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Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men

2010 Findings From the
National Intimate Partner and
Sexual Violence Survey

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Executive Summary

This report examines the prevalence of violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women and men, using a large nationally representative sample from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS). More specifically, it provides estimates of sexual violence, physical violence by intimate partners, stalking, and psychological aggression by intimate partners. It also provides estimates of interracial and intraracial victimizations and briefly examines the impact of violence. Results should be used to raise awareness and understanding about violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women and men.

National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey

The NISVS was launched in 2010 by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with the support of the National Institute of Justice and the Department of Defense. This survey provides detailed information about sexual violence, physical violence by an intimate partner, stalking, and psychological aggression by an intimate partner. The analysis in this report is based on two of the samples that were included in the 2010 NISVS —

the general population sample and the American Indian and Alaska Native oversample. These two samples provide information from 2,473 adult women and 1,505 adult men who identified themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native, alone or in combination with another racial group. Most women (83 percent) and most men (79 percent) were affiliated or enrolled with a tribe or village. For both women and men, more than half (54 percent for both) had lived within reservation boundaries or in an Alaska Native village in the past year.

The NISVS has important limitations: Only certain types of victimizations were included, the survey was only administered by phone, and it was not conducted in any indigenous languages. As with other victimization surveys, estimates may be impacted by recall errors and by the continuing stigma associated with disclosing victimizations. Some estimates have large margins of error. Despite these limitations, the survey also has important strengths: It uses behaviorally specific questions and it was administered to a large, nationally representative sample. The survey results provide the most thorough assessment on the extent of violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women and men.

Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women

More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native women (84.3 percent) have experienced violence in their lifetime. This includes —

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

Overall, more than 1.5 million American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime.

More than 1 in 3 American Indian and Alaska Native women (39.8 percent) have experienced violence in the past year. This includes —

- 14.4 percent who have experienced sexual violence.
- 8.6 percent who have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner.
- 11.6 percent who have experienced stalking.
- 25.5 percent who have experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner.

Overall, more than 730,000 American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in the past year.

Relative to non-Hispanic White-only women, American Indian and Alaska Native women are 1.2 times as likely to have experienced violence in their lifetime and are 1.7 times as likely to have experienced violence in the past year ($p < .05$). Relative to non-Hispanic White-only women, American Indian and Alaska Native women are also significantly more likely to have experienced violence by an interracial perpetrator and significantly less likely to have experienced violence by an intraracial perpetrator.

Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Men

More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native men (81.6 percent) have experienced violence in their lifetime. This includes —

- 27.5 percent who have experienced sexual violence.
- 43.2 percent who have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner.
- 18.6 percent who have experienced stalking.
- 73.0 percent who have experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner.

Overall, more than 1.4 million American Indian and Alaska Native men have experienced violence in their lifetime.

More than 1 in 3 American Indian and Alaska Native men (34.6 percent) have experienced violence in the past year. This includes —

- 9.9 percent who have experienced sexual violence.
- 5.6 percent who have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner.
- 3.8 percent who have experienced stalking.
- 27.3 percent who have experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner.

Overall, more than 595,000 American Indian and Alaska Native men have experienced violence in the past year.

Relative to non-Hispanic White-only men, American Indian and Alaska Native men are 1.3 times as likely to have experienced violence in their lifetime ($p < .05$). The past-year rates are not significantly different across racial and ethnic groups ($p > .05$). Relative to non-Hispanic White-only men, American Indian and Alaska Native men are also significantly more likely to have experienced violence by an interracial perpetrator and significantly less likely to have experienced violence by an intraracial perpetrator.

Impact of Violence

Among American Indian and Alaska Native victims of lifetime physical violence by intimate partners, stalking, and sexual violence —

- 66.5 percent of women and 26.0 percent of men were concerned for their safety.
- 41.3 percent of women and 20.3 percent of men were physically injured.
- 92.6 percent of women and 74.3 percent of men had talked to someone about what the perpetrators did.
- 49.0 percent of women and 19.9 percent of men needed services because of what the perpetrators did.
- 40.5 percent of women and 9.7 percent of men had to miss days of work or school because of what the perpetrators did.

The most common service needed by American Indian and Alaska Native victims of lifetime physical violence by intimate partners, stalking, and sexual violence was medical care (needed by 38.0 percent of female victims and 9.3 percent of male victims). 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.