



Partnering With Tribal Communities to Promote Well-being & Decrease Opioid Overdose Deaths

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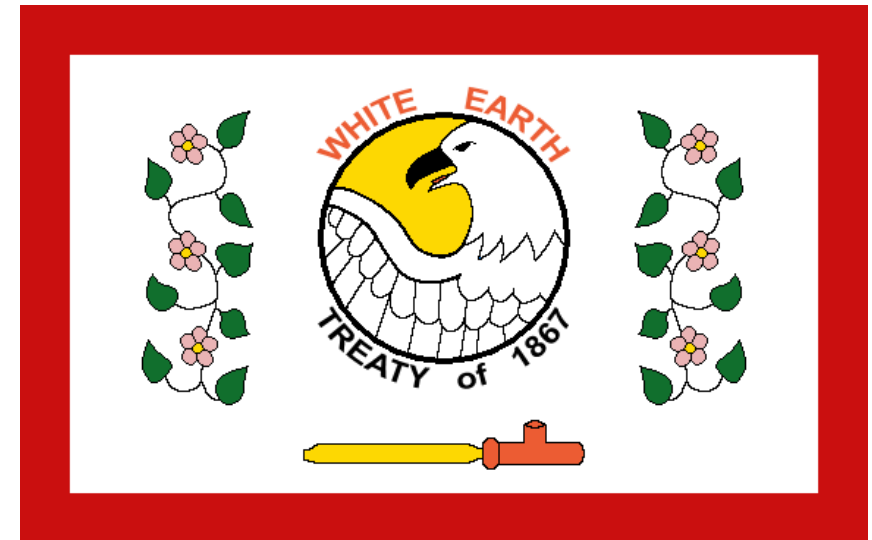
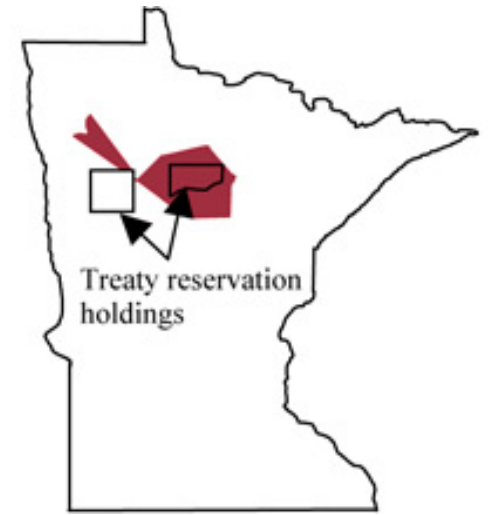
University of Minnesota, Center for Practice Transformation

Overview

- Review findings from Minnesota HotSpot Study
 - Funded by National Drug Early Warning System (U01DA038360)
- Identify themes and risk/protective factors for overdose deaths
- Explore implications for social work and practice transformation

White Earth Band of Chippewa

- 1867 Treaty with the Chippewa of the Mississippi
- Signed March 19, 1867 in Washington, D. C.



Welcome to the Ojibwe People's Dictionary

The Ojibwe People's Dictionary is a searchable, talking Ojibwe-English dictionary that features the voices of Ojibwe speakers. It is also a gateway into the Ojibwe collections at the Minnesota Historical Society. Along with detailed Ojibwe language entries and voices, you will find beautiful cultural items, photographs, and excerpts from relevant historical documents. Whenever possible, we provide examples of documents in the Ojibwe language.

The Ojibwe People's Dictionary has thousands of entries and audio, with more coming online each week. It is our goal to make The Ojibwe People's Dictionary a continually expanding resource for Ojibwe language and culture.

Created and maintained by the University of Minnesota's [Department of American Indian Studies](#), [University Libraries](#), and editor John D. Nichols.

Additional Resources

Many of the words in the Ojibwe People's Dictionary have related resources. Click through to the dictionary entry to hear audio

Ojibwemowin

- Ojibwe's people dictionary
<https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu/main-entry/gaa-waabaabiganikaag-name-place>
- Gaa-waabaabikanikaag = White Earth Nation
<https://whiteearth.com/history>

UMD Land Acknowledgment

We collectively acknowledge that the University of Minnesota Duluth is located on the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of Indigenous people. The University resides on land that was cared for and called home by the Ojibwe people, before them the Dakota and Northern Cheyenne people, and other Native peoples from time immemorial. Ceded by the Ojibwe in an 1854 treaty, this land holds great historical, spiritual, and personal significance for its original stewards, the Native nations and peoples of this region. We recognize and continually support and advocate for the sovereignty of the Native nations in this territory and beyond. By offering this land acknowledgment, we affirm tribal sovereignty and will work to hold the University of Minnesota Duluth accountable to American Indian peoples and nations.

