

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE ON THE ALASKA NATIVE HEALTH RESEARCH FORUM

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This special issue of *American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Research* focuses on a critical but often neglected aspect of collaborative research: how to share research and research findings in meaningful ways with Alaska Native and American Indian (AN/AI) community members. In May 2016, the Southcentral Foundation (SCF) Research Department conducted the Alaska Native Health Research Forum. The primary purpose of the Forum was to obtain feedback on the outreach and dissemination strategies SCF Research Department uses to communicate with community members.

Beyond this introduction, the special issue consists of three sections. Section I describes the background information shared with Forum attendees, the structure and content of the Forum itself, and the methods used to gather community feedback. Section II depicts three SCF research studies that disseminated results differently, along with community feedback about clarity of results, sufficiency of information, and the degree to which information was presented in an interesting way. The three research studies concern dissemination of results from a T-SBIRT (i.e., trauma-focused screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment) process, a stakeholder-driven decision support tool to aid in depression management, and interest in pharmacogenetic research. Section III includes feedback from the community about the Forum itself, a summative evaluation, and recommendations to improve communication with AN/AI people about research. We expect many of our lessons learned are applicable in other research settings where a goal is to meaningfully engage community members in collaborative research.

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