

Policy Recommendations for Methamphetamine Addiction Epidemic on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and Across Indian Country

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and the Oglala Lakota Nation

Presentation Outline

- Research Motivations
- Research Methods
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- Effects of Meth on Indian Country
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DEFYING THE ODDS: ON THE PINE RIDGE RESERVATION, FIVE RED CLOUD INDIAN SCHOOL STUDENTS EARN THE GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARSHIP



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Oglala Lakota County Schools break ground on new high school

Crime on the Pine Ridge reservation was a big story in 2016

BREAKING FEATURED

13-year-old girl shot, killed at Pine

FEATURED

Team of Colorado hit men drove to Pine Ridge, killed man, indictment says

Murder linked to other killings and crimes committed in metro Denver and on the reservation in the past two years

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By **KIRK MITCHELL** | kmitchell@denverpost.com | The Denver Post

PUBLISHED: December 1, 2017 at 9:03 am | UPDATED: December 1, 2017 at 10:51 pm

Three Native American men looking to settle a drug debt drove from Colorado to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and gunned down a 29-year-old man after he finished a basketball game at a community center, federal court records say.

The Devil on Your Shoulder: Battling Meth Addiction in Indian Country

DAKOTA'S NATIVE RESERVATION METHAMPHETAMINE RINGS

FBI: Spike in Pine Ridge Reservation Homicides Tied to Meth

The FBI says the increased prevalence of meth at South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation led to an unusual number of homicides in 2016.

March 4, 2018, at 1:32 p.m.



Questions

- What is the current state of the methamphetamine epidemic in Pine Ridge?
- Is this an issue across Indian Country?
- What is affecting the meth epidemic in Indian Country?
- What is being done to curb the issue?
- What isn't being done, that needs to be done in order to end this epidemic?

