

# Prescription Drug Abuse in Tribal Communities: A Call to Protect our Elders, Children and Nations from an Epidemic



## Program Overview

There is an epidemic sweeping our American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal communities. Children, elders, friends and family members are addicted to or are dying from prescription drug abuse. While the medication is meant for healing, when in the wrong hands, it can lead to lifelong problems of substance abuse, addiction and death. Even more frightening is that a person addicted to prescription opioid pain relievers is 40X more likely to be addicted to heroin.

Understanding that prescription drug overdose rates are higher among American Indian and Alaskan Natives, Arizona HIDTA in collaboration with Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Indian Country Intelligence Network and AZ Peace Officers Standards and Training Board (AZ POST) developed an educational presentation to prevent prescription drug misuse and abuse. This research based program equips attendees with a training packet that includes a power point, videos and materials take into the community to share with other parents, community members, elders and government officials. Attendees receive the training packet at the completion of the training.

## Learning Objectives:

- Attendees will be able to discuss the epidemic of prescription drug abuse and how it's impacting American Indian and Alaska Native Communities.
- Attendees will learn about and recognize proper methods of prescription drug storage and disposal.
- Attendees will understand the link between education, communication and safeguarding of medications and the reduction in prescription drug overdoses.
- Attendees will identify ways to utilize and apply the Call to Protect our Elders, Children and Nations from an Epidemic toolkit in their community to increase awareness about the risks of prescription drug misuse and abuse.
- Attendees will learn to partner with Tribal health, education and government entities to develop and implement a community member dissemination plan.

## For More Information

If you would like to host a training or have one of our trainers present the information to your staff or community please contact Shelly Mowrey at 602-400-5432 or [SMowrey@AZHIDTA.org](mailto:SMowrey@AZHIDTA.org)