

Harm Reduction during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Strategies from the Field

Tuesday, August 24, 2021, 2:00-3:30pm ET

Housekeeping

- You will be muted automatically upon entry and for the duration of the webinar.
- This webinar is being recorded and will be archived for future viewing on the National Council's website.
- Submit your questions in the Q&A box at the bottom of your screen.

This webinar presentation was supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$750,000 with 100% funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Wellbeing

(A) The National Council.org

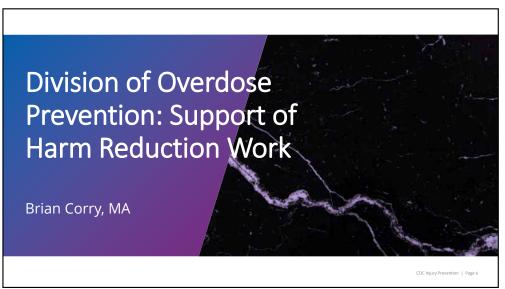


Webinar Agenda

- Welcoming Remarks from the CDC
- Novel Harm Reduction and Treatment Strategies to Support Individuals with Opioid Use Disorder- COVID-19
- · Strategies from the Field:
 - · Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
 - · The Perfectly Flawed Foundation
 - Oklahoma Harm Reduction Alliance
- Additional Resources
- Q&A







Introduction

Brian Corry, MA

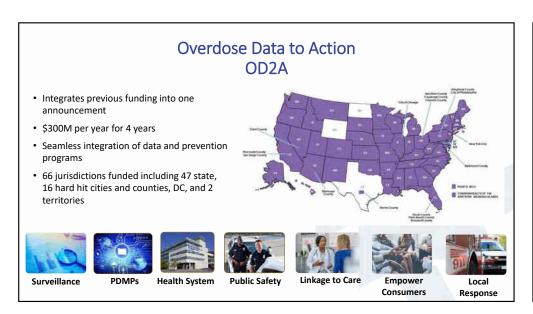
- Public Health Analyst
- Division of Overdose Prevention (DOP) – Prevention Programs and Evaluation Branch – Applied Prevention Science Team
- Harm Reduction SME



How DOP Supports Harm Reduction

- Overdose Data to Action
- Novel Harm Reduction and Treatment Strategies to Support Individuals with Opioid Use Disorder
- Strengthening Communities to Improve Linkage to Harm Reduction Services