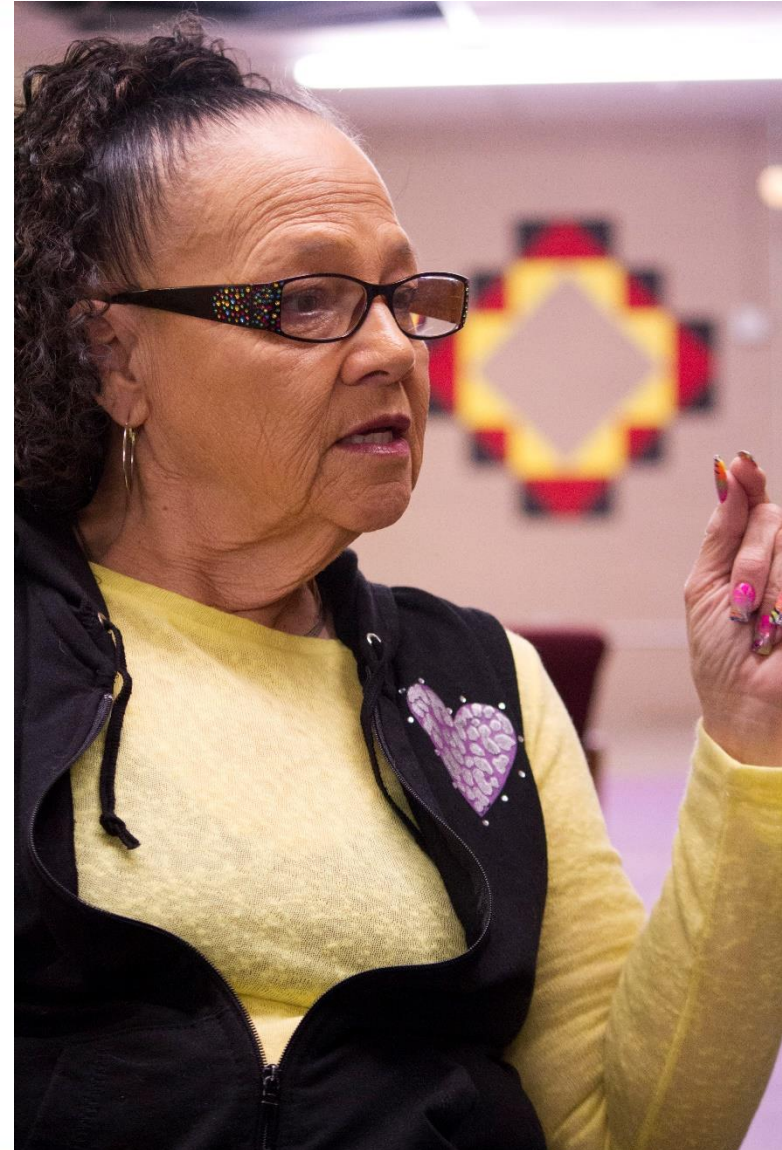
Research Methods

Research Methods

- Individual interviews
- Research of news articles and videos covering the topic
- Internet searches limited to search terms such as:
 - Indian Country
 - Methamphetamine
 - Epidemic
 - Federal Indian Policy

Individual Interview

- Yvonne “Tiny” DeCory
 - Pine Ridge, South Dakota
 - Long time community member in Pine Ridge helping to decrease the effects and experiences of historical trauma among the youth
 - BEAR Project Founder
 - “Be Excited About Reading”
 - A program focused on the prevention of suicide, reading, and methods to cope with the struggles faced living on the reservation



Individual Interview

- Karen Red Star
 - Pine Ridge, South Dakota
 - Health Education Director for the Oglala Lakota Nation



Other Research

- Searches in newspapers and news channels
 - KOTA Territory News (Pine Ridge Indian Reservation)
 - NBC News (Wind River Indian Reservation)
- Online Research
 - Department of Justice
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - The Indian Health Service



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Rates

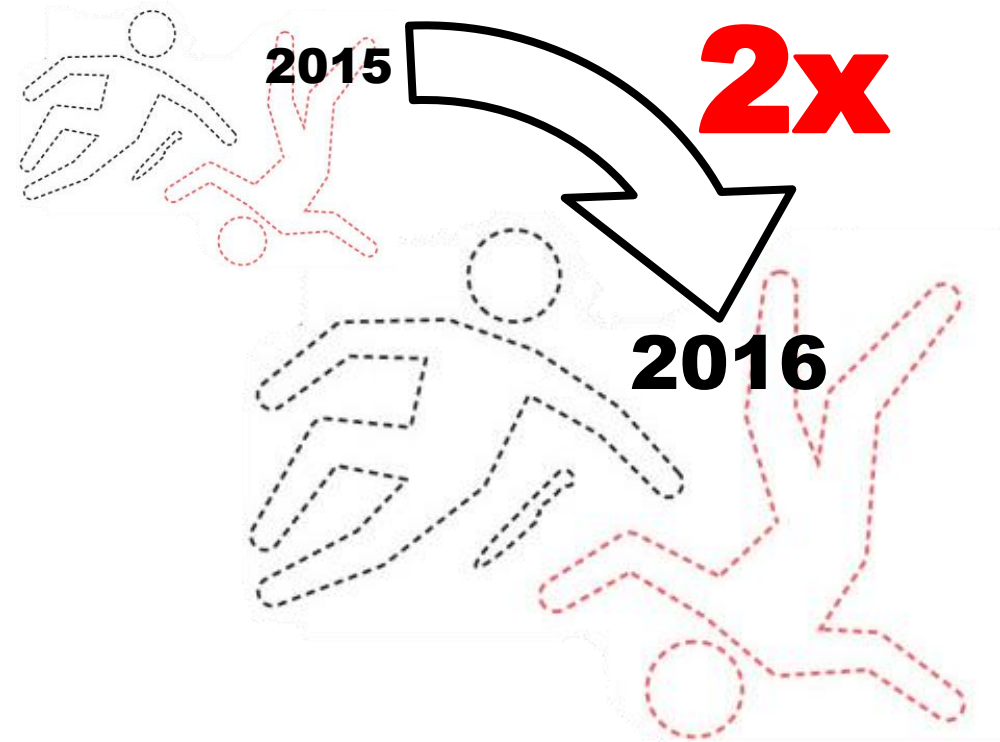
Rates

Methamphetamine Use

40-50%

Lt. Melinda Reddest OST DOC,
Black Hills Fox "Life or Meth" (1)

