



# We Rise (to be Heard)

Community conversations led by stories of American Indian/Alaska Native men left behind by police violence

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018



**Urban Indian  
Health Institute**  
A Division of the Seattle Indian Health Board

**Urban Indians are Tribal people living off federally defined tribal lands and currently residing in urban settings**

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# Agenda

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Background

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Objective

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Methods

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Participant Stories

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Community Response

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Implications

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# Hi.



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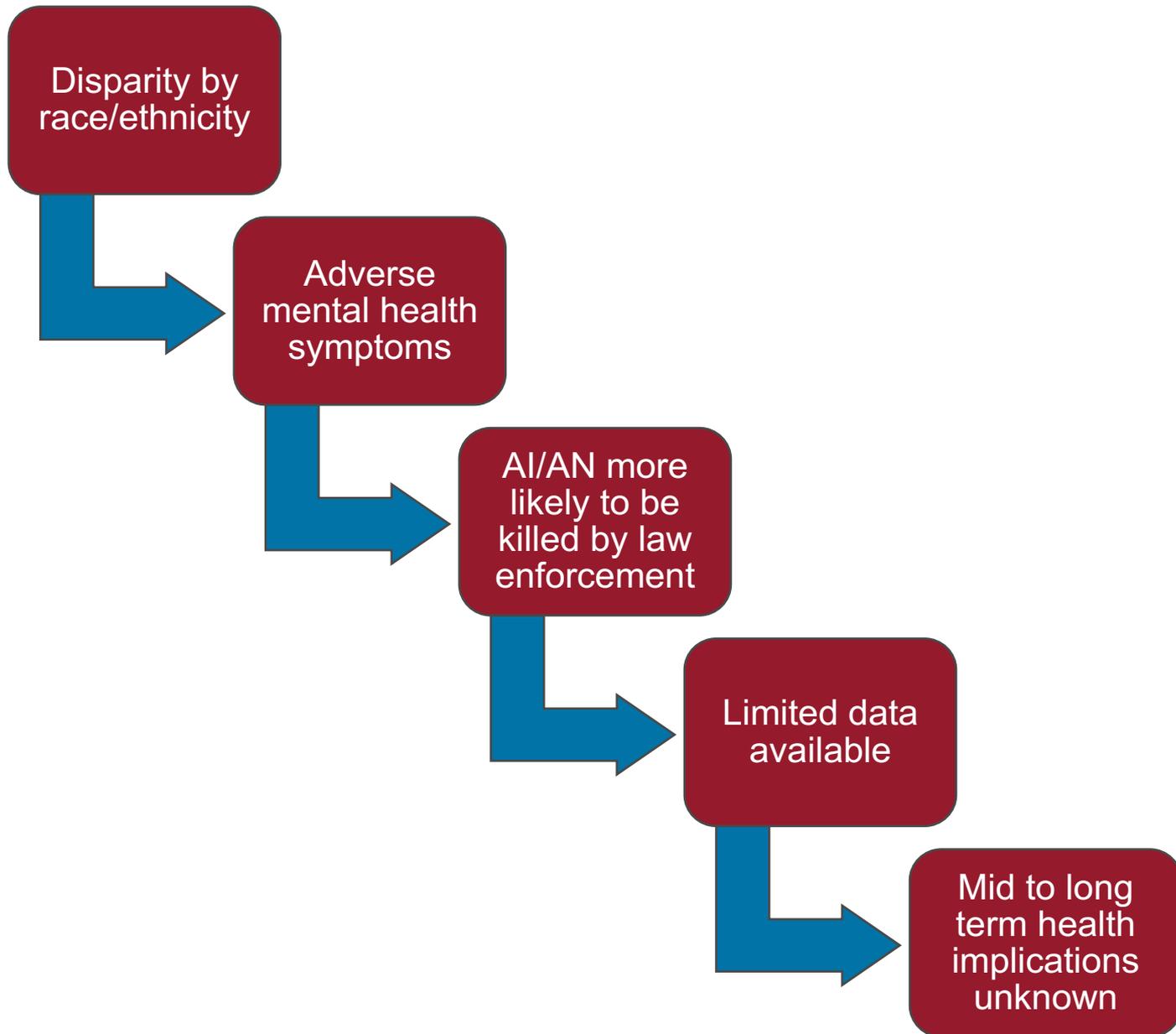
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**Abigail Echo-Hawk, MA,  
Director, Urban Indian  
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# Study Team



