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WESTERN TRADER

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ISSUE NO. 44

DINING • ARTS • ENTERTAINMENT • EVENTS



COMING TO SPROCKETS — Bobby Joe Holman will perform at Sprockets Fun Foundry in Keystone this Friday evening at 5:30 p.m. Holman is a master on the harmonica and mixes it with great guitar strumming to make for one amazing evening. He's performed with Joe Huston, Big Black, Floyd Sneed, Joe Shermie of Three Dog Night, Buddy Reed and the Rip it Ups, John Marx, and The Blues Patrol. [Submitted Photo]

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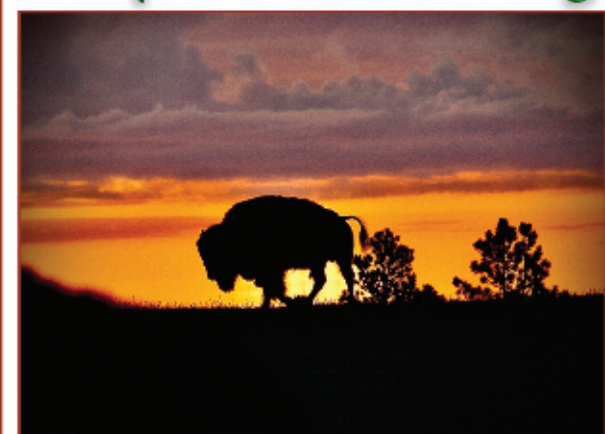
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Overdose deaths are rising among Black and Indigenous Americans

By Tim Henderson
Stateline
via South Dakota
Searchlight

The recent decline in overdose deaths hides a tremendous disparity by race: Deaths have fallen only among white people while continuing to rise among people of color, according to a new Stateline analysis of federal data.

Health experts in non-white communities say they're finding strategies that work in their areas, but that they still struggle for recognition and funding to address the problems, especially among Black and Native people.

In all, nearly 5,000 more people of color died from overdoses in 2023 than in 2021, while deaths among white people dropped by more than 6,000, according to the analysis of provisional data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As of early this year, based on partial counts, Black and Native people remain the hardest hit, having earlier in the pandemic surpassed white rates. Hispanic and Asian people are still experiencing more overdose deaths as well.

White people had the highest rate of overdose deaths in 2019, before the pandemic, at 25.4 deaths for every 100,000 people in the U.S. population. But rates for Black and Native people quickly surpassed white rates and continued to grow as white rates declined between 2021 and 2023. In 2023, the death rates were 49.5 and 39.8 per 100,000 for Black and Native people, respectively.

Tracie Gardner, co-director of the National Black Harm Reduction Network, said Black and Native people often have trouble navigating white-dominated institutions, including many harm reduction agencies. Such agencies need to have more people of color in leadership positions to gain the trust of Black, Native and other people who use drugs, she said.

"It is our contention that Black harm reduction isn't

about drug use, it's about the harms of not being a white person in this country," Gardner said. "The only people doing worse or as poorly are Native Americans."

Different trends

Between 2021 and 2023, overdose deaths among white people dropped in all but a dozen states, most of them in the West. But few states saw any decline in deaths among Black or Native American populations. Deaths among Black people did decline, however, in Indiana (-75), the District of Columbia (-29) and Illinois (-22), while deaths among Native people declined in North Carolina (-34), Colorado (-11) and North Dakota (-9).

Connecticut was one of the few states to see a small rate drop among its Black residents. There was no change in the number of overdose deaths, but the Black population grew between 2021 and 2023.

The Connecticut Harm Reduction Alliance is working to bring more harm reduction tools to the Black community and others, with 100 mobile kits available at a moment's notice.

Most recently, staff started going to meet people leaving detox programs, also known as withdrawal management, when they choose to leave early and are at especially high risk of overdose.

"The message is, 'Even though this didn't work out, we care about your welfare, we care about your safety, we want to see you come back,'" said Mark Jenkins, the alliance's executive director.

Too few services are specifically designed for the Black community, Jenkins said, even though data shows that the overdose crisis is hitting that population the hardest.

