

HELICOPTER RESEARCH

WHAT IS HELICOPTER RESEARCH?

- *Any investigation within the community in which a researcher collects data, leaves to disseminate it, and never again has contact with the tribe. OR...*
- *To conduct study activities with only the researcher's or an external entity's benefits in mind. Such that the participants or study community has no long-lasting benefits beyond that of the study's initial investigation.*

This type of research poses many problems as a means of investigation, especially as it has been used primarily in the study of racial and/or ethnic minorities such as Native Americans. The use of this type of investigation has also led to the development of a negative history and stigma of research within many tribes; some going so far as to deny or disallow all further research within their communities. As one might imagine the use of helicopter research will lead to ongoing long-term negative effects for the scientific community and health researchers, as distrust will continue to develop within tribal communities.

DOES CHEROKEE NATION IRB ALLOW HELICOPTER RESEARCH?

- ***NO!*** *The Cherokee Nation will not approve, or allow, any proposed research with a design that will result in helicopter research activities being conducted within the Cherokee Nation, nor on its Tribal Citizens.*

The reasoning behind this stance can be found in the three principles of **Respect for Persons**, **Beneficence**, and **Justice** that were put forth by *The Belmont Report* (April 18, 1979). It is apparent that two of these three principles, Beneficence and Justice, are clearly violated in regards to Helicopter Research. Beneficence is not met, no matter how minimal the risks, when there is no maximized benefit to the tribe or its participants. This in turn can lead to an injustice if the benefits gained by that research are denied to the tribe and/or its citizens. Research or investigations, of any kind, that do not follow these three simple principles **WILL NOT** be approved by the CN IRB; and if current research falls below these standards the CN IRB will require a corrective action plan from the researcher(s) in order to avoid suspension or termination of their study.