Homicide Rates



US Attorney for South Dakota, Randy Seiler,
Black Hills Fox "Life or Meth" (1)

**“Every baby born to meth is a part of
a generation the Oglala Lakota
Nation loses.”**

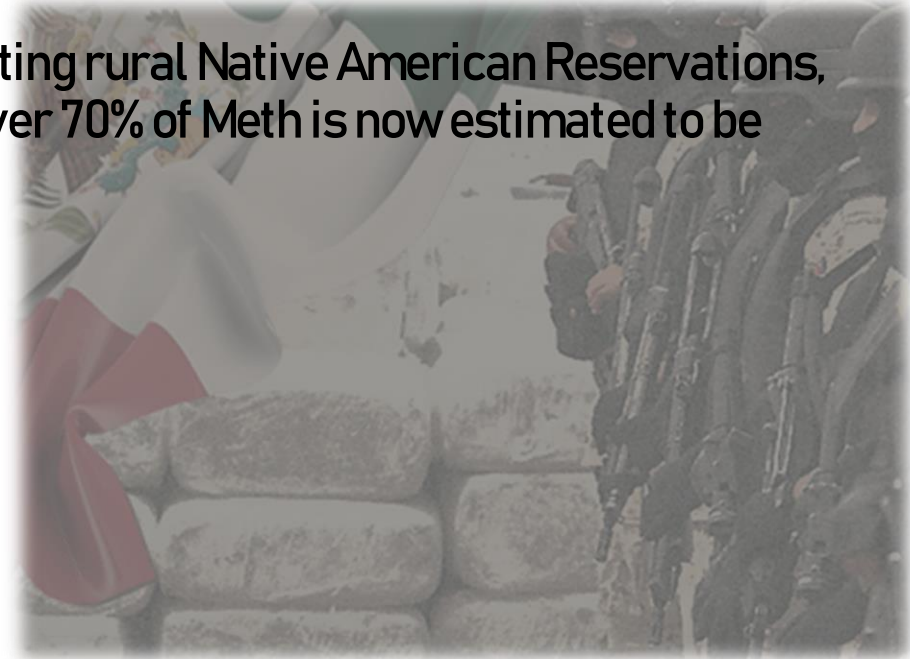
-Julie Richards

Black Hills Fox “Life or Meth” (1)

Underfunding

Law Enforcement

- Oglala Lakota Nation law enforcement is funded at approximately 20% (1)
 - 120 officials are needed and there are about 30 (1)
- “Mexican drug cartels have been purposefully targeting rural Native American Reservations, both for the sale of meth and as distribution hubs (over 70% of Meth is now estimated to be smuggled from Mexico).” (2)
 - Tribal police do not have jurisdiction over these offenders
 - These cases are the responsibility of the federal government through the
Major Crimes Act (1885) (3) and;
General Crimes Act (1817) (4)



Prevention Initiatives

- Meth and Suicide Prevention Initiative widely underfunded (3)
 - Funding lasts a couple of months
 - IHS Portland Area Office
 - Funds for both mental health and substance abuse treatment—90% goes to methamphetamine treatment so mental health is highly neglected

HUGE PROBLEM

Adverse Childhood Experiences

- Examples:
 - Did you live with anyone who was depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal? Y/N
 - Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic? Y/N
 - Did you live with anyone who used illegal street drugs or who abused prescription medications? Y/N
 - Were your parents separated or divorced? Y/N
 - How often did your parents or adults in your home ever slap, hit, beat, kick or physically hurt you in any way? # of occurrences

Childhood Experiences and Historical Trauma

- Tremendous impact in future
 - Violence and perpetration
 - Lifelong health and opportunity (CDC)
- Linked to:
 - Risky Health Behaviors
 - Chronic Health Conditions
 - Low Life Potential
 - Early Death

ACES can have lasting effects on....



