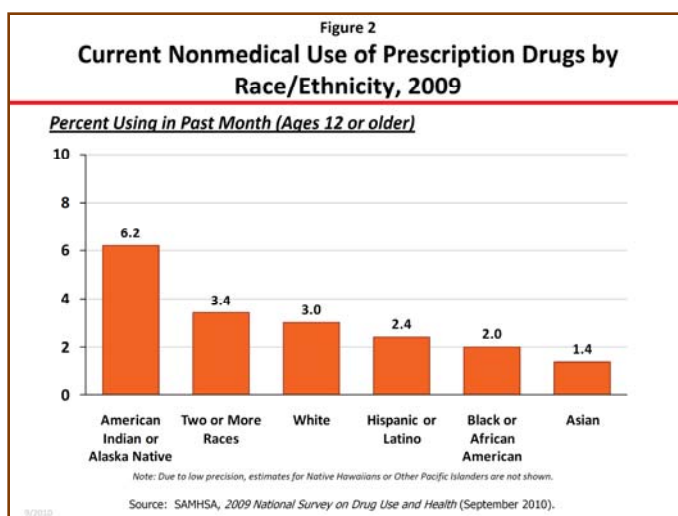
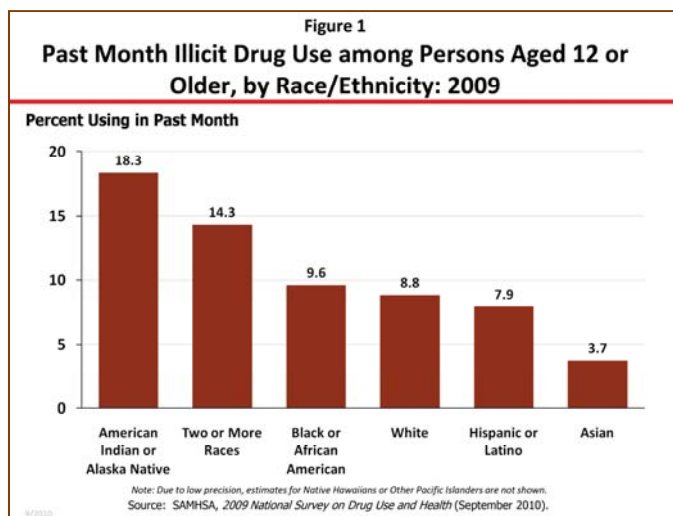




Reaching Out to Native Populations

Drug abuse exacts a heavy toll among Native American populations in the United States. According to the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 18.3 percent of American Indians/Alaskan Natives age 12 or older are current users of illicit drugs, meaning they used illicit drugs within 30 days prior to responding to the survey (see figure 1). Native American and Alaskan Native populations also show high percentages of lifetime (64.8 percent) and past year (27.1 percent) illicit drug use, and they lead all other ethnic groups in past 30-day misuse of prescription-type drugs (psychotherapeutics), as shown in figure 2.

In response to these troubling statistics, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) has advanced programs and policies tailored to Indian Country and designed to assist Tribal authorities using a balanced strategy of prevention, treatment, recovery support, and law enforcement.



Preventing Drug Use with Culturally Relevant Programs

- ✦ **ONDCP's National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign researches, develops, and delivers relevant and appropriate anti-drug messages.** The Campaign has partnered with the National Congress of American Indians, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Partnership for a Drug-Free America to develop a public awareness advertising campaign focusing on methamphetamine use among Native American populations. Launched in early 2008 and continuing today, the Anti-Meth Campaign emphasizes Native American culture and pride through print, radio, and television ads. It is the only national anti-meth ad campaign concentrating on Indian Country and Native Alaskan lands.

ONDCP seeks to foster healthy individuals and safe communities by effectively leading the Nation's effort to reduce drug use and its consequences.

- ✳ ***ONDCP's Drug Free Communities (DFC) Support Program builds American Indian/Alaskan Native participation in community efforts to reduce youth drug and alcohol use.*** Eighty-five DFC-funded coalitions have served American Indian/Alaskan Native communities since 2006. Currently, Native populations are being served by 66 DFC-funded coalitions, at a total of \$6.1 million. Tribal representation in the DFC program has grown from 1.9 percent in 2006 to 9.1 percent in 2009 – a five-fold increase. ONDCP continues to partner with Indian Country to increase capacity and participation through numerous workshops, training sessions, and coalition-building conferences.

Treating Addiction and At-Risk Populations in Indian Country

- ✳ ***The President's Access to Recovery (ATR) grant program, which individualizes substance use treatment, recovery, and support services, addresses needs that are unique to American Indian/Alaskan Native communities because of Indian Country's rural geography and cultural heritage.*** In 2007, ATR grants totaling \$47.1 million (over three years) were awarded to five Tribal organizations covering Indian Country populations in Alaska, California, Idaho, Michigan, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. Thirty new ATR grants will be awarded in 2010.
- ✳ ***Tribal Drug Courts, which refer substance users in the criminal justice system to treatment and recovery services in lieu of jail, play an important role in breaking the cycle of drug use and crime.*** As of December 31, 2009, there were 89 Tribal Drug Courts, nearly twice the number (45) in 2001.

Partnering with Indian Country Leadership and Law Enforcement to Stop the Flow of Drugs

- ✳ ***ONDCP has provided \$1.7 million in High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) discretionary funds to Indian Country law enforcement organizations to detect, deter, interdict, disrupt, and dismantle drug trafficking organizations.*** These funds have been awarded to HIDTAs in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, and Washington. Task forces within these HIDTAs partner with Indian Country law enforcement and Tribal officials, and also work closely with Federal, state, and local law enforcement.
- ✳ ***At ONDCP's request, the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) developed and published the 2008 Indian Country Drug Threat Assessment.*** This is the first comprehensive, strategic assessment of the threat posed to Native American communities by drug trafficking organizations, gangs, criminal groups, and the illegal drugs they distribute on reservations throughout the United States. The assessment, to be updated in late 2010, is a crucial first step in understanding the scope of the drug problem in Indian Country, and an invaluable guide for government efforts to address it.
- ✳ ***Also at ONDCP's request, NDIC is preparing a series of Native American Gang Threat Assessments.*** These regional assessments, the first comprehensive look at the rapidly growing problem of gang activity in Indian Country, will provide essential data and help determine what can be done to assist Tribal leaders in addressing a problem that threatens their traditional values and the health and safety of their people. The assessments will be produced by NDIC's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, with publication of the first issue expected in late 2010.

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