Page 8



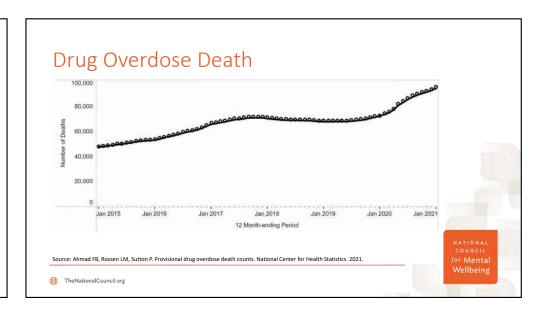


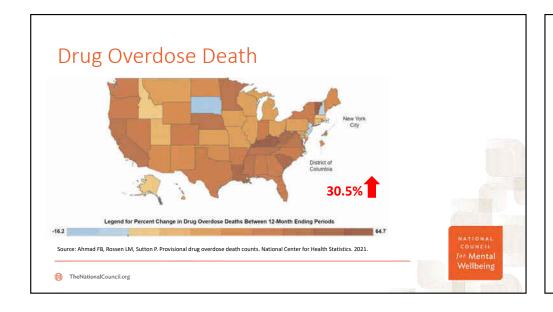


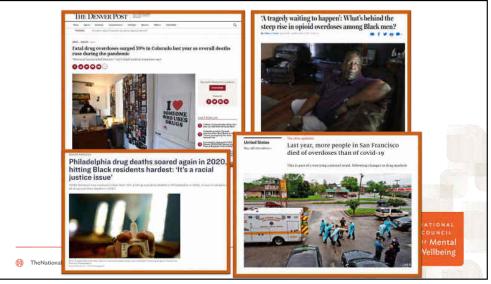


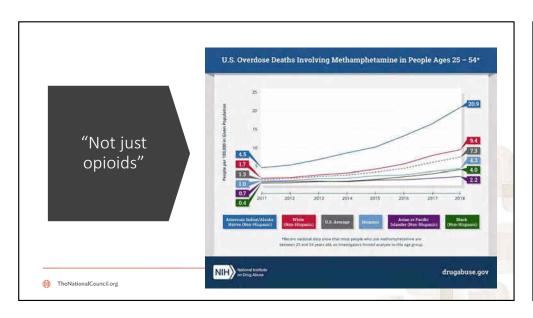
National council for Mental Wellbeing

Novel Harm Reduction and Treatment Strategies to Support Individuals with Opioid Use Disorder- COVID-19

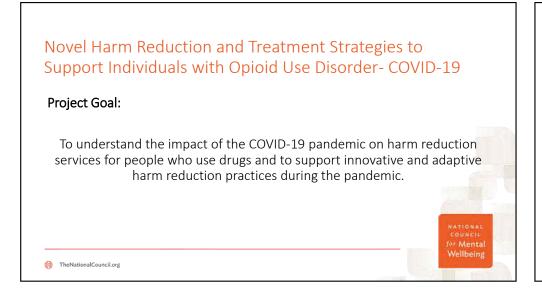


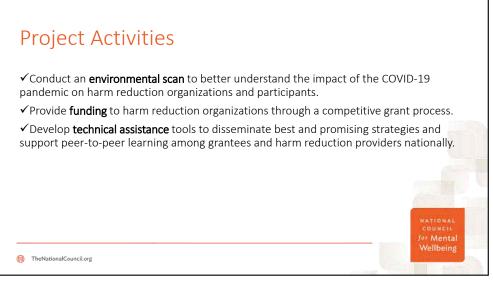






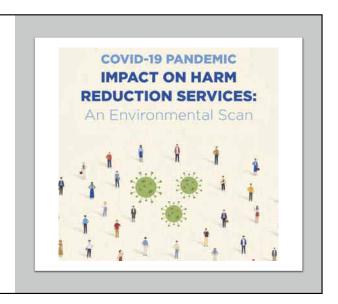


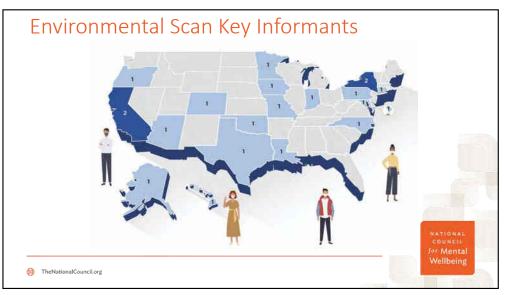




Environmental Scan

- Published online March 2021.
- Data sources:
 - Peer-reviewed, grey, and white literature through February 2021.
 - 21 key informant interviews with harm reduction providers in 19 states.





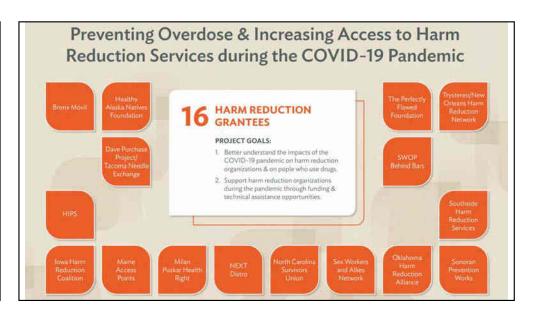
Environmental Scan Key Findings Social isolation, using alone, being stuck in the house. Being scared. 1. Impacts of the pandemic on people It's exacerbated any cooccurring mental health who use drugs. disorders people already have. So, it's just, all this is 2. Impacts of the pandemic on harm just fueling use and acute reduction organizations. flareups of mental health conditions. This is, it's worse." 3. Adaptations and innovations made " My staff are really burned out. And I'm sure that's true by harm reduction organizations. across all harm reduction organizations. Because not only did we never shut down, we actually amped up and did more work in the past seven, eight months than I can ever remember. And so I'm really struggling with compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma amongst my staff," We actually The naloxone " We had a lot of folks that said. I was able to exchanged more program also go to Walgreens and buy my own supplies syringes during doubled between and I can't do that anymore," and [they] had COVID-19 than we February and never accessed syringe services from a harm did beforehand." April. reduction agency before."



