

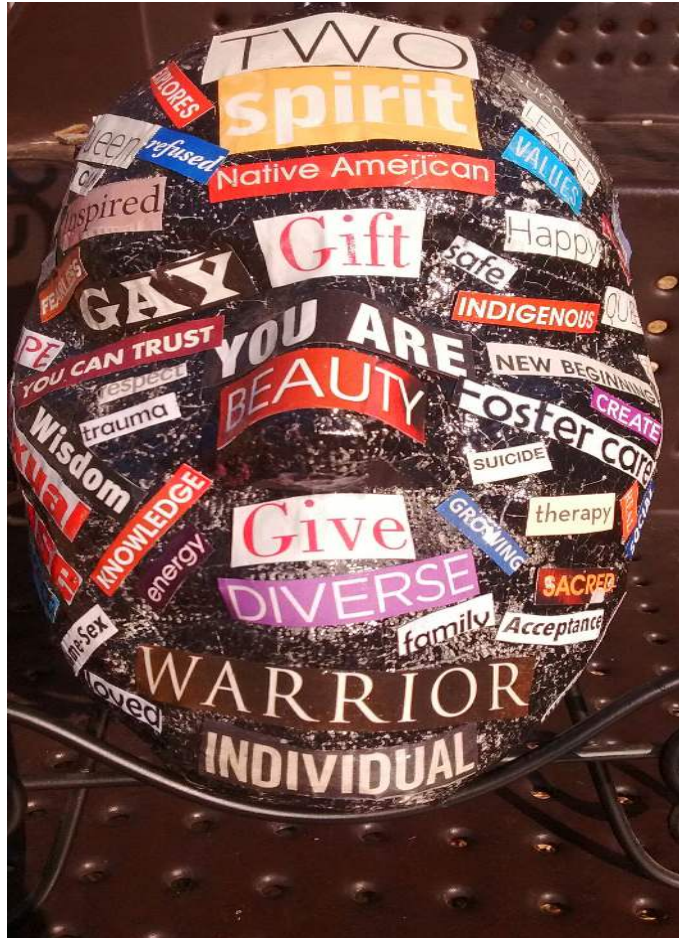
A SILENT EPIDEMIC OF SEX TRAFFICKING: MEN AND BOYS

*2023 Strengthening Sovereign Responses
to Sex Trafficking in Indian Country and
Alaska Conference*

