IMPACTS OF HISTORICAL TRAUMA & HIV WITHIN NATIVE COMMUNITIES
MISSION
NATIVE HEALTH PROVIDES HOLISTIC, PATIENT CENTERED, CULTURALLY SENSITIVE HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES.

VISION
HEALTHY PEOPLE IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
Our Agreements

Respect, Honor, Inclusion, Participation
TWO-SPIRIT Rooted in Culture
RESERVATION IN ARIZONA
TEXTBOOK DEFINITION

- *Historical Trauma* is defined by Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart, PhD as “cumulative emotional and psychological wounding across generations, including the lifespan, which emanates from massive group trauma.”
EXPOSURE TO HISTORICAL TRAUMA

- Slavery
- Assimilation Policies
- Violence for Colonization
- Generational Loss
  - Language
  - Culture/ Traditions
TWO-SPRIRIT, TWO-SOUL, TWO-HEARTS

These are terms used by some indigenous tribes to describe gender-variant individuals in their communities. It is an all-encompassing term applied to a range of gender identities across the GSM* spectrum.

GSM=gender and sexual minorities
BERDACHE IS A FRENCH ANTHROPOLOGICAL TERM WRONGLY USED TO DESCRIBE A PERSON WITHIN NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES, USUALLY A MALE, WHO ASSUMED THE CLOTHING AND GENDER ROLE OF THE OPPOSITE SEX. THIS TERM REPRESENTS A MISGUIDED ATTEMPT TO DEFINE GENDER IDENTITY AND SEXUAL BEHAVIOR WITH ONE BLANKET TERM, ALTHOUGH THE TWO ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE IDENTIFIERS. THIS TERM WAS USED FROM THE LATE 15TH CENTURY UNTIL 1990.
ROLES OF THE TWO SPIRIT

- Mediators
- Social Workers
- Name Givers
- Love Potions/Matchmakers
- Sun Dances
- Holy people who told the future and brought good luck
- Boys’ and Girls’ Puberty Ceremonies
- Peacemakers for the tribe
- Joined war parties
- Doctors/medicine people

Source: SAMHSA webinar https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LsKmwU3Isig&list=PLBXgZMI_zqIQEgcN674q4nVvdPqdrWqQP&index=38.
INDIAN LIFE FOR THE TWO-SPIRIT DURING THE RESERVATION SYSTEM

• European and Native beliefs clashed
• Dressed children in European clothing (imposing of binary gender system on Native people)
• Christian beliefs forced upon Native people
• Native children placed in government schools

• Intimidation and outright violence of the churches and government agents made many leaders reluctant to defend Two-Spirit people
• Out of love and respect, Two-Spirit relatives were asked to go underground in order to protect them

Source: SAMHSA webinar https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LsKmwU3Islg&list=PLBXgZMLI_zglOEgcN674dVvdPqdrWdQOQ&index=38
Balboa setting his dogs upon Indian practitioners of male love (1594). New York Public Library, Rare Book Room, De Bry Collection, New York.
This is Our Sister, Don’t Mess

My Two Spirit Teachings Include

Being Two Spirit, Trans, I Wouldn’t Have It Any Other Way
Religion vs. Culture

The influx of Western religion brought about a decreased acceptance of multiple gender identification in many Native communities.

Living openly as a third gender person was once an honored reality in many tribes, but colonization brought about a more hostile environment toward people of non-conforming gender identity.
Cultural connectedness can be viewed as a protective factor. Traditional acceptance of non-binary genders can often times lead to greater self-advocacy for two-spirited people.
INTERSECTIONALITY OF HIV RISK & PREVENTION CHALLENGES: NATIVE AMERICANS

- The highest percentages of diagnosed HIV infections due to injection drug use
- High rates of STI’s (2nd highest rate of chlamydia and gonorrhea)
- Cultural diversity of tribes
- Socioeconomic issues
- Mistrust of government and health care facilities
- Data limitations due to racial misidentification

Source: http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/racialethnic/aian/index.html
INTERSECTIONALITY OF HIV RISK & PREVENTION CHALLENGES: TRANS MEN AND WOMEN

• Discrimination and social stigma surrounding trans populations
• Health care provider insensitivity
  • (Deliberate misgendering, lack of knowledge of trans specific medical challenges, etc.)
• Assumptions about sexual orientation and sexual behavior
• Lack of access to culturally responsive care

The Gender Unicorn

Gender Identity
- Female/Woman/Girl
- Male/Man/Boy
- Other Gender(s)

Gender Expression
- Feminine
- Masculine
- Other

Sex Assigned at Birth
- Female
- Male
- Other/Intersex

Physically Attracted to
- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

Emotionally Attracted to
- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

To learn more, go to: www.transstudent.org/gender

Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore
WHAT PUTS YOU AT RISK FOR HIV?

✓ Unprotected sex with an infected partner
✓ Having multiple sex partners
✓ Using Alcohol and Drugs
✓ Sharing needles with an infected person
✓ IV Drug Use
✓ Piercing/tattooing/branding
HIV and Culture

- Evaluate data collection tools
- Opt-out testing
- Training resources
- Representation
- Community Advisory Boards
100% had never tested before although 86% had received previous prevention messages.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!