

Virtual harm reduction and the National Overdose Response Service

September 23, 2021

1:00-2:30

A discussion on the challenges of harm reduction in rural communities and novel harm reduction strategies to support individuals who use alone.

FNIHB-AB SMOH Dr. Chris Sarin will be reviewing the most recent Alberta Health Services First Nations Opioid Report released in June 2021 which confirmed that First Nations people in Alberta continue to be disproportionately impacted by the opioid crisis. The report highlights a rise in fentanyl presence in First Nations opioid poisonings and shows that First Nations represented 22 per cent of all apparent accidental opioid poisoning deaths in Alberta from January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020 despite making up only 6% of the population.

Learning Outcomes:

- An understanding of the epidemiology of the overdose crisis as it relates to rural communities and people using substances alone.
- Review virtual harm reduction strategies and platforms.
- Discussion on the barriers and facilitators to using these services in your community.

Speakers:

Monty Ghosh - Physician, MD FRCPC, NORS (Cofounder). I work with suburban indigenous populations.

Dr. Chris Sarin - Deputy Medical Officer of Health, FNIHB

Shannon Doubleday - Director, Mental Wellness, FNIHB



Target Audience: Anyone who supports individuals who use substances alone.

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