New Orleans, Louisiana
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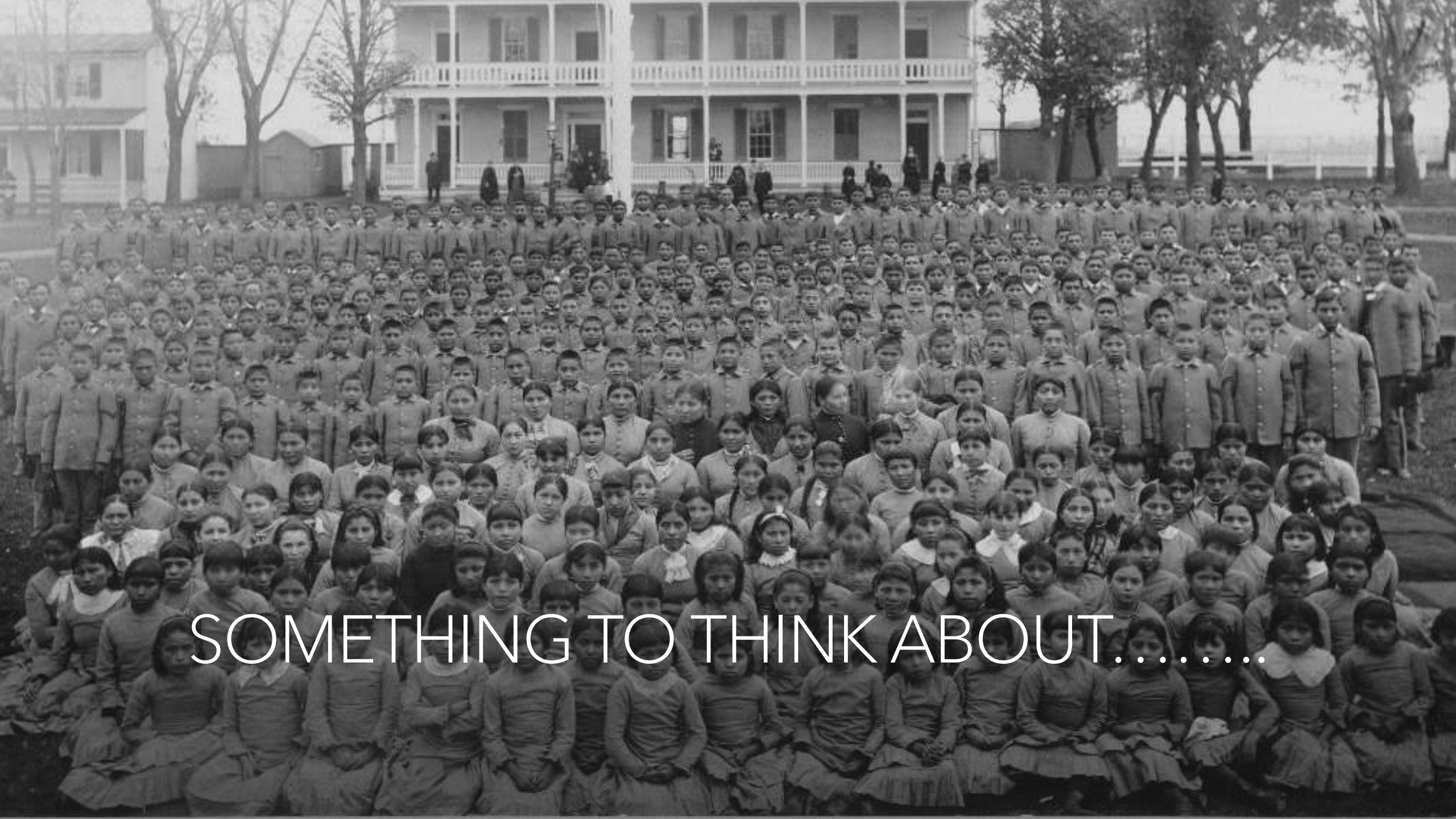
Who am I?

- Tunkan Wanagi Luta (Red Stone Ghost)
- Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the northeast corner of South Dakota
- Founder & Owner of Tate Topa Consulting, LLC
- Mental & Chemical Health Therapist (Specializing in Marriage Family Therapy)
- Educator
- Advocate
- Motivational Speaker
- Dakota Two-Spirit ("Winkta")
- Survivor of child sexual abuse and adult rape
- Survivor of child mental & physical abuse
- Survivor of the foster care system



Questions

- How many of you know of a male (boy or adult) who has been impacted by sexual violence? What about human trafficking?
- 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

