



TALKING POINTS

NIJ Report Details High Levels of Violence Experienced by Native Communities

The National Institute of Justice has just released a report on violence experienced by American Indian and Alaska Native women and men. Using data from the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS)¹, the report provides an in-depth look at the prevalence of sexual violence, physical violence by intimate partners, stalking, and psychological aggression by intimate partners. The report also looked at the impact of violence on victims.

1. NATIVE COMMUNITIES BEAR HIGH BURDENS OF VIOLENCE OF ALL TYPES

- 56.1 percent have experienced sexual violence.
- 55.5 percent have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner.
- 48.8 percent have experienced stalking.
- 66.4 percent have experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner.

2. THE PREVALENCE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS ALARMING

Women: More than 1 in 2 American Indian and Alaska Native women (56.1 percent) have experienced any type of sexual violence in their lifetime. Past year estimates suggested 14.4 percent have experienced sexual violence (pp 13-16).

- Women experienced sexual violence **with penetration** at almost double the rate (35.0 percent) of that experienced in non-Hispanic White-only communities (p.14)
- More than 1 in 2 (52.1 percent) have experienced other sexual violence that includes sexual coercion, unwanted sexual contact, and unwanted sexual experiences (p. 14).

¹While using information originally obtained from NISVS, this report also included an oversample of respondents who identified themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native. Because of the differences between the CDC and NIJ samples and analyses, the authors discourage comparisons with the estimates in the CDC summary report (Black et al., 2011; Breiding et al., 2014).

Men: More than 1 in 4 American Indian and Alaska Native men (27.5 percent) have experienced any type of sexual violence in their lifetime and 9.9 percent have experienced it in the past year (p.15).

- More than 1 in 10 (10.8 percent) have experienced sexual violence with penetration (p. 15).
- More than 1 in 5 (23.8 percent) have experienced other sexual violence including sexual coercion, unwanted sexual contact, and unwanted sexual experience (p.15).

Physical Violence

- More than 1 in 2 American Indian and Alaska Native women (55.5 percent) have experienced physical violence by intimate partners in their lifetime (p. 23) and more than 1 in 3 American Indian and Alaska Native men (43.2 percent) have experienced physical violence by intimate partners in their lifetime (p. 24).

Stalking

- Almost half of American Indian and Alaska Native women (48.8 percent) have experienced stalking in their lifetime – almost twice the rate for non-Hispanic White-only women (p. 31).
- Almost 1 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native men (18.6 percent) have experienced stalking in their lifetime (p. 31).

3. HIGH RATES OF VIOLENCE ARE PERPETRATED BY NON-NATIVE PERSONS

For all forms of violence measured in this study, perpetration by those outside of Native communities is common, unlike other communities where sexual violence, for example, is usually committed by a person of the same race (Amnesty International, 2014).

- American Indian and Alaska Native victims are significantly more likely than non-Hispanic White-only victims to have experienced **sexual violence** by an **interracial** perpetrator with rates at least 3 times higher for both women and men (p.18).
- American Indian and Alaska Native victims are significantly more likely to have experienced **physical violence** by an **interracial** intimate partner with rates almost 3 times higher for both women and men (p. 58).
- American Indian and Alaska Native victims are significantly more likely to have experienced **stalking** by an **interracial** perpetrator (p. 32).

4. VICTIM SERVICES, INCLUDING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND LEGAL SERVICES, MUST BE INCREASED.

- Relative to non-Hispanic White-only female victims, American Indian and Alaska Native female victims were 1.5 times as likely to be physically injured, 1.8 times as likely to need services, and 2.3 times as likely to need medical care. Unfortunately, they were significantly less likely than non-Hispanic White-only female victims to get the services they needed. (p. 50).
- Among victims who needed services, 38.2 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women and 16.9 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native men were unable to get the services they needed (p. 50).
- The most common needed service was medical care, followed by legal services. (p. 50).

ABOUT NSVRC

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center leads the U.S. in providing professional support to local and state anti-sexual violence organizations. NSVRC collaborates with partners nationwide to create research-based resources that focus on how to prevent and respond to sexual violence. The organization has the nation's largest library of resources on sexual violence and prevention. To learn more, go to www.nsvrc.org.

REFERENCES

- Amnesty International. (2007). *Maze of injustice: The failure to protect Indigenous women from sexual violence in the USA*. Retrieved from <http://www.amnestyusa.org/pdfs/MazeOfInjustice.pdf>
- Black, M. C., Basile, K. C., Breiding, M. J., Smith, S. G., Walters, M. L., Merrick, M. T., ... Stevens, M. R. (2011). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 summary report*. Retrieved from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control: http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/NISVS_Report2010-a.pdf
- Breiding, M. J., Smith, S. G., Basile, K. C., Walters, M. L., Chen, J., & Merrick, M. T. (2014). Prevalence and characteristics of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence victimization — National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States, 2011. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 63(8). Retrieved from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6308.pdf>
- Rosay, A. B. (2016). *Violence against American Indian and Alaska native women and men: 2010 findings from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey*. Retrieved from National Criminal Justice Reference Service: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/249736.pdf>