

Samantha Sabo, Dr.Ph., M.P.H.

Dr. Samantha Sabo is a Professor of Public Health and the Associate Director of Engagement and Policy at the Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) at Northern Arizona University. For over 15 years, her work has focused on advancing health equity through long-standing, community-driven partnerships with American Indian, Alaska Native (AIAN), and U.S.–Mexico border communities. Dr. Sabo is nationally recognized for her participatory, mixed-methods research on the design, implementation, and evaluation of Community Health Worker (CHW) models in Indigenous and underserved health systems, particularly within Indian Health Service, Tribal, and Urban Indian (I/T/U) contexts.

Dr. Sabo leads a tribal-university partnership that has collaboratively addressed multi-level barriers to CHW integration into AIAN-serving care teams. Her team has co-developed and implemented I/T/U-specific bundled implementation strategies to support sustainable CHW-led care coordination and closed-loop referral systems in low-resource settings. At CHER, she directs the Community Engagement Core of the NIH-funded Southwest Health Equity Research Collaborative (SHERC), supporting transdisciplinary, community-engaged projects that center equity in health systems transformation. Through her leadership in NIH, CDC, and foundation-funded initiatives—and her roles in mentoring students in NAU's MPH Indigenous Health and Interdisciplinary Health PhD programs—Dr. Sabo is committed to building systems and training leaders that promote culturally centered, equity-driven public health solutions.