



On November 30, 2011 Kay Freeman, UNCP Healthy Start Director attended a thought-provoking sexual violence prevention training in Raleigh, NC with Ms. Margaret Crites, Director of the Rape Crisis Center. Kay currently serves as a member of the Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force and was recently selected to serve on the board for the Rape Crisis Center of Robeson County. The statistical data for American Indian women who experience assault is staggering. According to national statistics, American Indian women have the highest rates of sexual assault of any population. 1 in 3 Native women will be sexually assaulted and 3 in 4 will be physically assaulted in her lifetime (Department of Justice). The North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA) Training Institute sponsored the event. The facilitator for the event was Ms. Erica A. Scott, Resources Sharing Project Technical Assistance Specialist with NCCASA who holds a BA from Harvard University and a MA from UNC-Chapel Hill and is a member of the Lenape Tribe. The training was entitled; Historical Roots of Contemporary Oppression: Sexual Assault in Indian Country. This particular instruction was designed to introduce participants to unique issues affecting sexual assault in “Indian Country”, territories where there are major Indian populations, as well as in urban and rural areas throughout North Carolina. Participants learned about historical factors that contribute to contemporary oppression and influence high rates of sexual assault, gained an understanding of jurisdictional challenges, and learned how to enhance services to American Indians. The training also highlighted connections between violence against Indian women and other populations.