

Summary of the National Institute of Justice Research Report on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men (May 2016)

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This summary is based on the research report, Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men, 2010 Findings from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey. The report was written by André B. Rosay and published by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) in May 2016. The report describes the prevalence of violence against American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women and men, using data from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS). Specifically, it provides estimates on sexual violence, stalking, physical violence and psychological aggression by intimate partners, interracial and intraracial victimization, and impact of violence. In this summary, we highlighted findings on sexual violence, race and ethnicity of perpetrators, and impact of violence among AI/AN women and men. This summary was created for the Arizona Department of Health and funded contractors for the Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Program. The full report is available from <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/249736.pdf>.

Survey Description

The NISVS was conducted in 2010 by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control of the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC). The purpose of the survey was to assess sexual violence, physical violence and psychological aggression by intimate partners, and stalking in the United States. This report on AI/AN population is based on the data collected from the general population and an oversample of AI/AN individuals. The two samples resulted in a total sample of 2,473 AI/AN adult women and 1,505 AI/AN adult men resulting in a total of 3,978. The 2010 general sample was obtained using a random-digit-dialing survey of women and men in the U.S. The survey used both landline and cell phone numbers and was conducted in English and Spanish. The AI/AN oversample was collected using a random-digit-dialing survey of women and men who lived in private residences in telephone exchange areas where at least half of the residents identified as American Indian or Alaska Native. Most of the AI/AN women (83%) and men (79%) were affiliated with or enrolled with a tribe or village. For both AI/AN women and men, 54% reported living within reservation lands or in an Alaska Native village in the past year.

Definitions of NIJ Measures

The NIJ used behaviorally-specific definitions for the NISVS. Key definitions relevant to this summary are provided below.

- *Sexual violence* was measured as sexual violence with penetration and other sexual violence. Sexual violence with penetration included completed forced penetration, completed alcohol-or drug-facilitated penetration, and attempted forced penetration. Other sexual violence included sexual coercion, unwanted sexual contact, and non-contact unwanted sexual experiences.
- *Physical violence* included being slapped, pushed or shoved, and severe physical violence. Severe physical violence consisted of being hit with a fist or something hard, being kicked, being hurt by having your hair pulled, being slammed against something,

being hurt by being choked or suffocated, being beaten, being burned on purpose, or having a knife or gun used on you.

- *Intimate partners* were defined as current and former romantic or sexual partners, including spouses, boyfriends, girlfriends, and people the respondents were dating, seeing, or hooking up with.
- *Psychological aggression* included expressive aggression, coercive control, and the control of reproductive or sexual health. See page 36 of the original report for detailed description of the psychological aggression measure and different components.
- *Stalking* required that respondents experienced at least one of seven different stalking behaviors multiple times and experienced fear. See page 30 of the original report for detailed description of the stalking measure and different stalking behaviors.
- For the AI/AN sample, an *interracial perpetrator* was defined as a perpetrator who was not AI/AN. An *intra-racial perpetrator* was defined as a perpetrator who was AI/AN.

Highlighted Findings

Sexual violence among AI/AN women

- More than 1 in 2 AI/AN women (56.1%) reported experiencing sexual violence during their lifetime.
- 14.4% of AI/AN women reported experiencing sexual violence during the past year.
- Compared to non-Hispanic White-only women, AI/AN women were more likely to experience sexual violence with penetration, completed forced penetration, attempted forced penetration, sexual coercion, and unwanted sexual contact.

Sexual violence among AI/AN men

- More than 1 in 4 AI/AN men (27.5%) reported experiencing sexual violence during their lifetime.
- 9.9% of AI/AN men reported experiencing sexual violence during the past year.
- There were no significant differences across racial and ethnic groups.

Race and ethnicity of perpetrators

- AI/AN female victims were 2.8 times more likely to have experienced violence by an interracial perpetrator compared to non-Hispanic White-only female victims (97% versus 35%).
- AI/AN male victims were 3.0 times more likely to have experienced violence by an interracial perpetrator compared to non-Hispanic White-only male victims (90% versus 30%).

Impact of violence

- Among AI/AN female victims who experienced lifetime physical violence by intimate partners, stalking or sexual violence, the most common types of impacts were talked to someone about what the perpetrators did (92.6%), were concerned for their safety (66.5%), and needed services because of what the perpetrators did to them (49%).
- Compared to non-Hispanic White-only female victims, AI/AN female victims were more likely to be physically injured, need services, and miss days of work or school.

- Among AI/AN male victims who experienced lifetime physical violence by intimate partners, stalking or sexual violence, the most common types of impacts were talked to someone about what the perpetrators did (74.3%), were concerned for their safety (26.0%), and were physically injured (20.3%).
- For male victims, there were no significant differences in impacts of violence across racial and ethnic groups.