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STRATEGIES FOR COMMUNICATING HEALTH RESEARCH FINDINGS IN AN ARCTIC ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY.

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Residents of the primarily Aboriginal hamlet of Aklavik, NWT have expressed concern about health risks from *H pylori* infection. The Aklavik *H pylori* Project aims to describe the burden of disease, assess control measures, and effectively communicate research findings to address community concerns. Community members participate in the research process by means of a local planning committee. In addition, broader community consultation was used to assess potential effectiveness of methods for disseminating project information. This qualitative research approach included group discussions and informant interviews to assess local understanding of the research, expectations, and preferred methods of knowledge transfer. Community members' expectations were centered on learning about behaviors that could protect against ill health. Most informants were satisfied with communication methods employed by the project (radio shows, announcements, flyers) but were skeptical about the potential value of the research, many commenting that researchers typically leave after data collection never to be heard from again. Most informants supported a proposal to create a video aimed at revealing the process of conducting research and understanding the results. This investigation suggested that effective community-driven research should provide individuals with recognizable benefits from participation, particularly knowledge about how to safeguard their own health. We also identified a promising knowledge transfer strategy, the creation of a video to document the research process, which will be carried out as a collaboration between community and research team members.

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