

Category J: Violence Against Indian Women

**CRIME, VIOLENCE & VICTIMIZATION RESEARCH DIVISION'S
COMPENDIUM OF RESEARCH ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

1993-2015

Table of Contents

Category J: VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIAN WOMEN	1J
2012-PJ-BX-K001: <i>NIJ Executive Research Visiting Fellowship: Violence Against Indian Women Research Program</i>	1J
2013-PJ-BX-K001: <i>Native American Crime, Victimization, and Justice Studies: Postdoctoral Fellowship (Position—Postdoctoral Research Associate)</i>	1J
2013-VW-CX-0001: <i>An Innovative Response to an Intractable Problem: Using Village Public Safety Officers to Enhance the Criminal Justice Response to Violence Committed Against Indian Women in Alaska's Tribal Communities</i>	2J
2014-MU-MU-K001: <i>Effective Methods to Assess Exposure to Violence and Victimization among American Indian and Alaska Native Youth</i>	3J
DJO-NIJ-14-D-0071: <i>National Baseline Study Research Contractor (NBSRC)</i>	3J
GS-10F-0097L / DJO-NIJ-14-G-0081: <i>National Baseline Study Data Center Contractor (NBSDCC)</i>	4J

Category J: VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIAN WOMEN

2012-PJ-BX-K001:	NIJ Executive Research Visiting Fellowship: Violence Against Indian Women Research Program
Amount:	\$563,686
PI:	André B. Rosay, Justice Center, University of Alaska Anchorage
Program Officer:	Christine Crossland
Status:	Ongoing

Under this visiting fellowship, Dr. Rosay will re-analyze the national and state data from the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), focusing on the prevalence of sexual violence victimization, stalking victimization, and violence by an intimate partner. Analyses will examine how certain analytic choices impact national and state estimates (e.g., only using complete interviews to calculate estimates, including refusal cases in the denominator). Second, Dr. Rosay will analyze the American Indian (AI) and Alaska Native (AN) NISVS oversample that was included in the 2010 data collection effort. Dr. Rosay’s research provides the most comprehensive, reliable, and valid estimates on the victimization experiences of AI and AN women and men. Dr. Rosay’s capstone research is expected to advance significantly the measurement and analysis of violence against women, particularly violence against Indian women.

In keeping with the mission of NIJ to disseminate quality research, Dr. Rosay will disseminate this research internally and externally, and train researchers on how to analyze NISVS data. Internal dissemination will include presentations and briefings with federal employees and stakeholders. External dissemination will include presentations at three conferences (the Sexual Violence Research Initiative 2015 Forum, the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, and the American Public Health Association conference). Dr. Rosay also will hold a data workshop on how to analyze NISVS data, in January 2016. Together, these activities will support the dissemination of reliable and valid data to researchers, practitioners, and policymakers in multiple sectors (including criminology and public health).

Dr. Rosay also will participate in a wide range of collegial work with the NIJ Director and NIJ staff to shape and inform the core knowledge-building work of NIJ, to support VAWA 2005, Title IX, Section 904 Tribal Task Force, and to guide NIJ’s program of research on violence against Indian women in tribal communities.

2013-PJ-BX-K001:	Native American Crime, Victimization, and Justice Studies: Postdoctoral Fellowship (Position—Postdoctoral Research Associate)
Amount:	\$95,689
PI:	Alison Brooks, Ph.D.
Program Officer:	Christine Crossland
Status:	Ongoing

The issue of violence against American Indian (AI) and Alaska Native (AN) women is an important public health and criminal justice issue that has received attention in recent years because of specific provisions in the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 2005. The goal of this fellowship was to build and extend the work completed to date on NIJ’s program of research examining violence against Indian women. As such, Dr. Alison Brooks consulted and provided continuing guidance on the implementation of the National Baseline Study (NBS). Additionally, Dr. Brooks conducted two research studies during her tenure at NIJ.