"We know that this disproportionately affects people of color, and we're right out there where people need to see us," he said of his organization's approach. "A lot of our people don't access services if they're not right there in their path."



OVERDOSE AWARENESS — Carlos Santiago, an ambassador and driver for the Greater Hartford Harm Reduction Coalition (now known as the Connecticut Harm Reduction Alliance), works at a mobile overdose prevention event in 2022 in New Haven, Connecticut. [Photo courtesy of Connecticut Harm Reduction Alliance, formerly known as Greater Hartford Harm Reduction Coalition]

A lack of funding

The overdose death numbers for American Indian and Native Alaskan people may be even higher than the Stateline analysis indicates, because Native people often are misidentified in death certificates, said Philomena Kebec, an attorney and member of the Wisconsin-based Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

"These numbers about the impact on tribal and Alaska Native individuals are really stark," Kebec told Stateline.

Many tribes struggle to provide overdose-halting naloxone and other medications because of chronic underfunding for health services, Kebec, who also is a fellow on addiction and overdose at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, said on a Brookings Institution podcast last month.

But increasingly, tribes are turning to mobile programs not unlike Connecticut's. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in Oregon is adapting buses to help people get methadone and

buprenorphine that help curb opioid withdrawal symptoms.

Kebec said in an interview that her own tribe in Wisconsin began a mail-order naloxone program using private donations, but added it could do more with state funding that has yet to be approved.

"We have programming that's really keyed into how things have to happen in rural communities. We have a lot of people who have transportation issues, so we have to come to them," she said.

Tribes and helpers need more funding for research to find root causes and more timely information from hospitals to find overdose outbreaks quickly and intervene, she said. It's a need everywhere, but means even more in Native communities, which are often spread out in rural areas.

In the Black community, men older than 55 are especially hard hit, said Gardner, of the National Black Harm Reduction Network. She noticed their deaths start to increase in the mid-2010s, when she served as New York state's

assistant secretary of health, and later realized those deaths were "the canary in the coal mine" that signaled deadly fentanyl's infiltration into supplies of other drugs.

During the pandemic, "older [Black] men lost their communities, their family supports. There are some men who became homeless and there was no safety network," Gardner said. "Plus, men still associate going out and getting health care with a woman's thing. A lot of care is geared to women."

Dr. Edwin Chapman, a District of Columbia physician whose practice serves many older Black men who use drugs, said that like others trying to help Black and Native people, he's had trouble getting funding. His innovations include early use of buprenorphine to curb opioid cravings.

"There has been more pushback from local officials than help," Chapman said.

Stateline is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501(c)(3) public

charity. Stateline maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Scott S. Greenberger for questions: info@stateline.org. Follow Stateline on Facebook and X.

Tim Henderson covers demographics for Stateline. He has been a reporter at the Miami Herald, the Cincinnati Enquirer and The Journal News in suburban New York. Henderson became fascinated with census data in the early 1990s, when AOL offered the first computerized reports. Since then he has broken stories about population trends in South Florida, including a housing affordability analysis included in the 2007 Pulitzer-winning series "House of Lies" for the Miami Herald, and a prize-winning analysis of public pension irregularities for The Journal News. He has been a member and trainer for the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting since its inception 20 years ago, specializing in online data access and visualization along with demographics.

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HOT STUFF PIZZA

Daily
5 a.m. - 6 p.m.

TACO JOHN'S

Daily
11 a.m.–10 p.m.

HANNAH'S HEAVENLY TREATS

Tues - Fri 7 a.m.– 2 p.m.
Saturday 7 a.m.- 10 a.m.

HOWDY BAKERY

Thursday, Friday, Saturday
8 a.m.–6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

HI-16 CAFE

Thursday–Sunday
7 a.m.–9 p.m.

ISABELLA'S

Sunday–Wednesday
11 a.m.–8 p.m.
Thursday - Saturday
11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

PERKINS TAVERN

Monday–Wednesday
11 a.m.–8 p.m.
Thursday - Sunday
7 am - 9 pm

PIZZA BARN

Monday–Thursday
4–9 pm
Friday & Saturday
4–10 pm

UNCLE VITO'S

Tuesday–Friday
7 a.m.–2 p.m.
Saturday
7 a.m.–10 a.m.

