



ENGAGING AND SUPPORTING NATIVE FATHERS

Positive involvement with their fathers helps children's development and supports healthy tribal communities.

Azhe'é Bidziil (Strong Fathers) Program

Assimilation policies, boarding schools, and intergenerational trauma have contributed to the continued disproportionate health disparities faced by Native men today and have disrupted traditional Native parenting practices.

Designed in collaboration with the Navajo Nation and White Mountain Apache Tribe and funded by the Administration for Children & Families Office of Family Assistance (ACF/OFA), Azhe'é Bidziil aims to:

“increase economic stability of Native fathers and their families, reduce violence in rural Native communities, and increase healthy relationships and co-parenting in Native communities. Native fathers (or father figures) will participate in a program that promotes: 1) Healthy Relationships 2) Responsible Parenting 3) Economic Stability.”

The Azhe'é Bidziil intervention curriculum combines content and lessons learned from existing evidence-based interventions developed specifically for tribal communities.

Learn more:

- [Azhe'é Bidziil \(Strong Fathers\): Study Protocol for the Pilot Evaluation of an American Indian Fatherhood Program to Improve the Health and Wellbeing of Diné \(Navajo\) Fathers \(2022\)](#)
- [Healthy Navajo K'é Podcast: Azhe'é Bidziil \(Strong Fathers\) Program \(2022\)](#)

'We Could Be the Turn-around Generation': Harnessing Aboriginal Fathers' Potential to Contribute to Their Children's Well-being

Highlighting the importance of a father's involvement in their children's lives, this 2012 article discusses how regular contact with a positively involved father improves health outcomes and is associated with good youth development.

Wicasa Was'aka: Restoring the Traditional Strength of American Indian Boys and Men

A historical trauma lens is used to examine health disparities among Native men and boys. Sharing insights from historical trauma-informed interventions that were used with Lakota men and Southwestern American Indian boys, the authors offer public health implications and strategy recommendations.

The Good Road of Life

Culture-based programs offered by Native P.R.I.D.E. aim to strengthen family involvement, promote family preservation, and teach responsible fatherhood.

Positive Indian Parenting

Training provided by the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) to child welfare professionals prepare them to train Native parents using a culturally-specific approach.

Indigenous Fathers Take Lessons from Their Own Experience to Create Healthy Lifestyles for Their Children

From *National Geographic* featuring multiple Indigenous families living in the U.S., fathers tell their stories and share how they're creating healthy connections to their children.

San Antonio Fatherhood Campaign

An initiative of the American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Mission, this campaign seeks to promote responsible fatherhood.

Engaging Fathers and Paternal Family Members

From the Child Welfare Information Gateway, this list of resources, podcasts, and initiatives was compiled to support the effective engagement of fathers and paternal family members in child welfare matters.

