

Historical Trauma & Community Defined Practices

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www.nativehealth.org

So what happened? (short list)

- Forced removals from traditional homelands (congressional policy 1832)
- Reservation period-reduction of land areas (during 1800's)
- Dawes Act-private property plots and change in kinship patterns (1887)
- Boarding school era-Native children institutionalized away from homes (1879-1970's)
- Relocation to Cities (1950's)

Historical Fact:

Native Children in the US and in Canada were forced to attend boarding schools for a period of 100 years beginning in 1870 for the purpose of extermination culturally if not physically. The mission statement at Carlisle Indian School was: “Kill the Indian and Save the Man”





Trauma began the way children were abducted from their homes
Abuse continued on arrival by stripping Native children of Native Identity
Native clothes were replaced with a uniform
Hair was cut
Native names were replaced with English or Christian names
Native customs were prohibited
Speaking Native languages was prohibited



The role religion played is profound
Children who endured the schools were separated from the Natural
Support of relatives, spiritual, cultural practices that immune them from despair
Many Native Americans have trouble trusting the religious groups that ran the
boarding schools because of the abuse they received
This phenomenon left some boarding school survivors and their decedents
spiritually bankrupt
Some boarding school survivors do not even trust education systems because
of this experience



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