

Indian Health Service

Understanding Forensic Healthcare During SAAM

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Understanding Forensic Healthcare (FHC) During SAAM



Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)

Session Overview:

- Polling Questions
- Statistics
- Overview of Victimization Types
- Costs Associated with Sexual Assault
- Forensic Services, Why FHC, FHC Benefits
- The Medical Forensic Exam & Safety Screening
- IHS Forensic Healthcare related Projects & Programs
- FHC Resources
- Q&A



Polling Question

Every _____
seconds an
individual in
America is
sexually
assaulted.

A. 68

B. 93

C. 120

D. 60



Polling Question

What is the percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women who have experienced violence in their lifetime?

A. 19.9%

B. 44.3%

C. 70.9%

D. 84.3%



Polling Question

_____ in _____
women in the
United States have
experienced a
pregnancy from
rape, sexual
coercion, or both
during their
lifetimes?

A. 3 in 5

B. 1 in 20

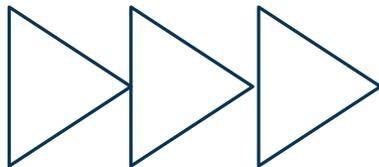
C. 4 in 10

D. 2 in 20

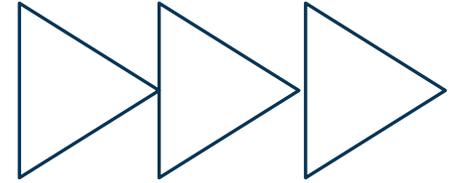


Statistics

- Every 68 seconds, an individual in America is sexually assaulted.
- Over half of women and almost one in three men have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetimes. One in four women and about one in 26 men have experienced completed or attempted rape.
- More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native women (84.3 percent) have experienced violence in their lifetime, and 56.1 percent accounts for those who have experienced sexual violence.

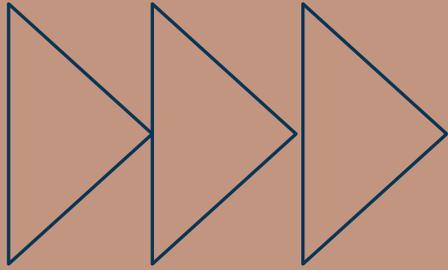


Statistics

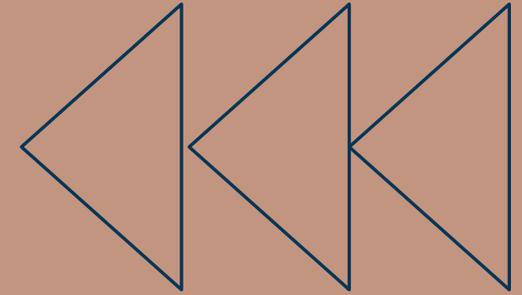


- One in 20 women in the United States have experienced a pregnancy from rape, sexual coercion, or both during their lifetimes.
- Over three million women have experienced pregnancy resulting from rape during their lifetimes.
- Nearly five million women have experienced pregnancy resulting from sexual coercion during their lifetimes.





Victimization



Sexual Assault

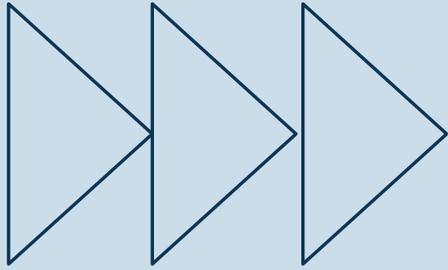
- Sexual activity when consent is not obtained or freely given.
- Penetration however slight.
- Perpetrator/Suspect can be of any background or relationship to the individual/patient.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

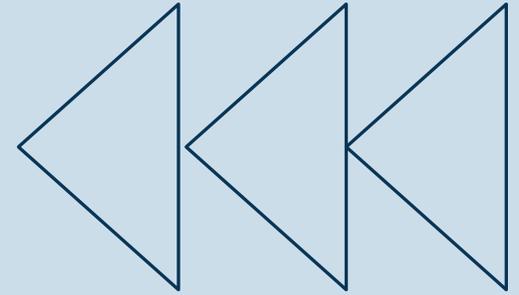
- Variety of definitions.
- Abuse/aggression that occurs in romantic relationships, whether that is titled as current or former spouse(s) or dating partner(s).
- Can be categorized as physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and/or psychological aggression.

Domestic Violence (DV)

- Domestic and family violence, can include IPV.
- Can include economic, physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological abuse toward children, adults, and elders.



