erdei, PhD, MPH

Uranium and metals exposure in Navajo communities across parts of three decades – An Overview

Chris Shuey, MPH

## Lunch | 12:15PM- 1:30PM

## Session 2 | 1:30PM- 3:00PM

### Room A: Infectious Disease

**Facilitator: TBD**

Acute respiratory infection (ARI) hospitalizations among American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children <5 years and adults  $\geq 50$  years, November 2019-May 2025

Rachel Hartman, MSPH

Understanding and Supporting Vaccine Confidence Through Community Voices in the Navajo Nation

Kiana Poncho, AS(c)

Assessing the Determinants of Healthcare Workers' Vaccine Recommendations in the Navajo Nation

Chelsea Kettering, DrPH, MPH

**Room B: Diabetes/Cardiovascular Health****Facilitator: TBD**

MUTTON-HF (Medically Utilized Tailored Traditional foods to Optimize Nutrition In Heart Failure)

Lauren Eberly, MD, MPH

Create Better Health Diné Community Needs Assessment: Preliminary Findings and Program Restructuring Opportunities

Ryan Benally

Research in Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes in the Navajo Nation

William Knowler, MD, DrPH

**Room C: Genetics****Facilitator: TBD**

Virtual Deliberation on Genetics Research: Report-out of Key Themes from Diné (Navajo) Research &amp; Healthcare Professionals

Carissa Sherman, PhD

Assessing the Quality of a Virtual Deliberation: Perspectives of Diné (Navajo) Research and Healthcare Professionals on Genetics Policy and Research

Dalaki Livingston, PhD

Adaptive Methodologies in Community Engaged Research: Perspectives on Genetics in the Navajo Nation

Lucus Rozell, MA

**Plenary Session**

3:00pm	MASTER OF CEREMONY	Mr. Alex Montoya, IRB Board Member
3:30pm	Data Sovereignty Panel	Caleigh Curley, ASU Gerilene Haskon, Tribal Liaison, ADHS TBD
4:30pm	Announcements	

## Day 3 | Thursday, June 18

### Session 1 | 8:45am – 10:15am

#### Room A: COVID-19

**Facilitator: TBD**

Four Corners Indigenous Farm Assessment (4CIFA): Soil, Land-use, Controlled Environment Agriculture and COVID-19 Impacts on Navajo farmers in the San Juan River Valley

Brandon Francis

Understanding Navajo Community Emergency Response to COVID-19 Pandemic on the Navajo Nation using the SNBH Framework

Majerle Lister, PhD

Evaluating the Feasibility and Acceptability of Together Overcoming COVID (TOC): A Pilot Home-Visiting Intervention for Navajo Adults Living with Long COVID

Marqia Sandoval, BS

#### Room B: Nutrition – Water Intake

**Facilitator: TBD**

Water is K'é: Multi-level Intervention to Promote Healthy Beverage among Navajo Families

Karianne Jones, BS

Water is K'é: Campaign Pilot to Promote Water instead of Sugary Drinks (Combatting Youth Beverage Marketing with Indigenous Culture)

Brianna John, MPP

Addressing System-level Barriers to Water Security and Water Intake in the Navajo Nation: A Community-based System Dynamics Approach

Carmen George, MS

#### Room C: Maternal and Child Health

**Facilitator: TBD**

Family Spirit Nurture: Preliminary Results from the Water Delivery Service

Leonela Nelson, MPH

WIC Benefit Redemption and Stakeholder Perspectives on Food Access in the Navajo Nation

Alea Lopez, MS

Developing a WIC Food Delivery System for Participants in the Navajo Nation WIC Program

Veronica Clark, Med, PhD©

### Break | 10:15am – 10:30am

### Session 2 | 10:30am – 12:00pm

#### Room A: Environment

**Facilitator: TBD**

Evaluation of Report-back Strategies for Long-term and Short-term Exposure Information in Rural Tribal Population

Selah Willis, MSOH, GSP

Carcinogenic and Non-Carcinogenic Metal(loid)s in Water in a Uranium Mining Impacted Region on Diné Lands in NM

Chris Samuel, PhD

Navajo Birth Cohort Study/ECHO Update and Current Findings

Qeturah Anderson, MPH

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**Room B: Academic Success Strategies****Facilitator: TBD**

A Cultural Approach to Biomedical and Healthcare Pathways for Navajo Youth

Shazia Tabassu, PhD

Evaluation a Culturally Grounded Public Health Workforce Pathway: Findings from the Navajo NARCH Student Enhancement Programs (2021-2024)

Marissa Tutt, MPH

Strengthening Navajo Student Success through Teacher Influence and Self-Efficacy

LaNaya Cook, EdD

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**Room C: Behavioral and Mental Health****Facilitator: TBD**

Research Review Protocols: An Overview of 42 Tribal Nations

Juliet Lee, PhD

Evaluation of Azhe'é Bidziil (Strong Fathers): Improving Outcomes among Rural Fathers and their Families – Outcomes of a Five-Year Study

Jennifer Richards, PhD, MPH

Trends in Substance Use among Navajo and other Reservation-Area American Indian Adolescents Before, During, and After the COVID-19 Pandemic (2018-2024)

Meghan Crabtree, PhD

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**End of Conference**