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Native American Perceptions of Community and Social Problems Affecting Health and Well-being

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Native American Perceptions of Community and Social Problems Affecting Health and Well-being

In addition to significant unmet healthcare-coverage and services needs for Native Americans described in an earlier post,¹ the 2010 UNO Consortium for Organizational Research and Evaluation (CORE) study results helped document widespread community and social problems facing low-income areas of Omaha and Lincoln. The major findings of this analysis are as follows:

- As shown in Table 1, only about half of respondents in Omaha (48%) and Lincoln (50%) strongly agreed or agreed that their neighborhood is safe. About 60% in Lincoln and only 40% in Omaha believe police would respond in a timely manner if called to their neighborhoods.
- Almost four-fifths (78%) of survey participants in Omaha and 38% in Lincoln know a Native American who is in a gang, while almost a third (33%) in Omaha and 24% in Lincoln said it is easy to get an illegal gun in their neighborhoods.
- Over seven in ten (71%) in Omaha and almost half (45%) in Lincoln said illegal drugs are easy to get in their neighborhoods.
- Eighty-five percent (85%) of respondents in Omaha and almost three-fourths (74%) in Lincoln strongly agreed or agreed that they have a hard time finding affordable housing.
- Only 10% of Native Americans in Lincoln believe the people in their neighborhood can afford the health aids they need (e.g. glasses, hearing aids, wheelchairs, canes, walkers, etc.) Almost half (49%) in Omaha, however, felt their people could afford them.
- About 70% of participants in both Omaha and Lincoln know a Native American who cannot afford food.
- Eighty-one percent (81%) in Omaha and almost half (48%) in Lincoln knew a Native American who committed suicide.
- Almost three-fifths (58%) of respondents in Omaha and 85% in Lincoln know a Native American single-parent under 19 years of age.
- As shown in Figure 1, almost all respondents in Omaha (92%) and Lincoln (95%) believe that there is a problem with child abuse/neglect in their communities.
- About 80% in both Native American communities also believe there is a domestic violence or violence problem, while 72% in Omaha and 62% in Lincoln perceive that there is a sexual and/or emotional abuse problem.

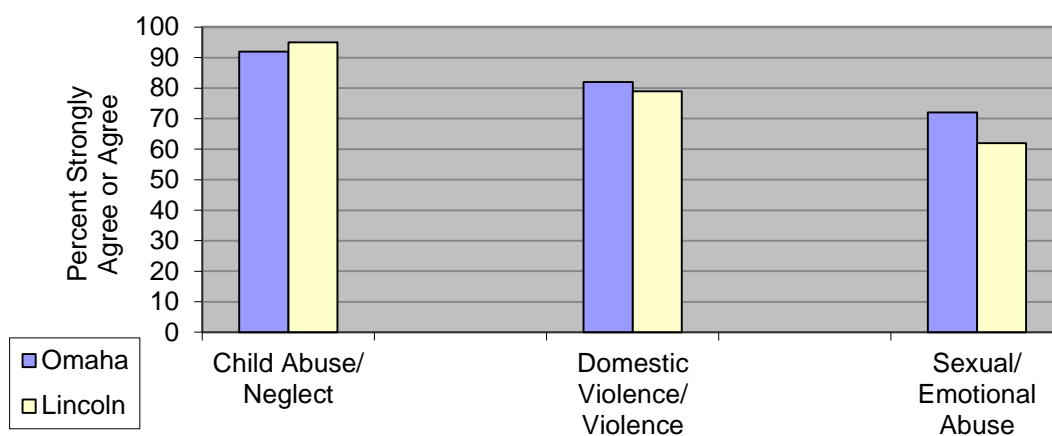
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Table 1. Native American Perceptions of Community and Social Problems Affecting Health and Well-Being, Omaha and Lincoln, 2010

	Percent Strongly Agree or Agree	
	Omaha	Lincoln
Believe that their neighborhood is safe.	48	50
Believe police would respond in a timely manner.	40	60
Know a Native American in a gang.	78	38
Believe it is easy to get an illegal gun in their neighborhood.	33	24
Believe illegal drugs are easy to get in their community.	71	45
Have a hard time finding affordable housing.	85	74
Believe Native Americans in their community can afford health aids they need.	49	10
Know a Native American who cannot afford food.	69	71
Knew a Native American who has committed suicide.	81	48
Know a Native American who is a single-parent under 19 years old.	58	85
Know a Native American who does not get pre-natal care.	46	29

Source: Piper, R.K., (2010). *Native American Health Needs Assessment: Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska*. Omaha, NE: UNO Center for Public Affairs Research. <http://tinyurl.com/9p7a77c>

Figure 1. Native American Perceptions of Problems of Abuse, Neglect and Violence, Omaha and Lincoln, 2010



Source: Piper, R.K., (2010). *Native American Health Needs Assessment: Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska*. Omaha, NE: UNO Center for Public Affairs Research. <http://tinyurl.com/9p7a77c>

1. Piper, R.K. (2012, August 2). Unmet Healthcare Needs of Native American Populations in Douglas and Lancaster Counties [Facebook post]. Retrieved from <http://www.facebook.com/unocpar>

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