



Research Collaborations



UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA
LINCOLN

Thank you for your interest in learning about projects specific to violence prevention and response in South Dakota. These projects are research grants awarded to the University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL; where Dr. Katie Edwards is located) or the University of South Dakota (USD; where Dr. Bridget Diamond Welch is located). The purpose of these projects are to use culturally-grounded, strengths-focused approaches to prevent sexual and related forms of violence and support survivors in the aftermath of violent victimization. All of the projects are community-led which means that community members (who serve on highly engaged advisory boards) work alongside university researchers in making all project related decisions.

Each project, while related and mutually informative, have unique research aims and implications for practice and policy

For More Information Contact

Dr. Katie Edwards
603-422-3207
katie.edwards@unl.edu



Research Collaborations



Establishment and Evaluation of an Indigenous-led Center to Prevent Sexual Violence among Indigenous Youth across the U.S.

As part of the UNL Grand Challenges, UNL generously committed to providing 3.2 million dollars to establish an Indigenous-led sexual violence prevention center on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. The center will create jobs, training and education opportunities, and bring sexual violence prevention to K-12 youth across the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. After initial implementation the Indigenous staff of the center will work with other Tribal/Indigenous communities across the United States to offer the culturally adapted IMpower sexual violence prevention system. From the beginning of this initiative, sustainability of the center as an Indigenous-led organization will be a key focus of the work. This initiative also includes a youth-led documentary component.

Location: Pine Ridge, SD (and other communities first in SD and NE and then across the U.S.)

Partners: Over two dozen in SD and NE.

Funding: University of Nebraska—Lincoln

Years: 2022 to 2025



Rapid City Family Project

The Rapid City Family Project is using a community-led approach to develop and evaluate a culturally (Lakota)-grounded, strengths-focused, family-based program (Tiwahe Wicagwicayapi [Lakota for Strengthening Families]) to prevent adverse childhood experiences among children (who are Native and/or living in poverty) ages 10 to 14. Children and their caregivers' complete surveys before and after the program to see how it is working and give feedback on how to make the program better.

Location: Rapid City, SD

Partners: Children's Home Society, Working Against Violence Inc., Youth and Family Services.

Funding: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Years: 2021 to 2023

Website: <https://go.unl.edu>



Indigenous Voices Rising

Indigenous Voices Rising is a community-based, Indigenous-led research project that was created in response to the urgent call from Native American elders, advocates, and crisis responders for more information that can be used to prevent sex trafficking of Indigenous persons. Researchers will talk to survivors; professionals (e.g., advocates, doctors, law enforcement) who work with survivors; and bystanders/community members who may have the opportunity to prevent sex trafficking of Native persons.

Location: Across the Northern Great Plains (including NE, IA, and SD).

Partners: Over two dozen across the Northern Great Plains.

Funding: National Institute of Justice.

Years: 2022-2026

Website: <https://go.unl.edu>



Research Collaborations



Takini - Survivor Project

The Takini (Lakota for Survivor) project aims to understand what Native American and/or rural women need to heal from domestic violence. Through interviews with Native and/or rural female-identified survivors of domestic violence, the project learns about how lived experiences, perceptions of healing, and various resources help survivors move forward.

Location: South Dakota and Nebraska communities.

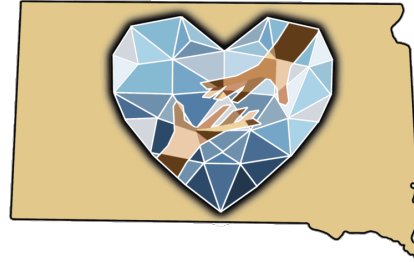
Partners: Safe Place of Eastern South Dakota, Haven House, Native Women's Society of the Great Plains, the South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault and the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence to expand partnership.

Funding: Office of Violence against Women.

Years: 2020 to 2023

Website:

Facebook.com/Takini-Survivor



Journey to Thrive

Journey to Thrive is a collaboration among researchers, practitioners, and survivors to (1) document how to do research with adult survivors of sex trafficking in ways that are trauma-informed and respectful and (2) understand barriers to seeking services and what services were most and least helpful among adult survivors of sex trafficking.

Location: Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Partners: Call to Freedom (a nonprofit organization in Sioux Falls, SD) and other organizations/agencies in Sioux Falls, SD.

Funding: National Institute of Justice.

Years: 2 years, (2022-2024)

Website: <https://cyfs.unl.edu>

Taku eyachantognakA owihankeya wanicA - What Resides in Our Hearts Lives On

This project is with the Native Women's Society of the Great Plains, USD, UCCS to listen to community members about issues related to Native youth violence and resiliency. There will be a series of workshops across the Great Plains regions. The final goal is to submit a grant proposal. Understand what Native individuals in Great Plains region want to understand about native youth violence and resiliency.

Location: Across Great Plains region.

Partners: Native Women's Society of the Great Plains, USD, UCCS.

Funding: National Institute of Justice

Years: 2022-2023 (18 months)

Website: N/A



Research Collaborations



Insala Sni -- I Am Not Alone/ OVW WR Trafficking Board Meeting

This research uses interviews to explore what survivors of sex trafficking need for healing, recovery, and justice. Location: West River, South Dakota.

Partners: White Buffalo Calf Women's Society, Winyan Wicayuonihan Oyanke (Where All Women are Honored), Maggie's House, Native Women's Society of the Great Plains, Wiconi Wawokiya (Helping Families), and Restoring Hope.

Funding: Office of Violence Against Women.

Years: 2021- 2023

Conducting Trauma-Informed, Respectful, and Ethical Research with Youth Survivors of Sex Trafficking

A research project to develop trauma-informed methodology to interview Native youth survivors of sex trafficking.

Location: Pine Ridge, SD, Sioux City, IA, and Bismarck, ND

Partners: Maggie's House, Youthworks, Great Plains Action Society, USD, UCCS, UNL, University of Georgia
Funding: CenHTRO at the University of Georgia

Years: 2022-2023



Support & Resources

IF THIS IS AN EMERGENCY, CALL 911

National Domestic Violence Hotline

Phone: 1-800-799-7233

Website: www.thehotline.org

National Human Trafficking Hotline

Phone: 1-888-373-7888

Website:

www.humantrafficking.org

National Sexual Assault Hotline

Phone: 1-800-656-4673

Website: www.rainn.org

National Suicide Hotline

Phone: 988

Website:

www.988lifeline.org

Strong Hearts Native Helpline

Phone: 1-844-762-8483

Website:

www.strongheartshelpline.org

National Runaway Safeline

Phone: 1-800-786-2929

Website:

www.1800runaway.org