

Historical Trauma Response and Intergenerational Trauma



A bison standing in profile, facing right, against a blue background. The bison is rendered in a semi-transparent, light blue color, making it blend with the background. It has a thick, shaggy coat and a large, rounded hump on its back. The text is overlaid on the bison's body.

Historical Trauma Response

It is said that past events shape current reality.

HTR Theory continued...

- A collection of characteristics is formed in relation to the trauma that a group of people have endured.
- HTR shows itself across Native American Nations as a group, as well as with individuals.

An Important Element:

- Trauma responses to past cataclysmic events can be transferred to offspring.
- Descendants of people who have suffered genocide not only identify with the past, but also emotionally re-experience it in the present.



The Trauma Continued

- 1880's – 1950's boarding school era
- Federal Policy forced removal of Indian children from their homes and into abusive institutions



Distortion of Identity

- Self-concept
- Values
- Traditional ways-bonding with a group





Carlisle Indian Boarding School

Pathways to Healing

- Tapping into history, not the trauma, but the thousands of years of strength, spiritual direction, inherent resiliency, and the discovery of positive identity.
- Healing Circles-grieving for our forefathers, acknowledgement of the pain.





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