MENTAL HEALTH
SUICIDE PREVENTION

Objectives: Increase understanding of preventing suicide among Native American Veterans and the VHA’s suicide prevention program by covering information on suicide among Native American Veterans and the VHA’s approach to partnering with communities including Native Nations. We will discuss warning signs of suicide and what to do, including resources to contact or refer Veterans to and the role of VHA suicide prevention coordinators in supporting Veterans.

Nathaniel Mohatt
My name is Nate Mohatt. I was raised on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation in a mixed white and Lakota family. When I was eight we moved to Alaska, where my family became close with many Alaska Native people as well. My father, Ta Čhaŋnúŋpa Waste (His Pipe Is Good), dedicated his life to the service of indigenous people, and raised us to practice our Lakota ways.

Today, I give back through my work as a community psychologist, conducting research with and implementing new mental health programs for rural, indigenous, and military and veteran communities. My areas of expertise are developing community-based suicide prevention programs, community-based participatory research to reduce health disparities, and cross-cultural considerations for suicide prevention. I serve as a Supervisory Research Psychologist with the VA’s Rocky Mountain Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (RMIRECC); an Assistant Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Colorado Denver (UCD) School of Medicine; and a Clinical Instructor in Psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine, Division of Prevention and Community Research.

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