NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

# Walking a Good Path

2001 Calendar

## Walking a Good Path

### Introduction

For many Native people of the Americas, life is a journey. From the first breath to the last, life takes a winding course of twists and turns. Many Native ancestors believed that walking a good path was a measure of character, and an honorable way to live. Today many forces lure people away from the good path. Drug abuse and addiction have found a way into Native culture, injecting unnatural and harmful elements into the souls of Native people, their families, and communities.

This calendar sends the message that now is the

time for Native communities to walk the good

path together. It starts with sharing information

about drug addiction and how to prevent it. Knowing

the types of drugs most frequently abused and their harmful effects is among the first steps in educating people about the high risks involved with taking

drugs. But, most importantly, the message is one of hope. Drug addiction can be treated; people can heal. And, through preventive measures, drug abuse can be stopped before it starts.

The message of hope underlies the images represented each month. Although statistics rank Native American and

Alaska Native youth high for use of illicit drugs,

there are countless examples of Native people who excel by living healthy and productive lives. Twelve images of such people, along with quotes from American Indian youth who have chosen to walk without drugs, are reflected in this

2001 calendar, Walking a Good Path.



# January

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February 2001

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	New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
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14	Martin Luther King, Jr., Day	16	17	18	19	20 Inauguration Day
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

"A life without drugs is rich with love and humanness. That is why I have chosen the path I have."

Keith Edgar Odawa-Potawatoni

## Courage to Resist

To some people, happiness does not come easily, so they may actually "medicate" themselves by taking illegal drugs. Others may use drugs to fit in, take a risk, or try something new. Most drugs give most users a sense of feeling good, usually by artificially overstimulating the parts of the brain that control pleasure. But repeated voluntary drug taking, or drug "abuse," can switch without warning into involuntary drug taking, or drug "addiction." Drug addiction is a brain disease. It can turn people who use drugs when they want to into people who crave drugs constantly. A person becomes compulsively driven to use drugs just to feel normal because the drugs have altered brain function. Most people need treatment to stop the spiraling cycle of addiction. For American Indians, this often includes a return to spiritual ways.





### March 2001 February S M W S Groundhog Day 5 8 10 6 17 12 13 14 15 16 Valentine's Day 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 Presidents' Day 25 26 27 28

"To me, being drug free means that I am a pure person, I am smart, and know the consequences of using drugs."

Ash Wednesday

Chris Camudo Layna Pueblo

### We Are One

Community involvement is important to preventing or overcoming drug abuse problems, especially in American Indian communities. It makes it easier to seek help from people trained in drug abuse prevention who are Native people themselves. Many tribes have the expertise and resources to develop their own prevention programs geared toward their community, issues, culture, families, and spiritual ways. Among American Indian and Alaska Native communities, this approach could be called a "tribal," "cultural," or "Native" approach. To be successful in preventing drug abuse, the entire tribe must be involved in living the message and sharing accurate information.





# March

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18	19	20 Spring Equinox	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

"I respect my body and I don't want to destroy it over something as meaningless as drugs."

> Kimberley George Cherokee Nation Youth Council

### Seek Wisdom

The best way to prevent drug abuse is to learn about the health risks involved and other problems associated with taking drugs. The most serious health risks among drug abusers come from infections and diseases, namely HIV and AIDS, hepatitis B and C, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, and other viral or bacterial infections. These risks can come from sharing unclean equipment to inject drugs or from having unprotected sex with someone infected.





### May 2001 S M W Τ S 4 5 6 Daylight Saving Time Begins 9 10 11 12 13 14 Palm Sunday Passover Begins Good Friday 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 Easter 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 Earth Day 29 30

"I have never used illegal drugs because I was brought up to respect my culture, my family, my elders, and myself."

> Jessica Whitener Cherokee

## Hope Through Values

Healing from drug addiction can be a lifelong journey. People in treatment for drug addiction learn ways to control their condition so they can lead normal and productive lives. The ultimate goal of treatment is to help people stay off drugs for life. But the immediate goals are to reduce drug use, help people function normally, and help them prepare for a life without drugs. Medical detoxification may be needed to begin treatment, but by itself is not treatment. Treatment programs that incorporate Native values and practices-such as respect, prayer, discipline, patience-provide greater opportunities for maintaining a drug-free life.





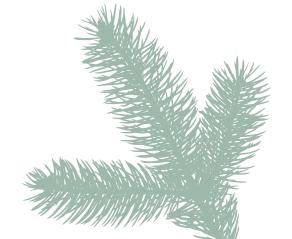
#### June 2001 19 S M W T S 3 2 4 5 8 9 10 11 12 6 14 17 19 13 15 16 18 Mother's Day Armed Forces Day 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 Memorial Day

"Being drug free isn't as much a choice as a way of life, and the start of a great future."