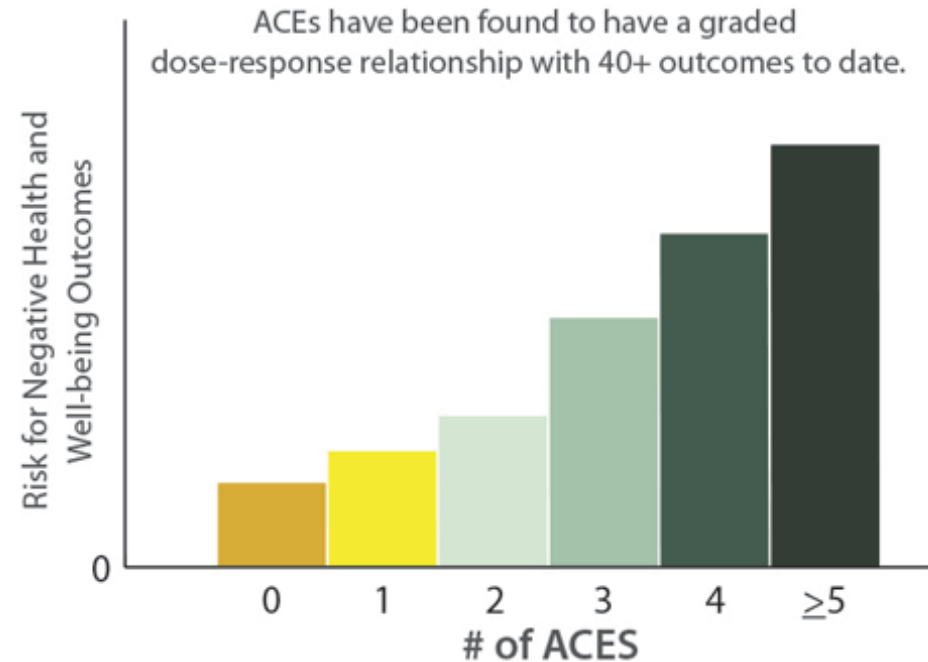
Health (obesity, diabetes, depression, suicide attempts, STDs, heart disease, cancer, stroke, COPD, broken bones)



Behaviors (smoking, alcoholism, drug use)



Life Potential (graduation rates, academic achievement, lost time from work)



*This pattern holds for the 40+ outcomes, but the exact risk values vary depending on the outcome.

What *can* Be Done About ACES?

These wide-ranging health and social consequences underscore the importance of preventing ACEs before they happen. **Safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments** (SSNREs) can have a positive impact on a broad range of health problems and on the development of skills that will help children reach their full potential. Strategies that address the needs of children and their families include:

Voluntary home visiting programs can help families by strengthening maternal parenting practices, the quality of the child's home environment, and children's development.
Example: Nurse-Family Partnership



Home visiting to pregnant women and families with newborns



Parenting training programs



Intimate partner violence prevention



Social support for parents



Parent support programs for teens and teen pregnancy prevention programs



Mental illness and substance abuse treatment



High quality child care



Sufficient Income support for lower income families

Poverty

“The Pine Ridge Reservation is home to the lowest life expectancy, and a number of the poorest communities in the United States.” (5)

- South Dakota
 - 79 years old

- Reservation
 - Men=48 years old
 - Women= 52 years old

Per capita income of \$8,768 (5)

