

Indigenous Jurisdiction and Daily Life

Evidence from North America

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Arguments for Indigenous Jurisdiction

- Moral Grounds
- Human Rights Grounds
- Legal Grounds
- Practical Grounds (Efficacy)

Efficacy: Some Examples

- **Health care**

- Grand Traverse Band (Michigan)

- Nilavena Health Board (Alaska)

- Village of Eyak (Alaska)

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- **Environment / Wildlife**

 - Sandia Pueblo (New Mexico)

 - Jicarilla Apache Tribe (New Mexico)

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- **Environment / Wildlife**
 - Sandia Pueblo (New Mexico)
 - Jicarilla Apache Tribe (New Mexico)
- **Courts, Public Safety, Police, Fire**
 - Gila River Indian Community (Arizona)
 - Navajo Nation (Arizona, New Mexico, Utah)

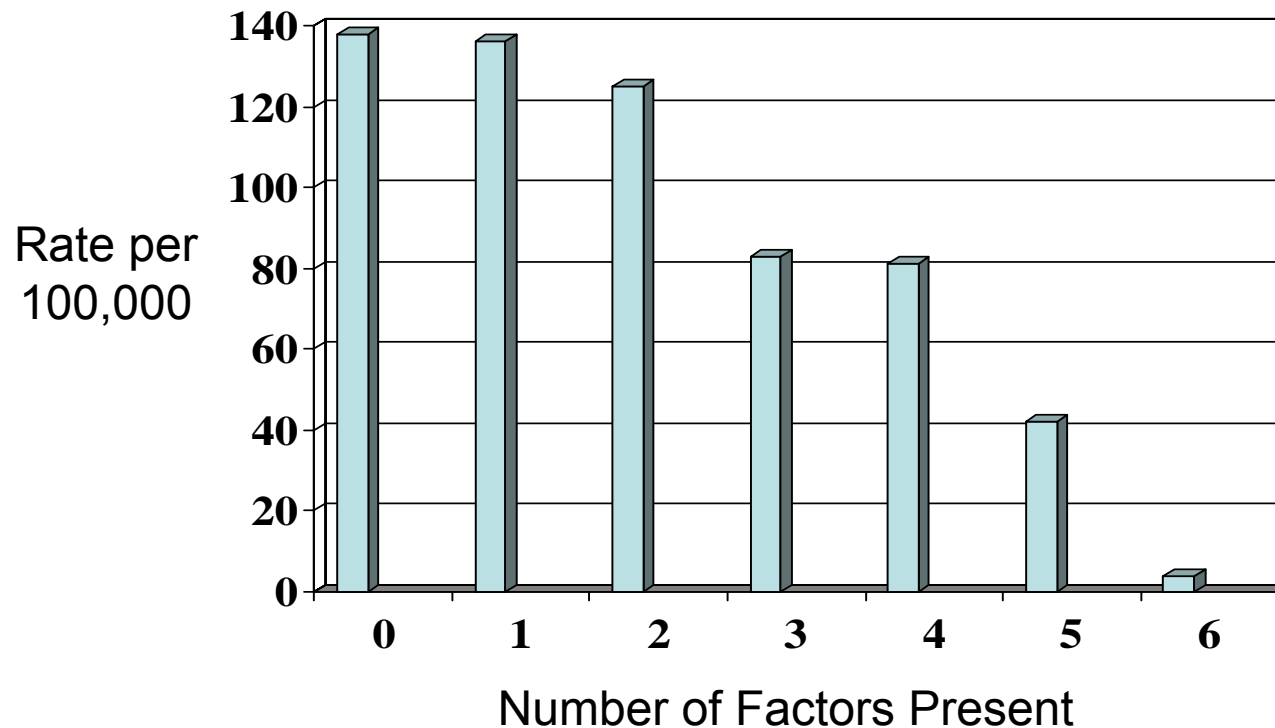
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 - Navajo Nation (Arizona, New Mexico, Utah)
- **Economic Development**
 - Winnebago Tribe (Nebraska)
 - Cochiti Pueblo (New Mexico)

Adolescent Suicide Rates among Canadian First Nations

- Rates vary across First Nations in British Columbia
- In 1998, Chandler and Lalonde examined the effects of six factors on adolescent suicide rates in 195 British Columbia First Nations:
 - presence of Indigenous cultural centres
 - successful prosecution of a land claim
 - Indigenous control of: education, fire, police, health care.

Adolescent Suicide Rates by Number of Factors Present in First Nations Communities



Source: Chandler and Lalonde, "Cultural Continuity as a Hedge Against Suicide in Canada's First Nations," *Journal of Transcultural Psychiatry* 33, no. 2 (1998).

Success in all these areas appears to reflect at least the following two factors:

1. Indigenous Jurisdiction

substantive decision-making power over governmental form, resources, internal affairs, external relationships, community development objectives and programs, etc.

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Effects...

replaces bureaucratic priorities with Indigenous priorities; takes advantage of Indigenous assets (local knowledge, social organization, etc.); links decisions and their consequences (creates accountability)

2. Capable Governance

a set of governing institutions that can make and implement decisions effectively, resolve disputes fairly, keep distributive politics from undermining community initiatives, and retain legitimacy with the people

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Effects...

a governing environment that encourages citizens and others to invest time, energy, ideas, and sometimes money in the future of the community