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Mental Health of Indigenous Peoples

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Message from the Guest Editors

Globally, Indigenous peoples are vulnerable to mental health challenges associated with historical and ongoing effects of colonization. Explicit efforts have been made to displace Indigenous Peoples from their lands, resources, and identities. As resources are depleted, but global demand remains insatiable, even the most remote areas of the planet where Indigenous peoples have lived in balance with their environments for millennia are being infringed upon for the purposes of resource extraction and commodification. In more accessible resource-rich territories, Indigenous Peoples are displaced, marginalized, or constricted while their lands are developed or urbanized. Compounding these threats are the pernicious impacts of climate change, along with multiple determinants of health, including ongoing racism and inequities, yet connection to the land, sense of place, and environmental sustainability are embedded in Indigenous knowledge systems and practices and are core to spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental wellness. The papers in this issue explore the associations between connection to the land and the wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples globally, ranging from food sovereignty to disruptions in place-based relationships and identities created by child welfare policies. Of particular importance are strategies for revitalizing strengths derived from connections to land and place in order to promote healing, reconciliation, and wellbeing.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Discovery and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a scientific basis for decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards. *IJERPH* provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality, peer-reviewed, open access journal.

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