

Opioids among Native people

The rate of fatal opioid overdoses among Native people exceeds the national rate



What are opioids?

Opioids are a class of drugs that work in the brain to produce a variety of effects. Opioids can temporarily relieve pain and can change our mental state causing us to feel happy, relaxed, and confused. Opioids are very addictive and very dangerous, especially when used illicitly.

What are some examples of opioids?

Fentanyl: A powerful synthetic opioid that is 50–100 times more potent than morphine. Fentanyl is among other opioids that are currently the most common substances involved in fatal overdoses.
Heroin: An opioid made from morphine. It is another highly addictive and dangerous opioid.

What is an opioid overdose?

When a person ingests too much opioids, the body's opioid receptors can become overwhelmed causing breathing to slow down, which can lead to death.

What are signs of an opioid overdose?

Slow or no breathing, small pupils, pale skin, non-responsiveness, and blue fingernails or lips.

What does opioid use among Native people look like?

- Fatal opioid overdoses among Native people have been on the rise since the year 2000.
- The rate of fatal opioid overdoses among Native people exceeds the national rate.
- Native people are more likely to report substance abuse in the past month or year than any other ethnic group.
- 10% of Native people have a substance use disorder.
- Among the fatal overdoses documented by ODMAP in Tulalip, all have involved fentanyl.

Social and cultural factors?

- Intergenerational and historical trauma
- Racism and discrimination
- Unresolved grief
- Poverty
- Stolen culture and traditions
- Lack of resources



Tulalip Overdose Detection Mapping
& Application Program (ODMAP)



Naloxone?

If you are interested in obtaining a Narcan[®] kit, please contact the Tulalip ODMAP department (360) 722-2255 or email us at ODMAP@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov