



# Behavioral and Social Aspects of the Opioid Epidemic

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# Learning Objectives

- To identify comorbidities associated with opioid addiction, and opportunities for integrated approaches for prevention and treatment among American Indian and Alaska Native communities
- To describe strengths-based approaches and other unique cultural considerations (e.g., historical trauma and enculturation) in the context of protective factors, risks, and resilience

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- Understanding what other conditions are associated with opioid addiction (e.g., alcohol abuse, anxiety, depression, domestic violence, suicide ideation, trauma, and unemployment)
- Destigmatizing mental illness and opioid addiction
- Promoting resilience- and strengths-based approaches utilizing community capacity, Indigenous culture, and social networks

# Behavioral and Social Aspects of the Opioid Epidemic

- Identifying key settings in rural and urban contexts for collaborative care around detection, referral, and treatment
- Working with service providers to promote responsible opioid use, improved prescription monitoring, and alternate forms of pain management

# Presenters

- Melissa Walls – Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Biobehavioral Health, University of Minnesota
  - *Considering Social and Historical Pathways into and out of the Opioid Epidemic in Tribal Communities*
- Verlyn Corbett, Medical Director, Anchorage Native Primary Care Center;  
Bobbi Outten – Director of Family Wellness, Southcentral Foundation
  - *Trauma Informed Care Shaping Substance Use Treatment*
- Mary Cwik – Associate Scientist, Center for American Indian Health, Johns Hopkins University
  - *Exploring the Intersection between Opioids and Suicide: from Despair to Hope*