

Land Acknowledgement

I would like to begin by acknowledging that as we gather today, we are all on the ancestral homelands of indigenous people. Where I live, that is the S'Klallam People, who have lived on these lands from time immemorial. Please join me in expressing our deepest respect and gratitude for our indigenous neighbors, the S'Klallams and other Salish people, for their enduring stewardship and protection of our shared lands and waterways.

nəx^wsłǎyəm' (new-skly-um) means S'Klallam.

The S'Klallams are the Strong People.

Suicide Crisis in American Indian and Alaska Native Population

Nationally, suicide rates among non-Hispanic AI/AN persons increased nearly 20% between 2015 and 2020.*

Approximately one third of AI/AN (31.8%) and non-AI/AN suicide decedents (29.7%) had experienced a crisis within the preceding 2 weeks or anticipated a crisis in the upcoming 2 weeks

American Indian and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) between the ages of 10 and 29 account for **63%** of Washington state emergency department visits for suicide attempts in 2020.**

Since 2001, the suicide mortality rate for AI/AN in Washington state has increased by **58%** which is more than **3x** the rate of increase among non-AI/AN. Nationally, the highest suicide rates among (AI/AN) are for adolescents and young adults.**

* <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7137a1.htm>

** <https://www.npaihb.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/WA-Suicide-ED-fact-sheet.pdf>

Tribal Behavioral Health Crisis Response Activities

- Tribal Centric Behavioral Health Advisory Board
- State legislation changes – Washington Indian BH Act
- Trainings – DCR Academy, Forensic Navigators, BH Providers
- Tribal BH Code development
- Washington Indian Behavioral Health Crisis Hub
- DCR Planning Meetings
- Crisis Response Planning
- DCR implementation WACs
- Information gathering with attorneys, judges, evaluation and treatment facilities, plus
- Sustainability planning
- Native and Strong Lifeline (Tribal 988)