



Resolution No. 04-2006-107

**RESOLUTION OF THE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION**

(Approving publication of two manuscripts from the Johns Hopkins University)

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 1(a) of the Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, *inter alia*, the Tribal Council has the authority to represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe; and

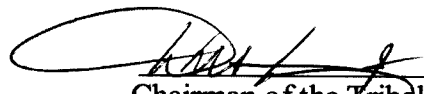
WHEREAS, the Tribal Council supports carefully designed research projects to evaluate health problems which exist in the population and to develop appropriate interventions which seek to decrease or alleviate these problems; and

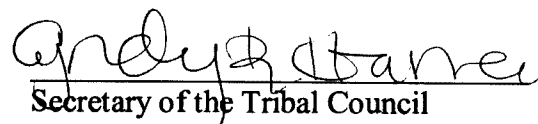
WHEREAS, Johns Hopkins is requesting permission to present work that is currently being conducted on the White Mountain Apache Reservation at the 18th Annual I H S Research Conference to be held April 24-26, 2006 in Albuquerque, New Mexico by Johns Hopkins personnel. The two abstracts submitted for presentation approval include: 1) "*Celebrating Life: Employing Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Methods to Prevent Youth Suicide on the White Mountain Apache Reservation*"; 2) "*A Community-wide Suicide Surveillance System to Identify Patterns of Completions and Attempts among the White Mountain Apache Tribe.*" No personal identifiers are indicated or referenced and all information contained in the abstracts is submitted for the purpose of developing strategies designed to intervene and prevent suicide.

WHEREAS, the presentation of abstracts, if approved, will be presented at the 18th Annual I H S Research Conference to be held April 24-26, 2006 in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves that the abstracts be presented as identified.

The foregoing resolution was on April 13, 2006, duly adopted by a vote of SIX for and ZERO against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to the authority vested in it by Article IV, Section 1 (a), (b), (j), (k), (s), (t) and (u) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe September 30, 1993, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 12, 1993, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).


Chairman of the Tribal Council


Secretary of the Tribal Council

A community-wide suicide surveillance system to identify patterns of completions and attempts among the White Mountain Apache Tribe

Allison Barlow, Mariddie Craig, N. Katy Aday, Francene Larzelere-Hinton, Elena Varipatis Baker, Kathleen Norton, Britta Mullany, John Walkup

Background: Suicide is a leading health disparity among American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth and young adults. Rates of suicidal behavior vary markedly across tribes. Since 1990, the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) has experienced rates of suicide completion among youth (<24 years of age) 10 times greater than the U.S. rate and 5 times greater than the AI/AN rate. In 2001, WMAT implemented a community-wide suicide surveillance system to collect data related to age, gender, location, methods and potential triggers for suicidal ideation, attempts and completions. **Methods:** A common suicide registry form is used by all tribal agencies to report suicidal events to the Suicide Prevention Coalition. Data are entered on a weekly basis into an electronic database. Data including age, gender, methods, and potential triggers for suicidal events are being analyzed for 2002-2005. **Results:** Confirmed completions include: 6 in 2002; 4 in 2003; 2 in 2004; and 6 in 2005. There were 393 confirmed suicidal events in 2005. Data for the total number and type of suicidal events for 2002-2004 are being analyzed and will be reported. **Conclusions:** Preliminary results suggest youth ages 15-24 are at highest risk for completion, while 10-19-year-olds are at highest risk for suicidal events. A tribally mandated suicide registry provides important public health information. More in-depth assessments of youth identified via this registry may be applied to the design of community-based suicide prevention interventions.

Celebrating Life: Employing Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Methods to Prevent Youth Suicide on the White Mountain Apache Reservation.

Allison Barlow, Mariddie Craig, N. Katy Aday, Francene Larzelere-Hinton, Elena Varipatis Baker, Kathleen Norton, John T Walkup

Purpose: Since 1990, White Mountain Apache tribal members have experienced rates of suicide completion among youth (<25 years of age) that have been up to 10 times the U.S. rate and 5 times the AI/AN rate. In 2001, the Tribe passed a resolution requiring mandatory reporting of all suicidal events (ideation, attempts) and completions. In 2004, the Tribe partnered with Johns Hopkins University to employ community-based participatory research (CBPR) methods to investigate risk factors, key determinants, treatment preferences and service utilization experiences among suicidal youth (10-19). **Methods:** The four-year project (9/2005- 8/2009) is unfolding in three stages: I) a six-month formative research phase to enhance existing surveillance data collection methods and design assessment tools for the study of suicidal youth II) a 24-month study of a consecutive series (n=75) of youth who make serious attempts to understand suicide severity, risk factors and treatment experiences and preferences. Apache paraprofessionals will be trained to complete all assessments and interviews; and, III) a prevention intervention design phase with community stakeholders employing knowledge learned in Stage I and II. **Results:** Stage I has yielded descriptive data about rates, methods, timing, gender ratios. Community perceptions about risk and protective factors have informed selection of the assessment and interview tools for Stage II. **Conclusions:** This study will contribute new knowledge about conducting CBPR in the arena of mental health within AI tribes. Process and outcomes results relating to preventing youth suicidal behavior may be generalizable to other indigenous population contexts throughout the US and the world.