

STRONG HEART STUDY THESIS PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

We encourage degree candidates to submit proposals that utilize Strong Heart Study data to address research questions related to cardiovascular health outcomes.

Degree candidates submit a thesis or dissertation proposal that is then reviewed by Dr. Ying Zhang, Chairperson of the Publications and Presentations Committee in the Strong Heart Study Coordinating Center. Dr. Zhang reviews all proposals and consults with investigators regarding the availability of data that are needed for each proposed project. Projects that are found to be feasible in terms of availability of data are then forwarded to the Publications and Presentations Committee for their review. The committee makes a recommendation to approve the proposal, deny the proposal, or to defer a decision pending additional information or clarification from the investigators. Proposals that are approved by the Publications and Presentations Committee are then forwarded to the tribal health boards and the Indian Health Service IRBs of each community for their review and consideration. After receiving approval from the Publications and Presentations Committee and the tribal health boards, the project may commence. After papers are drafted, the drafts must be circulated to the IHS IRB and tribal health boards from each community for review and consideration. Papers may be submitted for publication review only after the drafts have been reviewed and approved by the tribal health agencies.

The following are additional requirements:

- The title of resulting papers must include the phrase “Strong Heart Study” or “Strong Heart”
- **If you have SHS data from previous work, please delete data collected from one participating community. This community withdrew consent. Their data may not be included in any analyses. An exclusion list will be provided upon request for an approved paper proposal.**
- If no SHS PI is a co-author and if the analyses are not performed by the Strong Heart Study Coordinating Center, the authors must agree to submit the penultimate (next to final) draft to the Coordinating Center for statistical review.
- Authors must comply and respond regularly to the status survey on their approved thesis or dissertation proposals conducted by the SHS Publications and Presentations Committee twice a year.
- Papers lacking a PI as a co-author. Publications and Presentations Committee will advise the primary author whether a near final draft will need to be sent to the Publications and Presentations committee for review by at least two (2) reviewers (selected by the Chairperson). This review is the first step that must be completed prior to review of the penultimate draft by NHLBI/Tribes/IHS.
- A **Lay Summary** is required **when submitting the completed draft** for IHS IRB and tribal approvals. If one or more co-authors are IHS employees, **the manuscripts must contain the following disclaimer (verbatim): “The opinions expressed in this paper are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Indian**

Health Service.”

- Papers must acknowledge support from Strong Heart Study grants including the Coordinating Center grant using the statement “Research reported in this publication was supported by the National Heart, Lung, And Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number R01HL109284. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.” and must be submitted as per the NIH Manuscript Submission (NIHMS) system requirements.