The first study, *Evaluability Assessment of the OVW-funded Tribal Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA) Program*, aimed to document the implementation of the Department’s SAUSA program and determine its readiness for an evaluation. The tribal SAUSA program’s goal is to train eligible tribal prosecutors in federal law, procedure, and investigative techniques to pursue violence against women cases in both tribal and federal courts; and to increase the likelihood that viable criminal offenses are prosecuted in tribal courts and federal courts—or both. Data gathered during a review of the program’s documentation, interviews with key staff, and site visits, showed the program is close to being ready for an evaluation, should the program address issues of funding, sustainability, and data availability and reliability. Anecdotal information indicated that positive and successful partnerships have been developed, which is a key goal of the program. If the program is extended and/or expanded, a process evaluation that incorporates a qualitative component is possible in the future. A process evaluation could provide valuable information

about the program’s operation and context and could inform the results of a future outcome evaluation, if one is conducted. Information gained from a process evaluation could be fed back into the program to improve it in the current and/or future sites.

Dr. Brooks’ second study was titled *State Response to Crimes Against Women in Indian Country*. This study investigated the state response, in part, by interviewing tribal law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim advocates as well as state law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim services staff in Public Law 280 states. The purpose of these interviews was to obtain information about their experiences responding to crimes against women, what is going well, what could be improved, and to learn about any promising practices in the field. Interview questions spanned the domains of context, case processing, agency roles and collaboration, interagency communication, staff training, community and victim outreach, and vicarious trauma. Forty-seven state and tribal prosecutors, law enforcement, and victim service providers were interviewed, and their responses and recommendations for improving the response to crimes against women in Indian Country were presented in a final technical report.

Product: Evaluation article released:

http://nij.gov/journals/275/pages/plan-for-program-evaluation.aspx?utm_source=eblast-JUSTINFO&utm_medium=eblast&utm_campaign=jnl275-progeval052015

2013-VW-CX-0001:	An Innovative Response to an Intractable Problem: Using Village Public Safety Officers to Enhance the Criminal Justice Response to Violence Committed Against Indian Women in Alaska's Tribal Communities
Amount:	\$294,317
PIs:	Brad A. Myr Stol, Ph.D., Justice Center, University of Alaska, Anchorage, and Katherine TePas, M.A., Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor, State of Alaska
Program Officer:	Christine Crossland
Status:	Ongoing

The purpose of the study is to contribute directly to NIJ's efforts to evaluate state and tribal responses to violence against Indian women in tribal communities. Through the use of detailed case file reviews and focus group discussions with Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO), as well as community and criminal justice stakeholders, this project will examine the contributions VPSOs make to the community and criminal justice responses to violence committed against Indian women in Alaska's tribal communities. Specific attention will be paid to the impact VPSOs have on the investigation of domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual abuse of a minor, and homicide cases, as well as the extent to which VPSOs facilitate the prosecution of those who commit violence against Indian women in Alaska's tribal communities. The overarching goal of the proposed project is to evaluate and document empirically the impact Alaska's VPSO initiative is having on the investigation and prosecution of those who commit acts of sexual and domestic violence, as well as homicide, against Indian women in Alaska's tribal communities. Finally, this research will assess the potential transferability of the VPSO model to other tribal communities in the lower 48. For the 2008-2011 study period, information pertaining to the case processing (investigation and prosecution) of an estimated 800 domestic violence, 750 sexual assault, 670 sexual abuse of a minor, and 25 homicide case files will be coded and analyzed. Case file coding will include the characteristics of suspects, victims, witnesses/third parties, as well as investigating officers. Focus groups will be conducted with groups of 10-20 individuals in four (4) research sites, as well as with small groups (8-10 individuals) of VPSOs, VPSO Coordinators, Alaska State Trooper (AST) Oversight Staff, and state prosecutors. Analysis of the case file and case processing data will proceed through three stages: (1) descriptive univariate analyses, (2) comparative bivariate analyses, and (3) multivariate inferential (explanatory) analyses. Regression techniques appropriate for the modeling of categorical dependent variables will be used, such as binary, ordered, and multinomial logit/probit models. The data from focus groups and interviews will be analyzed for salient themes related to the role and impact of VPSOs in Alaska's tribal communities. These thematic analyses will be used to contextualize and interpret the findings of the quantitative analyses.