Victimization



Reproductive Coercion

- is when a person exerts power and control over reproduction through interference with contraception use and pregnancy pressure.

Sexual Coercion

- is unwanted sexual penetration that occurs after a person is pressured in a non-physical way.

Lifetime Economic Burden of Rape among U.S. Adults - \$122,461/victim



Preventing violence is key to minimizing potential economic burdens and support healthier patient/family/community outcomes.



Emergency Room Visits following Sexual Assault: 2006 - 2019

1533%
increase!

(Vogt EL, et al., 2022)

- Cross-sectional study from 2006 – 2019 revealed **1533% increase** in sexual assault emergency department visits – outpacing the growth of law enforcement reports!
- Quantifying the number and types of patient encounters can inform of health care delivery strategies to help:
 - Reduce survivor morbidity and mortality
 - Support community prevention efforts
 - Enhance need for resources
 - Engage with community partners
 - Growth and development of a program, supporting positive return on investment



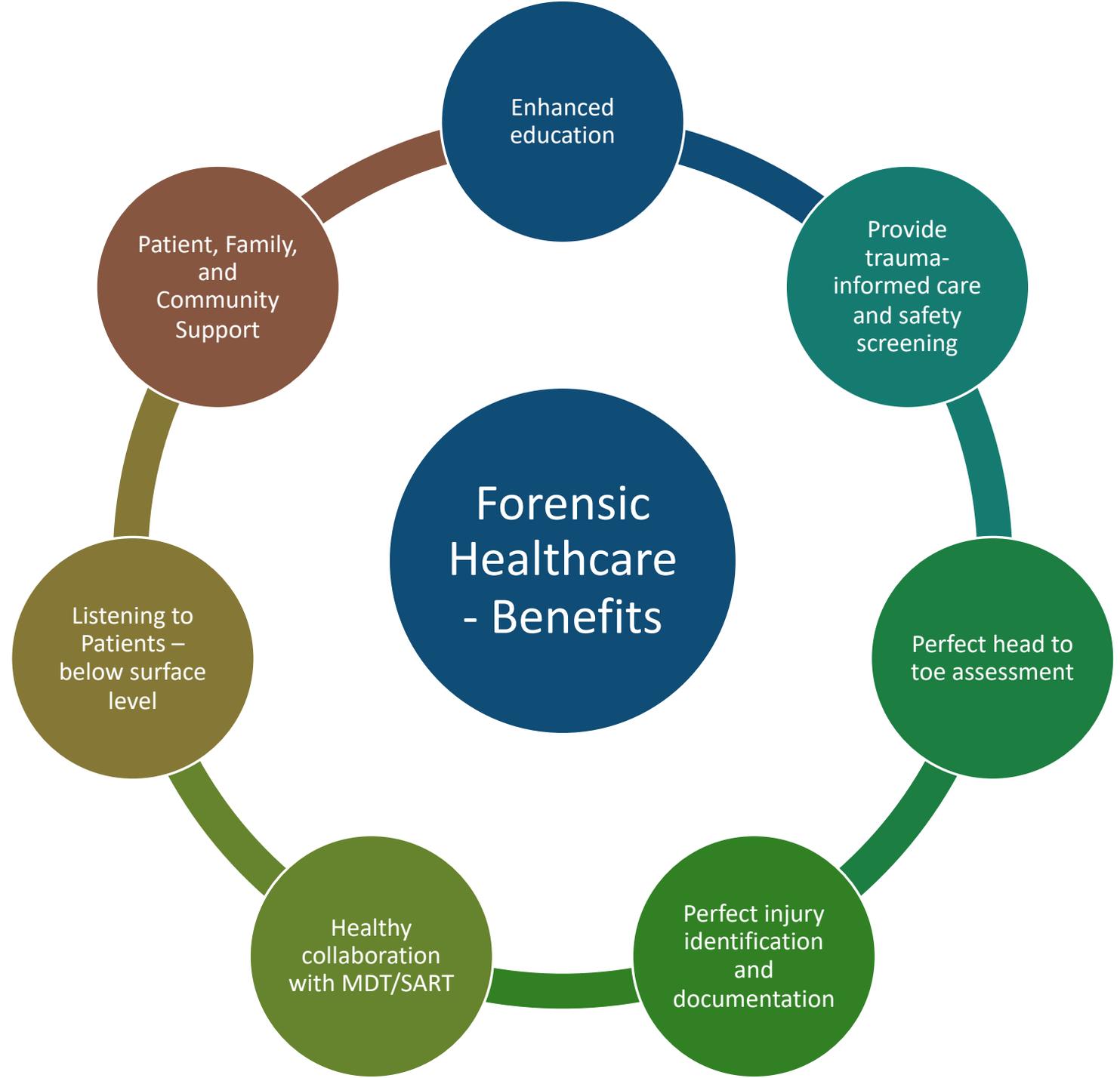
Why Forensic Healthcare?

