American Indian Grand Families

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Description: American Indians have the highest national percentage of grandparent caregiving (56.1%) compared to Asian Americans (20%), Latinos (34.7%), and African Americans (51.7%). In Oklahoma the number of children in grandparent or other relative households has been growing. Currently about 8% of Oklahoma’s children reside in grandparent headed households (about 40,000 children) and 12% of these are American Indian households. To date there has not been any systematic investigation focused on American Indian grandparents rearing grandchildren in Oklahoma. Yet the existing knowledge indicates the potential for there to be a large number of American Indian grand families that are vulnerable and in need of assistance. Detailing the strengths and struggles of these grandparents is the purpose of this research that represents collaboration between the Indian Health Care Resource Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma and the Knee Center for Strong Families within the OU School of Social Work.

Fifty American Indian grandparents that are raising their grandchildren will be recruited to participate in the study. Participants will be asked to complete a demographic questionnaire along with a parental stress scale that has been modified for grandparents raising grandchildren. The study will provide information about the quality of life for these families. This understanding builds the foundation for future programs designed to strengthen American Indian grand families.