George Hiney, Jr.
 Tohon Obdum

## **Healing Ways**

Drug addiction treatment can be described as breaking a big task into manageable pieces. This is usually through counseling, but medications also can be used in the treatment of certain drug addictions to stabilize a person, reduce cravings, and help the body to heal through remaining drug free. Addiction is a complex illness. No one treatment works best for everyone. Treatment should be matched to a person's unique needs. Also, good outcomes depend on adequate lengths of stay in treatment.





# June

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July 2001

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15	16
17 Father's Day	18	19	20	21 Summer Solstice	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

"I never needed drugs in my life to be cool, fit in, have fun, or pollute my body."

Brian Frejo
 Pawnee Tribe/Seminole

### Sometimes Sacred

Nicotine is an addictive substance found in products made from tobacco leaves, such as cigarettes and cigars. It is absorbed through the skin and lining of the mouth and nose, or by inhaling into the lungs. The body's immediate reaction is an adrenaline surge, which suddenly releases glucose as it increases blood pressure, respiration, and heart rate. Nicotine also may have a calming effect, depending on a person's nervous system and the dosage. Frequent use, as in repeated cigarette use, greatly increases the chances of becoming addicted. In the case of cigarettes, toxins in the smoke greatly increase a person's chances of getting lung and heart diseases such as cancer, chronic bronchitis, and emphysema. "Tobacco" used for sacred purposes in traditional American Indian prayer and healing does not contain nicotine: it is made from the bark of a tree.





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	1	2	3	Independence Day	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27 <b>•</b>	28
	29	30	31				

<sup>&</sup>quot;It was...a decision between me and my brother to get clean. Life is a lot clearer."

Catching Your Breath

Inhalants are chemical vapors from common household solvents and aerosol sprays, such as glue, spray paint, ink, lighter fluid, gasoline, and cans of whipped cream. When inhaled deeply, some of these vapors can produce a sense of euphoria. Unfortunately, most can be extremely toxic. High doses of inhalants force the body and its organs to be starved of oxygen, creating erratic heartbeats and loss of breath similar to the experience of drowning. In the short term, inhalants may cause heart palpitations, delirium, breathing difficulty, dizziness, and headaches. Long-term effects include irreversible damage to the nervous system, irregular heart rhythms, muscle weakness, headaches, nausea, nosebleeds, decreased sense of smell, abnormal kidney and liver functions, incontinence, violent behavior, and dangerous chemical imbalances in the body. [Street names: bang, oz, whippets, locker room



August 2001



# August

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## The Learning Path

The part of the brain that controls learning and memory can be affected by marijuana. The active ingredient in marijuana is THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol). From smoked marijuana, THC is absorbed into the body and acts upon certain nerve cells. In the short term, marijuana use may result in a sense of well-being. Frequent marijuana use, however, may lead to memory loss and learning disabilities, distorted perception, difficulty in thinking and problem solving, loss of coordination, increased heart rate, and anxiety and panic attacks. Some findings suggest that regular marijuana use, particularly smoking, also may play a significant part in the onset of cancer. [Street names: weed, ace, hay, grifa, black mo, tea]

"The way smoking weed made me feel was dumb, slow.
I had a bad feeling of not knowing what I was saying."

- Mia C. Laguna Pueblo





# September

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

October 2001

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Labor Day					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		Rosh Hashanah Begins				Autumnal Equinox
23	24 <b>O</b>	25	26	27	28	29
30				Yom Kippur Begins	Native American Day	

"I am aware of what drugs can do to my body, mind, and spirit. I am proud to be strong and drug free."

— Shoneen Alexander

## Aware of the Heart

Cocaine is a strong and dangerous stimulant. It affects the brain by causing a buildup of the chemical dopamine, which on initial use can result in a feeling of intense pleasure ("rush"). Derived from the coca plant, cocaine has two chemical forms—a watersoluble powder that can be sniffed or injected, and a freebase form ("crack") that has been processed into crystalline chunks that are heated and then smoked. Use of either form can result in chaotic heart rhythm and heart attacks, strokes and seizures, muscle twitches, and abdominal pain and nausea. Because of the risks of erratic heartbeat and stroke, cocaine use can be fatal, even the first time. [Street names, cocaine: coke, c, snow] [Street names, crack: brick, candy, hail, kryptonite]





#### October 13 15 16 20 21 22 29 S W M Τ S 3 4 5 6 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 Daylight Saving Time Ends Halloween

### "Because I don't use, I push myself and excel in whatever I want to do."

Mat Pendleton Lower Sioux Community

November 2001

### **Self-Awareness**

Processed from the morphine found in certain types of poppy plants, heroin is either injected or inhaled. In the brain, the drug actually is converted to morphine. Initially, heroin abusers typically report feeling an intense surge of pleasure, which depends on how much heroin is taken and how quickly it enters the brain. The rush, however, is usually accompanied by dryness in the mouth, and heaviness in the legs and arms. Slowed breathing, confusion, no awareness of pain, or spontaneous abortion might also occur. Heroin abusers and addicts are at very high risk for becoming infected with viruses such as HIV and hepatitis C and bacterial infections, and also for developing collapsed veins, abscesses, infected heart lining and valves, arthritis, and rheumatoid problems. [Street names: bomb, brea, parachute, smack]





## November

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S	M	Т	W	Т	F	S
				American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

"Warriors don't use drugs, fools use drugs...I am a Warrior, not a fool."

