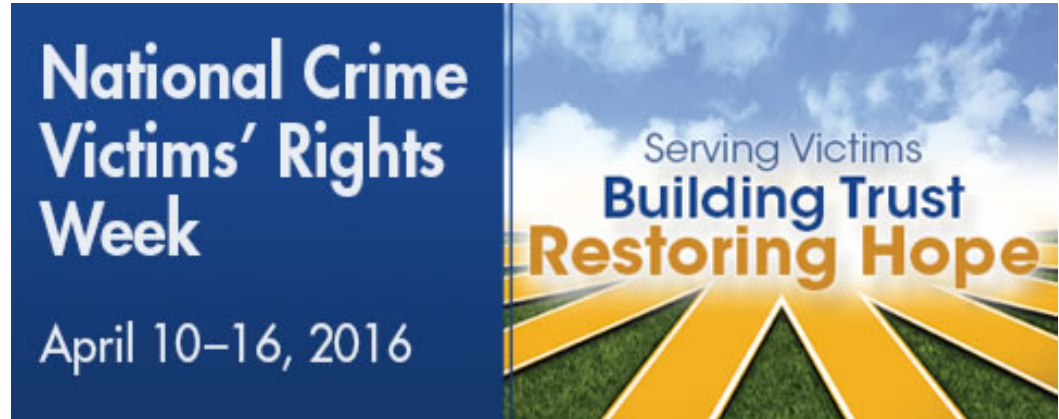




Unified Solutions Tribal Community Development Group, Inc.

"Learning Together, Growing Together"

E-Bulletin ~ April 2016



Each April, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) helps lead communities throughout the country in their annual observances of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) which will be observed in 2016 on April 10 – 16th. This year's theme - ***Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope.*** - underscores the importance of early intervention and victim services in establishing trust with victims, which in turn begins to restore their hope for healing and recovery.

This year's [NCVRW Resource Guide](#) highlights how serving victims and building trust restores hope and strengthens communities. The Guide contains a vibrant array of [theme artwork](#) that is available for organizations to incorporate into their outreach materials. View the 2016 NCVRW [sample proclamation](#) to help inspire the community, raise awareness of victims' rights, and address unmet needs.

Download the 2016 NCVRW Resource Guide now to access everything you need to host and promote NCVRW in your community!
<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2016/>

April is...
**Sexual Assault
Awareness Month
And
Child Sexual Abuse
Awareness Month**



The month of April has been designated as Child Abuse Awareness and Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in the United States. It is a time to raise awareness about the prevalence and devastating effects of these behaviors and crimes, and to educate individuals, families, and communities about what they can do to prevent and put a stop to them.

Creating public awareness and community education is an important first step in conducting ways to create awareness and encouraging reporting of child abuse, neglect and sexual assault. This can be achieved by hosting fundraisers, sporting events or activities in your community as well as just sharing information to help educate others. Another simple way to promote community outreach and education for an awareness month is to wear the color that symbolizes it.

Some organizations do not have the ability to host large events. If this is the case then other smart and easy ways to promote public awareness and outreach is to use the color of the awareness month in signs, banners or symbols around your community. For example, the photos below are promoting awareness for Child Sexual Abuse. They are simply displayed throughout the community as a constant reminder to all those who come in contact with them.





The Facts on Violence against American Indian and Alaskan Native Women...

- American Indian women residing on Indian reservations suffer domestic violence and physical assault at rates far exceeding women of other ethnicities and locations. A 2004 Department of Justice report estimates these assault rates to be as much as 50% higher than the next most victimized demographic.
- Federal government studies have consistently shown that American Indian women experience much higher levels of sexual violence than other women in the U.S. Data gathered by the U.S. Department of Justice indicates that Native American and Alaskan Native women are more than 2.5 times more likely to be raped or sexually assaulted than women in the USA in general (5 vs. 2 per 1,000).
- Additionally, 34% or more than one in three Native women will be raped during their lifetime, whereas for women as a whole the risk is less than one in five.
- A 2004 study that examined intimate partner rape among American Indian women found that one in five respondents (20.9%) reported they had been a victim of at least one incident in their lifetime.
- National annual incidence rates and lifetime prevalence rates for physical assaults are also higher for American Indian and Alaskan Native women compared to other women.
- In a 2008 CDC study, 39% of Native women surveyed identified as victims of intimate partner violence in their lifetime, a rate higher than any other race or ethnicity surveyed.
- According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs at least 70% of the violent victimizations experienced by American Indians are committed by persons not of the same race— a substantially higher rate of interracial violence than experienced by white or black victims.
- In a 2006 study, 96% of American Indian respondents who had been a victim of rape or sexual assault had experienced other physical abuse as well.
- During a physical assault, American Indian and Alaska Native women were more likely to be injured than women of all other groups and more of these injuries needed medical care.
- Violence against Indian women occurs as a gauntlet in the lives of Indian women: at one end verbal abuse and at the other murder. Most Indian women do not report such crimes because of the belief that nothing will be done.

