



Data Shows That Drug Overdose Deaths Have Declined *More Improvement Needed*

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(Keshena, WI) While data is still being collected for 2024, across the country there has been a decline in drug overdose incidents and deaths. That same trend has been noted within the Menominee Indian Reservation, likely due to increased education and awareness efforts surrounding drug use and addiction.

[The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) reported, in May, that there was a 3% decrease in overdose deaths from 2022 to 2023 within the United States, a milestone statistic that hasn't been seen since 2018. The Menominee Tribe, who declared a state of emergency in 2022 related to the impacts of drug use and addiction, has seen an almost 70% decrease in overdose incidents so far this year.

"These promising statistics are a testament to the efforts of our organizations, departments and community leaders who are providing accurate information, education and the necessary resources to those struggling with addiction and substance abuse," said Ben Warrington, [Emergency Management Director](#) and co-chair of the [Menominee Indian Tribe Drug Addiction Intervention Team \(DAIT\)](#).

While the decrease is good news, it doesn't mean that the great work being done to combat addiction and substance abuse is no longer needed. Many clinics and treatment centers, such as Maehnowesekiyah Wellness Center, have seen an increase in the number of patients seeking assistance for mental health and/or addiction issues.

"We are seeing a mindset shift, specifically in our younger community members. People are more willing to ask for help," noted Addie Caldwell, Director of Wellness Programs at [Maehnowesekiyah Wellness Center](#) and co-chair of DAIT. "There is an acknowledgement of wanting to change, and this is a very positive development. Still, some hurdles remain."

Throughout the country issues, such as access to care and treatments, program funding, adequate provider staffing, law limitations and limited resources within jails and prisons, remain. These issues impact the timely provision of services.

Warrington shared, "This fight may never be over, but we will continue to work together to find solutions that lead to healthy outcomes for our communities, now and in the future."

Addiction and mental health support is available to everyone! To find resources within the Menominee Reservation, please visit <https://www.menominee-nsn.gov/GovernmentPages/Initiatives/DAIT.aspx>.

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About Drug Addiction Intervention Team (DAIT): The mission of the DAIT is to reduce and mitigate the impacts of drug use in the Menominee Nation community through education, cultural integration, collaboration and integration of service providers among tribal, county, private, state and federal partners.

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