

## White Earth Reservation Overdoses “Urgent Public Health Crisis”

**Monday 12-18-17:** In the past 48 hours, the White Earth Police Department, along with the Mahnomen County Sheriff’s Department, has responded to seven overdose related calls with two resulting in deaths. As the number of heroin deaths on White Earth Reservation and surrounding areas continue to grow, law enforcement officials work to combat the issue.

Chief Michael LaRoque stated the recent spike indicates even regular users of heroin are at a higher risk of dying. “While we are committed to arresting those who sell and possess illegal drugs, we are also mindful of the need for treatment for addiction. We want to encourage heroin users as well as other substance abusers to seek help.” Police are encouraging users to seek medical help and treatment as soon as possible.

White Earth Reservation will continue to focus on increased public education and treatment, enhanced penalties for major traffickers, and greater access to Narcan (also referred to as Naloxone).

The White Earth Overdose Response Team will be in Naytahwaush on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> to provide Narcan training to the community on a walk-in basis. Look for the white and blue White Earth Mobile Unit by the Episcopal Church from 10am-12pm and by the Naytahwaush water tower from 12:30pm-2:30pm. Staff will also be available at the Naytahwaush Sports Complex from 2:30pm-4:30pm. You can help save a life by getting Narcan training.

Please contact the White Earth Police Department, your local Sheriff’s Department, or the White Earth anonymous tipline at 1-877-410-8550 with any pertinent information.

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