

Strengthening Tribal Involvement in Fatality Reviews



The National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention (The National Center) is the federally funded resource and data center that supports Child Death Review (CDR) and Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) programs across the country.

Why Should Tribes Engage in CDR or FIMR?

- **Effective Interventions:** American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities are the best voice to advocate the unique needs of Tribal children and families.
- **Cultural Relevance:** Conducting fatality reviews within a Tribe ensures a culturally sensitive approach, reflecting the unique beliefs, practices, and community dynamics that may impact their community.
- **Capacity Building:** Participation in fatality reviews allows Tribes to take an active role in shaping policies and practices related to child and infant health.
- **Sovereignty and Jurisdiction:** Tribal engagement in fatality reviews ensures that legal and jurisdictional considerations align with Tribal frameworks, maintaining control over the process and decisions related to child and infant mortality within the community.

Tribal involvement in fatality review is crucial for improving the health and safety of the community, fostering community engagement, preserving cultural identity, addressing disparities, and ensuring effective decision-making that considers the unique needs of the AI/AN community.

Benefits of Tribal Involvement

- Using the voices, stories, and narratives of those with lived experiences to understand the context and foster greater commitment among teams to champion health and racial equity in AI/AN communities.
- Enhanced prevention strategies through tailored interventions and addressing community-specific risks.
- Improved data accuracy through addressing cultural nuances in reporting and comprehensive understanding of local factors specific to Tribes.
- Tribal involvement is essential for building community resilience and empowerment. Engaging in fatality reviews allows for inclusion in the decision-making process and ability to take an active role in shaping initiatives that directly impact their community's health.

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HOW THE NATIONAL CENTER SUPPORTS TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT

The National Center is working towards increasing capacity in Tribal fatality reviews by focusing on increasing engagement and collaboration with Tribes and urban Indian organizations (UIOs) through outreach initiatives and encouraging joining the national fatality review and prevention efforts.

Resources and Training

Develops culturally competent training programs and accessible materials and guidelines tailored to Tribal needs identified. The National Center also provides technical assistance to support and increase opportunities for Tribal participation in fatality review and prevention efforts.

Funding Opportunity

Funding is available to build capacity for Tribal CDR and FIMR teams, tailored to individualized needs.

Data Support

The National Center hosts and maintains the National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System (NFR-CRS), a free, web-based system for CDR and FIMR case review data collection and analysis. The National Center is adapting data collection methods to respect Tribal sensitivities, considering the unique aspects of each community. Data ownership is protected, and ownership remains with the Tribe. Data is not used at the National level or shared without consent.

Tribal-Related Digital Resources

- Webinar series titled Exploring Native American and Black Historical Trauma: Implications for Fatality Review Teams.
- Webinar series titled Improving the Collaboration of Fatality Reviews with AI/AN communities.
- Written Guidance titled Improving the Coordination of Fatality Review Programs with AI/AN communities.
- A multi-part training series, titled Working with Tribes, covering essential information that fatality review teams need to know when working with tribes and reviewing fetal, infant, and child deaths of AI/AN families.

All resources are available at www.ncfrp.org.



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