<https://www.d.umn.edu/about-umd/campus-history/land>

Acknowledgments: Minnesota HotSpot Study

NDEWS *National Drug Early Warning System*

Funded at the Center for Substance Abuse Research by the National Institute on Drug Abuse



- Those who've lost their lives to opioid overdose & people who care about them (purpose of our work)
- Overdose Fatality Review team members
- Community focus group participants
- Mary Owen
- Erin Artigiani
- Kathy Etz
- Erin Russell
- Melissa Walls
- Hannah Youngdeer
- Carson Gardner
- Nate Wright
- Kate Erickson
 - & others at MDH...
- Mallory O'Brien
- Miigis Gonzalez
- Sandra Stover

Partnerships



NDEWS *National Drug Early Warning System*

Funded at the Center for Substance Abuse Research by the National Institute on Drug Abuse



White Earth State of the Nation: Tribe is determined to win opioid battle

By [Nathan Bowe](#) on Apr 8, 2018 at 8:47 p.m.



Fight of their lives: White Earth leads way in opioid battle

By [Nathan Bowe](#) on Jan 3, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.



After suffering great loss of life and livelihood on the White Earth Reservation, leaders there are now forging the way to tackling the opioid epidemic with model pilot programs for the state.

Tribal Communities/American Indians
Are Actively Addressing Opioid Use

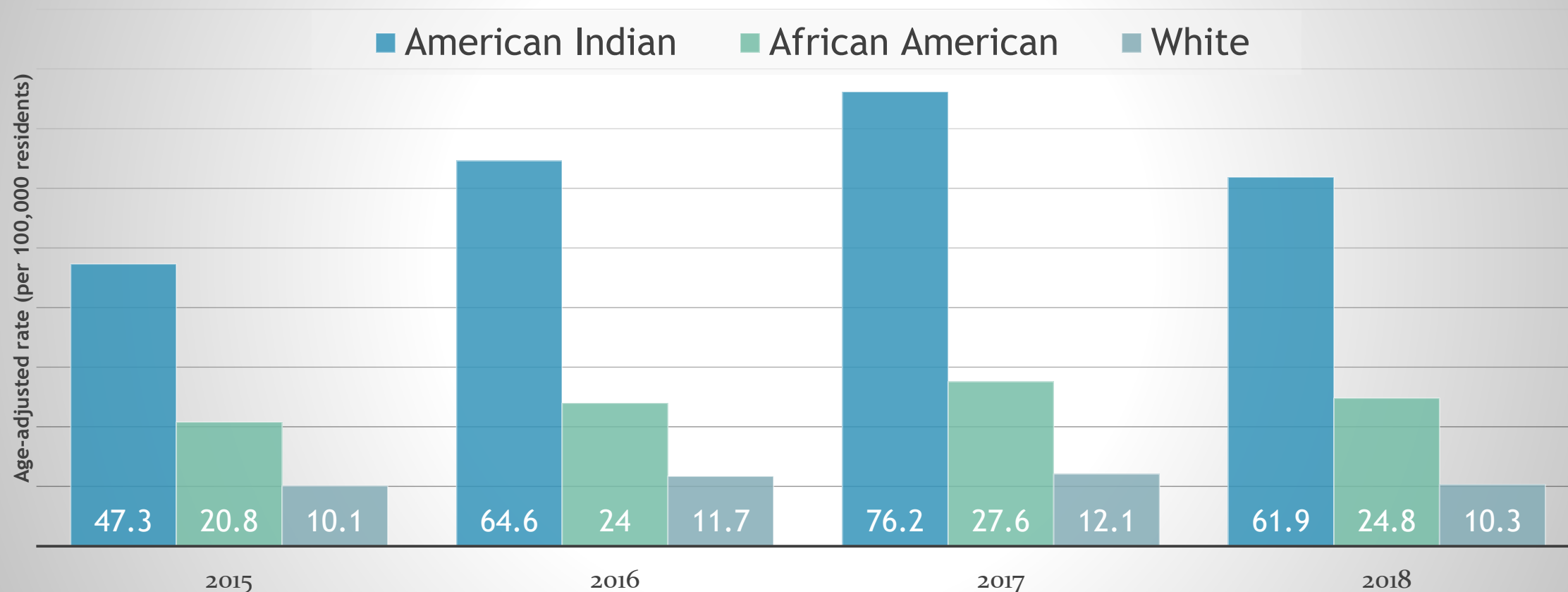


Social Connectedness, Resiliency, and Innovations

NDEWS Minnesota HotSpot Study

- New partnership - UMN Med School Duluth & White Earth Nation (Greenfield/Walls/Alexander)
- White Earth Nation had already been exploring OFR
- Mentioned in Tribal Opioid Summit report
- Received approval for project from White Earth Nation Research Review Board
 - American Indian/Alaska Native Nations have right to oversee and approve research, many tribes have their own Institutional Review Boards

In Minnesota, American Indians are six times more likely to die from a drug overdose as whites, and African Americans are twice as likely to die from a drug overdose as whites.