2014-MU-MU-K001:	Effective Methods to Assess Exposure to Violence and Victimization among American Indian and Alaska Native Youth
Amount:	\$1,325,843
PI:	Ada Pecos Melton, American Indian Development Associates (AIDA) LLC
Program Director:	Christine Crossland
Status:	Ongoing

There has never been a national study of tribal youth regarding their victimization experiences that provides reliable, valid estimates of the scope of the problem. As a result, the incidence, prevalence, and nature of victimization experienced by American Indian (AI) and Alaska Native (AN) youth living in tribal communities is unknown. NIJ, in partnership with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Office for Victims of Crime, is funding this 30-month study intended to (a) improve the health and well-being of AI and AN youth by developing and testing a survey instrument and different administration modes that can effectively assess exposure to violence and victimization and (b) determine the feasibility of using these procedures in tribal communities and settings.

The project involves five stages: (1) assembling and acquiring input from stakeholders; (2) reviewing existing instruments; (3) developing the instrument, design, and implementation protocols; (4) conducting cognitive testing of the instrument to assure comprehension; and (5) and pilot testing of the instrument and modes of delivery. The goal for the instrument is to be comprehensive and include measures of exposure to abuse, neglect, sexual offenses, property crimes, hate crimes, bullying, peer and school assault, and exposure to domestic and community violence.

The sample includes tribal youth 12 to 20 years of age. Cognitive testing will be conducted in four tribal communities (one in Alaska and three in the lower 48 states) and involves a total of 50 respondents (between 12-15 youth at each site). This testing will include 3 to 4 youth each for ages 12-14, 15-17, and 18-20. The pilot test involves the use of at least two, but no more than three, different administration modes (e.g., face-to-face interviews, self-administered questionnaire in pencil-and-paper format, audio computer-assisted self-administered interviews, computer-assisted telephone interviews). The target sample is 375 completed interviews from three of the four tribal sites recruited for the cognitive testing phase—one in Alaska and two in the lower 48 states.

Among the key outcomes that will be examined are the response and refusal rates, missing data, interview length, willingness to disclose sensitive information, respondent comfort, cost, ability to provide assistance to respondents, and ease and adequacy of the human subjects’ protocol. Results will be disseminated in presentations, USDOJ publications, peer-reviewed journal articles, and through a website dedicated to the project.

DJO-NIJ-14-D-0071:	National Baseline Study Research Contractor (NBSRC)
Amount:	\$1,773,421
PI:	Ada Pecos Melton, American Indian Development Associates (AIDA), LLC
Program Director:	Christine Crossland
Status:	Ongoing

The Violence Against Indian Women (VAIW) National Baseline Study (NBS) is part of a Congressionally mandated program¹ of research at NIJ that seeks better information on domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking perpetrated against American Indian (AI) and Alaska Native (AN) women living on tribal lands and in Alaska Native communities. Despite compelling indications that rates of violence against AI and AN women merit serious attention, there is a dearth of solid scientific research regarding their victimization experiences. Accurate, comprehensive, and current information on the incidence, prevalence, and nature of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and stalking in Indian Country and Alaska Native villages is critically needed to improve our understanding of the programmatic, service, and policy needs of victims and to educate and inform policymakers and the public about this pervasive threat to the health and well-being of AI and AN women.

¹ Title IX, Section 904(a) of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005, Pub. Law No. 109-162 (codified at 42 U.S.C. § 3796gg-10 note), as amended by Section 907 of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, Pub. L. No. 113-4.

Under the direction of NIJ, the National Baseline Study Research Contractor² (NBSRC) and the National Baseline Study Data Center Contractor³ (NBSDCC) have implemented a study of public safety and public health among AI and AN women living in tribal communities that is consistent with the general approach and methods developed for the pilot study. The pilot study was developed with input from tribal stakeholders to help ensure that NIJ's NBS would be viable, culturally and community appropriate, respectful of those involved, and that the information collected would be relevant and useful for the AI and AN communities.