PRINGLE EATS

THE HITCHRAIL BAR & RESTAURANT

Tuesday–Sunday
11 a.m.–8 p.m.

RAPID CITY EATS

SHIPWRECK'S BAR & GRILL

Monday–Wednesday
11 a.m.–8 p.m.

BELLE FOURCHE EATS

BLACK HILLS DINER

Tuesday–Saturday
7 a.m.–2 p.m.

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BLACK HILLS

Live

LIVE MUSIC - LOCAL EVENTS

Wednesday 10-30

Men's Breakfast
Bible Study
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
7:30 AM

Seniors Functional Fitness
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9 AM

Women's Study
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
10 AM

Seniors Bridge Card Games
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
10 AM - 3 PM

Kidzlife
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
3:15-5:15 PM

Youth Group
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
5-8 PM

Burger Night
Custer VFW
Custer, SD
5-8 PM

Life With Christ
Adult Study
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
6 PM

Trivia Night
HippieRockStar Boutique
Wine & Beer Bar
Hill City, SD
6 PM

Bingo at the Beacon
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
6:30-8:30 PM

Crossroads Church
Xtreme Youth Group
Edward Jones (27 N 6th)
Custer, SD
6:30 PM

Pringle AA Group
Pringle Community Center
Pringle, SD
7 PM

Thursday 10-31

Halloween

Women's Bible Study
Fellowship
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
8:30 AM

Seniors Stretch and Flex
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9 AM

Seniors Mahjong
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
10 AM - 12 PM

Seniors Hand & Foot Card Games
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
1 PM

Imagination Club
Hill City Public
Library Kids' Annex
Hill City, SD
3:15 PM

Merchants Trick or Treat
Downtown Custer
Custer, SD
4-6 PM

Classic Car Trunk or Treat
and Show & Shine
S&B Motor Parts
Custer, SD
4-6 PM

Friends of
Bill W. AA Meeting
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Hot Springs, SD
6 PM

Biblical Citizenship Class
Living Outreach Church
25189 Hwy. 385
Custer, SD
6-8:30 PM

Custer AA Group
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
7 PM

Civil Air Patrol
Custer County Airport
Custer, SD
7 PM

Friday 11-1

Hill City Girlfriends'
Weekend

Custer County
Democrats Breakfast
Laughing Water Restaurant
Crazy Horse Memorial
Custer, SD
9:15 AM

Seniors Coffee Club
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9-11 AM



TREAT OR TREAT TIME — It's Halloween time, which means it trick or treat time in Custer. The Merchants' Trick or Treat is set for Halloween evening from 4-6 p.m. in downtown Custer, along with the Classic Car Trunk or Treat and Show & Shine, which will take place near S&B Motor Parts. [Submitted Photo]

Community Food Pantry
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
9-11 AM

Story Time
Hill City Public Library
Kids Annex
Hill City, SD
9:30 AM

Story Time
Custer County Library
Custer, SD
10 AM

Bobby Joe Holman *LIVE*
Sprockets Fun Foundry
Keystone, SD
5:30 PM

Hill City Girlfriends'
Weekend Fashion Show
Diamond Spur Event Center
Hill City, SD
Doors open 5:30 PM
Fashion Show 6:30 PM

Steak Night
Custer VFW
Custer, SD
5:30-7:30 PM

Hill City High School
Presents: *Deadline, a Murder Mystery Comedy*
High School Theater
Hill City, SD
Doors Open 6 PM
Play Begins 7 PM
Admission free-will donation

Saturday 11-2

City of Custer Cleanup Day
Old Dump Site
Intersection of Sylvan Lake
and Willow Creek Roads
Custer, SD
9 AM-2 PM

Custer County
Democrat Breakfast
Laughing Water Restaurant
at Crazy Horse Memorial
Custer, SD
9:30 AM

Friends of
Bill W. AA Meeting
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Hot Springs, SD
10 AM

Custer AA Group
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
10 AM

Custer State Park Fall
Classic Buffalo Auction
Custer State Park
Visitor Center
Custer, SD
10 AM

