Addressing Systems and Workforce Issues to Expand Equitable Access to Opioid Use Disorder Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services

Opioid use disorder (OUD) has received significant attention in recent years. Cardea is establishing itself as a leader in the field, focused specifically on the intersections of class, race/ethnicity, and equitable access to the latest prevention, treatment, and recovery innovations. Through its work, Cardea promotes health equity, inclusivity, inter-disciplinary approaches, collaboration, evidence-based practices, evaluation, and impact. Examples of Cardea’s work include:

**Focus on the Fourth**—A recent study by a state task force found that overdose by licit or illicit prescription drugs was among the leading causes of maternal death in Texas and that there are repeated missed opportunities to screen and refer women to treatment for substance use disorder (SUD) in the postpartum period. With support from the St. David’s Foundation, Cardea partnered with Altarum to build clinical capacity in Central Texas to integrate substance use screening, interventions, and referrals. To maximize impact on the postpartum population, the Cardea team also delivered training to local WIC clinics to enhance awareness and knowledge of how to support clients with SUD.

**Preventing Opioid Misuse among Girls Community of Practice (CoP)**—To address increasing drug overdose death rates for adolescent girls, Cardea, in partnership with the Travis County Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, launched a CoP for health professionals in clinical, school, and community-based settings. With support from the HHS Office on Women’s Health, the Cardea team is enhancing awareness and knowledge of how to address opioid use disorder (OUD) and SUD among girls/adolescents.

[Training videos from CoP](#)
Opioid/Addiction ECHO: Capacity Expansion and Collaboration in Indian Country—American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities experience disparities in many health outcomes, including opioid-related overdose deaths. In 2015, AI/AN populations had the highest drug overdose death rates and the largest percentage increase in the number of deaths over time.

To address OUD and SUD in AI/AN communities, Cardea partners with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) to implement the Indian Country Opioid ECHO. With funding from the HHS Office of Minority Health and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Cardea works with NPAIHB to evaluate the Indian Country Opioid ECHO, support strategic planning, and serve as the continuing education provider for clinical training events.

The Indian Country Opioid ECHO expands access to integrated primary care, behavioral health, and substance use specific recovery support services, reaching critically underserved AI/AN people. Specifically, the project aims to prevent OUD, increase access to treatment and recovery services and overdose reversal capacity (focusing on Medication Assisted Treatment for persons with OUD), and reduce the health consequences of OUD in tribal communities using evidence-based interventions. The project reaches AI/AN communities across the U.S., with a specific focus on tribes in 14 states.

NPAIHB Tribal Opioid Response (TOR) Consortium
Indian County ECHO – Substance Use Disorder
Indian Country ECHO – Hepatitis C

National Academy of Medicine’s Countering the Opioid Epidemic – In addition to these specific projects, Cardea is also a member of the National Academy of Medicine’s Countering the Opioid Epidemic Action Collaborative – joining more than 100 organizations across the U.S. in declaring their commitment to reversing national trends in opioid misuse and overdose. Cardea’s commitment statement can be read here.

Learn more about Cardea’s work

Please do not respond to this email, as we are unable to reply from this address. Want to change how you receive these emails? You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.