



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## POLICY RESEARCH CENTER

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### Research Policy Update

#### *Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women*

##### Key Points:

- American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women experience higher rates of violence.
- AI/AN women experience violence more commonly by non-Native perpetrators.
- AI/AN victims of violence are less likely to receive needed services.

#### **Violence Against AI/AN Women – Data Trends**

In the United States, violence against AI/AN women has reached devastating levels on tribal lands and in Alaska Native villages. From the latest National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Research Report released in May 2016, we learned the following (Rosay, 2016):



**More than 4 in 5** American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women (84.3 percent) have experienced violence in their lifetime.



**More than half** of AI/AN women (56.1 percent) have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime.



**More than half** of AI/AN women (55.5 percent) have experienced physical violence by intimate partners in their lifetime.



**Almost half** of AI/AN women (48.8 percent) have been stalked in their lifetime.

**1.7x**

AI/AN women are **1.7 times more likely** than White women to have experienced violence in the past year.

**10x**

Native women also face **murder rates** more than 10 times the national average in some counties (Bachman, Zaykowski, Kallymer, Poteyeva, & Lanier, 2008).

2x

AI/AN women were almost **2 times as likely** to have experienced rape as non-Hispanic White women (34.1 percent vs. 17.9 percent) over the course of a lifetime.

2.8x

The murder rate of AI/AN women is almost **3 times** that of non-Hispanic White women. (Petrosky, et al, 2017).

## Non-Native Perpetrators of Violence and AI/AN Women – Data Trends

The challenging reality is that Native women are significantly more likely than other women to experience violence committed by interracial perpetrators. The 2013 Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) included an historic provision reaffirming tribes' inherent power to exercise **Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction (SDVCJ)** over non-Indian perpetrators who commit acts of domestic violence, dating violence, or violations of certain protection orders in Indian Country. The law does not, however, cover sexual assault, stalking, or trafficking crimes. The following statistics came from the NIJ Report (Rosay, 2016):

96%

**The vast majority** (96 percent) of AI/AN female victims of sexual violence experience violence at the hands of a non-Native perpetrator; 21 percent have experienced intraracial violence.

5x

AI/AN women were **5 times as likely** to have experienced physical violence by an interracial intimate partner as non-Hispanic White women (90 percent vs. 18 percent).



**More than 4 in 5** AI/AN women (89 percent) have experienced stalking by a non-Native perpetrator.

## Access to Services & Justice – Data Trends

AI/AN victims of violence are more likely to experience injuries requiring medical treatment and less likely to be able to access services than non-Native women. The following statistics came from the NIJ Report (Rosay, 2016):

1.5x

AI/AN female victims are **1.5 times as likely** as non-Hispanic white female victims to be physically injured.

2x

AI/AN women are **1.9 times as likely** as non-Hispanic white women to have missed days of work or school as a result of their victimization.

2.5x

AI/AN women are **2.5 times as likely** as non-Hispanic white women to lack access to needed services.

## References

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### Questions:

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