



NATIONAL  
INDIGENOUS  
WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

# Reflections and Pathways Forward on MMIWR, Domestic Violence, and Native Maternal Health

*Jantzen Hale*  
*May 5, 2026*



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# Housekeeping



You are in a practice session

**FVPSA mandates** “a National Indian Resource Center Addressing Domestic Violence and Safety for Indian Women, which shall—

- (i) offer a comprehensive array of technical assistance and training resources to Indian tribes and tribal organizations, specifically designed to enhance the capacity of the tribes and organizations to respond to domestic violence and the findings of section 901 of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005;
- (ii) enhance the intervention and prevention efforts of Indian tribes and tribal organizations to respond to domestic violence and increase the safety of Indian women in support of the purposes of section 902 of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005; and

View

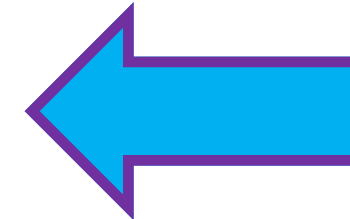
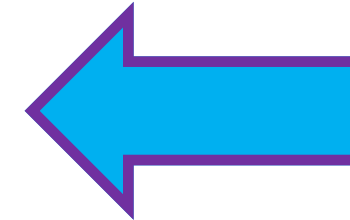
- Standard
- Side-by-side: Speaker
- ✓ Side-by-side: Gallery

Show Self View

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NIWRC Support Team



# Housekeeping



**Select a Microphone**

- ✓ Same as System
- MacBook Pro Microphone (MacBook Pro Microphone)
- VB-Cable

**Select a Speaker**

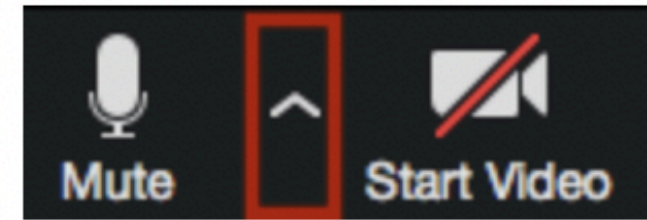
- ✓ Same as System
- MacBook Pro Speakers (MacBook Pro Speakers)
- VB-Cable

Test Speaker & Microphone...

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## Audio by Phone

1. Select pull-up tab by mic icon (see above)
2. Click **Leave Computer Audio**
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4. Dial one of the numbers provided
5. Enter your meeting ID, followed by #
6. Enter your participant ID, followed by #

Unmute Start Video Security Participants 2 Chat Share Screen Record Closed Caption Reactions



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*of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*

# Mission & Vision

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**Mission:** To provide national leadership to promote safety for Native women and communities by supporting culturally grounded grassroots advocacy.

**Vision:** Collective liberation through the restoration of sovereignty and safety of Native women and communities.

# Prevalence of Domestic Violence in Indian Country

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- Violence against Native women is a severe crisis in the U.S., with **more than 84%** of American Indian/ Alaska Native (AI/AN) women experiencing violence, and more than half, or 55% experiencing sexual violence in their lifetime.
- **More than half (56%)** of AI/AN women have experienced physical violence by their intimate partners.
- **More than 63%** of AI/AN women experienced psychological aggression like name-calling, humiliation, coercive control, threats, and monitoring.

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. Washington, DC: US Department of Justice.

Breiding, M., Smith, S., Basile, K., Walters, M., Chen, J., Merrick, M. (2014, September 5). Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization – National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, U.S., 2011. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 2, 17.

According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), there are approximately **4,200 unsolved** cases involving MMIWR, including roughly *1,500 missing persons* in the NCIC database, and *2,700 reported homicide cases* (Hres. 381, 2025).

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# Maternal Health Disparities Among AI/AN Women

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- American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women experience higher rates of maternal morbidity and mortality, a significant portion of which are **preventable**.
- American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) women face significantly higher maternal mortality rates, often driven by violence, long-standing issues, and inadequate care, making them **2.3 times** more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women.

# National Week of Action of MMIWR

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- May 5<sup>th</sup> is honored as National Day of Awareness
- Centers and uplifts the voices of survivors/ families
- Highlights community-led, grassroots efforts
- Builds awareness and visibility
- Fosters solidarity across communities
- Calls for action



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# Enjoy the Presentation

# Contact Information

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# Stronghearts Native Helpline

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**844-7NATIVE (762-8483)**  
**[strongheartshelpline.org](https://strongheartshelpline.org)**

## Services:

- Crisis intervention
- Peer support and advocacy
- Personalized safety planning
- Referrals to Native-centered DV & SV service providers
- Support finding a local health facility or crisis center
- General information about jurisdiction & legal advocacy referrals



**Ahehee' (Thank you) for  
joining us!**

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