It's more than just evidence collection!

- Violence is a healthcare issue!
- Violence disproportionately impacts AI/AN individuals.
- The practice encompasses a combination of skills in and knowledge of nursing process, trauma-informed care, medico-legal issues, including community violence prevention. Perfects head-to-toe assessment, learn to collaborate with the MDT, and learn to listen to patients.
- Forensic healthcare is best provided by individuals who possess additional education and clinical training in the care of violence.
- Trauma is not just acts of violence or abuse. It also includes historical and vicarious trauma as well as structural trauma, i.e., harm that results from social values or biases.
- Quality forensic healthcare will support prevention efforts of revictimizing/retraumatizing patients.
- Supports patient empowerment, enhances recovery, helps to foster strength to regain their health and wellbeing.



Forensic Healthcare – Benefits



Early access to medical forensic care supports healthier patient outcomes.

IHS & The Medical Forensic Examination includes:

- Patient consent to conduct the examination, Medical-Forensic History, Safety Screening;
- Physical Assessment, Documentation, and Photographs;
- Detailed Ano-Genital Exam;
- Collection of Forensic Evidence;
- Treatment options;
- Collaboration of Resources & Appropriate Referrals; and
 - Behavioral/Mental Health Services
 - Advocacy Services
 - Coordination with the Criminal Justice System
- Discharge Teaching and Safety Planning.

Exam purpose within IHS:

- Provide a patient-centered, trauma-informed, safe environment;
- Obtain medical care;
- Educate about health effects of Trafficking, IPV/DV, SA;
- Provide for a healthier patient outcome; and,
- Resources, referral, safety planning.



Safety Screening

Examples:

- **Danger Assessment**
 - 20 questions to identify lethality/homicide risk
 - Calendar portion
- **HARK**
 - Humiliated, Afraid, Raped, or Kicked
- **HITS/eHITS**
 - Hurt, Insulted, Threatened and Screamed
 - Extended version of HITS

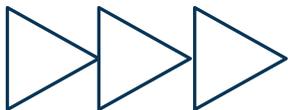


IHS Forensic Healthcare Programs and Resources



Forensic Nursing Consultation Program (FNCP)

- 5-year contract – awarded to Texas A&M University Center of Excellence in Forensic Nursing
- This contract provides training, education, and technical assistance for healthcare providers to become trained as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners/Sexual Assault Examiners/Forensic Nurse Examiners (SANEs/SAEs/FNEs) and receive ongoing training and education to maintain competency.
- The FNCP contract will support program development and mentorship opportunities, enhancing forensic nursing efforts across the I/T/U field.



Forensic Nursing Consultation Program (FNCP), continued

➤ Deliverables:

- Adult/Adolescent Sexual Assault Examiner Trainings
 - Pediatric Sexual Assault Examiner Trainings
 - Adult/Adolescent Clinical Simulation Training
 - Well-Child Clinical Simulation Training
 - Webinars
-
- CE/CMEs are available for all courses



Nurses United Against Human Trafficking (subcontractor)

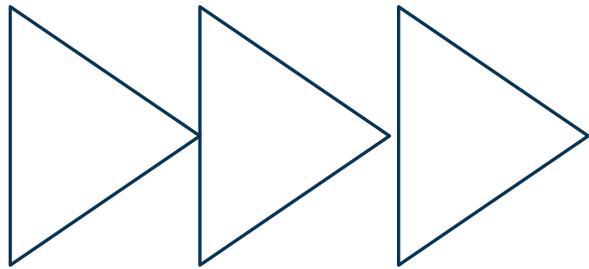


educate. equip. empower.

- Human Trafficking training – online, self-paced
- Interactive education and case reviews
- 9 CE/CMEs offered



Forensic Healthcare Resources



Forensic Healthcare



- Forensic Healthcare Webpage: <https://www.ihs.gov/forensichealthcare/>
- Forensic Healthcare and Related Topics
- Interactive map of the active FHC sites is now available!
- Join the Listserv: https://www.ihs.gov/listserv/topics/signup/?list_id=251



Forensic Healthcare Guidebooks

Forensic Healthcare and Caring for
American Indian and Alaska Native
Patients.



