



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE FIVE THINGS

ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN AND MEN



1. Most American Indian and Alaska Native adults are victims of violence.

More than four in five American Indian and Alaska Native adults (83 percent) have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime. That's almost 3 million people who have experienced psychological aggression or physical violence by intimate partners, stalking, or sexual violence.

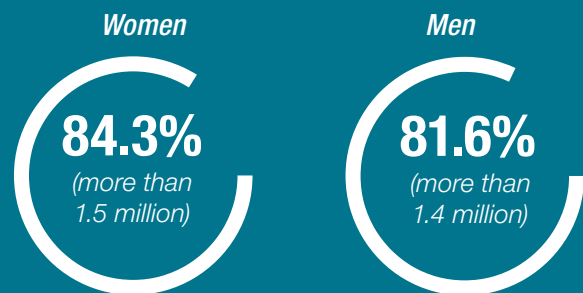
2. Men and women are victimized at similar rates but in different ways.

American Indian and Alaska Native women and men have been victimized at similar rates (84.3 percent for women and 81.6 percent for men). They have experienced similar levels of psychological aggression and physical violence by intimate partners. But women have experienced significantly higher levels of sexual violence (56.1 percent versus 27.5 percent for men) and stalking (48.8 percent versus 18.6 percent for men).

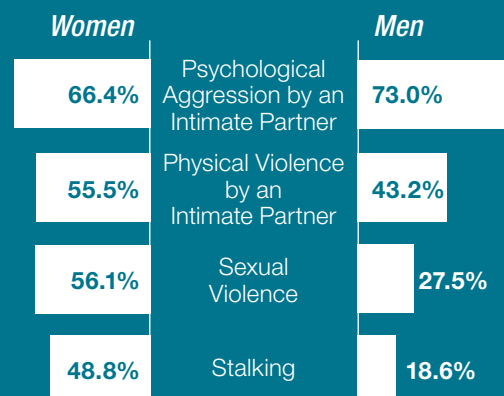
3. Victimization rates are higher for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The lifetime victimization rate is 1.2 times as high for American Indian and Alaska Native women as for White women; for men, it is 1.3 times as high.

Percentages of American Indian and Alaska Native women and men who have experienced violence in their lifetime



Types of Victimization



4. American Indian and Alaska Native female victims are more likely to need services, but they are less likely to have access to those services.

More than two in five American Indian and Alaska Native female victims reported being physically injured, and almost half reported needing services. The services most commonly needed were medical care and legal services. Unfortunately, more than a third (38 percent) were unable to receive necessary services.

Research continues to highlight the disparities in health outcomes and access to health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives. These results highlight the need for additional services for American Indian and Alaska Native victims of crime — a need that was also documented in the Office for Victims of Crime’s *Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services — Final Report*.

5. For American Indians and Alaska Natives, interracial violence is more prevalent than *intraracial* violence.

Although the exact number of victimizations per person is unknown, it is clear that most American Indian and Alaska Native victims have experienced at least one act of violence committed by an interracial perpetrator (97 percent of women and 90 percent of men). Fewer victims (35 percent of women and 33 percent of men) have experienced one or more acts of violence by an American Indian or Alaska Native perpetrator.

This finding offers strong support for the sovereign right of federally recognized tribes to criminally prosecute non-Indian perpetrators. Until recently, federally recognized tribes did not have this authority, even for crimes committed on tribal lands. This gap in jurisdictional authority provided immunity to non-Indian perpetrators and compromised the safety of tribal communities. The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 partially corrected this problem by providing special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction to federally recognized tribes. But more progress can be made to provide justice for American Indian and Alaska Native victims.

Learn more

Rosay, André B., *Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men: 2010 Findings from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, 2016, NCJ 249736.

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