Hill City Girlfriends'
Weekend Scavenger Hunt
Hill City, SD
10 AM - 4 PM
Turn in Sheets at Tin City
Saloon

SoDak Annual Sample Sale
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
10 AM - 4 PM

ArtForms Silent Auction
ArtForms Gallery
Hill City, SD
10 AM - 4:30 PM

Custer County
Historical Society
Custer County Courthouse
Annex Pine Room
Custer, SD
2:30 PM

Sex and the City Trivia
Addie Camp General Store
Hill City, SD
3 PM
Free

Custer Community Church
Turkey Dinner
547 Harney St.
Custer, SD
3-6 PM
\$14
Takeout Only

Select-A-Gift Benefit Event
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
5-10 PM

Trivia Night
Sprockets Fun Foundry
Keystone, SD
5:30 PM

The Wilt Brothers Band *LIVE*
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
7:30-10:30 PM

Hill City Girlfriends'
Weekend Scavenger Hunt
Prizes
Tin City Saloon
Hill City, SD
6 PM

Hill City High School
Presents: *Deadline, a Murder Mystery Comedy*
High School Theater
Hill City, SD
Doors Open 6 PM
Play Begins 7 PM
Admission free-will donation

Buffalo Gap
Community Dance *LIVE*
Buffalo Gap
Community Center
Buffalo Gap, SD
7 PM

Old Fashioned Barn Dance
Custer YMCA
Custer, SD
7-9 PM

Sunday 11-3

Hill City Girlfriends'
Weekend Sunday Brunch &
Motivational Speaker Katy
Kinnan "Art of Showing Up"
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9 AM
Tickets required

Custer Community Action
Team Food Distribution
CAT Building, Corner of N.
6th and Lincoln streets
Custer, SD
10 AM to 1 PM

Women's 12-Step Recovery
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
10:15 AM

AA Meeting
Keystone Community
Center
Keystone, SD
6 PM



WILT BROTHERS BACK AT THE BEACON — The Wilt Brothers Band will be among the entertainment at Saturday's Select-A-Gift Benefit event, scheduled for Saturday from 5-10 p.m. The night will feature a silent auction from 5:30-7:15 p.m. and a live auction at 6:30 p.m. as well as games. All proceeds go toward Christmas gifts for lower-income residents of Custer County. [Submitted Photo]

Monday 11-4

Seniors Functional Fitness
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9 AM

Community Food Pantry
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
9-11 AM

Garden Club Soup Lunch
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
10:30 AM - 12 PM

Custer Rotary Club
Custer Senior Center
Custer, SD
Noon

Chick Chat and Crafts
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
4-6 PM

Hill City Planning
and Zoning Meeting
City Hall
Hill City, SD
5:30 PM

Custer City Council
Custer City Hall
Custer, SD
5:30 PM

AA Meeting
Lighthouse Assembly of God
Hill City, SD
7 PM

Buffalo Gap Town Board
Buffalo Gap Town Hall
Buffalo Gap, SD
7 PM

Tuesday 11-5

Election Day

Seniors Beginning Line
Dancing
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9 AM

Seniors Hand & Foot
Card Games
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
1-3 PM

Seniors Knitting &
Crocheting Group
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
1-3 PM

Custer Piecemakers
Quilt Guild
Custer Lutheran Fellowship
Custer, SD
1:30 PM

Celebrate Recovery
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
5:45 PM

Hill City Lions Club
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
6 PM

Friends of
Bill W. AA Meeting
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Hot Springs, SD
6 PM

Firecracker Bingo
Gold Pan Saloon
Custer, SD
6:30 PM

Custer AA Group
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
7 PM

Friends of
Bill W. AA Meeting
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Hot Springs, SD
6 PM

Firecracker Bingo
Gold Pan Saloon
Custer, SD
6:30 PM

Custer AA Group
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
7 PM

Wednesday 11-6

Men's Breakfast
Bible Study
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
7:30 AM

Driver's License Exams
Custer County Courthouse
Annex Pine Room
Custer, SD
8 AM to 5 PM

Seniors Functional Fitness
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9 AM