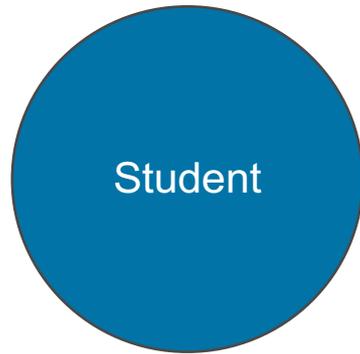
# Background



# Objective

**To facilitate a community discussion on police interactions through the stories of AI/AN men.**

# Methods



# Eligibility Criteria



18 years or older



Self-identify as AI/AN and male

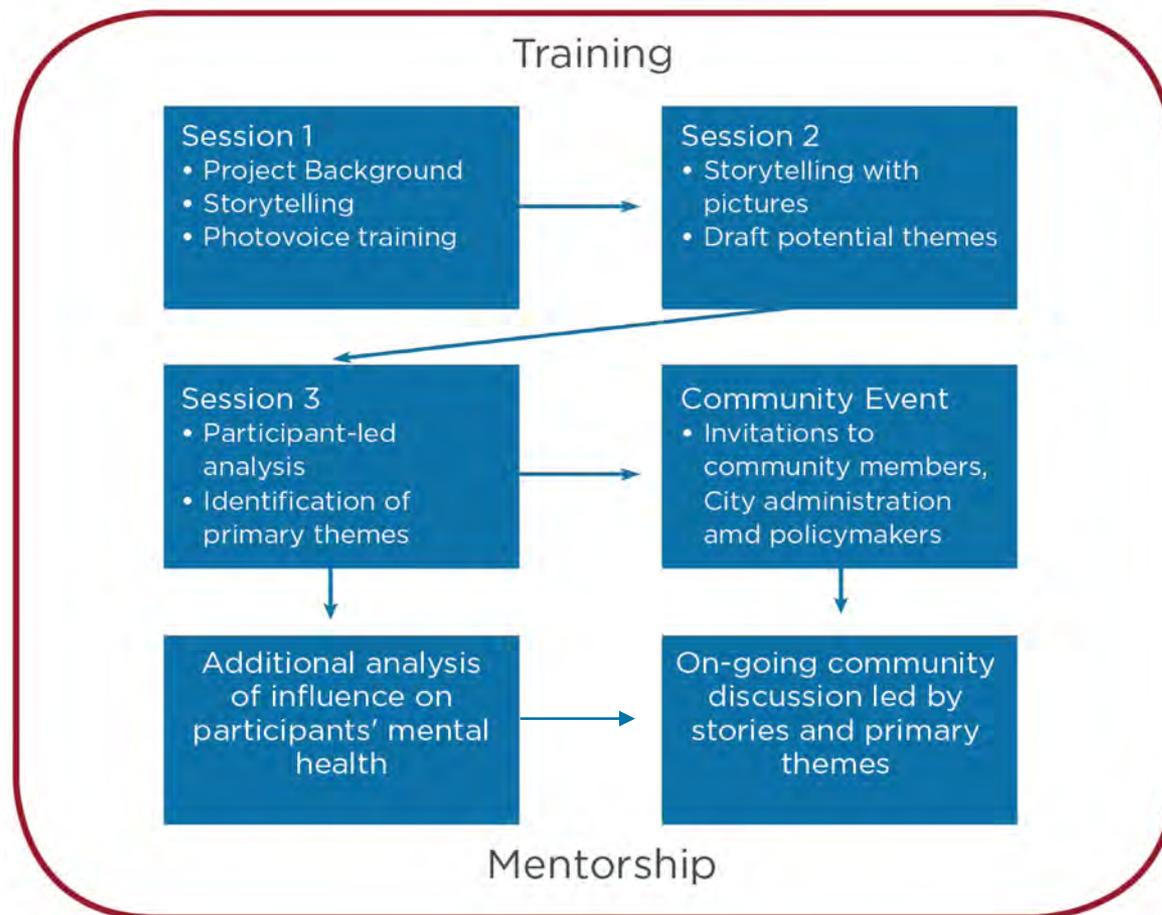


Lived in Seattle, WA for the last year



1st hand experience or observation of interaction(s) with law enforcement

# Overview of Project Process



# Participant Stories

# ! Changing Times?

Physical.

Buildings change.

People change.

Landscape changed.

“Law Enforcement?”

From bad to worse.





# Coerce

transitive verb co·erce \ kō-'ərs \

1. to compel an act or choice;  
*I felt coerced to plead guilty*
2. to achieve by force or threat;  
*I was coerced into a situation where I could not access my medications*
3. to restrain or dominate by force;  
*The coercing left me with no choice*

# “I will shoot you like a man.”

“Please, you have to treat me better—I’m a woman!”

I heard her say it, as four police officers surrounded this young Black woman.

“Please—I’m a woman!”

I heard it again, as they began to treat her like she wasn't a person at all.

“Please, you have to treat me better—I’m a woman!”

Then I heard him say it.

“I will **shoot you like a man!**”

I watched all this.

And I never felt more useless.