## **Moving Ahead**

Methamphetamine is a very toxic stimulant that affects the central nervous system. It is a white, odorless, crystalline powder that can be dissolved in liquid and injected, snorted, or swallowed, and also comes in a crystalline chunk form ("ice") that is smoked. Methamphetamine stimulates the release of high levels of dopamine, a chemical in the brain that affects mood and body movement. Abusers of this drug typically appear agitated and sometimes become aggressive and violent. The drug may cause memory loss, heart and brain damage, confusion, insomnia, nausea, and vomiting. Users also are at risk of increased body temperature and convulsions, which can be fatal. Long-term effects include severe movement disorders similar to Parkinson's disease, paranoia, hallucinations, mood disturbances, weight loss, and damage to blood vessels in the brain which can lead to strokes. [Street names: chalk, crank, crypto, lemon drop]



December 2001



# December

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27	28	20	30	31		

January 2002

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	Hanukkah Begins	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice	22
23 0	24 31	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29

"I want to make my mom proud—also my family and my tribe."

 Mat Pendleton Lower Sioux Community

## Hold On to Joy

"Club drugs" are drugs that are often used at night clubs and allnight dances, although their use is spreading to many other settings. Ecstasy (street names: X, Adam, E, clarity) produces stimulant and mild hallucinogenic effects, and dramatically increases heart rate, blood pressure, and body temperature. Chronic use or high doses can cause memory loss, muscle breakdown, and kidney and cardiovascular system failure. Rohypnol (street names: rophies, roofies, forget me) is also called the "date rape" drug because it is odorless, tasteless, dissolves easily in drinks, and can incapacitate a victim for 8 to 12 hours. It decreases blood pressure; causes drowsiness, dizziness, and confusion; and makes victims unable to recall what happened. GHB (street names: scoop, G, liquid Ecstasy, Georgia home boy) is used in low doses to relieve anxiety, but overdoses can result in vomiting, loss of reflexes, difficulty in breathing, or coma. It is also abused for the purpose of increasing muscle mass.

### Resources

#### **Government Agencies:**

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

6001 Executive Boulevard Rm. 5213, MSC-9561 Bethesda, MD 20892-9561 Ph: 301-443-1124 www.drugabuse.gov www.clubdrugs.org www.steroidabuse.org

Indian Health Service (IHS)

Office of the Director 5600 Fishers Lane Rm. 6-05 Rockville, MD 20857 Ph: 301-443-3593 www.ihs.gov

Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs

Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention MS-2554 1849 C Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20240 202-219-0844 www.doi.gov/bia/as-ia.htm

National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI)

(Offers publications and videos on drug abuse, prevention, and treatment.) P.O. Box 2345 Rockville, MD 20852 1-800-729-6686 (TDD: 1-800-487-4889) www.health.org

Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)

5600 Fishers Lane, Rockwall II Rockville, MD 20857 Ph: 301-443-0373 www.samhsa.gov/csap/index.htm Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)

5600 Fishers Lane, Rockwall II Suite 618 Rockville, MD 20857

Ph: 301-443-5052 www.samhsa.gov/csat/csat.htm

CSAT's National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Routing Service

(Offers alcohol and other drug abuserelated information and/or referrals to people seeking treatment programs and other assistance.) Ph: 1-800-662-HELP (4357) Español: 1-800-662-9832 TDD: 1-800-228-0427 www.samhsa.gov/ufds/welcome\_m.htm

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) 6000 Executive Boulevard, Willco Building

Bethesda, MD 20892-7003 Ph: 301-443-3860 www.niaaa.nih.gov

Native American Organizations and Urban Indian Centers:

American Indian Center of Chicago

Ph: 773-275-5871

American Indian Center of South Carolina

Ph: 803-790-8214

American Indian Clubhouse of Los Angeles

Ph: 213-202-3976

American Indian Community House (New York City)

Ph: 212-598-0100

American Indian Education Center (Cleveland)

Ph: 216-281-8480

American Indian Health Council Ph: 818-901-3501

AIM Support Group of Ohio & Northern Kentucky
Ph: 606-586-7210

American Indian Prevention Coalition Ph: 602-532-7202

Baltimore American Indian Center Ph: 410-675-3535

Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center (Pittsburgh)
Ph: 412-782-4457

The Denver Indian Center Ph: 303-936-2688

Fort Erie Native Friendship Center (Buffalo, New York, area) Ph: 905-871-8931

Odawa Native Friendship Center (Ontario, Canada, area) Ph: 613-722-3811

Pelathe Community Resource Center (Lawrence, Kansas) Ph: 785-749-0703

San Diego Native American Health Center Ph: 619-234-2158

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