Harm Reduction Grantees

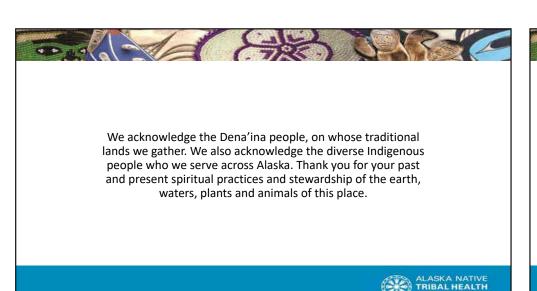
- Launched a competitive request for applications (RFA) process in October 2020.
- Convened a team of National Council, CDC, and external application reviewers.
- Established standardized review criteria.
- Received 233 applications from 45 states and the District of Columbia.
- Chose 16 organizations to fund after an incredibly painful review process (because there were so many great applications!).













Overview

- · ANTHC overview
- Impact of COVID-19
- The Rural AK Harm Reduction Initiative
- Activities
- Outcomes
- Questions



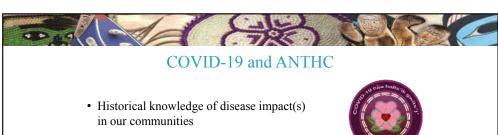




HIV/STD Prevention Program

- Mission: To be a trusted statewide resource for HIV/STI prevention and education, in partnership with the AK tribal health system.
- Primary program focus:
 - Tribal Organizations: Providers, educators, caring adults
 - Alaskans: Alaska Native youth and young adults





- Early response
 - Changes for specialty medical care
 - Changes in ANTHC operations
- Involving Alaska Native communities

2020 ANTHC Annual Report: https://anthc.org/covid-19-response/ ANTHC COVID-19 Vaccine AN Language Materials: https://anthc.org/covid-19-vaccinematerials-in-alaska-native-languages/











The Rural Alaska Harm Reduction Initiative

- Purpose: To enhance and/or adapt novel and innovative strategies to current practices to address the needs of people who use drugs, and prevention for opioid overdose.
- Goals
 - · Harm Reduction education
 - · Improve access to information
 - · Increase community awareness
 - · Engage providers and educators in training
 - · Harm Reduction materials and resources accessibility





The Rural Alaska Harm Reduction Initiative

- Activities completed
 - Developed virtual-based educational tools
 - Expanded the availability of mail-based harm reduction tools to Alaskan individuals
 - Integrated COVID-19 messaging within existing and new materials.
 - · Worked with existing partners to establish an Alaska Harm Reduction Network







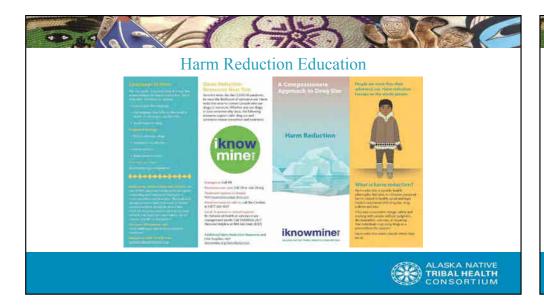




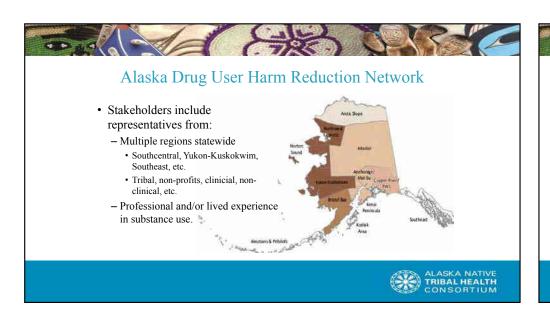














Every activity exceeded expectations

- Harm Reduction 30-second PSA 63,633 participants
- Harm Reduction Webinar Training Series 4,177 participants
- Educational materials created and/or updated 1,366 participants
- The iknowmine Harm Reduction tools ordered 614 participants

