

Unforeseen Inequity: Childhood Sexual Abuse in Aotearoa, New Zealand

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Abstract : Familial childhood sexual abuse (FCSA) prevalence rates in Aotearoa, New Zealand, are amongst the highest globally, particularly in indigenous communities. However, such statistics seem incongruent with indigenous paradigms of unity, care, and connection. The inability of policymakers and mainstream service providers to acknowledge the direct links between the social contexts created by colonisation for indigenous families in Aotearoa and intergenerational FCSA has meant there has been little meaningful success in combatting this significant social problem. This research traces the conditions of intergenerational FCSA to the systemic inequalities created by colonization. Kaupapa Māori methodologies were applied to this qualitative piece of empirical research wherein 17 indigenous contributors shared their stories of FCSA. From these stories and existing literature, we can identify how the machinations of colonisation are mirrored by techniques used to perpetrate abuse. Once identified, we are then able to recommend actions for halting FCSA for future generations.

Keywords : indigeneity, family violence, childhood sexual abuse, colonization

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