Women's Study
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
10 AM

Seniors Bridge Card Games
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
10 AM - 3 PM

Hill City Seniors Lunch
Bunch
Hill City, SD
11:30 AM

Kidzlife
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
3:15-5:15 PM

Ladies Night Out
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
6 PM

Youth Group
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
5-8 PM

Burger Night
Custer VFW
Custer, SD
5-8 PM

Keystone Town Board
Meeting
Keystone Community
Center
Keystone, SD
6 PM

Life With Christ Adult
Study
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
6 PM

Trivia Night
HippieRockStar Boutique
Wine & Beer Bar
Hill City, SD
6 PM

Crossroads Church
Xtreme Youth Group
Edward Jones (27 N 6th)
Custer, SD
6:30 PM

Custer Rotary Club Bingo
Custer VFW
Custer, SD
6 PM

Pringle AA Group
Pringle Community Center
Pringle, SD
7 PM

Thursday 11-7

Custer County Commission
Custer County Courthouse
Custer, SD
8 AM

Women's Bible Study
Fellowship
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
8:30 AM

Seniors Stretch and Flex
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9 AM

Seniors Mahjong
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
10 AM - 12 PM

Seniors Hand &
Foot Card Games
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
1 PM

Imagination Club
Hill City Public
Library Kids' Annex
Hill City, SD
3:15 PM

Impact Leadership
Development
Laughing Water Restaurant
at Crazy Horse Memorial
Custer, SD
4-8 PM

Help Your Child
Learn to Read
Custer County Courthouse
Annex Pine Room
Custer, SD
5 PM

Hill City Park Board
Meeting
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
6 PM

Friends of
Bill W. AA Meeting
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Hot Springs, SD
6 PM

Biblical Citizenship Class
Living Outreach Church
25189 Hwy. 385
Custer, SD
6-8:30 PM

Christmas Cantata Practice
Our Savior's
Lutheran Church
Hermosa, SD
6:30-8 PM

Custer AA Group
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
7 PM

Civil Air Patrol
Custer County Airport
Custer, SD
7 PM

Friday 11-8

Seniors Coffee Club
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
9-11 AM

Community Food Pantry
The Little White Church
Hill City, SD
9-11 AM

Story Time
Hill City Public Library
Kid's Annex
Hill City, SD
9:30 AM

Story Time
Custer County Library
Custer, SD
10 AM

Wellness Support Group
Monument Health Group
Hospital Conference Room
Custer, SD
2 PM

The Bobbys *LIVE*
Sprockets Fun Foundry
Keystone, SD
5:30 PM

The Barstool Prophets *LIVE*
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
7-10 PM

Saturday 11-9

Friends of
Bill W. AA Meeting
Bethesda Lutheran Church
Hot Springs, SD
10 AM

Custer AA Group
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD
10 AM

Native American
Heritage Day
Jewel Cave National
Monument
Custer, SD
10 AM-2 PM

Seniors Lefse Making Class
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
1-5 PM

Custer Community Action
Team Food Distribution
CAT Building, Corner of N.
6th and Lincoln Streets
Custer, SD
2-5 PM

Wine & Cheese Pairing
Addie Camp General Store
Hill City, SD
5 PM
\$15

Chess Club
Pringle Town Hall
Pringle, SD
5-7 PM

Karaoke Night
Custer Beacon
Custer, SD
6:30-10 PM

Hot Springs Concert
Association Presents
Jason Coleman *LIVE*
Belle Fourche Area Rec
Center Theatre
Belle Fourche, SD
7 PM

Sunday 11-10

Seniors Sunday Breakfast
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
8 AM - 12 PM

Women's 12-Step Recovery
Custer Alano Club
Custer, SD

Community Lutheran
Church Harvest Dinner
Hill City Center
Hill City, SD
3-6 PM

Craft Beer & Bingo
Miner Brewing Company
Hill City, SD
4-5:30 PM

AA Meeting
Keystone Community
Center
Keystone, SD
6 PM

Hot Springs Concert
Association Presents
Jason Coleman *LIVE*
Newcastle Crouch
Auditorium
Newcastle, Wyo.
7 PM

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