

Safety & Health for Indigenous Women: Working at the Intersection of Health and Intimate Partner Violence

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

When one person in a relationship uses a pattern of methods and tactics to gain and maintain power and control over another person.

84.3% of Indigenous women have experienced violence. ¹

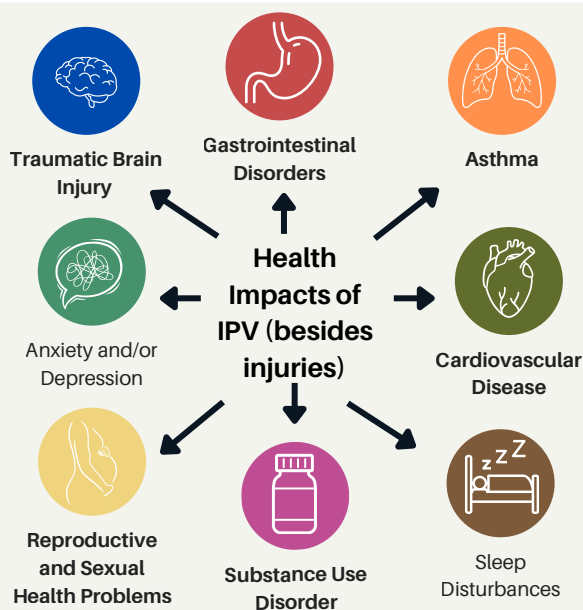
38% More than a third of American Indian and Alaska Native women who needed services were unable to access them. ²



INDIGENOUS WOMEN, IPV, AND HEALTH

American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls experience higher rates of violence and are less likely to have access to the health and survivor support services they need to heal. High rates of missing and murdered Indigenous women have devastated families and communities across the country.

- More than half (56.1%) of Alaska Native and American Indian women have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. ³
- 55.5% of American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner. ⁴
- 48.8% of American Indian and Alaska Native Women have experienced stalking. ⁵
- In 2023, homicide was the sixth leading cause of death among 1-44-year-old American Indian/Alaska Native women, and was often associated with IPV. ⁶
- Alaska Native and American Indian victims of violence are more likely to experience injuries requiring medical treatment and less likely to be able to access services than non-American Indian or Alaska Native women. This includes increased risk of hospitalization, lack of access to forensic medicine, and lack of time to recover from injury and assault. ⁷



For additional
resources:



WHAT CAN WE DO? ▼

- Promote Indigenous traditions and wisdom that support healthy relationships and healing, drawing on the existing strengths and values of the community to support survivors and connect people to their community.
- Service providers can learn from promising community-based, practices and models that promote health for Indigenous survivors and work to respond in culturally responsive ways.
- Establish partnerships between healthcare providers and IPV survivor support programs to facilitate referrals and warm hand-offs.
- Implement evidence-based practices like CUES to provide universal education on healthy relationships and where to find support.

NATIONAL
**HEALTH
RESOURCE
CENTER**
ON DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

For additional information and resources
visit our partners:

**National Indigenous Women's
Resource Center**
www.niwr.org

StrongHearts Native Helpline
844-7NATIVE (762-8483)

StrongHearts Native Helpline is a 24/7 safe, confidential and anonymous domestic and sexual violence helpline for Native Americans and Alaska Natives, offering support and advocacy.

RESOURCES ▼

Safety cards are available to order from our website. The *Women Are Sacred* American Indian Health Safety Card was developed in partnership with the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center. The *We Are Worthy* Alaska Native Health Safety Card was developed in partnership with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

The cards can be used by health providers and domestic and sexual violence advocates to address intimate partner and sexual violence and promote survivor health.



References:

1. 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.
2. *Id.*
3. *Id.*
4. *Id.*
5. *Id.*
6. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "[CDC Works to Prevent Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native People](#)," Factsheet, citing NVSS 2023 data.
7. 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.