What is child sexual abuse?

It is any sexual activity between adults and minors or between two minors when one forces it on the other.

This includes sexual touching and non-touching acts like exhibitionism, exposure to pornography, photography of a child for sexual gratification, solicitation of a child for prostitution, voyeurism and communication in a sexual way by phone, Internet or face-to-face. It is a crime punishable by law that must be reported.



Who are the perpetrators?

Most child sexual abusers are men, and may be respected members of the community drawn to settings where they gain easy access to children like schools, clubs and churches. They come from all age groups, races, religions and socioeconomic classes. Most victims know and trust their abusers. It isn't strangers our children have to fear most.

What are the signs of possible sexual abuse?

Most victims do not display physical evidence of their abuse because of the body's ability to heal rapidly. However, any genital irritation, infections or painful bowel movements should be investigated immediately.

Behavioral signs are more common and can include depression, anxiety, anger, loss of appetite, withdrawal from normal activities, substance abuse, self-mutilation, fear of certain places or people, bed-wetting, night sweats, nightmares and thoughts of suicide.

Also be aware of sexual acting out and language that is not age-appropriate.

Talking to your child if you suspect that they are being sexually abused...

Parents are surrounded by messages about child sexual abuse. Talk shows and TV news warn parents about dangers on the Internet, at school and at home. However, parents don't get much advice on how to talk to their children if they are concerned that sexual abuse is occurring. Talk to your child directly.

As you talk to your child about sexual abuse, remember to focus on creating a safe place for your child. Even if they don't tell you about sexual abuse at the time of the conversation, you are laying a foundation for future conversations.

Facts on Child Sexual Abuse...

The prevalence of child sexual abuse is difficult to determine because it is often not reported; experts agree that the incidence is far greater than what is reported to authorities. Child Sexual Abuse is also not uniformly defined, so statistics may vary. Statistics below represent some of the research done on child sexual abuse.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau report *Child Maltreatment 2010* found that [9.2%](#) of victimized children were sexually assaulted.

Studies by the [Crimes Against Children Research Center](#), show that:

- 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse;
- Self-report studies show that 20% of adult females and 5-10% of adult males recall a childhood sexual assault or sexual abuse incident;
- During a one-year period in the U.S., 16% of youth ages 14 to 17 had been sexually victimized;
- Over the course of their lifetime, 28% of U.S. youth ages 14 to 17 had been sexually victimized;
- Children are most vulnerable to Child Sexual Abuse between the ages of 7 and 13.

Resources for Sexual Assault

National Sexual Violence Resource Center – www.nsvrc.org

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Home Page - www.nsvrc.org/saam

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) – www.rainn.org

Resources for Child Sexual Abuse

National Child Abuse Awareness - www.childwelfare.gov

Joyful Heart Foundation – www.joyfulheartfoundation.org

The National Center for Victims of Crime – www.victimsofcrime.org

Crimes Against Children Research Center – www.unh.edu/ccrc

Children's Justice Act/Child Welfare Information Gateway- www.childwelfare.gov

Training Opportunity

Following the Evidence In Child Exploitation Cases May 4-5, 2016 in Juneau, Alaska FREE

[Fox Valley Technical College](#) Missing and Exploited Children (MEC) Training and Technical Assistance Program is hosting a free 2-day training to emphasize minimizing bias and employing multiple hypotheses in child abuse and exploitation cases.

The training will focus on evaluating evidentiary findings through crime scene images, interviews and case studies, and highlight the importance of working cooperatively with other disciplines for the benefit of child victims and the prosecution of offenders.

For more information or to register please visit:

<https://www.fvtc.edu/apps/MyTraining/Public/FindAClass.aspx?class=64292>

Hello OVC CTAS Tribal Grantees,

Unified Solutions (Unified) staff and consulting Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) can advise and provide training and technical assistance on a wide variety of subjects related to victimization, program management, and other relevant topics. Unified can provide the training at your site and you can invite your key partners and stakeholders to the training. Please let us know what kind of training or technical assistance you determined needing from your recent community assessment or from discussions with your stakeholders. If you would like a listing of training topics Unified can provide please contact one of our staff listed on this e-bulletin.

Unified staff can also provide on-site technical assistance on a variety of subjects ranging from facilitating community needs assessment forums or meetings, policy reviews, or engaging your team in strategic planning sessions. Unified can also coordinate and facilitate conference calls including calls with your OVC Program Specialists. Please never hesitate to contact us. We are here for you. As always, it is such a pleasure and honor to serve you and see all the great work you are doing in your tribal communities.

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