



We Rise (to be Heard)

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

April 27th, 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

Agenda

Background

Objective

Methods

Participant Stories

Community Response

Implications

Hi.



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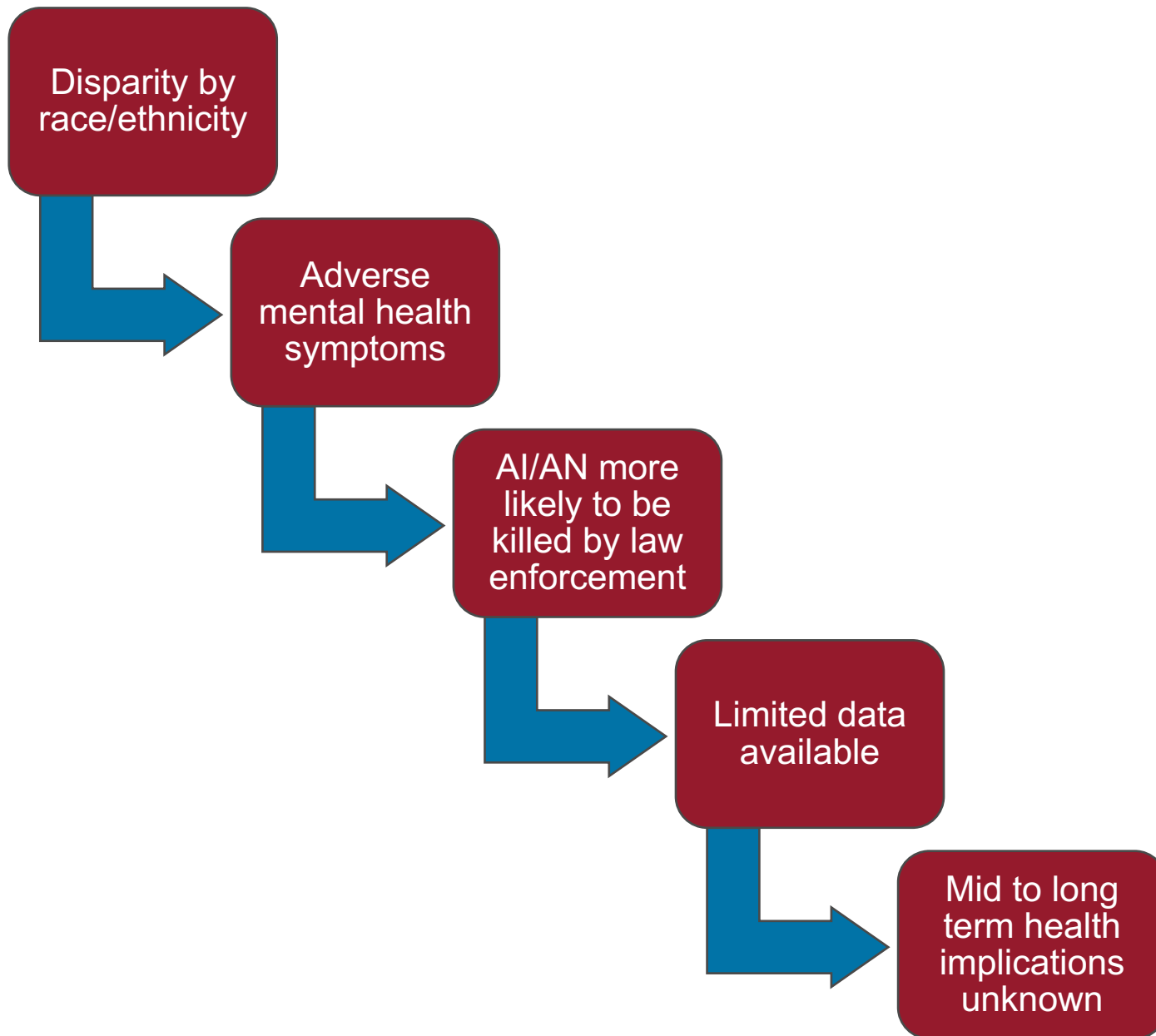
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Study Team



