

Community engagement, culture centeredness, systems thinking, and integrated knowledge translation are key to implement health interventions in Indigenous communities

Harding T & Oetzel J. [Implementation effectiveness of health interventions for indigenous communities: A systematic review](#). Implementation Science. 2019;14:76.

What is the context of this review?

- Indigenous communities experience many inequities as compared to non-Indigenous communities.
- To improve health outcomes in these communities, it is important to understand Indigenous cultural values and beliefs.
- The [He Pikinga Waiora](#) (HPW) framework is increasingly being used to inform the development and implementation of health interventions. The framework rests on four pillars: 1) community engagement; 2) culture centeredness; 3) systems thinking; and 4) integrated knowledge translation.

Box 1: Coverage of OHT building blocks

This review addresses [building block #3](#):

- 1) defined patient population
- 2) in-scope services
- 3) patient partnership and community engagement (domain 13 - Indigenous peoples engagement)**
- 4) patient care and experience
- 5) digital health
- 6) leadership, accountability and governance
- 7) funding and incentive structure
- 8) performance measurement, quality improvement, and continuous learning

What question is being addressed?

- Are studies examining the implementation of non-communicable disease health interventions in an Indigenous community support the elements of the HPW framework?

How was the review done?

- Searches were conducted in several databases to identify studies that examined the use of health interventions for non-communicable diseases in Indigenous communities.
- A combination of the following keywords was used to find relevant studies: community health, Māori, intervention, Indigenous, First Nation, Native American.
- The review authors found a total of 6,981 potential studies, 21 of which were deemed relevant after assessing their eligibility.
- This review authors were supported by a grant from the Healthier Lives National Science Challenge

How up to date is this review?

- The authors searched for studies published from 2008 to 2018.

What are the main results of the review?

- The authors grouped the findings based on the four elements of the HPW framework:
 - Community engagement
 - The community-engagement approach most commonly used was community-based participatory research, where community members help design and conduct research for new health interventions.
 - Cultural-centeredness approach
 - A cultural-centeredness approach was mainly used to allow community members to voice their concerns about community problems, and to make sure that the solution to the problems fit the community's culture and values.
 - Systems thinking (looking at all parts of the community)
 - Systems thinking was used to encourage individual community members to make good health decisions (for example, changes in diet), form relationships with schools, sports teams, local stores, and others, to improve health outcomes, and identify what barriers prevent people from getting good healthcare
 - Integrated knowledge translation (share knowledge with community members)
 - Integrated knowledge translation was used by working with different community members to implement new health interventions in areas such as schools, health centers, stores, via tribal leaders, and more.
- Community engagement and cultural centeredness were found to help Indigenous community members feel empowered in their healthcare decisions, and systems thinking and integrated knowledge translation helped make sure new health interventions continue to be used by community members in the long-term

How confident are we in the results?

- This is a recent and moderate-quality systematic review with an AMSTAR score of 5/9.

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