Total number of participants reached or served: 69,790











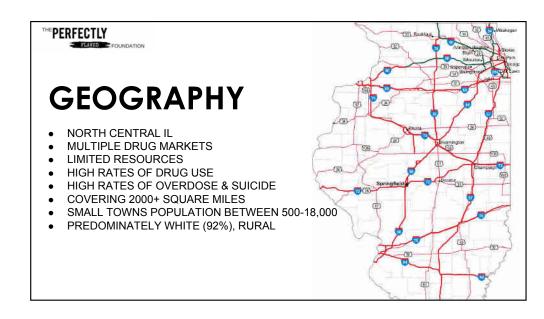


MOBILE WELLNESS & SUPPORT PROGRAM

SERVING LASALLE, BUREAU, PUTNAM AND NEIGHBORING RURAL COUNTIES

ABOUT US

- · Started in 2017 by person with lived experience, PWID
- "Backwards" harm reduction journey
- Statewide Advocacy and Policy Work
- Overdose Prevention & Education
- Naloxone Training & Distribution
- Syringe Services
- Mobile Wellness & Support
- HIV/HCV Connection to Care
- Peer & Family Support
- Service Navigation & Referral to Treatment
- SMART Support Groups
- Transportation Assistance







KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- OUTFITTED VAN
- INCREASED OUTREACH & LINKAGE TO CARE
- COVID CARE KITS & RESOURCES
- NALOXONE, DRUG CHECKING, EXCHANGE AND DISPOSAL
- HEP C/HIV TESTING & PREVENTION
- CONTACTLESS OPTIONS, INCLUDING MAIL
- IPAD & LOCAL TEXT OPTION
- REMOTE ZOOM SUPPORT AVAILABLE







Partners, Advisors & Program Support















OUR TEAM

Advisory

Dr. Tamara Olt, MD - Medical Director JOLT Foundation, G.R.A.S.P, Peoria Women's Health

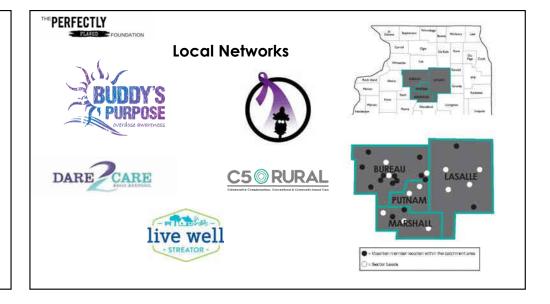
Philomena Kebec

Policy Analyst, Attorney - Bad River Indian Reservation

Chris Schaffner

Program Manager - JOLT Foundation

- STACY Outreach & Re-entry Support
- LORI Outreach & Family Support
- · MARCO Outreach
- RACHEL Care Coordinator
- DIANE Peer Support
- KIM Program Manager
- Program Participants & Volunteers





SUCCESSES

- Outreach and engagement with participants exceeded expectation
- · Successful feedback convening of local stakeholders
- Improved outreach to local leaders
- Grant administration was simple
- Some support amongst Law Enforcement
- · Telehealth with local provider
- Successful text line





IMPACT

129

New participants served

72

COVID-19 Care kits which include over 20 personal hygiene items delivered

738

Dose Narcan distributed in LaSalle, Bureau & Putnam counties

72

Individual ride assistance to treatment, jobs, and support meetings



CHALLENGES & AREAS TO IMPROVE

- LIMITED LOCAL UNDERSTANDING OF HARM REDUCTION
- DIFFERING MINDSETS BETWEEN COMMUNITIES
- STIGMA AMONGST PROVIDERS
- MOST DRUG USE UNDERGROUND
- DIRECT REPORTS OF SURVEILLANCE
- MORE EDUCATION NEEDED
- SUSTAINABILITY
- DATA ANALYSIS & DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION



FIGHTERS UNDERDOGS PEOPLE WANTING CHANGE PEOPLE WANTING TO HELP HUMAN LIFE

THE PERFECTLY

FLATED FOUNDATION

THINGS WE HEAR

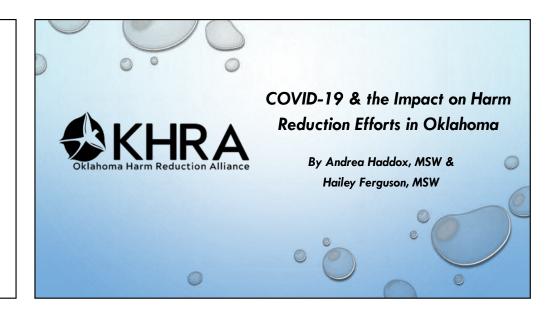
- Thank you for caring enough to help us, we have been having a very hard time with the local pharmacies not wanting to sell us clean supplies.
- We can't afford clean supplies so we have been sharing, now that we have them we can all get Hep C treatment at the same time and not have to worry about getting it again.
- I know of a girl that was desperate enough for syringes, she stole the used container from the hospital, I will let her know about
 your services.
- Having someone care enough about me & my health has started me thinking about changing my lifestyle. Can you help me
 find a detox?
- We have been talking for a long time about quitting, but we had no idea where to go for suboxone or who we could talk to
 about our drug use that wouldn't judge us. Thank you for connecting us. We are 30 days into the MAT program and doing
 good.
- Thank you for helping me find a doctor that treated me like a patient. I was treated so badly in our local ER for the last abscess that I wouldn't go back. She also helped me address some other health concerns that I would have not taken care of.
- . Thank you so much for the ride to inpatient treatment. I want to get my life together so I can get back to my kids.



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!!
HOW CAN WE SERVE THE COMMUNITY BETTER?

The Perfectly Flawed Foundation 240 1st Street LaSalle, IL

Call/Text: 815-830-8675 team@perfectlyflawed.org



WHO WE ARE?

THE OKLAHOMA HARM REDUCTION ALLIANCE IS A GRASSROOTS HARM REDUCTION ORGANIZATION THAT MEETS PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, POLICY REFORM, AND PROMOTING ACCESSIBLE HEALTH SERVICES. WE ARE COMMITTED TO ADVOCATING FOR OKLAHOMANS WHO USE SUBSTANCES WHILE IMPROVING THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION. OKHRA WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2019 BY HAILEY AND ANDREA TO BETTER MEET THE NEEDS OF RURAL AND MARGINALIZED OKLAHOMANS WHO USE



OKHRA'S INTERVENTION STRATEGY FOR COVID-19

- 11 NALOXONE TRAININGS SINCE FEBRUARY 2021, INCLUDING VIRTUAL TRAINING FOR PROVIDERS, ON-SITE
 TRAINING AT SYRINGE TAKE BACK EVENTS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING FOR OKHRA'S MASSIVE SOCIAL MEDIA
 FOLLOWING.
- MOVED INTO AN OFFICE SPACE, HIRED 4 STAFF MEMBERS, AND STARTED DOING BI-WEEKLY OUTREACH EVENTS,
 OVERDOSE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TRAININGS, AND CREATING COMMUNITY PARTNERS WITH H.O.P.E
 TESTING, STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, THINK SMART OKLAHOMA, CHEROKEE AND CREEK NATION,
 AMONG OTHER COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS.
- OKHRA DISTRIBUTED 444 DOSES OF NALOXONE AND 246 FENTANYL TEST STRIPS. FROM 2019 TO 2020, WE DISTRIBUTED 122 DOSES OF NALOXONE, MEANING OUR REQUESTS HAVE NEARLY QUADRUPLED
- PASSED SB 511 DECRIMINALIZED THE DISTRIBUTION OF SYRINGES IN OKLAHOMA
- PROVIDED HARM REDUCTION SUPPLIES, NARCAN, FENTANYL TEST STRIPS, AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE
 EQUIPMENT TO 1,079 INDIVIDUALS IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS. OKHRA PROVIDED EACH PARTICIPANT 5-10 MASKS
 IN EACH PACKAGE, AS WELL AS HAND SANITIZER, GLOVES, AND OTHER HYGIENIC SUPPLIES THAT ENSURE CLIENT
 SAFETY.



Yes, we were the only people wearing masks.

