The Violence Against Native American Women and Girls

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National Indian Health Board
Overview

- About Me
- Intro of National Indian Health Board Mission and Fellowship
- NIHB policy project - Violence against Native Women and Girls
- Goals of the policy project
- Findings and successes of research
- What I learned from NIHB Fellowship and Networking
- Conclusion
Who I am

- Diné from Fort Defiance, Arizona
- Dartmouth College ‘19
  - Psychology and Native American Studies
- National Indian Health Board Tribal Youth Policy Fellow 2018-2019
- Currently working with the Urban Indian Health Center of Salt Lake City, UT as a youth counselor and mentor
National Indian Health Board
Tribal Youth Policy Fellow

- **Mission:**
  “…advocate as a united voice of federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes. NIHB seeks to reinforce Tribal sovereignty, strengthen Tribal health systems, secure resources, and build capacity to achieve the highest level of health and well-being for our People.”

- Year-long tenure of a cohort of 11-12 youth representatives

- **What is health policy?**
  - Decisions, plans, and actions that are undertaken to achieve specific healthcare goals within our society
Violence Against Native Women and Girls

- Missing Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Crisis (MMIWG)
  - “Native American and Alaska Native women are more than 2.5 times more likely to be raped or sexually assaulted than women in the USA”
  - “34.1 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women - or more than one in three - will be raped during their lifetime.”

Sources:
Why I chose this topic?

- Personal experience growing up on the reservation
- Native women are the backbone of our communities
  - We need to stand up for all of our aunties, sisters, mothers, and friends
  - We need a united voice
What Is a Policy Project? What are my goals?

- Goals of the project
  - Critically analyze and understand what national, state, and tribal policy is already in place to protect Indigenous women from lateral forms of violence
    - Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
      - Reauthorization of 2019
    - PL-280 of 1953
    - Majors Crime Act (MCA) of 1885
    - HB 2570
      - Studying the Missing and Murdered Indian Crisis Act (2019)
  - Critically analyze these policies in order to provide “solutions” for future policy
  - Gather qualitative data (i.e. interviews) to support my project
  - Gather quantitative data (i.e. numbers) to help create effective future policy
Policy Paper Findings

- This epidemic stems from colonialization.
- “Data” Crisis
  - Lack of comprehensive data that fully reveals the numbers and statistics of this epidemic and health issue
- Indian Health Care Services is built upon a Western framework
  - Culturally sensitive approach to this issue which includes using traditional medicines, ceremonies, songs, activities, stories, and therapy approaches.
- Currently policy in place does not ultimately protect our women nor furthers tribal sovereignty.
What I learned...

- How to advocate
- On the Hill
- Within my tribal community
- How to write policy
- One pagers to deliver to people on the Hill, within my tribal community, and the general public
- How to be an effective leader
- NIHB: networks, resources, tools, and support.
Conclusion

- Problem
- What I did to minimize the health issue...
  - Advocated
  - Wrote my own policy and suggestions for our congress leaders, tribal leaders, etc
  - Spreading awareness
- What I learned
  - How to be a youth tribal leader
  - How to write policy and what health policy is
Thank you!