

# INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS) NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON HEROIN, OPIOIDS, AND PAIN EFFORTS (HOPE)

## ***Indian Health Care: Ensuring a Coordinated, Holistic Response to the Opioid and Heroin Epidemic***

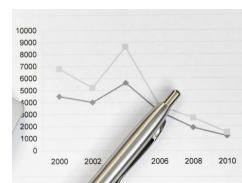
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## **IHS Releases Clinical Guidance to Improve Care of AI/AN Pregnant Women & Women of Childbearing Age with Opioid Use Disorder**

The IHS and The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) released clinical recommendations for healthcare providers treating American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Pregnant Women and Women of Childbearing Age with Opioid Use Disorder. Published in December 2018 this guidance is available through the [Maternal Child Health page](#) on the IHS [opioid website](#).

The new guidance utilizes national standards of care for establishing opioid use disorder treatment in pregnant and reproductive-age women, as well as those who are at risk for developing an opioid use disorder. These recommendations are intended to support the efforts of tribes and tribal health organizations in rural and urban Indian communities in addressing the needs of pregnant women with opioid use disorders, their infants, and families.

These recommendations focus on universal screening, the role of Medication-Assisted Treatment, prenatal/postpartum care, and recovery. This guidance also provides information on management of co-occurring substance use disorders, behavioral health issues, and trauma-informed care.

The IHS is committed to our mission of raising the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of AI/AN to the highest level. IHS recognizes the importance of partnerships in accomplishing this mission. We will continue to collaborate with stakeholders and tribes to develop a comprehensive strategy to improve the health of mothers, infants, families, and communities.

In addition, IHS is working with the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Native American Child Health (CONACH) to develop a guideline focused on prevention and management of Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS) for infants exposed to opioids during pregnancy.

Please contact [LT Sherry Daker](#) for more information regarding this release.

Additional information:

- [Best Practice Guidance](#)
- [Maternal Child Health Webpage](#)

Visit HOPE's [opioid](#) & [pain management](#) websites at [ihs.gov/opioids](http://ihs.gov/opioids) and [ihs.gov/painmanagement](http://ihs.gov/painmanagement)

Subscribe to HOPE Listserv [here](#) & search "IHS National Committee on Heroin, Opioids, & Pain Efforts"

## Safety Precautions for Fentanyl & Synthetic Opioids

What you need to know:

- Fentanyl & other synthetic opioids can be present in a variety of forms: powder, tablets, capsules
- Synthetic agents are often more potent, when taken unknowingly the risk of overdose increases
- Inhalation of airborne powder causes the most harmful effects, but skin contact is most common
- Incidental skin contact may occur during daily activities but is not expected to lead to harmful effects if the contaminated skin is promptly washed off with soap and water
- Slow breathing or no breathing, drowsiness or unresponsiveness and constricted or pinpoint pupils are the specific signs consistent with fentanyl and/or opioid intoxication
- Narcan (naloxone) is an effective medication that rapidly reverses the effects of fentanyl/opioids

When responding to a suspected overdose:

Do	Do not
Call 911 immediately	Wait to call emergency responders
Scan the scene to ensure safety	Touch the person without assessing
Use personal protective equipment, if possible, it protects you from exposure	Touch/handle substances, needles or paraphernalia
Administer naloxone as soon as possible	Try reviving the person with other drugs or coffee
Move person into recovery position	Lay person on their back
Stay until help arrives	Leave the person alone
Give 1 <sup>st</sup> responders all information	Keep information from 1 <sup>st</sup> responders
Wash hands with soap and water	Wash hands with sanitizer or alcohol



The HOPE Committee has quick [references](#) regarding safety precautions for fentanyl & synthetic opioids available for the [general public](#) & [1<sup>st</sup> responders](#)

## Opioid Crisis Data: Understanding the Epidemic

Multi-disciplinary, collaborative approaches to opioid related data are necessary to understand the opioid epidemic and to plan an effective public health response. The IHS has developed & released the RPMS Report and Information Processor (RRIP) program as a tool for RPMS sites to monitor opioid prescribing within their local health systems, to identify patients with prescriptions for opioids at risk for opioid overdose, and to create regional comparisons between sites of similar size or demographics. The IHS seeks to expand utilization of these tools to create a responsive opioid surveillance strategy to monitor local opioid prescribing & leverage utilization of timely, actionable data to inform professional peer evaluation strategies and interventions. Secondary outcomes include increasing the capacity of health care providers and systems of care to integrate evidence based opioid prescribing strategies into practice to leverage a standard of care across the health system. Opioid stewardship is the responsibility of local, regional, and national health system leadership.

For additional resources, please visit the [IHS Opioids Crisis Data page](#). For more information, please email the [RRIP technical assistance team](#).

