

# SDOH in North Dakota

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# What do I do?

- ▶ Within reason, whatever it takes to

# Highest Rates of Morbidity/Mortality

- ▶ Native American
- ▶ LGBTQ
- ▶ Women

# Adverse Childhood Experiences

- ▶ Family level ACEs: emotional/physical/sexual abuse, neglect, domestic violence, mental illness, substance use disorder, separation/divorce of caregiver and incarceration of a family member (National Health Care for the Homeless Council, 2019)
- ▶ Community level ACEs: economic hardship, community violence, bullying, foster care and discrimination

# Native Americans

- ▶ Highest rate of suicide, 3 times the state average
- ▶ Incarcerated at a rate 3 times above the state average, no services in jail/prison specific to Native Americans
- ▶ Average age of death 54.7 years old (state average 75.7 years old)
- ▶ 70% Children and Adolescents in school indicated to have an emotional disturbance
- ▶ Most common community ACES are homelessness, substance use disorders and poverty
- ▶ Overrepresented in SDOH, underrepresented in behavioral health workforce and leadership positions
- ▶ Overrepresented in the Homeless population of Fargo-Moorhead

(HRSI, 2018)









# Women



# Interventions

- ▶ Facility wide training for staff on how to spot human trafficking and how to intervene
- ▶ Facility policy mandating privacy during pelvic exams/STI screening (with exception for religious/cultural reasons)
- ▶ Human trafficking screening tool present in each exam room and on shared drive for reference
- ▶ Focus on interdisciplinary team approach and presence at bi-weekly case staffing meetings as needed
- ▶ Increase awareness for breast, cervical and uterine cancer screening
- ▶ Plan B available free of charge to women with financial difficulties
- ▶ In-house high risk pregnancy services and ultrasound services
- ▶ Maintenance of partnership and volunteer time with F5 Project

# Changing the Game

- ▶ Vulnerable populations continuously report the most meaningful interventions for them would come from a professional who shared their culture and/or life experiences
- ▶ Need to acknowledge science that supports existing cultural beliefs
- ▶ Medicine that is truly holistic
  - ▶ Physical
  - ▶ Spiritual
  - ▶ Mental
  - ▶ Environmental
  - ▶



# References

HRSI. (2018, April). North Dakota Behavioral Health System Study (North Dakota Department of Human Services). Retrieved from <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/docs/mhsa/2018-4-nd-behavioral-health-system-study-final-report-hsri.pdf>

National Health Care for the Homeless Council. (2019, February). Homelessness & Adverse Childhood Experiences The health and behavioral health consequences of childhood trauma (Publication). Retrieved from <https://www.nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/aces-fact-sheet.pdf>