

2nd Annual Noojimo'iwewin: A VAWA & ICWA
Training
August 2020

A Silent Epidemic: Sexual Violence Against Men and Boys

Lenny Hayes, MA

Tate Topa Consulting, LLC

www.tatetopa.com

tatetopaconsulting@gmail.com



Questions

Poll

- How many of you know of a male (boy or adult) who has been impacted by sexual violence?
- If so, What were some of your struggles and challenges?
- How did you respond?



Something to think about.....

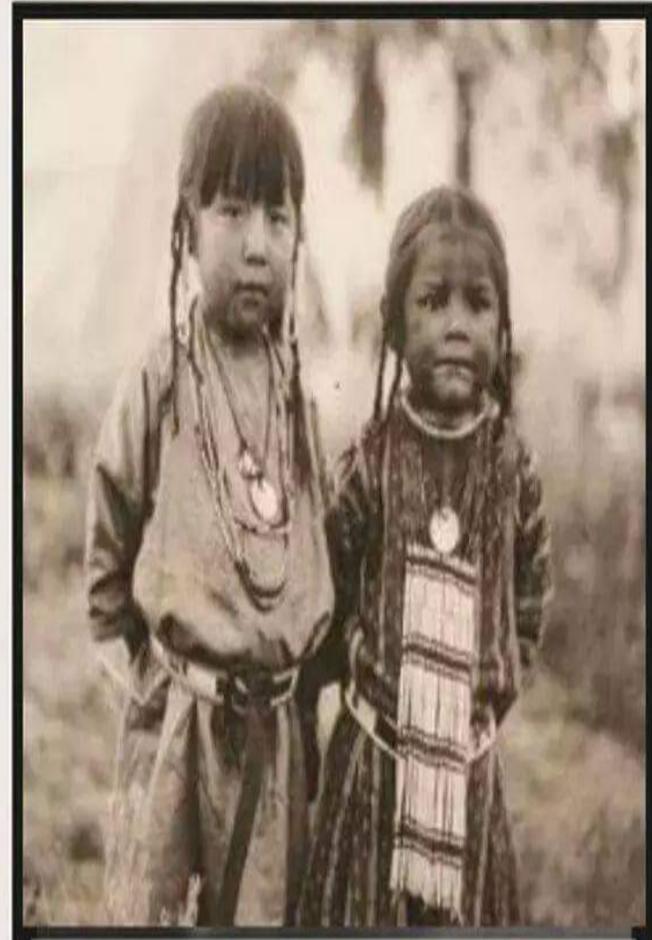


What is Sexual Violence?

- When a person uses tricks, power, threats, or violence to have sexual contact with another adult, it is called **rape or sexual assault**.
- When the individual is a victim of a relative, people often use the phrase **“incest.”**
- When the child is a victim of an adult, it is called **“child molestation.”**

What Is Sexual Abuse?

- Sexual abuse is sexual contact without consent.
- Children do not consent because they often do what adults tell them to do.



A Child is Affected By Sexual Abuse When

- He may question his ability to defend himself or may not trust his body to function in times of crisis.
- He may question his body and say “What did I do to invite this?”
- He may begin to hate his body.
- He may begin to not respect his body or the surroundings around him; often will begin to use alcohol, drugs, over-under eating, and smoking as a teen.

A Child is Affected By Sexual Abuse When

- Dissociates as a child due to memories or reminders of abuse.
- Even after the abuse stops the child may feel he is ineffective, powerless, and worthless (He has learned from being abused that what he does, wants, feels, or thinks makes no difference).
- He will continue to question himself “Why did this happen?” “Why didn’t anyone stop it?” “Why didn’t I tell someone?”



A Boy Sexually Abused by a Woman

- A boy faces confusion and isolation when he is sexually abused by a woman.
- A boy who talks about being abused by a woman is often greeted by disbelief, denial, trivializing, and romancing his story. Faced with society's perception; he may try to fit in and begins to brag or joke about it.
- If any of the experience felt good, he was not abused. If he did not enjoy it, he must be gay.

What Pieces of Childhood Does the Sexually Abused Child Lose?



Did you know....

- “The **losses** that boys and men experience in their early years leave lifelong scars and pain.”
- Boys who do not fit the “traditional macho image” are marginalized, ostracized, harassed, and physically punished. **Bullying results in trauma.**
- The trauma that males experience is lethal, large, and hard to work through. **(It is possible)**
- Many men who have hurt others may have been hurt themselves.

