The Analytics for Equity Initiative

Building Health Equity in the Navajo Nation through Integrating Indigenous Knowledge, Community-Generated Data, and Federal Statistics (BEINGs Project)

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Research Theme: Health Equity in the Wake of Climate Change.

Research Questions: What are the best policy solutions and management strategies for building health equity in the Navajo Nation communities in the context of climate change?

Data: Indigenous knowledge (existing documents + stakeholder feedback) + community-generated data (documents and data available through the Navajo Nation government and local chapters and organizations) + federal statistics (census, surveys, and research reports).

Abstract:

The Navajo Nation is located in a region of the US that is highly vulnerable to climate risks such as drought, wildfire, and extreme weather events. Due to a lack of infrastructural and institutional preparations historically, the Navajo Nation communities are expected to endure higher health impacts as climate change in the Southwest becomes more pressing. The proposed project concerns the challenges and opportunities of building health equity under the growing climate change in these communities. It will focus on bridging the data and knowledge gap about adaptation/mitigation strategies and policies by integrating indigenous knowledge, community-generated data, and federal statistical data. The Phase I project goal is to (1) derive synergies and insights in the existing data to inform policymaking and strategy development across different levels of governance and (2) identify data gaps that can be addressed in future programs (e.g., as part of a Phase II proposal). The project methodology will rely on statistical and econometric analysis, ranging from exploratory correlation and reduced-form analyses to causal analysis using more structural statistical/econometric models, including descriptive analysis and visualization as deemed appropriate.