NATIVE AMERICAN SEXUAL OFFENDERS

The Native American Sex Offender Management Project: Research and Best Practices

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The goal of the Native American Sex Offender Management (NASOM) project is to identify and develop evidence-based and best practice resources for the treatment, management, and reentry of Native American adults and juveniles who have committed sexual offenses.

This project consists of the following components:

- An inventory of existing sex offender management and treatment programs for Native Americans.
- A comprehensive literature review regarding Native American and other aboriginal/indigenous (Canada, Australia, and New Zealand) sex offenders.
- A national forum of tribal stakeholders to make recommendations for future funding, policy, and practice initiatives.
- A series of case studies on tribal sex offender management, treatment, and reentry program implementation.

This initiative was developed and funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART Office). The SMART Office was statutorily created in the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, by the Adam Walsh Act in 2006 to assist states and tribes with implementation of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). Over the past 8 years, the SMART Office has gradually expanded its mission to include funding and support for empirically-supported sex offender management policies and practices.

This presentation will highlight results from the NASOM project including a review of existing programs for Native Americans who have committed sexual offenses; the current
state of the research related to this population including a review of the literature on aboriginal/indigenous populations in Canada, New Zealand, and Australia; results of the case studies conducted in tribal communities; and recommendations for future funding, policy, and practice initiatives.

Goals of the Paper:

1. At the end of the training, participants will have an increased understanding of the work of the federal government to support research-based treatment and management strategies for Native Americans who commit sexual offenses.
2. At the end of the training, participants will be able to identify the research support and gaps in the management and treatment approaches for Native Americans who commit sexual offenses.
3. At the end of the training, participants will have an understanding of the challenges related to providing management and treatment for Native American sex offenders.

Breaking New Ground by Unearthing Old Practices:
The Role and Use of Cultural Healing Practices for Aboriginal Clients

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In Canada Aboriginal peoples are disproportionality represented in the criminal justice system and present with some unique needs from an assessment, treatment and risk management perspective. While Aboriginal men who have committed sexual offences must deal with offence specific issues to help them address their risk this cannot be done in isolation without attending to the larger issues often presenting. Many Aboriginal offenders present with significant historical trauma as a result of the impact of colonization and residential schools. This has contributed to a loss of cultural and personal identity, negative self-judgment, emotional disconnection and patterns of coping through escape oriented coping strategies. To truly address the psychological meaningful factors that contribute to offending behaviour consideration and attention should be given to helping clients address historical trauma issues, find a healthy sense of identity and pride and build the capacity to manage their lives in a healthy way so they can also manage their risk factors and risk to re-offend. This Workshop will discuss a blended approach to incorporating western psychotherapy and sex offender treatment techniques with Aboriginal processes of healing. Issues addressed will include discussing unique factors among Aboriginal offenders; cultural healing modalities and how and why they are relevant to sex offender treatment and ways in which non-Aboriginal mental health and criminal justice personal can work collaboratively with Aboriginal cultural and spiritual helpers/Elders.
Goals of the Paper:

1. To highlight the importance of culturally relevant interventions.
2. To demonstrate culture as a key responsivity factor for effective intervention to enhance treatment compliance and completion and risk management.
3. To highlight how working with cultural teachers, leaders and advisors is helpful and to clarify the role these individuals can have in treatment and the types of healing modalities they can add to the treatment process.