**PARTICIPANT  
IDENTIFIED  
PRIMARY  
THEMES**



**Respect**



**Culture**



**Health**



**Training**



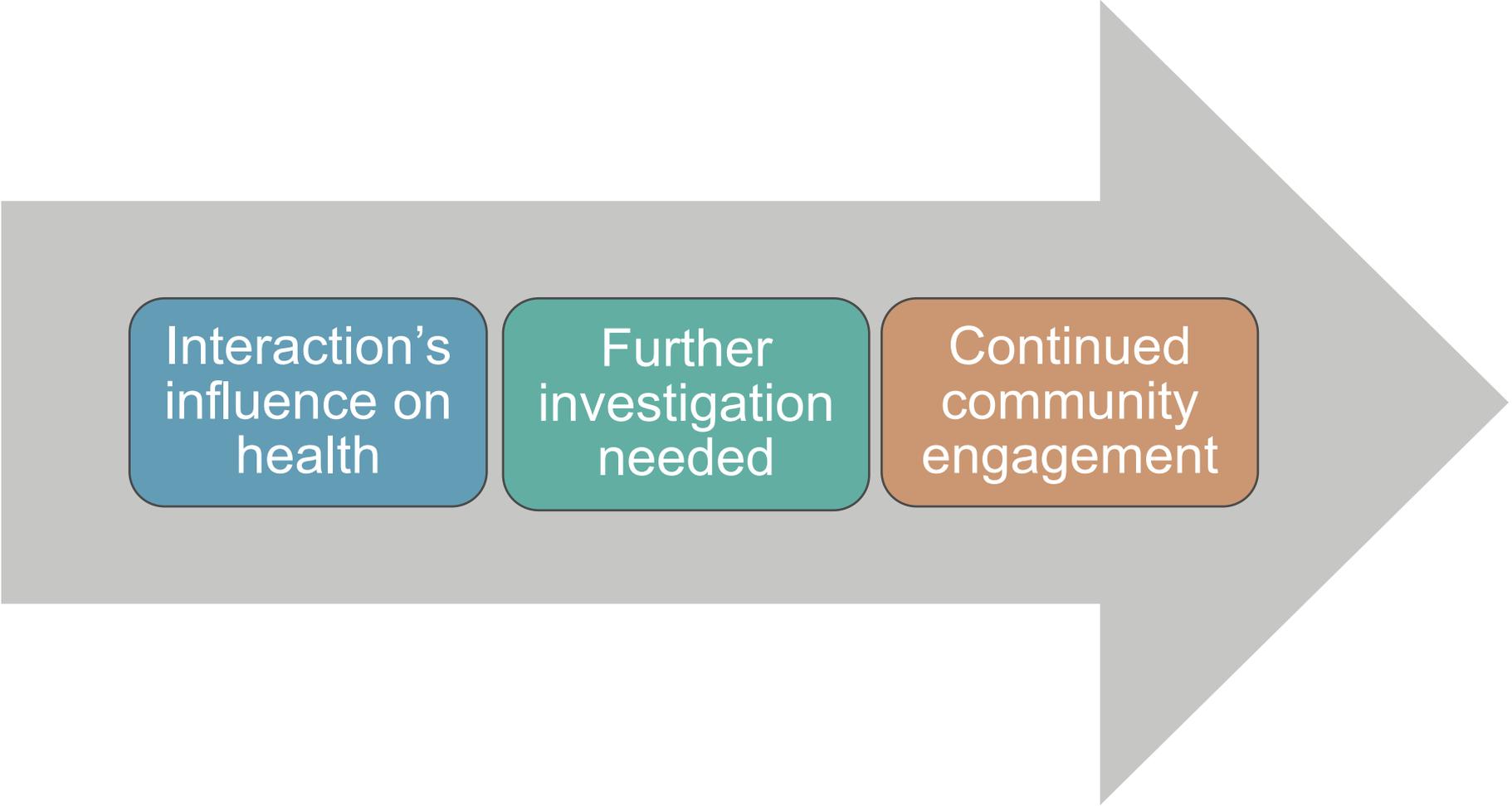
**Power**

# Community Response

“I was **so glad to see a project like this come to fruition...** The stories stayed with me the entire weekend. It makes me truly appreciate my work in civilian oversight of law enforcement.” - *Community Member*

“The cedar tea helped me move through the tears from the second presentation. **This photo story project (the experiences of Native men with Seattle Police) is critical and healing work.** I’m so grateful to the storytellers and staff who brought this community meeting together and **am eager for the next one.**” – *Community Member*

# Implications



Interaction's  
influence on  
health

Further  
investigation  
needed

Continued  
community  
engagement

# Acknowledgements

Participants

Community members

Seattle Community Police Commission

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Chef Hillel Echo-Hawk

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