

Family Cohesion and Conflict in an American Indian Community

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Objective: To assess the feasibility of using a portion of the Family Environment Scale (FES) with American Indian families and to describe the mean family profile exhibited by one Native community. **Methods:** The cohesion, expressiveness, conflict and active-recreational orientation subscales of the FES were administered to 130 adults, representing 65 families. **Results:** Mean responses reveal a pattern of av-

erage levels of cohesion and expressiveness, concurrent with high levels of family conflict. **Conclusions:** Outcomes illustrate the feasibility and utility of this scale in assessing and guiding health promotion services within Native communities. Results suggest Native families have a distinctive family profile.

Key words: American Indian, family, FES scale, social environment
Am J Health Behav. 2005;29(5):413-422
