The Strategic Power of Data: A Key Aspect of Sovereignty

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with

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Session Roadmap

- The strategic power of data
- Three data stories
- The future of data advocacy in the United States
**Terminology**

- **Sovereignty** – practical self rule
  - Governance, self-governance
  - Self-determination
  - Autonomy

- **Nation** – political entity
  - Native Nation
  - Tribe
  - Iwi
  - Community

*Image courtesy of Honoring Nations*
Session Roadmap

- The strategic power of data
  - What does data have to do with genuine self-governance, self-determination, and exertions of governing powers?
- Three data stories
- The future of data advocacy
Why this topic?
The Burden of the Current Data Regime

Nation’s Vision & Agenda

Disconnect

Others’ Data Priorities
Where are data?
What is the quality of available data?

- **Primary data**
  - More control
  - Program, research, policy
  - Varied quality

- **Secondary data**
  - Less control
  - Census data, Indian Health Service, other surveys, program data used for other purposes
  - Varied quality
What is the strategic power of data?
How is data a key aspect of Governance?

- Inform decisions
- Know your assets
- Track performance
- Defend your turf
- Etc.

Image courtesy of Honoring Nations
Session Roadmap

- The strategic power of data
- Three data stories
  - Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
  - Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
  - First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey
- The future of data advocacy
Cheyenne River Sioux
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

- Major funding the Northwest Area Foundation Ventures initiative
- Component of 10-year poverty reduction plan
- Employed and educated tribal citizens to conduct surveys and analysis
- Leadership and citizenship engagement
- 2013, baseline
- 819 surveys

“The data that was collected through the Voices Research is literally the voices of our people, collected by our people. Data is a story, and telling our story has always been a Lakota strength. Now, we have real numbers and 150 voice recordings, provided directly from community members, to enhance our story.”

Voices Research Areas:
- Community/Home
- Land
- Household Characteristics
- Household Expenses
- Household Income and Support
- Cultural Resources
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

Uses for the Voices Data

• Write grants
• Guide efficient investments
• Build partnerships and networks
• Speak to the issues and realities of our families
• Share our story

For more information contact:
Cheyenne River Sioux
Tribal Ventures
tribalventures@lakotanetwork.com
www.crtribalventures.org
So: Do tribes need a large grant or lots of staff to collect demographic information?

The answer is No.
Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

- Seized the moment
- Survey to annual enrollment questionnaire
- Since 2008, comparisons over time
- Answering key questions
- Allowing informed decisions
- Has led to other data projects
  - Alternative/Renewable Energy
  - Land Use
  - Small Business Profile
  - Blood Quantum Restoration Project
- Response rates high

Socio-economic Data:
- Economic
- Education
- Employment
- Cultural participation
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

Data have been used to

- Track tribal economic development trends over time
- Develop a comprehensive land use plan
- Creating a market profile
- Determining small business support needs
- Set program goals

For more information contact:
Economic Development Department
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
Tigua Business Center
Economic Development Department
www.ysletadelsurpueblo.org
So: Does the strategic use of data require that tribes collect, analyze, and store data?

The answer is No.
Canada
First Nations Longitudinal Regional Health Survey (RHS)

- Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP)
  - Jurisdiction over information
- Data analysis at multiple levels
  - National, regional, First Nation
- Language and Culture in a Health Survey
- Identifying data needs and filling the gaps
  - RHS to the First Nations Regional Education, Employment and Early Childhood Development Survey (REES)

Health Indicator & Socio-economic Data:
- Adults
- Youth
- Children
First Nations Longitudinal Regional Health Survey (RHS)

Data uses include

- Background data and rational to create new programs
  - First Nations Home and Community
  - First Nations Diabetes Program
- Rational for Health Canada Program Renewal

For more information contact:
First Nations Information Governance Centre
fnigc.ca
So: Does the strategic use of data require that tribes work in collaboration with other tribes?

The answer is No.
So what?

- Sovereign
- Strategic
- Citizen and Community involvement
- Vision and Story
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The Future of Data Advocacy: Strategically Considering

- What is your vision? What stories will be told?
- What information do you need?
- What opportunities are there to collect, use, and advocate for better data?
- What resources are there?
- How can you involve leaders and citizens?
- How will you tell the story?
Data is not just for research.
Data is for action.

Data is to make the Nation’s vision come alive!