The NBS was officially implemented in May 2014. This 42-month study will be conducted in geographically dispersed tribal communities across the U.S. (lower 48 states and Alaska), using a NIJ-developed sampling strategy for which the primary aim is to provide an accurate national victimization rate of violence against AI and AN women. The multistage sampling plan provides a practical and accurate approach that will involve enlisting the largest number of federally recognized tribes ever undertaken to date—providing for at least one tribe in each Indian Health Service (IHS) region and sampling proportional to size within region—and randomly selecting tribal households from each participating tribe in which all adult AI and AN women (i.e., 18 years and older) in the household will be approached to participate in the study.

At the end of this study, the NBS is expected to produce a deeper understanding of the issues faced by Native American women living in Indian Country and Alaska Native villages and to help formulate public policies and prevention strategies to decrease the incidence of violent crimes against AI and AN women.

GS-10F-0097L / DJO-NIJ-14-G-0081: National Baseline Study Data Center Contractor (NBSDCC)	
Amount:	\$1,602,073
PI:	Lisa Carley-Baxter, Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International
Program Director:	Christine Crossland
Status:	Ongoing

The Violence Against Indian Women (VAIW) National Baseline Study (NBS) is part of a Congressionally mandated program⁴ of research at NIJ that seeks better information on domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking perpetrated against American Indian (AI) and Alaska Native (AN) women living on tribal lands and in Alaska Native communities. Despite compelling indications that rates of violence against AI and AN women merit serious attention, there is a dearth of solid scientific research regarding their victimization experiences. Accurate, comprehensive, and current information on the incidence, prevalence, and nature of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and stalking in Indian Country and Alaska Native villages is critically needed to improve our understanding of the programmatic, service, and policy needs of victims and to educate and inform policymakers and the public about this pervasive threat to the health and well-being of AI and AN women.

Under the direction of NIJ, the National Baseline Study Research Contractor⁵ (NBSRC) and the National Baseline Study Data Center Contractor⁶ (NBSDCC) have implemented a study of public safety and public health among AI and AN women living in tribal communities that is consistent with the general approach and methods developed for the pilot study. The pilot study was developed with input from tribal stakeholders to help ensure that NIJ's NBS would be viable, culturally and community appropriate, and respectful of those involved and that the information collected would be relevant and useful for the AI and AN communities.

The NBS was officially implemented in May 2014. This 42-month study will be conducted in geographically dispersed tribal communities across the U.S. (lower 48 states and Alaska), using a NIJ-developed sampling strategy for which the primary aim is to provide an accurate national victimization rate of violence against AI and AN women. The multistage sampling plan provides a practical and accurate approach that will involve enlisting the largest number of federally recognized tribes ever undertaken to date—providing for at least one tribe in each Indian Health Service (IHS)

² Awarded to American Indian Development Associates, LLC; Contract No. DJO-NIJ-14-D-0071.
³ Awarded to Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International; Contract No. GS-10F-0097L / DJO-NIJ-14-G-0081.
⁴ Title IX, Section 904(a) of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005, Pub. Law No. 109-162 (codified at 42 U.S.C. § 3796gg-10 note), as amended by Section 907 of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, Pub. L. No. 113-4.
⁵ Awarded to American Indian Development Associates, LLC; Contract No. DJO-NIJ-14-D-0071.
⁶ Awarded to Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International; Contract No. GS-10F-0097L DJO-NIJ-14-G-0081.

region and sampling proportional to size within region—and randomly selecting tribal households from each participating tribe in which all adult AI and AN women (i.e., 18 years and older) in the household will be approached to participate in the study.

At the end of this study, the NBS is expected to produce a deeper understanding of the issues faced by Native American women living in Indian Country and Alaska Native villages and to help formulate public policies and prevention strategies to decrease the incidence of violent crimes against AI and AN women.

For an index of all grants, go to <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/223572/223572-grants-index.pdf>.