



DAMIAN M. CHASE-BEGAY, PhD, MS*

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About Damian

Damian Chase-Begay, PhD, MS, is Mandan and Arikara, and his family hails from the Fort Berthold Reservation in present-day North Dakota. He is an Associate Professor of Public and Indigenous Health at the University of Montana whose work brings together Indigenous health, implementation science, and health policy to strengthen community-defined systems of health and wellbeing.

Before entering academia, Damian spent more than 25 years serving Indigenous communities through healthcare leadership, public health practice, and national advocacy. These experiences continue to shape his belief that meaningful research begins with listening, building relationships, and responding to community priorities.

His research explores how Indigenous knowledge systems and traditional healing can strengthen healthcare and public health while honoring Indigenous sovereignty, cultural integrity, and community-defined evidence. Damian is committed to building reciprocal partnerships with Indigenous communities around the world and believes some of the most meaningful innovations emerge when Indigenous Peoples have the opportunity to learn from one another.

Research Interests

- Indigenous implementation science
- Traditional healing and Indigenous health systems
- Indigenous health policy
- Social epidemiology
- Community-engaged research

Education

Ph.D. Public Health. University of Montana, 2022.

M.S. Healthcare Administration and Interprofessional Leadership. UC-San Francisco, 2016.

B.A. Sociology. University of Montana, 2015.

Selected Academic Appointments (full list available upon request)

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| 2025 - | Associate Professor, Public & Indigenous Health
School of Public and Community Health University of Montana |
| 2024-2025 | Research Associate Professor, Social Epidemiology
School of Public and Community Health University of Montana |

Selected Professional Positions (full list available upon request)

- 2024 - Principal Consultant & Chief Science Officer
American Indian Health Research & Evaluation, LLC. | Missoula, MT
- 2021-2024 City-County Health Officer
Missoula Public Health | Missoula, MT
- 2018-2021 Executive Director
All Nations Health Center | Missoula, MT
- 2013-2018 Principal Consultant
The Kishíhene Clan, LLC. | San Francisco, CA
- 2010-2013 Executive Director
National Council of Urban Indian Health | Washington, DC
- 2008-2010 Director of Planning & Policy
Native American Health Center | Oakland, CA

Current Research Funding

National Institute on Drug Abuse – Helping End Addiction Long-term (HEAL)

1K01DA061078-01 (NIH) **07/2024-07/2029** **Chase-Begay (PI)** **\$861,608**
 A 5-year K01 career development award in implementation science. Using a mixed-methods approach guided by Indigenous research methodology (IRM), conduct a hybrid type 2 implementation-effectiveness clinical trial of a substance abuse prevention intervention for Indigenous young adults in urban, multi-tribal communities in Montana.
 Role: Principal Investigator

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – Health Equity Scholars for Action

ID No. 81522 (RWJF) **02/2024-02/2026** **Chase-Begay (PI)** **\$259,780**
 A 24-month research development grant. Using a sequential mixed-methods approach, engage nationally renowned Indigenous health scholars via focus groups and interviews to elucidate the scope, application, and structure of Indigenous Research Methodology (IRM) in Western research settings.
 Role: Principal Investigator

Refereed Publications

NLM Bibliography: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/damian.chase-begay.1/bibliography/public/>

Chase-Begay DM, Cahoon J, Peterson JC, Belcourt A, Noonan C, Brown BD. Assessing American Indian traditional ceremonial practices and substance use behaviors in an urban, multi-tribal setting: Results from a community survey. *Am Indian Alsk Native Ment Health Res*. 2026;32(4):57-82.
<https://doi.org/10.5820/aian.3204.2026.57>.

Roth I, **Chase-Begay DM**, Behm V, Harris Z, Tomczak P, Owen-Smith A, La Monica M, Corbett A, Kizhakkeveettil A. A Call to Protect the Nation’s Investment in Integrative, Complementary, and Traditional Health Practice Research. *Glob Adv Integr Med Health*. 2025;14:27536130251384296.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/27536130251384296>.

Chase-Begay, DM. Expanding the Reach of Opioid Agonist Therapy—Lessons for Indigenous Communities. *JAMA Netw Open*. Jul 2025;8(7):e2521434. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2025.21434>.

Tsosie RL, Grant AD, Harrington J, Wu K, Chase S, Thomas A, **Chase-Begay DM**, Hill S, Belcourt A, Plenty Sweetgrass R. A Growing Willow: The Six Rs Indigenous Research Framework - Stories of the Native American Faculty Journey in STEM. *Rural Sociol.* 2024;89(S1):620-37. <http://doi.org/10.1111/ruso.12576>.

Chase-Begay DM, Adam CE, Williams E, Semmens E. Association between Caregiver-perceived Health Care Provider Cultural Sensitivity and Child Health Status in the National Survey of Children's Health: 2016–2020. *J Health Care Poor Underserved.* 2024;35(3):951-61. <https://doi.org/10.1353/hpu.2024.a934308>.

Chase-Begay DM, Peterson J, Liddell J, Belcourt A. Traditional ceremonial practices as a strategy to reduce problem substance use in American Indian communities: A systematic review. *J Integr Complement Med.* 2023;29(6-7):408-19. <http://doi.org/10.1089/jicm.2022.0655>.

Tsosie RL, Grant AD, Harrington J, Wu K, Thomas A, Chase S, **Barnett D**, Beaumont Hill S, Belcourt A, Brown BD, Plenty Sweetgrass-She Kills R. The Six Rs of Indigenous Research. *Tribal coll.* 2022;33(4). <https://tribalcollegejournal.org/the-six-rs-of-indigenous-research/>.

