




Relationship Between Child Abuse, Substance Abuse and Violence



Native American Population


(All Ages)


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- Leads nation in death caused by:
 - alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities
 - chronic liver disease and cirrhosis
 - diabetes (infections/amputations/health complications)
 - fetal abnormalities
 - homicide



Four Leading Causes of Death

American Indian and Alaska Natives

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- Ages 1-4 Accidents/Homicide
 - Ages 4-15 Accidents/Homicide
 - Ages 15-24 Accidents/Homicide/
Suicide
 - Ages 25-44 Accidents/Chronic
Liver Disease &
Cirrhosis/Suicide/
Homicide



Substance Abuse and Child Abuse in American Indian communities

- 70-90% of child abuse cases involve alcohol
- Higher frequency with females (70.4) than males (60)
- 50-80% of child neglect involve alcohol
- Alcohol abuse less frequent in cases of sexual abuse


NIJC, 1995



Maternal Alcohol Use

Perinatal Effects

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- Leading cause of mental retardation
 - Average IQ of 63 found in FAS




*NIJC, 1995



Maternal Alcohol Use

Increased Risk of Sudden Infant Death

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- 2 to 20 fold higher than baseline rates
 - Not known whether due only to effect of drugs or also to environmental factors in addicted household




Maternal Alcohol Use

Long-term Effects on Children

- High level of psychosocial problems
 - conduct disorder
 - antisocial behavior
 - non-compliant
- Growth failure and mental retardation
- Secondary Disabilities
 - learning disabilities
 - hyperactivity
 - impulsively



Current Statistics: *Violence and Victimization in Indian Country*

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- Average annual violent crime rate among American Indians –
 - 1 violent crime for every 10 residents age 12 or older
 - Approximately 2.5 times national rate
 - Rates of violent victimization for both males and females are higher among American Indians than for all races.

(American Indians and Crime, 2002)

Violence, Crime and Victimization

- The rate of violent crime victimization among American Indian females (86 per 1,000) was 2 ½ times the rate for all females.
- The annual average violent crime rate among American Indians was twice as high as that of blacks (50 per 1,000) and 2 ½ times that of whites (41 per 1,000).

(American Indians and Crime, 2002)



Violence, Crime and Victimization

- American Indians experienced approximately 1 violent crime for every 10 residents age 12 or older compared to 1 violent victimization for:
 - ▶ 1 for every 20 Black residents
 - ▶ 1 for every 25 white residents
 - ▶ 1 for every 44 Asian residents

(American Indians and Crime, 2002)



Violence and Child Maltreatment

- On a per capita basis, 1995 data indicate approximately 1 substantiated report of a child victim of abuse or neglect for every 30 American Indian children age 14 or younger
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Contributing Factors

Parental Alcohol and Substance Usage

- Criminal activity
 - ▶ increase likelihood of stealing and/or selling drugs
 - ▶ increase likelihood of prostituting self or children
 - ▶ increase likelihood of other illegal activities to support substance usage



Contributing Factors



Parental Alcohol and Substance Usage

- Mental health disorder
 - ▶ Masking of affect disorders (depression, anxiety)
 - ▶ Substance abuse contributing to antisocial personality disorder
 - ▶ Drug induced psychosis
 - ▶ Organic brain disease caused by substance abuse



Contributing Factors


Increase Risk of Abuse and Neglect

- Diversion of resources
 - ▶ Cash used for drugs
 - ▶ Food assistance sold for drugs
 - ▶ Appliances/other articles pawned
 - ▶ Results in: more energy directed toward acquiring drugs and less energy directed toward children
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Characteristics


Parental Alcohol and Substance Usage

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- Unemployed or limited marketable skills
 - Short term relationships that produce children
 - Increase probability of out-of-home placement of children



Characteristics


Parental Alcohol and Substance Usage

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- Increase risk for prenatal exposure to alcohol
 - Produces difficult-to-parent infants and children
 - Increase probability of conflict with education system and court system





Characteristics

Parental Alcohol and Substance Usage

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- Family life chaotic and unpredictable
 - Parents demonstrate
 - higher commitment level to drugs
 - higher commitment level to each other
 - lower commitment level to children



Effects of Substance Abuse

- Violence
 - Paranoia
 - Anxiety
 - Distrust
 - Less constraints about hurting, injuring, neglecting, or molesting children
 - Interference with appropriate parenting ability
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Effects on Children

- Increased risk for car accidents and accidental deaths,
- Increased risk for behavioral problems,
- Increased risk for neglect,
- Increase risk for suicide with age,
- Increase risk for substance abuse with age,



Effects on Children

- Increased likelihood of inconsistent or limited nurturing,
 - Increased likelihood of inconsistent or limited attachment,
 - Increase likelihood for poor or dysfunctional family relationships and patterns,
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Effects on Children

- Increased likelihood of living in a less desirable or dysfunctional environment,
- Increased likelihood of inappropriate and/or limited parental/adult supervision,
- Increased likelihood of inappropriate parental/adult models.




Effects of Family Violence

- Bullying among children
- Use of corporal punishment
- No sanctions against spousal abuse
- No sanctions against elderly abuse
- Increased use of alcohol and other drugs
- Acceptance of violent activities for entertainment, humor, and compliance



THE HEALING JOURNEY


Prevention Strategies

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- Support sobriety pledges
 - Support sobriety activities
 - Maintain no tolerance for substance or child abuse
 - Maintain no tolerance for activities that harm children



THE HEALING JOURNEY

Prevention Strategies

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- Maintain accountability for behavior toward others (self and others)
 - Support the right to parent Native children in an honorable way
 - Incorporate the Honor based society teachings in parenting and relationships and communities