Only Poor Economically



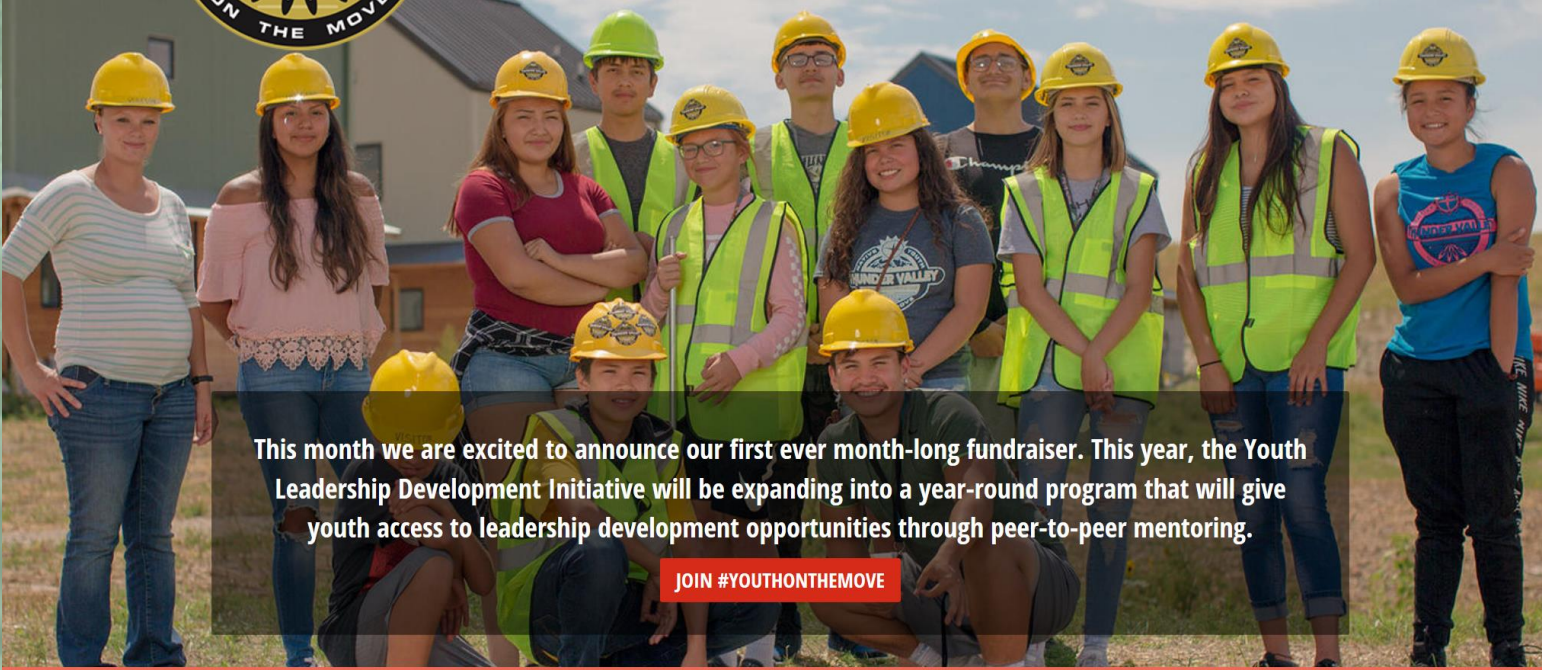
Discover How Change Happens | Program Guide |

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[I Live on the Rez](#) [I Want to Support Thunder Valley CDC](#) [I'm Curious and Want to Learn More](#)

This month we are excited to announce our first ever month-long fundraiser. This year, the Youth Leadership Development Initiative will be expanding into a year-round program that will give youth access to leadership development opportunities through peer-to-peer mentoring.

[JOIN #YOUTHONTHEMOVE](#)



Effects of Meth in Indian Country



- 4.3% (450) of all deaths among Northwest American Indians and Alaska Natives ⁽⁶⁾
- 1.7% among non-Hispanic whites in the same region ⁽⁶⁾

Overdose and Meth??

- Fentanyl – cut into meth and other drugs
- What is it?
 - Synthetic opioid
 - 100 times stronger than morphine (7)
- Often unknown when it is cut in!

Child Welfare

9/10

10/10



<https://westernnews.media.clients.ellingtoncms.com/img/photos/2017/08/01/AIEF-School-Supplies-NA-Dennehotso-Trio-branded.jpg>

Policy Affecting this Issue

1817- The General Crimes Act

Placed certain crimes that were committed in Indian country by a Native American person under federal jurisdiction rather than Indian jurisdiction. However, the *General Crimes Act* did not include those crimes that were committed by Native Americans with a Native American victim.

