



Native Americans and Rodeo Sportsmedicine

STEVE WILLIAMSON MD (BLACKFEET)

INFR STETSON SPORTS MEDICINE DIRECTOR

Topics:

- ▶ 1. Culture
- ▶ 2. Historical Trauma
- ▶ 3. Generational Trauma
- ▶ 4. Social Determinants of Health
- ▶ 5. Rodeo

Culture

Surface

- Foods
- Holidays
- Events
- Arts
- ▶ Folklore
- Music
- Language

Deep

- Ceremonies
- **Ethics**
- Values
- Beliefs
- Legends
- Kinship
- Language

History

Surface

- Dwellings (Tipis)
- Food (Meat, berries, roots)
- Clothing (Breech cloth, buckskin)
- Animals (Horses and dogs)
- Artwork (Beads, quills, paintings)
- ► Tools (Buffalo jump, arrowhead, bow)
- ► Environment and encampments

Deep

- Relationships (Kinship to universe)
- Systems (Education, governance)
- Methods (Survival, childrearing, hunt)
- Ceremony, songs, stories
- Language
- Values and Ethics

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

- ▶ Self-actualization: Wards of the government
- Esteem: Boarding School Era
- Love/Belonging: Indian Removal/Allotment Act
- Safety: Bear River Massacre and other military attacks
- ▶ Physiological: Loss of buffalo, starvation, small pox

Historical Trauma

- Policies that perpetuate trauma
- Inflicted on masses of people due to race
- Shifts in culture, loss of language, negative self-identity
- ► Generational trauma creates cycles of abuse and neglect

Generational Trauma

- ► Trauma cycles are passed down from generation to generation
- Resulting in high and disproportionate rates of trauma
- Ongoing
- Patterns
- Epigenetics

SDOH

- Suicide rates
- ► Life expectancy
- Substance abuse
- ACE Scores
- NA are more likely to be killed by police than any other racial group
- NA men incarcerated at 4X the rate of white men
- ▶ NA women incarcerated at 6X the rate of white women
- In Montana, NA constitute 6% of residents, but 25% of people in jail and 22% of people in prison

Healing

- Rebuild positive self-identity through:
 - Knowing the culture
 - Relearning your language
 - Relearning your values
 - Using your cultural coping methods
 - Love yourself again
 - Care about one another
 - Take care of the environment
 - ▶ Learn your ceremonies, songs, and stories
 - Pass your culture to future generations

Recommendations

- Awareness
- Culture
- Adversity
- Resilience
- Mental well being
- Physical well being
- Strong self identity allows for confidence when living in two worlds



Thank you! Steve Williamson MD





