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Tribal Diagnostics is Using Medication Monitoring to Combat Opioid Abuse

Native-owned lab is providing a service to providers focused on tribal and rural communities.

More and more people across the country are taking prescription opioids to treat pain. Providers are writing a steady number of opioid prescriptions. The [Center of Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) states the country is in an opioid overdose epidemic. This is a stark reality in many tribal and rural communities. [Tribal Diagnostics](#), in working to combat opioid abuse through medication monitoring, is a resource for providers who are vital in [pain management](#).

Tribal Diagnostics is an American Indian owned and operated premiere high complexity diagnostics laboratory that supports all health care providers with a focus on Indian Country and rural communities. [CEO Cory Littlepage](#) says it's important to focus on tribal and rural communities as they may not have access to adequate resources.



Tribal Diagnostics CEO Cory Littlepage with laboratory staff. The Tribal Diagnostics staff is over 70 percent Native American.

Mr. Littlepage, an enrolled member of the [Chickasaw Nation](#), founded Tribal Diagnostics in 2015 with the idea to [conduct high volume and specialized tests](#) on patient

specimens that health care providers cannot perform themselves. Tribal Diagnostics partners with physician offices, hospitals, clinics and other health care facilities that send patient's urine specimen to their state-of-the-art lab in Oklahoma to test, verify, and release the results to the provider who then evaluates the data and treats their patients accordingly.

Over 50 percent of Tribal Diagnostic's skilled staff are American Indian, they possess decades of experience in the health care field, and have been on almost every one of the State and Federally recognized tribes. One colleague in particular, Dawn Coley, [Director of Tribal Relations](#), is instrumental in carrying out an important part of the company's mission – partnering with tribes, connecting with rural communities and building partnerships with national and regional American Indian organizations.

Partnerships with tribes and tribal governments in working to combat the [opioid epidemic](#) is integral is making Tribal Diagnostics a success in the industry, said Mr. Littlepage. According to the CDC and the [Indian Health Service](#), American Indians and Alaska Natives are among the

highest minority group at risk for opioid overdose. Through medication monitoring and proper pain management, and with the help of the services that Tribal Diagnostics provides, opioid abuse and cases of overdoses could decline.

Tribal Diagnostics isn't all about testing specimens and fighting an overwhelmingly tough battle against opioid abuse. It's also about giving back to the community. Providing and caring for one's community is engraved in American Indian culture and therefore engraved in the fiber of the company. Tribal Diagnostics serves women's shelters, feeds the homeless and donates proceeds to the American Indian Cancer Foundation.

The services that Tribal Diagnostics provides is an effort to help Indian Country. It's a moral obligation, said Mr. Littlepage, to help and improve the health outcomes in Indian Country.

Learn more about Tribal Diagnostics at: www.tribaldiagnosics.com.