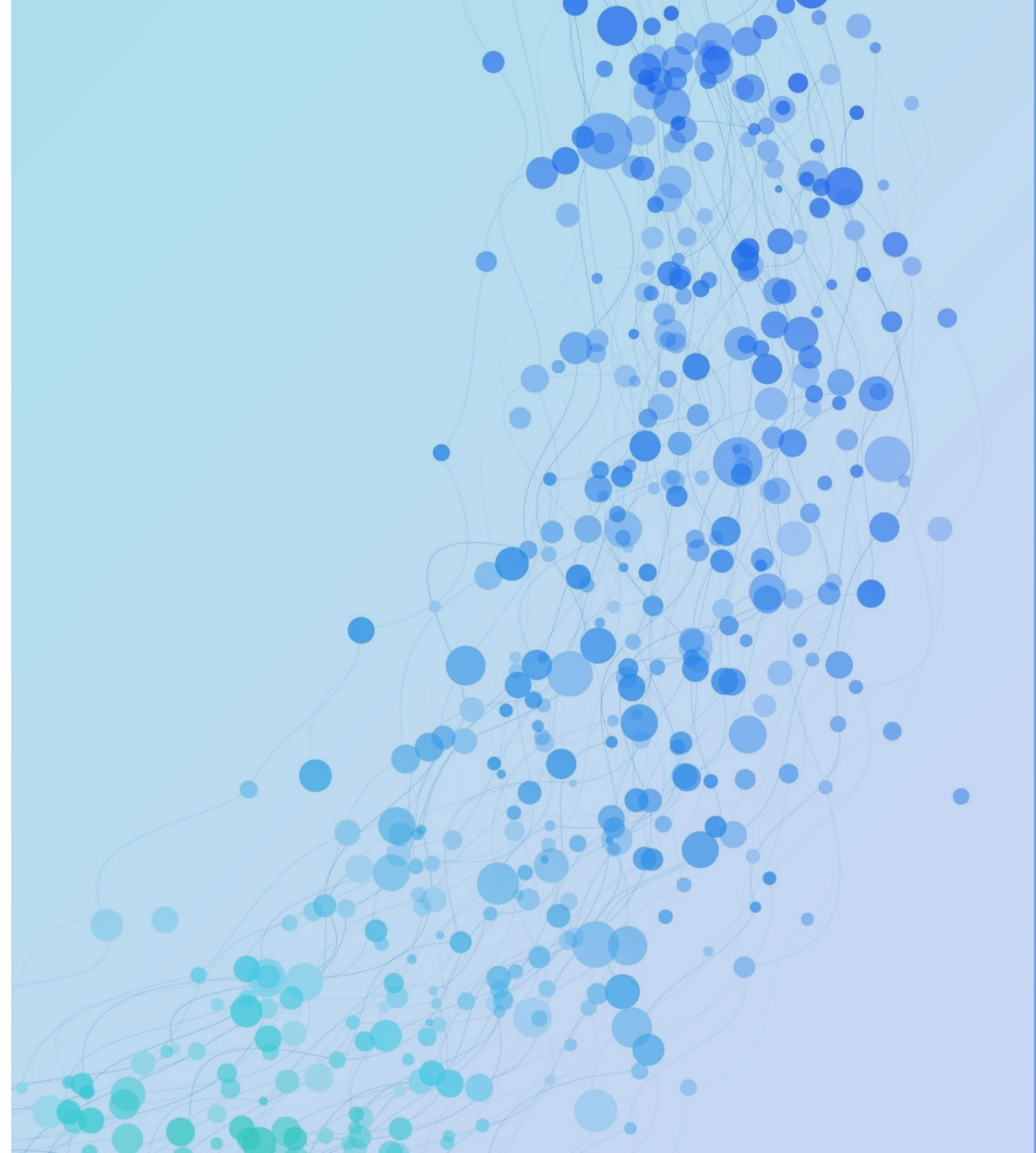


Sharon M. Day
Executive Director
Indigenous Peoples Task Force
smarieday@aol.com

Indigenous People & Harm Reduction

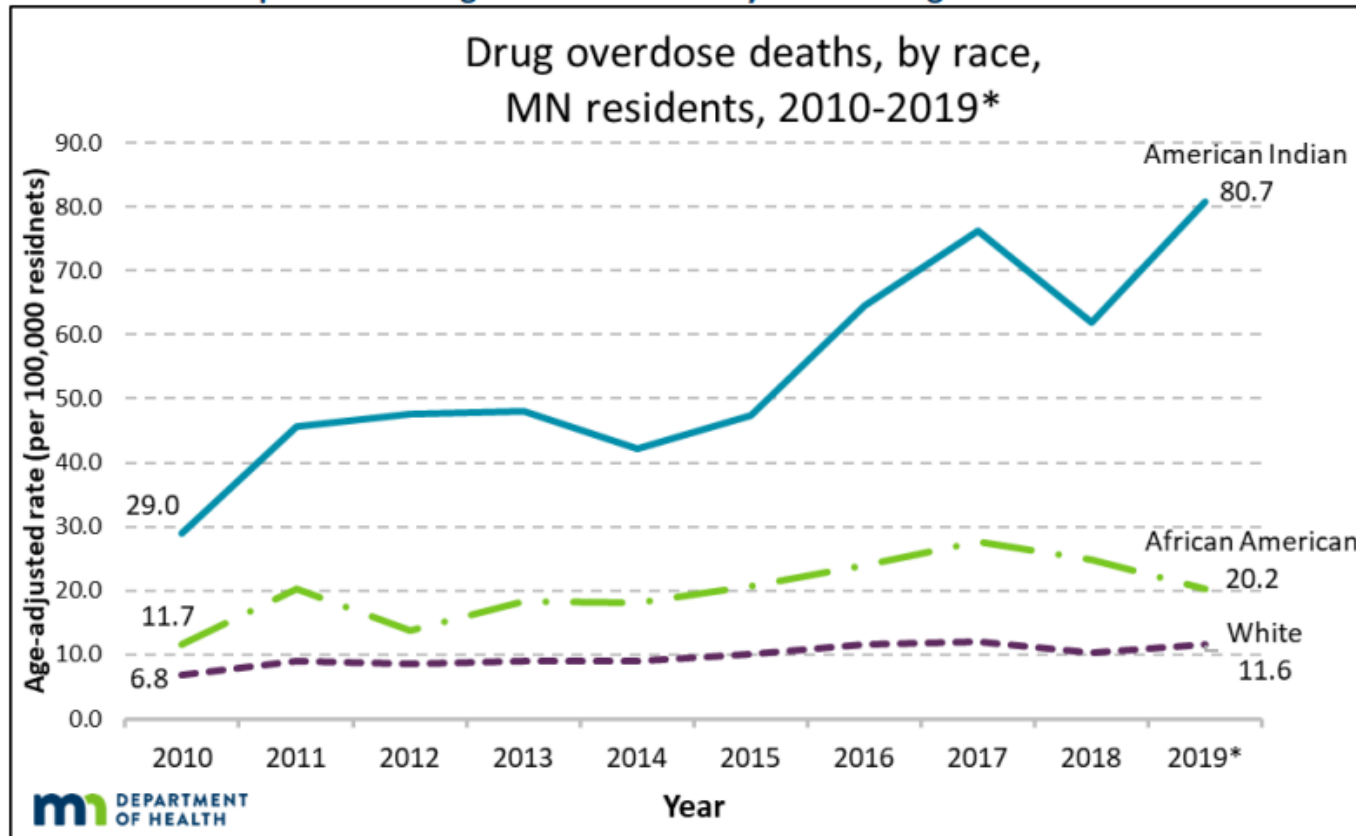


Data genocide

- Erasure -No one wants to admit to genocide
- Invisibility for Urban and Reservation peoples
- Inequities.
- “What little research that is available shows that Indigenous peoples in the age range (40-50), are dying at a higher rate from suicide, drug overdose, and alcohol related liver disease. These realities are often missing from narratives about health inequities. * Katie Schultz and Michael Spencer

Drug Overdose Deaths by Race, MN (2010-2019)

CHART 3. Disparities in drug overdose mortality rates have grown from 2010 to 2019.



SOURCE: Minnesota death certificates, Injury and Violence Prevention Section, Minnesota Department of Health, 2010-2019*

NOTE: 2019 data are preliminary and are likely to change when finalized.

Native (Black) Minnesotans were 7x (2x) as likely to die from drug overdose as white Minnesotans in 2019.

Politics of Health Determinants

- Doctrine of Discovery -1452

“established a religious, political, and legal justification for colonization and seizure of lands not inhabited by Christians” Continued erasure of the violence that created this country and continued erasure of our knowledges, scientific methodologies, and health care practices

500+ Treaties signed by sovereign nations for as long as the grass shall grow.....every single one of them broken, most of which contained language providing health care and education in exchange for land

War on Drugs criminalizing drug usage

American Indians are 4x more likely to be arrested for drug possession and 8.5x more likely to be convicted than white folks.

* Shakopee Women's Prison 23% American Indian

Why the large disparity for American Indians?

1. Historical Trauma

genocide, land theft, forced cultural assimilation

2. Generational Trauma

boarding schools, mission schools, relocation policies

3. Personal Trauma or Adverse Childhood Experiences

Neglect, Abuse, Grief,

What to do?

Increase funding for Harm Reduction by Indigenous people in the community with lived experiences (culturally grounded)

Syringe exchange

MAT services

Eliminating barriers to access services including treatment, housing, mental health