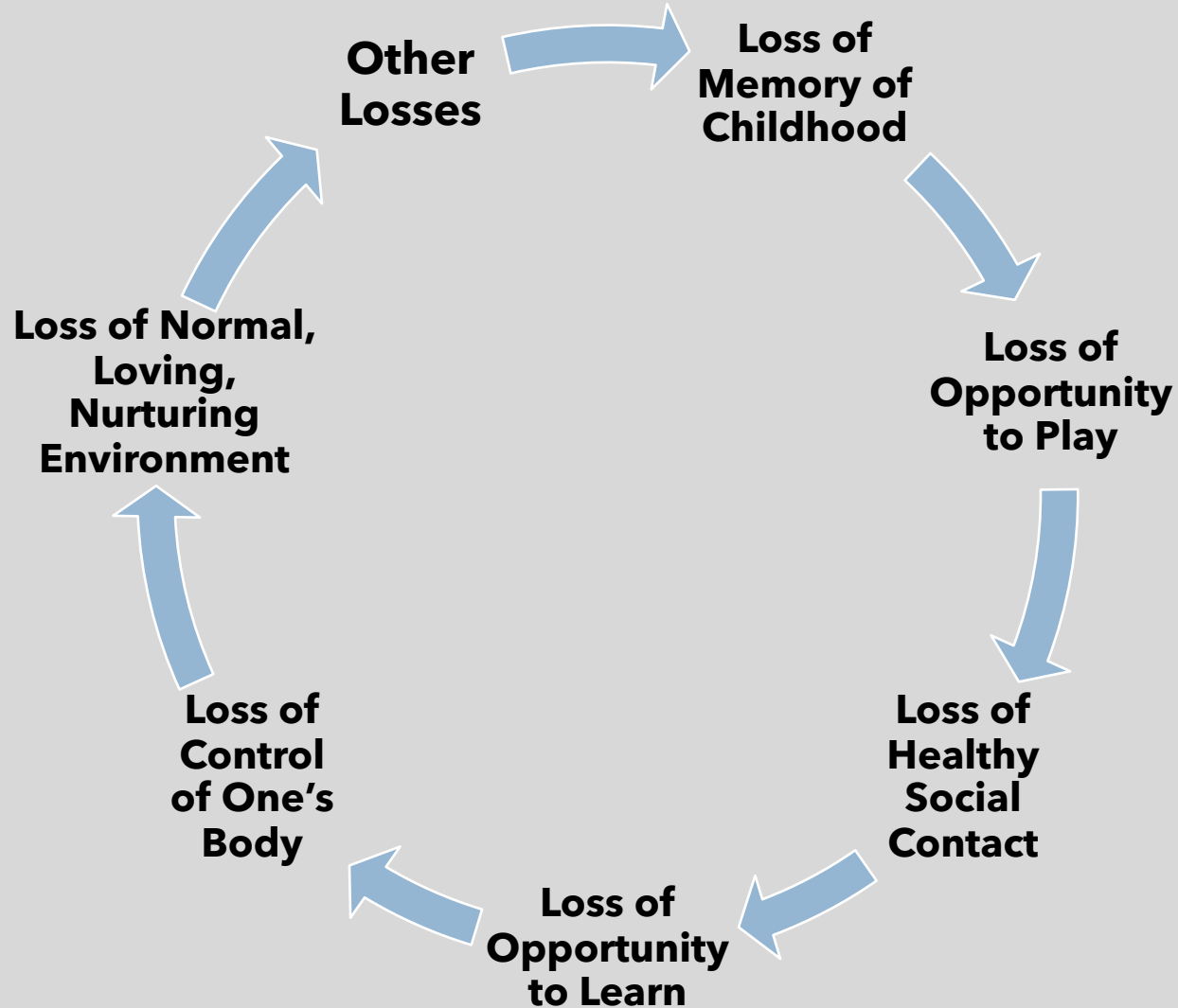
- Dissociates as a child due to memories or reminders of abuse.
- Even after the abuse stops the child may feel he is ineffective, powerless, and worthless (He has learned from being abused that what he does, wants, feels, or thinks makes no difference).
- He will continue to question himself "Why did 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?



LGBTQ Sex & Human Trafficking

- Children/youth who identify as **LGBTQ** and have been kicked out because of their identity become targets for victimization on the streets.
- Since 2007, the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#), operated by Polaris, has received reports of 34,700 sex trafficking cases inside the United States.
- In 2017, the [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#) estimated that 1 in 7 endangered runaways reported to them were likely sex trafficking victims.
- The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children reported in 2017 that 1 in 7 children were likely victims of sex trafficking.
- Child sex trafficking has been reported in every state.
- **LGBTQ** boys and young men are seen as particularly vulnerable to trafficking

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.

Data from the 2019 Minnesota Student Survey
on Trading Sex/Exploitation
among **Native+** High School Students

The Minnesota Youth Sex Trading Project (MYST)

June, 2022

Infographic brief available online at the University Digital Conservancy



Data Source: The Minnesota Student Survey (MSS)

Tri-annual, census of youth health and wellbeing administered in regular public schools, charter schools and other settings.

