



There are no words

SEXUAL ABUSE IN ALASKA FACT SHEET

There are no words for sexual abuse in our native languages because traditionally it did not exist. Our Alaska Native cultures are centered around the belief of respecting one another. Abuse, control, and violence were NOT acceptable. We must not let them be acceptable today.

Sexual Assault is about power and control

- It is never the victim's fault
- A victim is never responsible for their assault
- Lack of injuries are not proof that an assault or rape did not happen
- It is always the abuser or rapist fault
- A victim may not fight back out of fear or confusion
- A victim deserves to be believed and validated
- Not all victims report. Not all victims report immediately

Sexual Abuse can come in many different forms.

Sexual Assault

A term including all sexual offenses. Any action or statement with a sexual nature and done without consent from both sides.

Rape

Insertion of a bodily organ or an object into the sex organ of a woman without her consent.

Attempted Rape

Attempted insertion of a bodily organ or an object into the sex organ of a woman without her consent.

Molestation

To make unwanted or improper sexual advances towards (someone) especially : to force physical and usually sexual contact on.

Gang Rape

Gang rape is rape carried out by more than one attacker.

Serial rape

repeated incidents of rape carried out by the same attacker over an extended period of time.

Incest

Sexual abuse or assault at the hands of a family member.



We Need to End Victim Shaming

“Our women are tired. They are tired of getting raped. They are tired of getting beaten. They are tired of getting their hopes stepped on every time they try to do something about it.” –Tinekkia Williams, Standing Rock Reservation

Sexual assault can happen in relationships. Sex is never owed. You always have the right to say no. Sex always has to be consensual.

Sexual assault can happen to anyone regardless of age, race, economic status or gender. As well at any time any place including in your home, community buildings, bars, hotels or workplace.

Predators are in all cross sections of our society. While victims are never responsible for their abuse we have to teach safety and where to go for help!



Talk to an advocate at StrongHearts Native Helpline at **1-844-762-8483**

By opening up the discussion about sexual abuse in our villages, we are empowering our people to openly address and take positive steps to address the issue that is crippling our people.

For more information please contact AKNWRC at info@aknwrc.org or call us at 907-328-3990