



Bad River Harm Reduction HIV, HCV & Overdose Prevention

Philomena Kebec, JD
2024 National HIV &
Hepatitis Technical
Assistance Meeting
2024

Overview

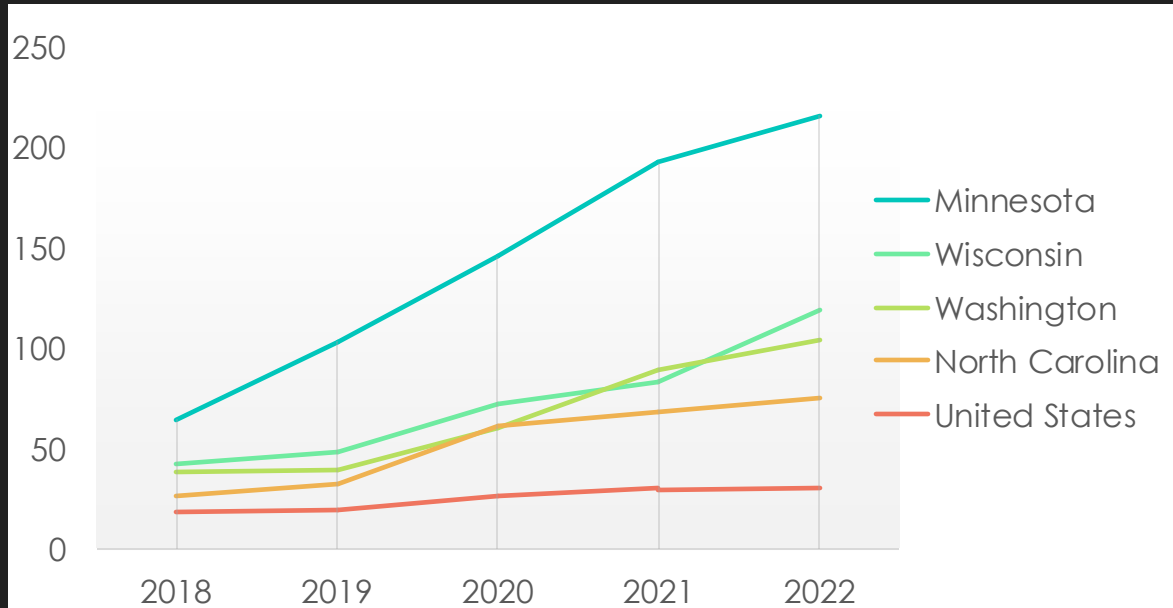
- Discussion on data & trends related to AI/AN syndemic risk
- Native harm reduction programming adapted to tribal cultural values and drug use/risk trends

Challenges faced by remote, rural Tribal Nations in HIV Prevention: Catch 22



- × People who use drugs in Bad River are at high risk of HIV & Hepatitis C due to lack of resources and drug use
- × Low rates of reported HIV infections translates into limited funding for prevention, testing & treatment
- × Limited efforts on community testing ensures that HIV infection rates remain low, but may not reflect reality

Disproportionate Impacts



American Indian/Alaskan Native overdose mortality is significantly higher than all race category in the United States

Figure 1. This graph depicts the rate of age-adjusted drug poisoning mortality (per 100,000) within AI/AN populations in 4 selected states (2018-2022), as compared to the change in drug poisoning mortality in United States (2018-2022), all races. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Mortality 2018-2022 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2024. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10-expanded.html> on May 25, 2024.

Factor Contributing to High-Risk Status

- ✗ Like Black Americans, AI/AN are incarcerated at significantly higher rates than the general population
- ✗ AI/AN families are over-represented in child welfare systems, foster care & other out-of-home placements
- ✗ Housing access issues – land alienation and mismanagement
- ✗ Barriers to access to effective forms of treatment
 - + Methadone is not available– gold standard for treatment of opioid use disorder
 - + Higher dose buprenorphine
 - + Need for culturally-centered treatment
 - + Continuation of MOUD in jail



Harm Reduction as Medicine

- ✗ Our Anishinaabe values teach us that each person is in charge of their path
- ✗ We love them on their journey, respect them, offer them support
- ✗ Requires cultural competency in the worlds that our people walk in
- ✗ Provide culturally-centered care, including traditional healing, sweatlodge, medicines, etc. without unnecessary sobriety requirements



Peer Delivered SSP & Navigation Services

- Community member experts deliver harm reduction supplies and provide navigation services for people who use drugs, on rez and in a four-county region
- Contractors are paid per delivery reported (\$25) plus mileage and \$3/pound of waste returned
- Stipends for attending meetings and trainings
- Similar model for overdose reversal/CPR trainings



Connie Denomie & Aurora Conley,
Peer Support Delivery Experts
Photo credit Alison McKinzie

Statewide Harm Reduction via Mail Order

- ✗ Bad River Tribe has partnered with NextDistro to offer mail order harm reduction throughout the state
- ✗ Focusing outreach to Native Americans and others in rural counties without easy access to traditional brick and mortar harm reduction programs
- ✗ Seeking additional funding to expand outreach to unserved high-risk populations (i.e., Black men)
- ✗ Receives no dedicated state funding for this valuable statewide service



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bizindaawiyeg!

Thank you
for listening!

www.badriverhamreduction.org

Philomena Kebec
p.kebec@badriver-nsn.gov
pkebec1@jh.edu

