

Where Do We Live?  
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In cities where higher education and the opportunity for personal advancement exists or on the beautiful lands that our ancestors inhabited for many generations; any place where there is a large population of native people there is a high percentage of alcoholism. Domestic violence, crime and human suffering flourishes on every level because of the alcoholism that runs rampant among native tribes.

It is not the physical location of where we live but something much deeper that drives us to medicate ourselves more than any other people group. Is there an answer to the question of why we medicate ourselves? Or for that matter is there more than one answer to the question?

Maybe we can blame someone else. How about blaming the white man and the boarding school experiences that were forced on so many native children in the past. When you take an Indian child away from their family you take away their ability to learn parenting skills. They never learn how to relate as husband and wife in a marital relationship. So who suffers from this? Generation after generation bears the curse of brokenness brought about by this experience until someone breaks the cycle. Native communities are fragmented because our families are fragmented and our families are fragmented because our men are fragmented. How is it that the most powerful men who live in North America have been sedated by the powers of darkness?

Our elders and spiritual leaders tell us that our strength has always been our unique relationship with our Creator. Only with His help can the brokenness of our people be healed. Through prayer our communities, families and men can become whole again. North American natives have taken the poison given to them by the evil one. As native people we must be honest about our problems, first to face them and then to conquer them.