Facts

- 75-95% of offenders are known and may be related to the child
- In developmental terms, young children cannot make up explicit sexual information; they must be exposed to it and speak their own experiences. Sometimes parents will try to get the child to lie.
- Most child sexual abuse is perpetrated by men who are heterosexual and do not find sex with other men at all attractive.
- Children generally do not question the behavior of adults. They are often coerced by bribes, threats, and use of authority.
- Child abuse is an act of power by which an adult uses a child. Abuse is abuse. A woman abusing a child is still a child abuser.
- In a recent study of convicted child molesters, 80% were found to have committed their first offense before the age of 30.
- A portion of abused boys go on to abuse children (**Abused Boys: The Neglected Victim of Sexual Abuse, Mic Hunter**).

Adult Males

The Impact of Child Sexual Abuse

Research findings

- 1 in 4 American Indian/Alaska Native men have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime.
- More than 1 in 10 have experienced sexual violence with penetration
- Overall, more than 475,00 American Indian and Alaska Native men have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime

(National Institute of Justice Research Report: Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men. 2010 Findings from the National Intimate Partner Sexual Violence Survey, Andre B. Rosay, Ph.D)

<http://nij.oip.gov/topics/articles/violence-against-american-indian-and-alaska-native-women-and-men>

Violence Against Men

Type of Violence	AI/AN	Non-Hispanic/White Only
Any Lifetime Violence	81.6%	64%
Sexual Violence	27.5%	20.9%
Physical Violence by Intimate Partner	43.2%	30.5%
Stalking	18.6%	13.4%
Psychological Aggression by Intimate Partner	73%	52.7%

Violence Against Men

Type of Violence	AI/AN	Non-Hispanic/White Only
Past Year	39.8%	23.3%
Sexual Violence	14.4%	5.4%
Physical Violence by Intimate Partner	8.6%	4.1%
Stalking	11.6%	7.0%
Psychological Aggression by Intimate Partner	25.5%	16.1%

Several Studies State:

- We are 20 years behind in providing services for males who experience some form of sexual violence.
- There is lack of data and research.

Why do Men Wait to Seek Professional Help?

- The abuse could still be **too fresh**.
- It may not yet been **defined as abuse**.
- The perpetrator may still got you **“to keep silent.”**
- **Fear** (Even though the abuse may be over, it can still feel dangerous; even a dead perpetrator’s presence can be felt strongly).
- The **time and place** may not be right to disclose.
- The individual may not know he has **options**.
- **Feelings** of being weak, battered, and hopeless to take action.
- **Self-blame** (may keep individual from seeking professional help).
- **Shame** (Why did this happen to me?)

Men Who are Violent are Often Sent the Message as a Child:

- Be strong
- Be sexually active
- Be straight
- Be independent
- Don't ask for help
- Don't cry and show vulnerability
- Take control
- Be dominant

Frequent Issues and Problems Faced by Adult Survivors of Sexual Child Abuse



Frequent Issues and Problems Faced by Adult Survivors of Sexual Child Abuse



It's important to know....

That not all issues and problems are the same with all adult survivors of child sexual abuse. Each individual is different with similarities.

How do we **Help** Men and Boys **Heal**?

Create a
safe place
to tell their
story

Compassion

Empathy

Breaking
down the
stigma

Educate
and
awareness

Encourage
and
support to
discuss

How do we Help Men and Boys Heal?

Change the way we talk and think about individuals who experienced child sexual abuse