Selected National Media (full list available upon request)

The Economist. “The federal government will now pay for Native American healing.” Interview. November 27, 2025. <https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/11/27/the-federal-government-will-now-pay-for-native-american-healing>.

NPR (Shots – Health News). “Medicaid will cover traditional healing practices for Native American tribes.” Interview. October 19, 2024. <https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2024/10/19/nx-s1-5157931/medicaid-traditional-healing-native-american-tribes>.

KQED. “To address addiction, Medi-Cal now covers Native healing practices.” Interview. January 10, 2025. <https://www.kqed.org/news/12021287/to-tackle-addiction-medi-cal-now-covers-native-healing-practices>.

KQED. ““The medicine my ancestors prayed for’: Medi-Cal now covers Native healing practices.” Interview. January 2, 2025. <https://www.kqed.org/news/12019361/the-medicine-my-ancestors-prayed-for-medi-cal-now-covers-native-american-healing-practices>.

NPR. “Medicaid will soon cover traditional healing practices for Native Americans in 4 states.” Interview. December 22, 2024. <https://www.npr.org/2024/12/22/nx-s1-5171032/medicaid-will-soon-cover-traditional-healing-practices-for-native-americans-in-4-states>.

Selected Invited and Peer-Reviewed Presentations (full list available upon request)

You Already Carry Medicine: Culture, Connection, and Indigenous Youth Leadership. *Invited keynote*. **National Indian Health Board Virtual Behavioral Health Youth Summit**. Virtual. June 2026.

ARISE: An Indigenous Research Methodology (IRM)-guided implementation study for urban Indigenous substance use prevention. In: Round Robin of NIH-Funded Indigenous Research Methodology Studies. **NIH N-CREW Topical Meeting on Exploring and Applying Indigenous Research Methodologies**. *Invited presentation*. Washington, DC. May 2026.

Bridging Western Health Research and Traditional Knowledge Systems. *Invited presentation*. **NIH Tribal Advisory Council**. Hamilton, MT. April 2026.

He Pikinga Waiora: A culturally centered Indigenous implementation science framework. *Invited presentation*. **C-DIAS PSMG Virtual Grand Rounds**. Virtual. February 2026.

Reducing Opioid Misuse Among Urban Indigenous Young Adults in Montana Using a Culturally Centered Intervention. In D. Brown (Chair), *Adapting Substance Use and Trauma-Informed Interventions with Equity in Mind: Lessons from Early Career Researchers*. *Panel presentation*. **College on Problems of Drug Dependence**. New Orleans, LA. June 2025.

Traditional medicine and healing in reservation and urban, multi-tribal Indigenous communities: Approaches and challenges. *Selected presentation*. **International Network for Indigenous Health Knowledge and Development (INIKHD) Annual Conference**. Santa Ana Pueblo, NM. April 2025.

Traditional ceremonial practices as a strategy to reduce problem substance use in American Indian communities. *Invited seminar presentation*. **NYU Center for Opioid Epidemiology & Policy**. Virtual. April 2025.

Traditional ceremonial practices as a strategy to reduce problem substance use in American Indian communities: A systematic review. *Selected oral presentation*. **American Public Health Association Annual Meeting**. Atlanta. November 2023.

American Indian Worldview: Gender Norms in Health and Wellness. *Invited keynote*. **Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) Pride Month Series**. Virtual. June 2022.

Smudging: A Native American Perspective on the Use of Medicinal Smoke to Support Holistic Wellness. *Invited keynote*. **Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) AIAN Heritage Month Series**. Virtual. November 2021.

An Overview of the Urban Indian Health System. *Invited keynote*. **NIH Trans-National AI/AN Health Communications Workshop**. Bethesda, MD. November 2011.

Selected Professional Leadership and National Service (full list available upon request)

National Leadership

American Public Health Association (APHA)

Chair-Elect, Indigenous, Cultural, and Traditional Health Practices (ICTHP) Section (2024–Present)

Section Councilor (2022–2024)

Student Liaison (2020–2021)

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Scientific Reviewer, Organization and Delivery of Health Services (ODHS) Study Section (2025)

Scientific Reviewer, Special Emphasis Panel (2026)

Institutional & Community Leadership

Providence Eastern Washington/Montana Regional Board

Chair, Community Health & Health Equity Committee (2024–Present)

Providence Montana Community Mission Board

Board Chair (2026–Present)

United Way of Missoula County

Board Member (2022–Present)

Community Health Alliance
Board Member (2024–Present)
Chair, Development Committee

Research & Scientific Service

Journal Peer Reviewer

- *Implementation Science Communications*
- *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*
- *American Journal of Community Psychology*
- *Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment*
- *Pediatrics*
- *Health Affairs*
- *Global Public Health*

Selected Recognition (full list available upon request)

- 2026 Wiley Top Viewed Article 2025 (A Growing Willow: The Six Rs Indigenous Research Framework—Stories of the Native American Faculty Journey in STEM)
- 2023 Emerging Leader Award, American Public Health Association, ICTHP Section
- 2022 Delta Omega Public Health Honor Society, Member Induction
- 2022 University of Montana-School of Public & Community Health (SPCH) Ellen Leahy Public Health Leadership Award (Faculty-elected)
- 2016 UCSF MS-HAIL Program Commencement Speaker (Class-elected)

Professional Memberships

American College of Epidemiology
Society for Prevention Research
American Public Health Association
Society for Epidemiological Research
Montana Public Health Association