SENATE BILL 511 SIGNING





CLIENT POPULATION SERVED



RACE DEMOGRAPHICS

- 26% OF OUR CLIENTS IDENTIFY AS AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK
- 59% OF OUR CLIENTELE IDENTIFY AS WHITE
- 5% AS NATIVE
- 5% LATINO
- 3% ASIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER
- 3% OTHER

APPROXIMATELY 68% OF OKHRA'S MAIL-BASED CLIENTS ARE UNINSURED, WITH LITTLE TO NO ACCESS TO ADDICTION TREATMENT PROVIDERS IN THEIR COMMUNITY. WHEN ASKED WHY CLIENTS ARE CHOOSING TO ACCESS NARCAN THROUGH OKHRA'S ONLINE NEXT DISTRIBUTION PORTAL (WWW.NEXTDISRTO.ORG/OKLAHOMA) CLIENT'S HAD SIMILAR RESPONSES.

GENDER DEMOGRAPHICS ARE

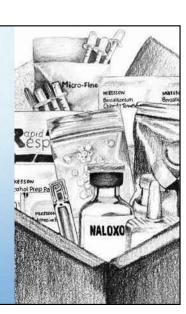
- 41% FEMALE
- 54% MALE
- 5% NON-BINARY

45% OF OUR MAIL-BASED CLIENTS WITNESSED AN OVERDOSE DURING THE PAST YEAR.

DURING OUR ORGANIZATION'S TENURE AS SHOTS TULSA, FROM 2018-2020, WE HELPED REVERSE OVER 250 OPIOID OVERDOSES IN OKLAHOMA. SINCE MARCH 2021, OKHRA HAS REVERSED 11 OVERDOSES AND WE HAVE DONATED NARCAN TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS AT THE HOPE INITIATIVE IN OKLAHOMA CITY TO REVERSE AN ADDITIONAL 28 OVERDOSES.

HOW WE ACCOMPLISHED OUR GOALS FOR THIS GRANT

- COMMUNITY BUILDING AND COLLABORATION. EX. NEXT DISTRO, STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, ETC.
- SOCIAL MEDIA. PAID ADS, CONSISTENT POSTING, LINKS TO NEXT DISTRO POSTED WEEKLY, ETC.
- OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY EVENTS. SYRINGE TAKEBACKS, ONLINE TRAININGS, BI-WEEKLY OUTREACH, ETC.
- FUNDRAISING. HAILEY & ANDREA WORKED TOGETHER ON GRANT WRITING, FUNDRAISERS, AND CREATING NEW MERCHANDISE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR OKHRA'S OTHER PROGRAMS.
- COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AND ADVOCACY. OKHRA WORKED TIRELESSLY
 TO HELP PASS SB 511 TO LEGALIZE HARM REDUCTION SERVICES IN OUR
 STATE.



PLAN TO CONTINUE

- VENDING MACHINE PROJECT
- FUNDRAISING
- CONTINUE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH NEXT DISTRO
- SYRINGE DISPOSAL
- COMMUNITY IMPACT AND CLIENT SURVEYS
- POLICY PLANNING WITH NATIONAL HARM REDUCTION COALITION
- STRATEGIC PLANNING WITH A NON-PROFIT CONSULTANT
- COMMUNITY SUPPORT FROM YEARS OF RAPPORT BUILDING WITH CLIENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS
- COMMUNITY BUILDING AND COLLABORATION (TERENCE CRUTCHER FOUNDATION, HOPE, ETC.)





QUESTIONS?

EMAIL US AT OKHARMREDUCTION@GMAIL.COM

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK @OKHRA
INSTAGRAM @OKLAHOMAHRA
NEXT DISTRO LINK: WWW.NEXTDISTRO.ORG/OKDISTRO

Additional Resources

- <u>Covid-19 Pandemic Impact on Harm Reduction Services: An Environmental Scan</u> (National Council for Mental Wellbeing)
- National Council Harm Reduction Resources
- www.iknowmine.org (Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium)
- The Perfectly Flawed Foundation
- Oklahoma Harm Reduction Alliance
- Harm Reduction Technical Assistance Center (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

for Mental Wellbeing





Contact Information Shannon Mace, National Council for Mental Wellbeing

• shannonm@thenationalcouncil.org

Hannah Warren, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium HIV/STD Prevention Program

hewarren@anthc.org

Hailey Ferguson and Andrea Haddox, Oklahoma Harm Reduction Alliance

• okharmreduction@gmail.com

Luke Tomsha, The Perfectly Flawed Foundation

• team@perfectlyflawed.org

