Scaling up evidence-based practices in AIAN communities: Measuring fidelity and impact when EBPs are grounded in culture

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Questions to think about

- What does culture have to do with taking practices to scale in tribal communities?
- How is fidelity measured after culture is included?
- How is impact measured in the context of AIAN communities?
- Is this putting culture in a box?
What does culture have to do with taking practices to scale in tribal communities?

- Many tribal communities insist on including culture in interventions
  - Whether or not it’s “effective”, it is necessary

- Cultural has the potential to increase the effectiveness of intervention
  - Cultural components enhance effects of intervention
  - Cultural components activate the intervention
  - Culture is the intervention
  - All of these effects can result from increased relevance of an intervention when culture is integrated and from enhanced motivation on the part of participants to engage in a culturally relevant intervention.
Questions to be asked when culture is to be incorporated into an evidence-based practice*

- How will culture be included in the intervention? (operationalization)
- How will culture as incorporated in the intervention change outcomes? (theory of change)
- How is culture defined? (conceptualization)
- How will fidelity to the cultural intervention be confirmed? (implementation)
- What outcomes are important in the cultural context? (operationalization)
- How will outcomes be measured in culturally-appropriate ways? (measurement)
- How will culturally-relevant outcomes be measured? (measurement)

*many relevant to measurement
What IS culture?

culture

parenting practices

spirituality

ceremonies and practices

tribal language

cultural identity

family relationships & extended family

ACF Community

University
How is fidelity measured after culture is included?

Fidelity to core components in an EBP

- How do core components look different when translated to local context and culture?
  - Are they implemented differently?
  - Are there differences in the details?

Fidelity to core cultural components

- What are the core cultural components?
How is impact measured in the context of AIAN communities?

- Outcomes that are culturally relevant
  - Effectiveness is not effectiveness if no one in the community cares about the outcomes

- Outcomes that are measured in culturally appropriate ways
  - If the data gathered are not trustworthy, impact cannot be assessed
  - Demonstration of reliability and validity for this population is critical

- Culture as outcome?
Ensuring outcomes are culturally relevant and valid

Engage communities to identify the right outcomes to measure.

Engage communities to design measures that assess outcomes in a culturally-valid ways.
Ensuring outcomes are culturally relevant and valid

- Outcomes that are culturally relevant:
  - Ensure culturally-appropriate measurement that is reliable and valid for this population

- Outcomes that are measured in culturally appropriate ways:
  - Operationalize important outcomes
  - Identify or create reliable and valid measures for these outcomes

- Culture as outcome?
  - Can we define and operationalize culture – so it can be measured?
  - Should we?
Is this putting culture in a box?

- Western model for indigenous concepts?
- Reductionistic?
- Invasive?
- Possible?

- Are there useful ways to articulate culture in interventions and in outcomes – and useful ways to measure it to determine how it is being implemented and what effects it is having?
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Tribal Early Childhood Research Center
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Native Children’s Research Exchange
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