Collected by the State of Minnesota in school classrooms/spaces.

- MSS began in 1989
Similar to the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
- Coordinated by MN Departments of Education, Health, Human Services and Public Safety
- Collected in schools, via a survey with **passive parental consent**
- Students in 5th, 8th, 9th, and 11th grades are invited to fill out the survey
- In 2019: 81% of MN public school districts participated; students all across MN took part

Prevalence of Trading Sex among High School Students **in the state of Minnesota**



In 2019, the Minnesota Student Survey added a question about sex trading for 9th and 11th graders

Infographic briefs with this data are available online at the [University Digital Conservancy](#)

Have you ever traded sex or sexual activity to receive money, food, drugs, alcohol, a place to stay, or anything else?

NO YES

1.4% of all students answered "yes"

3.1% of Native+ students answered "yes"

Notes: 71,007 students answered the question about trading sex (88% of the total sample size of 80,456). Data Reports for state, county and school districts are found on the MDE site at this link:

The MYST Project

Native+ Findings

Percentage of youth who answered “yes” within each category.

Students with diverse races and ethnicities reported different rates of trading sex

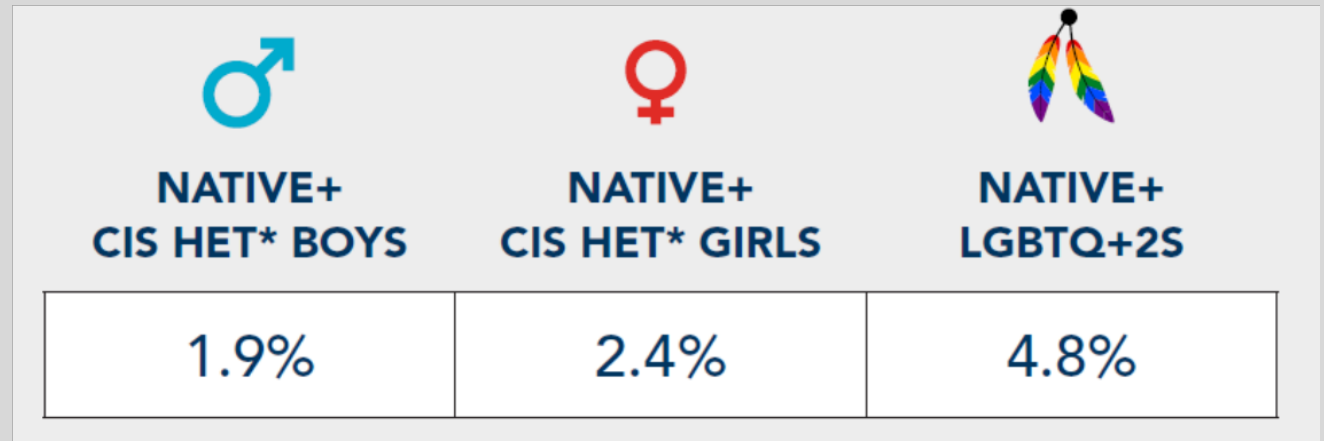
American Indian/Native+ ■	3.1%
Asian/Asian American	0.7%
Black, African, or African American	1.7%
Hispanic/Latinx	1.5%
White	1.2%
Multiple Races	1.8%



Gender Identity & Sexual Orientation

Native+ students of many gender identities reported trading sex

LGBTQ+ and/or Two-Spirit youth reported rates much higher than their peers



*Cis = Cisgender is a term for those whose gender aligns with their birth assigned sex

*Het = heterosexual (straight)

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.ojp.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%

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?)

