



## Top 5 Takeaways from the Red Ribbon Campaign Session 1: Lessons from “Strengthening the Ribbon: A Primary Care Approach to Eliminating HIV/AIDS in Indian Country”

### Approach Eliminating HIV Indigenously

Eliminating HIV/AIDS in Indian Country requires a unique approach with Native values at the center. Successful campaigns respect indigenous sovereignty and are culturally responsive, partnering directly with individual AI/AN communities.

### Recognize Opportunities to Prevent HIV

Healthcare providers and others within the healthcare system can intervene at several different junctions to improve care and prevent HIV infections in AI/AN communities. There are many missed opportunities at individual, micro, and macro levels that can be recognized when HIV prevention becomes a priority.

### Understanding Syndemics

HIV, STIs, HCV, SUD, and mental illness cannot be treated as separate epidemics, but must instead be understood as interactive syndemics. These conditions compound the effects of each other in unique, overlapping ways. The interactions between them must be understood to effectively work towards their elimination.

### The Role of Primary Care in Eliminating HIV

Primary care providers should be at the forefront of HIV treatment and prevention efforts. Integrating HIV screening, treatment, and prevention services into primary care will improve health outcomes for AI/AN communities. Primary care providers are also uniquely positioned to provide harm reduction programming, STI/HCV services, and SUD treatment, providing comprehensive services that can work towards eliminating these syndemics.

### Multi-Pronged Strategies

Ending the syndemics of HIV, STIs, HCV, SUD, and mental illness requires embracing them as syndemic and understanding that a variety of strategies need to be employed. We must address the structural, social, and behavioral factors that lead to these conditions in the AI/AN community.

## Resources:

[Syndemics and Public Health: Reconceptualizing Disease in Bio-Social Context](#)

[Lessons from Scott County — Progress or Paralysis on Harm Reduction?](#)

[CDC: HIV Transmission Basics](#)

[What is HIV Pre Exposure Prophylaxis?](#)

[Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Adults and Adolescents Living with HIV](#)

To learn more, join the Indian Country ECHO held on the third Thursday of every month at 11AM PT:

<https://www.indiancountryecho.org/program/infectious-disease/>

