Abstract
Stakeholder engagement in a health impact assessment (HIA) is a way to involve communities in the decision making process of a proposed project or policy. Providing opportunities to inform the decision and mitigation of possible negative health outcomes, as well as identify and enhance positive outcomes of resource development projects can empower communities and strengthen project outcomes. Research conducted on the Wishbone Hill Coal Mine in Alaska sought to understand participants’ perceptions of the stakeholder engagement process used in a recent HIA. Characterizing perceptions of the engagement process by the diverse groups of stakeholders, including members of the Chickaloon Tribe, illustrates how existing issues of trust, communication, expectations and interpretations of the process can impact the future stakeholder engagement and use of HIA. Recommendations from the research are intended to support continued public trust in the use of HIA in the State of Alaska.

Keywords: Health impact assessment, stakeholder engagement, participation, inclusion of culture.