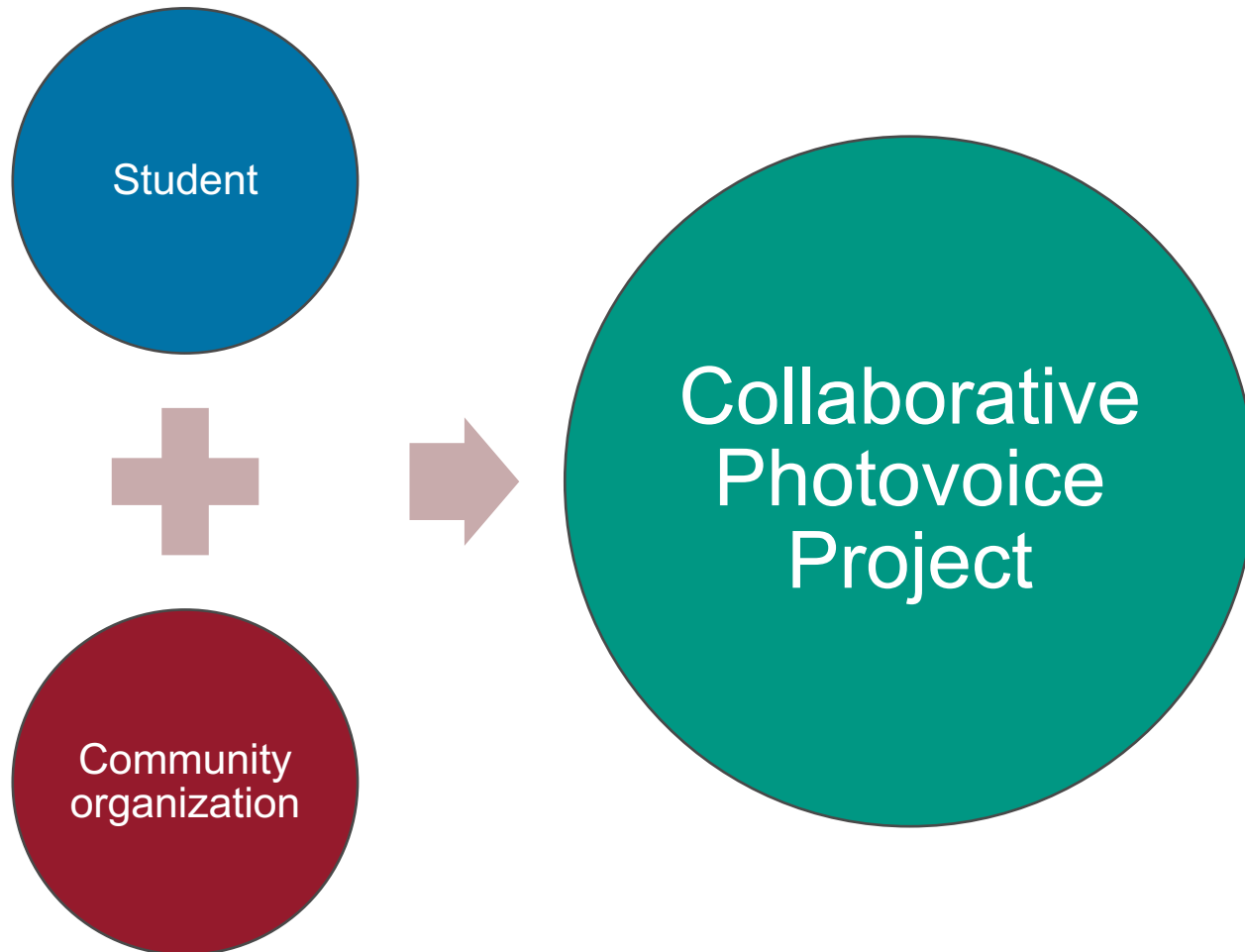
Background



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

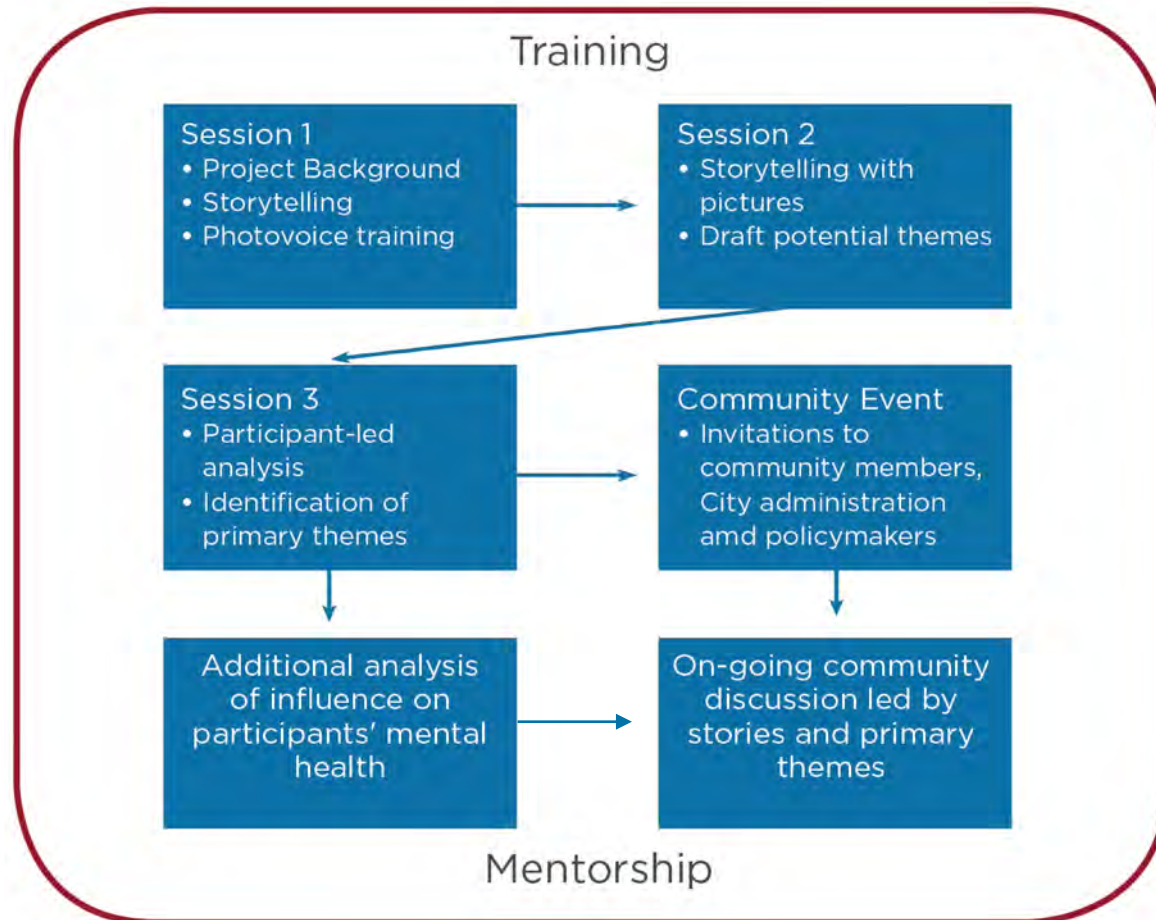


Lived in Seattle, WA for the last year



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

UIHI Staff: Caitlin Keller

Chef Hillel Echo-Hawk

Advisors: Abigail Echo-Hawk and Gita Krishnaswamy

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