Indian Health Service
Office of Clinical and Preventive Services
Division of Nursing Services
Forensic Healthcare



American Indian/Alaska Native
Patients & the Medical Forensic
Examination

ABOUT
US

Indian Health service
Office of Clinical and Preventive Services
Division of Nursing Services
Forensic Healthcare

IHS
MISSION

to raise the physical, mental, social, and
spiritual health of American Indians and
Alaska Natives to the highest level.



Find Forensic Healthcare



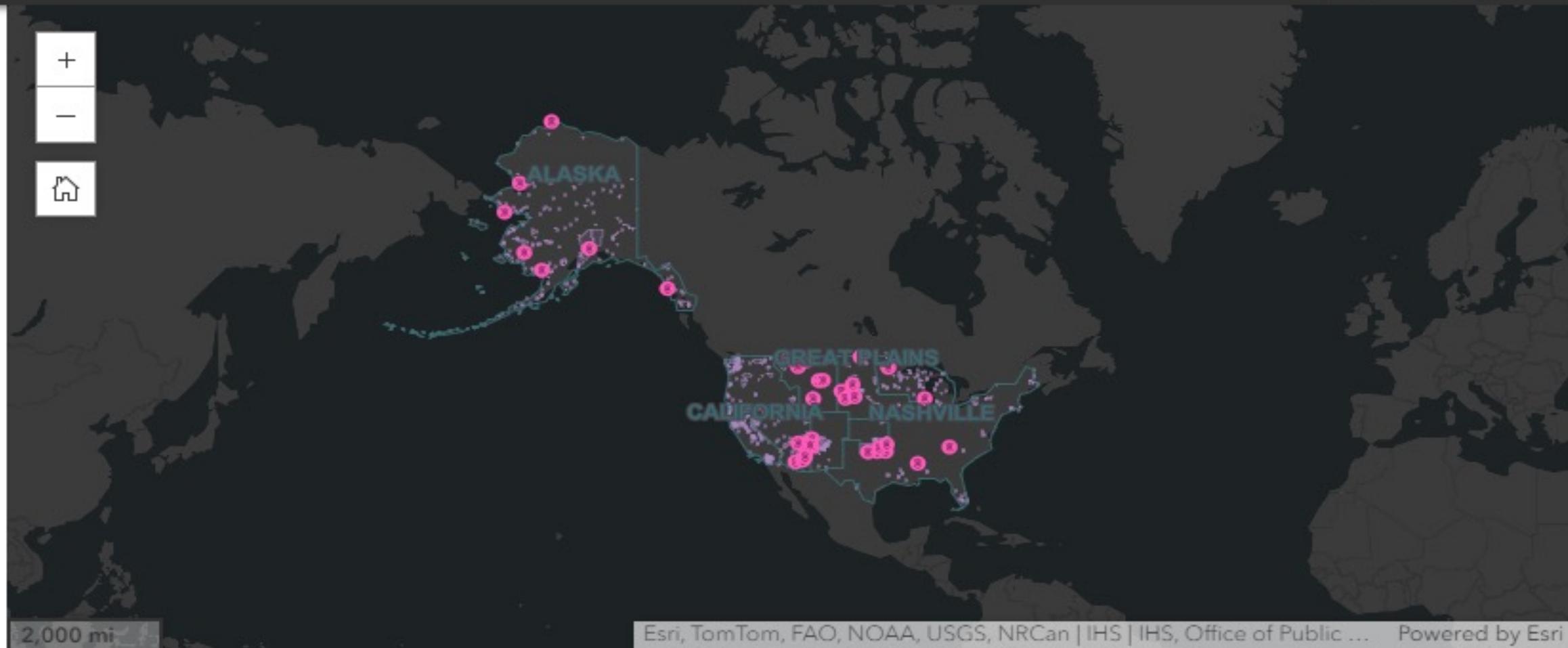
Medical Forensics in Indian Country



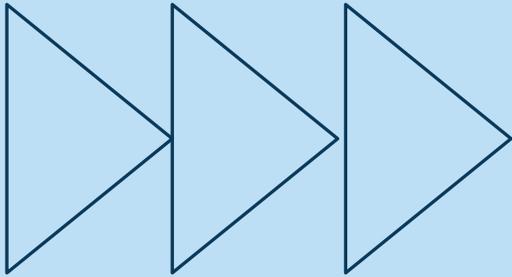
Map Layers



Legend



Q&A



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Thank you!

**Additional questions or to connect,
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