

Native American Health

Both the article and film provided much insightful information on the obstacles and disparities of Native American Health. Throughout the years, Native Americans have dealt with many controversial practices, ones with harmful impacts. The film focused on the prevalence of American Indian children in foster care. Children were being removed from their families as a way of forced assimilation. Not only were these children being removed from their families, but they were placed into families that they did not fit into, which in return caused much conflict. Throughout the film, a woman explained her experiences throughout her childhood and how being forced into adoption caused much trauma for her. Due to her forced adoption and placement with an unfit family, she found herself in very dark situations, which eventually led her to the streets. She engaged herself in drug use and prostitution. This not only occurred in her situation, but many others as well. Another woman explained how she does not associate herself where and with the people she grew up with because it was not where she wanted to be, and it produced a lot of emotional traumas. Women struggled when having children because their ways of living due to past trauma affected their children.

The article dives deeper into the controversial operations among American Indian women. During the 20th century, the Indian Health Service (IHS), promoted forced sterilization techniques. Certain procedures were being done on women without their knowledge and full consent. This violated the reproductive rights of these women, and they were left with very negative impacts. The article highlights many implications and discusses the importance of accountability and reparation for these actions. Native Americans have faced extreme obstacles within the healthcare system, and it is important that we are provided with a comprehensive understanding of such an extensive issue, so that these disparities can end.