Goals of Opioid Overdose Fatality Review (OFR)



Identify factors that contribute to overdose deaths



Find ways to intervene and prevent future deaths



Bring together multi-disciplinary group to share knowledge

Overdose Fatality Review Method

- Representatives from tribal organizations such as mental health, substance use, law enforcement, and ambulance services
- Reviewed five cases between March and May of 2019
- Data included death certificates, corrections records, and records from participating tribal organizations.
- The method adapted from Rebbert-Franklin et al. (2016).
- Erin Russell was consultant
- We also held two (2) pre- and two (2) post-OFR focus groups.

Themes: Contributing Factors (OFR)

- Hesitation or refusal to call for assistance
- Need more coordination of SUD treatment services
- Address medical/mental health needs
- Fluid migration from reservation to urban areas
- Data accuracy and availability

Main Findings: Focus Groups

Protective Factors

- Cultural Resiliency
- Naloxone Availability
- Innovative Solutions
- Social Connectedness

Risk Factors

- Implications of Historical Loss
- Historical and Contemporary Trauma
- Shame and Stigma
- Effects on Children (intergenerational)
- Jurisdictional Issues and Rurality

Historical/Current Trauma, Implications For Prevention

“The death certificates saying that these people died of overdoses, but it’s not, it’s not, most of them, I’d say 90% died of broken hearts. ... it’s the trauma that our people go through. It’s all the deaths, the losses, that our people face, and this is working on the front lines, seeing this stuff firsthand, and I’m trying and doing my best part what I can do for my people that I work with, and trying to get to the bottom of their addiction that became something, something that became an addiction. Because that first initial hit of that drug, it numbed that pain that they felt.”

[Community focus group participant]

Culture: Prevention & Healing Guided By Traditional Wisdom, Values, & Practices

“We have our culture. We have our revitalization and restoration of our language, our ceremonial practices. ... and the other part is our humor. It is the cornerstone of healing. We can laugh at some of the most atrocious things and people may think we’re insane but we have an incredible sense of humor.”

[Community focus group participant]

Innovative Solutions/Resilience

“There’s a lot of community strengths and the fact that we’re actually still here, we survived genocide, we are very much a resilient people. We are intelligent, we are caring, and we are loving, and we’re always coming up with solutions to find what’s going on and try to respond to what’s happening within our communities. We know what our problems are and we as community members know what those solutions are. All too often we have too many Western programs trying to come in that don’t fit. They don’t fit standard rest of the United States, why would it fit here, tribal communities which are very distinct and different.”

[Community focus group participant]

Naloxone Availability/Overdose Prevention

“When ODs are happening there’s notices on Facebook from the tribe saying they’re here, we’re handing out Narcan, all of these different things. They’re available for coming into communities and into programs, wherever, to provide Narcan trainings and to distribute Narcan. Lots of awareness, lots of education.”

[Community focus group participant]

Implications for Practice Transformation

Coordination of Services

- Barriers to evidence-based treatment/services
 - Rural - isolation, stigma
 - Limited providers
- Practical Strategies
 - Improving access to evidence-based medications
 - MAT & Naloxone/Narcan®
 - Improving access to psychosocial services
- Building trust, compassion, non-coercive, non-judgmental
- **Key** = Partnerships with local harm reduction/syringe exchange programs
(link: <https://nasen.org/map/>)
- **Reminder** - many meaningful pathways to recovery

Discussion

- Opioid OFR provides a novel look across health care, recovery/addiction services, public safety, and other related systems to identify ways to improve these systems to prevent future overdose deaths.
- OFR may be a useful strategy to implement within other tribal communities and settings. It provides a contextual examination that can align with Indigenous cultural beliefs about death.
- Future research should also examine OFR's potential to contribute to community healing and inform community interventions that address the cycles of trauma.

Academics for Black Survival
& Wellness founders
#Academics4BlackLives



Dr. Della
Mosley,
University
of Florida



Pearis
Bellamy,
Universit
y of
Florida

If you feel moved to help (and especially if you're non-Native or white)...

- Take a breath
- Think about ways you may have caused harm to Indigenous people
 - Remember, you are a good person! But we are raised within systems that teach us to behave in a certain way
- Find groups of Indigenous people who are addressing the issue of opioids, support/back their initiatives
- If you have your own ideas of how to help, slow down. Check if it is something that Indigenous people actually want.
- Cite who you have learned things from & pay them for their time and labor

Miigwech (thank you)

Gigawabimin (See you soon)

- Clinton Alexander
 - clintondalexander@gmail.com
- Brenna Greenfield
 - green970@d.umn.edu
 - Twitter: @_B_Greenfield
- Report links
 - HotSpot report: <https://ndews.umd.edu/publications/hotspot-reducing-opioid-overdose-deaths-minnesota-insights-one-tribal-nation>
 - Dan Gunderson piece (MPR): <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2019/12/18/how-can-we-prevent-the-heart-from-breaking-review-of-white-earth-opioid-overdose-deaths>
 - Dr. Gardner in Minnesota Physician (p. 29): https://issuu.com/mppub/docs/mp_0220_web