

DESHAWNA YAZZIE

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Motivated public health professional with 6+ years of experience in health education, program evaluation, and community-based health initiatives. Skilled in supporting underserved and Indigenous communities through culturally responsive evaluation, cross-sector collaboration, and qualitative research. Experienced in working with Tribal, rural, and local partners to strengthen program design, compliance, strategic planning, and policy development. Passionate about advancing health equity, data sovereignty, and systems-level improvement through effective coordination, relationship-building, and health administration leadership.

EDUCATION

MPH Public Health, The University of Arizona, 2025

Area of Specialty: Health Services Administration

Research Title: Improving Asthma Care Systems on the Navajo Nation: A Community-Driven Approach to Evaluation, Policy, and Quality Improvement

B.S. Public Health, The University of Arizona, 2023

Major: Health Behavior Health Promotion

Minor: Care, Health, and Society

Magna Cum Laude

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Community and Tribal Health Evaluator, Research Professional II

April 2024 - Present

School of Nutritional Sciences and Wellness, University of Arizona, AZ Health Zone (SNAP-Ed)

- Support the design and implementation of culturally responsive and tailored evaluation strategies for SNAP-Ed programs across Arizona, with a focus on Tribal and rural communities.
- Analyze qualitative and quantitative data to identify successes, barriers, and areas for improvement across nutrition education and policy, systems, and environmental strategies.
- Collaborate closely with Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) to align evaluation deliverables with federal reporting requirements and equity goals and present evaluation findings to USDA and ADHS partners.

Program Evaluator, Externally Funded

April 2024 - Present

Arizona Department of Health Services – CDC State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) Program

- Lead mixed methods analyses and developmental evaluations of breastfeeding, food service guidelines, physical activity/active living, and produce prescription initiatives across Arizona.
- Design and implement evaluation plans for SPAN strategies that align efforts across sectors to strengthen policy, program delivery, and long-term sustainability.
- Collaborate closely with ADHS to align evaluation deliverables with federal reporting requirements and present evaluation findings to CDC and ADHS partners.

Program Evaluator, Graduate Intern

August 2024 - August 2025

University of Arizona's Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center

- Conduct qualitative coding and framework-driven analysis to identify policy gaps, sustainability strategies, and implementation barriers for asthma-related interventions on the Navajo Nation.
- Develop policy briefs and translate evaluation findings for dissemination to Navajo Nation Government and IHS partners to support systems-level decision-making.
- Contribute to manuscript development and evaluation translation efforts to inform Tribal quality improvement, culturally responsive asthma care, and public health policy.

Assistant Research Coordinator, Undergraduate Intern

June 2022 - August 2022

University of Arizona's Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center

- Conducted literature review on indoor air quality in Diné households to inform early planning for the Healthy Hogans Project.
- Supported participant recruitment, data collection, and equipment coordination across multiple research sites, ensuring accurate REDCap data entry and compliance with IRB and PHI protocols.
- Coordinated communication and weekly meetings with project investigators across Tucson, Navajo Nation, Denver, and California to support asthma-related research activities.

EVALUATION REPORTS

Yazzie D. [Produce Prescription Programs in Arizona: An Overview and Summary of Best Practices](#). Prepared for the Arizona Department of Health Services SPAN Program, May 2025.

Yazzie D. [Stock Inhaler Policy Brief: Improving Asthma Outcomes for Navajo Nation Youth - Implementing the Stock Inhaler Program in Navajo Nation Schools](#). Prepared for the University of Arizona's Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center, Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board and Navajo Area Indian Health Service partners, April 2025.

LeGros T, Jacobs L, Bhakta A, **Yazzie, D.** [AZ Health Zone FFY24 Annual Evaluation Report](#). Prepared for USDA and the Arizona Department of Health Services, 2024.

Yazzie D. [Arizona Physical Activity Landscape Analysis Report](#). Prepared for the Arizona Department of Health Services SPAN Program, October 2024.

Yazzie D. [Arizona Food Service Guidelines Landscape Analysis Report](#). Prepared for the Arizona Department of Health Services SPAN Program, August 2024.

Yazzie D. [Arizona Breastfeeding Landscape Analysis Report](#). Prepared for the Arizona Department of Health Services SPAN Program, June 2024.

MANUSCRIPTS & PUBLICATIONS

Lowe A, **Yazzie D**, Begay E, Tso B, Nez P, Hudson B, Liu A, Morgan W, Bender B, King, D, Gerald L. Supports and Barriers to Adopting an Evidence-Based Asthma Management Intervention on the Navajo Nation: Implementing Undesignated Stock Inhalers in K-12 Diné Schools. Manuscript Submitted to: Health Promotion Practice Journal Society for Public Health Education; Sage Publishing, 2025.

CONFERENCES & SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Jacobs L, LeGros T, Bhakta A, **Yazzie, D.** Evaluation - Family Feud. AZ Health Zone Annual Conference; 2025, Prescott, Az.

LeGros T, Jacobs L, **Yazzie D.** Landscape Analyses for Arizona’s State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program Highlight Health Disparities Across Four Sectors. Poster presented at: Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences & Cooperative Extension Annual Research Showcase, 2025; Tucson, Az.

LeGros T, Jacobs L, **Yazzie D.** Uh-oh, My Evaluand is a Complex Adaptive System. Abstract submitted to: American Evaluation Association Annual Evaluation Conference, 2025; Kansas City, MO.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & EARLY ENGAGEMENT

New Dawn Program – Navajo Nation

2018 - 2019

- Led youth-driven health education initiatives in Navajo communities, promoting informed health decisions through culturally grounded outreach.
- Launched a sustainable agriculture effort by distributing seeds and gardening supplies to support food security and traditional growing practices.
- Coordinated community volunteers and logistics for educational events, demonstrating early leadership in Tribal public health.

Mental Health Advocacy – Fight the Stigma Club, University of Arizona

Fall 2020

- Advocated for student mental health equity through awareness campaigns and collaborative policy initiatives.
 - Partnered with campus leaders and professionals to increase access to culturally responsive support services.
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SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

▪ Public Health Practice ▪ Program Planning & Evaluation ▪ Community Health Assessments ▪ Health Promotion & Education
▪ Tribal & Rural Health Engagement ▪ Culturally Responsive Approaches ▪ Mixed-Methods Research & Evaluation ▪ Policy Translation & Reporting ▪ Qualitative Coding & Framework-Guided Analysis ▪ Data Visualization & Evaluation Reporting ▪ Stakeholder Engagement & Facilitation ▪ Public Speaking & Science Communication ▪ Analytical Thinking & Problem Solving
▪ Interdisciplinary Collaboration ▪ Project Coordination & Detail Management ▪ NVivo ▪ Dedoose ▪ REDCap ▪ Excel ▪ Microsoft Office ▪ Canva