



UIHI Communication Broadcast

A P R I L 2 0 1 1

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Ten years ago this April, the first Sexual Assault Awareness Month was nationally observed to raise awareness and educate communities about sexual violence prevention. In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month's tenth anniversary, we would like to call attention to the matter of sexual violence in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.

Last year, the Urban Indian Health Institute, Seattle Indian Health Board released a report on the reproductive health of urban AI/AN women. The report, which included findings from the National Survey of Family Growth (2002), showed that more than two times the number of urban AI/AN report their first sex was non-voluntary compared to NH-whites (17% vs. 8%). For both urban AI/AN and NH-whites, the most common reported type of force at first sex was being "pressured into it by his words or actions, but without threats of harm" (63% and 62%). However, for forced sex at any time the most common reported type of force among AI/AN and NH-whites was being physically held down (89% and 74%). Sexual violence issues need further investigation and continued surveillance among AI/AN, and resources must be allocated for programs to work specifically with AI/AN young women.

To access the full report, please visit the UIHI's report page at <http://www.uihi.org/resources/reports/>.

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