Not all victims of child sexual abuse become abusers

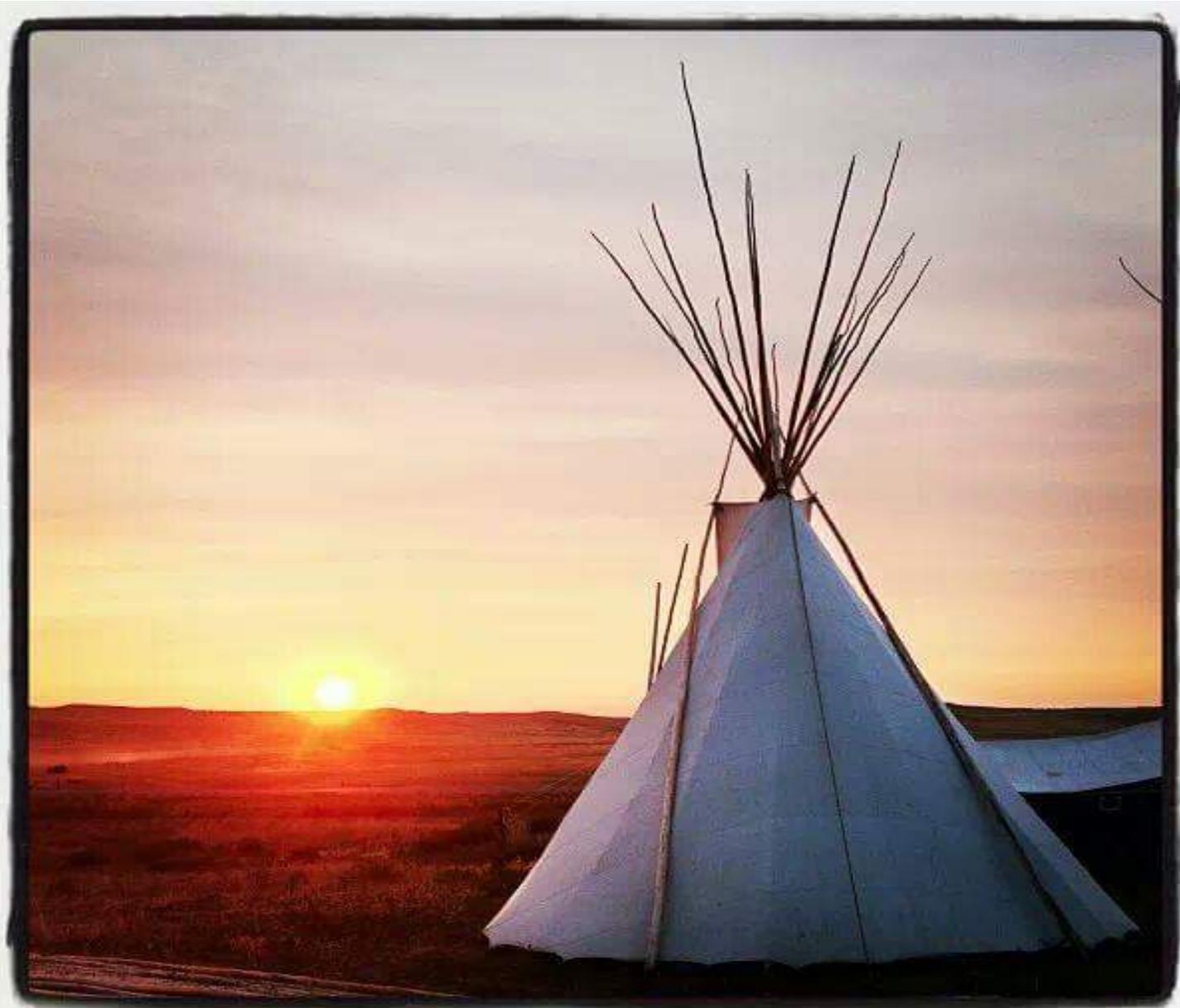
Sweat Lodge/Ceremony

Support Groups/Talking with elders

Increased Funding for Tribal Programs

Resources

- www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/.../predator-on-the-reservation/
- **Abused Boys: The Neglected Victim of Sexual Abuse**, Mic Hunter
- **Victims No Longer: The Classic Guide for Men Recovering from Sexual Child Abuse**, Mike Lew
- **Understanding Male Sexual Abuse: Why Male Victims Remain Silent**, O'Brien Dennis
- **The Cries of Men**, O'Brien Dennis
- **Beyond Betrayal: Taking Charge of Your Life After Boyhood Sexual Abuse**, Richard B. Gartner
- **Betrayed as Boys: Psychodynamic Treatment of Sexually Abused Men**, Richard B. Gartner
- **Understanding the Sexual Betrayal of Boys and Men: The Trauma of Sexual Abuse**, Richard M. Gartner
- **Father's Touch**, 2nd Edition, Donald D'Haene, Forward by Mike Lew
- **Boys Don't Tell: Ending the Silence of Abuse**, Randy Ellison
- **Male on Male Rape: The Hidden Toll of Stigma and Shame**, Michael Scarce
- **Silently Seduced (Revised and updated): When parents make their children partners**, Kenneth M. Adams, Ph.D



Thank You!