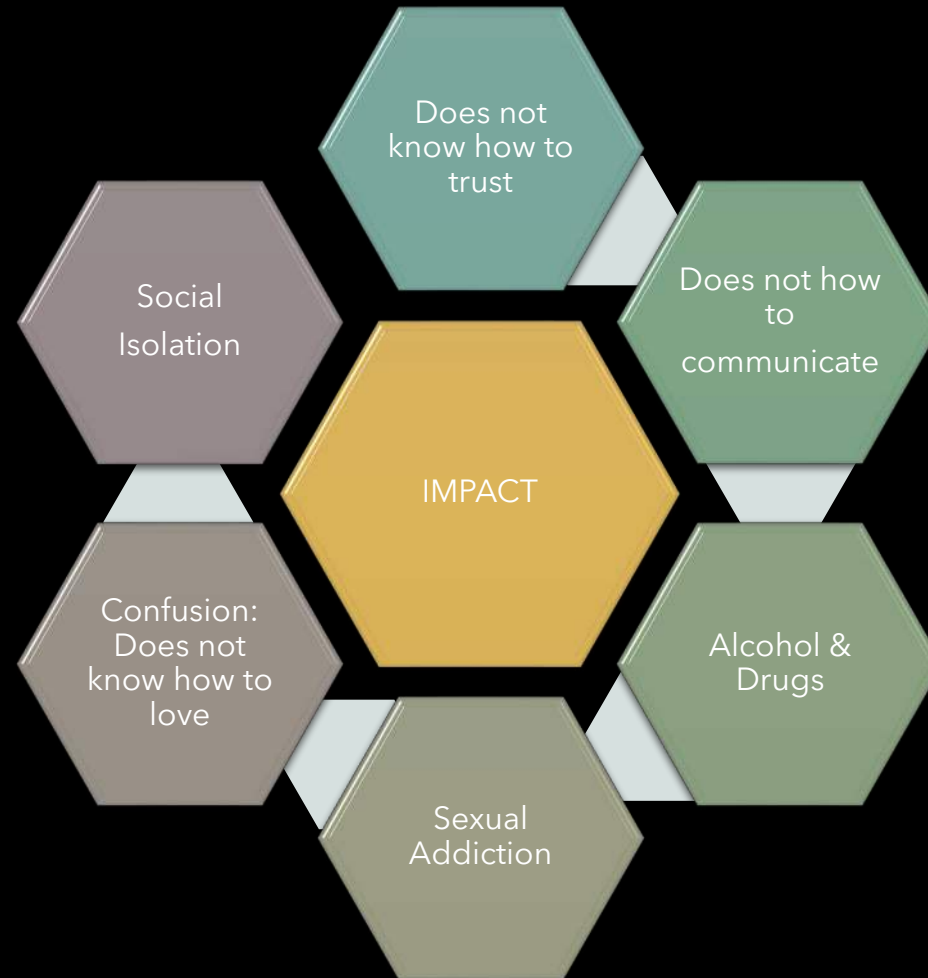
Men Who are Violent are Often Sent the Message as a Child:

- 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, sex and human trafficking. 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 about male sexual violence & human trafficking

Not all survivors become perpetrators

Sweat Lodge and ceremony

Support Groups/Talking Circles

Increased funding for Tribal Programs



IT IS
IMPORTANT
TO KNOW
THAT

**TRAUMA IS
HEALED THROUGH
SAFE RELATIONSHIPS**

Resources

- Frontline (2019, February 12) – *Predator on the Reservation*. [Video]. PBS: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/predator-on-the-reservation/>
- **“Boys” (documentary)** - <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/boysdoc>

◦ **Fact Sheets**

- [How to Improve Services for Males Experiencing Trafficking](#)
- [Human Trafficking Indicators](#)
- [Human Trafficking and MMIW](#)

Reports

- [Culture as a Protective Factor in Preventing Trafficking among Native Youth](#)
- [Healing Indigenous Lives Native Youth Town Halls](#)
- [Human and Sex Trafficking: Trends and Responses Across Indian Country](#)
- [Sex Trafficking in Indian Country Update](#)
- [The Child Welfare Response to Labor Trafficking in California](#)
- [The Garden of Truth](#)

- [Bobs House for Hope](#)

Resources

Books

- **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



Pidamiya
"Thank you!"

Questions &
Comments?