1885- The Major Crimes Act

This law extended the federal jurisdiction of the *General Crimes Act* to include some “major” crimes with both a Native American perpetrator and victim, to be held under federal jurisdiction.

2009- Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative (MSPI)

An initiative established in 2009 through the Indian Health Service (IHS) in order to confront the suicide and Methamphetamine crises in Indian country.

General Crimes Act (1817) and Major Crimes Act (1885)

Jurisdiction- “power or authority of a court over a particular person, area, or subject matter” (8)

Indian Status	Type of Crime Major Crime (as defined by Major Crimes Act (MCA))	All Other Crimes
Indian perpetrator, Indian victim*	Federal (under MCA) and tribal jurisdiction	Tribal jurisdiction
Indian perpetrator, non-Indian victim**	Federal (under MCA) and tribal jurisdiction	Federal (under General Crimes Act) and tribal jurisdiction
Non-Indian perpetrator, Indian victim	Federal jurisdiction (under General Crimes Act)***	Federal (under General Crimes Act) jurisdiction***
Non-Indian perpetrator, non-Indian victim	State jurisdiction	State jurisdiction

Crimes Covered: murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, maiming, incest, assault of an individual under 16, child abuse or neglect, arson, burglary, robbery (4)

Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative

Discretionary Spending-
Optional

Discretionary spending are the “wants” of someone’s life
ex. Hobbies, travel, luxuries (9)

Mandatory spending are things you have to pay. These are the
“needs”
ex. Food, rent, taxes, health care (9)

Policy Recommendations

Funding

- Tribal policing
 - specialized Methamphetamine task forces
 - This would allow:
 - Hiring more police officers
 - Training police officers for Methamphetamine responses
- Indian Health Service
 - The Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative (MSPI)
 - Allocate funds and/or separate the initiative
 - Prevention programs
 - Specialized treatment facilities for addicts

Needle and Syringe Programming

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - Decreases the risks associated with needle sharing:
 - Transmission of infectious disease across an entire population
 - Hepatitis C, HIV
 - Offers other materials
 - Alcohol swabs, etc
 - Offers Prevention Services
 - Referral to substance abuse treatment programming
 - Hepatitis C treatment, Hep A and B vaccinations
 - Screening for diseases
 - Offers other medical, social, and mental health services

****Important in reducing and prevention infectious diseases in our communities and getting people the help that they need**

Needle and Syringe Programming in Indian Country

- Dispensing needles and syringes to injection METH users and other injection drug users
 - Dispensed and tracked through the Indian Health Service
 - Pick up and return needles and syringes at no cost
 - Accessibility to treatment programs
 - Referrals for individuals with substance abuse
 - Mental health service availability for individuals and their families

Anticipated Outcomes

Decrease in Crime

- Crime rates decrease
 - The increase in crime can be attributed partially to the meth epidemic
 - Less drug use=less crime



Healthier community

- Families
 - Without substance abuse in homes, home life is better for the youth
 - Reduction in Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Education
 - Greater likelihood of obtaining a high school education
- Cultures and traditions
 - More involvement with the cultures and traditions of our ancestors
 - Has been shown to increase the overall outlook of the lives of Native Youth
 - Culture is prevention (WeRNative)
 - Culture is healing



Closing Remarks

Why?

- Meth use and addiction are rampant in our communities
- It is tearing apart our communities
- Current judicial policies and funding sources are prohibiting

How?

- Increasing Funding resources
- Public health prevention and treatment programming
- Being Warriors for the future of our communities

Acknowledgements

A special thank you to:

- Karen Red Star; Health Education Director for the Oglala Lakota Nation
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- Michelle Castagne; Former Tribal Youth Health Policy Fellowship Coordinator for the National Indian Health Board
- Wendee Gardner; Youth Engagement for the National Indian Health Board
- The National Indian Health Board

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Questions?

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