GROUNDING AND Growing
Healing Our Northern California Tribal Communities

American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) in California have been greatly impacted by the opioid crisis. In order to learn more about the harm affecting reservations, rancherias, families, and homes, CRIHB staff traveled throughout California to speak with Tribal communities. The following illustration represents the voices of Northern California Tribal communities.

OUR COMMUNITIES NEED:

ACCESSIBLE NATIVE RECOVERY CENTERS

OPIOID EDUCATION PROGRAMS

MORE TREATMENT OPTIONS

MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT

“I agree with MAT because some people may need that. And if it doesn’t work then they can try something else. What works for some may not work for others.”

“We need more treatment centers. Instead of putting kids in jail, we need to offer treatment.”

“Seems like almost every family I know has a real problem with opioids with one or more family members, and it seems to affect everyone.”

OUR COMMUNITIES NEED SUPPORT FROM:

ELDERS

YOUTH

TRIBAL LEADERS

ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

“We need more treatment centers. Instead of putting kids in jail, we need to offer treatment.”

“I think you have to go back to family roots and cultural values and dig deep into them because if you don’t then you get lost in the system.”
Healing Our California Tribal Communities: A Strategic Plan to Address Tribal Opioid Use

California Tribal communities have been greatly impacted by the current opioid crisis. This epidemic has strained families, communities, health, and public safety. While there are no easy fixes or solutions, there are proven methods to help those addicted and prevent others from succumbing to the powerful draw of opioids.

Local coalitions, Tribal leaders, communities, organizations, and other key stakeholders such as CRIHB play a vital role in developing and implementing the environmental, individual, and societal factors to permanently shift the opioid tide.

Based on current statewide statistics, the results from the SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) conducted by CRIHB Opioid Program Staff and the lived experiences and stories of California Tribes, five major key focus areas have been identified as having the greatest importance in addressing the opioid epidemic in California Tribal communities:

1. Prevention
   a. Community Education
   b. Youth Education
   c. Health Care Provider Education
   d. Medication Safety Education
2. Expanding Treatment and Recovery Services
3. Expanding Partnerships
4. Engaging Tribal Leadership
5. Expanding Substance Use Policies
   a. Community
   b. Clinical Setting

To help guide efforts in developing an opioid response plan for California Tribal communities, the full version of the strategic plan can be accessed at https://crihb.org/ctec/#opioidstrategicplan

For questions or comments regarding the Strategic Plan, please contact the CRIHB Research and Public Health Department at 916-929-9761 or rph@crihb.org.

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