

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE (NIEJI) :

Frequently Asked Questions: Native Elder Maltreatment Survey

What is the Native Elder Maltreatment Survey?

This survey will address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation in Indian Country and assess for services. Items will address the prevalence of elder abuse, types of elder abuse, services available, and awareness of resources and tribal codes by the elders in tribal and urban communities.

Who is organizing the project?

Explain that you have been asked by a local organization (i.e. tribe, elder abuse prevention program or senior center) to assist with data collection pertaining to their community. The data is for local use identifying risk indicators of elder abuse. Results from the survey will be used to document and address needs in their community. Explain that this is a nationwide effort supported by the National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative.

Why is there a need to complete the surveys?

Please explain that the local organization requesting the surveys and your tribal council/local governing body have approved of the survey through a tribal resolution. A packet of results will be sent back to their community comparing it to other Native communities participating in the survey.

Describe the purpose of the study and state the rationale for the research?

This Native Elder Maltreatment Survey is to collect preliminary data on a survey instrument that is for use with tribes to collect data on the types, incidence, extent, and frequency of elder abuse in Indian Country.

Why was I or my tribe selected?

Please explain that they were randomly selected from the elders in their community to participate. Explain the importance of data collection to address the needs of elders in their community.

Do I have to participate?

No, elders are not obligated to participate. Survey participation is completely voluntary, but it is encouraged to properly assess the elder needs in their community.

Will my answers be confidential?

Participant's personal information will not appear on any of the documents or surveys provided. Responses and results of the survey are completely confidential and will not be traced back to the individual participant. NIEJI along with your tribal council/local governing board and your representative organization will have access to overall results. Any presentation of results will be displayed in regional and or national profile only, so no individual/tribe/villages/homesteads) responses will be identified.

What does the survey cover?

The survey will include areas such as demographics, experiences with the various types of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, elder services/programs, and how participants define the term 'Elder.'

Describe the study procedures?

Participants will be recruited through tribal service programs. Participants will be informed of the reason for the research and risks and benefits as described in the consent statement. Those who choose to participate will be given a survey to follow along while the interviewer fills in answers for the participant.

Describe what data will be recorded?

Basic demographic information will be collected and responses to questions about elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation, and violence will be collected in the survey. No names or identifying information will be collected.

How will data be recorded and stored?

It is recommended that the interviewer ask the questions and participants respond. Otherwise, the participants will complete the paper and pencil survey and return it to the interviewer. The interviewer will mail the completed protocols back to the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UND SMHS) where it will be placed in a secured locked file cabinet. The data will be entered into an SPSS data file and saved on a secure server located in the SMHS. The server is password protected and access is only available to staff who have clearance to use the data. Surveys will be numbered for ease of data entry, but there will be no identification on the survey. The paper copies will be stored for three years in a locked cabinet.

Will I be informed of my results?

Yes, once local survey results have been received and reviewed by the sponsoring tribal agency(ies), participants and community members can view survey results through their local offices' dissemination means. NIEJI program encourages public dissemination of survey results to the overall general public. Good use of tribal statistical data should be recognized and promoted.

Will I be compensated for my time?

Participants will not receive any compensation from the NIEJI program for their participation in this study. There are no costs associated with the participation in this study. Your tribe will receive your overall tribal data and a national aggregate.