

Violence in Indian Country

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Jacqueline Gray, PhD

Choctaw/Cherokee

Associate Director of CRH

Indigenous Programs

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
June 15, 2016



Introduction

Every community—including both tribal and non-tribal communities—experience violence to some degree. That is, violence is not an Indian problem. Violence is a human problem. For tribal communities, we are also part of a larger federal system that has a significant impact on how we are able to protect our communities.





Objectives

- Overview of types of violence;
- Discuss risk and protective factors associated with violence that are unique to tribal communities;



Objectives *continued*

- Identify barriers and challenges to reducing violence within these, including individual, family, community, cultural, and policy factors.
- Identify strategies for increasing the availability of culturally appropriate resources and supports to reduce violence and ameliorate the effects of violence in Indian Country



NIEJI
Honor - Respect - Dignity
National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative

Key Exposures to Violence

❖ **Children**

- Suicide
- Child maltreatment
- Sexual victimization
- Family violence
- Gang violence
- Bullying
- Conventional crime
- School violence (including school shootings)
- Involvement with juvenile justice system





NIEJI
Honor - Respect - Dignity
National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative

Key Exposures to Violence

continued


❖ **Women**

- Intimate Partner Violence
- Sexual Assault (including Trafficking)

❖ **Other American Indians and Alaska Natives**

- Homicide
- Assault






Overview of Statistics

Type of Violence	Lifetime	Past Year
Any Violence	84.3%	39.8%
Sexual Violence	56.1%	14.4%
Physical by Intimate Partner	55.5%	8.6%
Stalking	48.8%	11.6%
Psychological by Intimate Partner	66.4%	25.5%

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. National Institute of Justice Research Report. Retrieved June 6, 2016 from <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/249736.pdf>



Overview of Statistics

- ❖ **84.3%** of AI/AN women have experience violence in their lifetime.
- ❖ AI/AN are **2.5** times as likely to experience violent crimes;
- ❖ AI/AN are **at least 2 times** more likely to experience rape or sexual assault crimes compared to all other races;
- ❖ **61%** of AI/AN women have been assaulted in their lifetimes **56%** of AI/AN women experienced sexual violence in their lifetimes;

NIEJI
Honor - Respect - Dignity
National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative

Overview of Statistics *continued*

- ❖ **55.5%** of AI/AN women will be subjected to physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetimes;
- ❖ **48.8%** AI/AN women reported being stalked during their lifetimes;
- ❖ Among AI/AN women victims of rape or sexual assault, an average of **67%** describe the offender as non-Native;

Type of Violence	White	Black	Other*
Rape/sexual assault	57%	10%	33%

* Other includes AIAN and Asians.

NIEJI
Honor - Respect - Dignity
National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative

Overview of Statistics *continued*

- ❖ Among Native women victims of assault, an average of **63%** describe the offender as non-Native;

Type of Violence	White	Black	Other*
Assault	55%	8%	36%

* Other includes AIAN and Asians.

- ❖ **46%** of people living on reservations in 2010 were non-Native.
- ❖ **66.4%** of Native women have experienced psychological aggression by intimate partners




NIEJI
Honor - Respect - Dignity
National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative

Protective Factors

- ❖ Cultural identity
- ❖ Familial relationships
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Employment
- ❖ Community
- ❖ Schools
- ❖ What else?




NIEJI
Honor - Respect - Dignity
National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative


Risk Factors

- ❖ Several distinct forms of trauma have been identified in Indian Country:
 - Cultural Trauma
 - Historical Trauma
 - Intergenerational Trauma
 - Current Trauma




Trust Responsibility

- ❖ An understanding of the unique political status of AI/AN nations is crucial to the development of effective responses to the needs of tribal communities.
- ❖ The United States has legal obligations to Indian tribes that are grounded in the United States Constitution, treaties, federal statutes, and Supreme Court decisions.



Trust Responsibility

- ❖ This trust relationship recognizes tribal governments as distinct political entities with the inherent power to govern themselves. One component of the federal trust responsibility, as enumerated in many treaties and codified in the Snyder Act of 1921, is to ensure the “health, safety, and welfare” of AI/AN peoples.






VAWA 2013 Tribal Provisions


- ❖ **Special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction (SDVCJ)** over non-Indian perpetrators of domestic and dating violence as well as certain violations of protective orders
 - Narrowly defined
- ❖ Pilot Project & Effective Dates
- ❖ Intertribal Working Group



Violence Against Elders


- ❖ Types of abuse and neglect
- ❖ Who is at risk for abuse
- ❖ What is different about elder abuse in Indian Country
- ❖ Barriers to addressing







Violence Against Elders continued

National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative



- Vision: “Restore respect and dignity by honoring indigenous elders.”










Violence Against Children

The litany of trauma-related social ills in Indian Country is well-documented and paints a stark picture of the daily experiences of AI/AN children and youth.

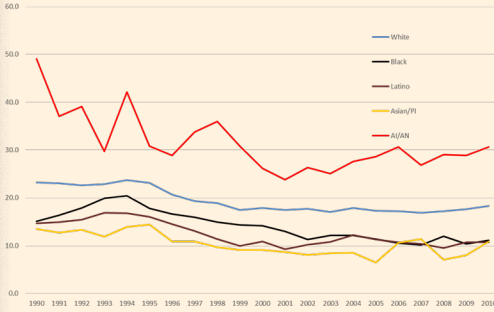
- There is little comprehensive data on rates of PTSD for AI/AN youth. However, a study of Native American sixth graders from one reservation found that 75% had clinically significant levels of PTSD




Violence Against Children

- ❖ Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in AI/AN youth.
- ❖ Suicide rate among AI/AN adolescents is higher than all other races.



Year	White	Black	Latino	Asian/Pi	AI/AN
1990	24	18	15	13	48
1991	24	18	15	13	38
1992	24	18	15	13	40
1993	24	18	15	13	30
1994	24	18	15	13	42
1995	24	18	15	13	30
1996	24	18	15	13	30
1997	24	18	15	13	35
1998	24	18	15	13	35
1999	24	18	15	13	25
2000	24	18	15	13	25
2001	24	18	15	13	25
2002	24	18	15	13	25
2003	24	18	15	13	25
2004	24	18	15	13	25
2005	24	18	15	13	25
2006	24	18	15	13	25
2007	24	18	15	13	25
2008	24	18	15	13	25
2009	24	18	15	13	25
2010	24	18	15	13	25





Violence Against Children

- ❖ Bullying and gang violence is rampant in some AI/AN communities.





 **Violence Against Children**

- ❖ Indian Child Welfare Act
- ❖ AG Task Force on AIAN Children Exposed to Violence
- ❖ S. 1622 Commission on Native Children






Community Best Practice Models

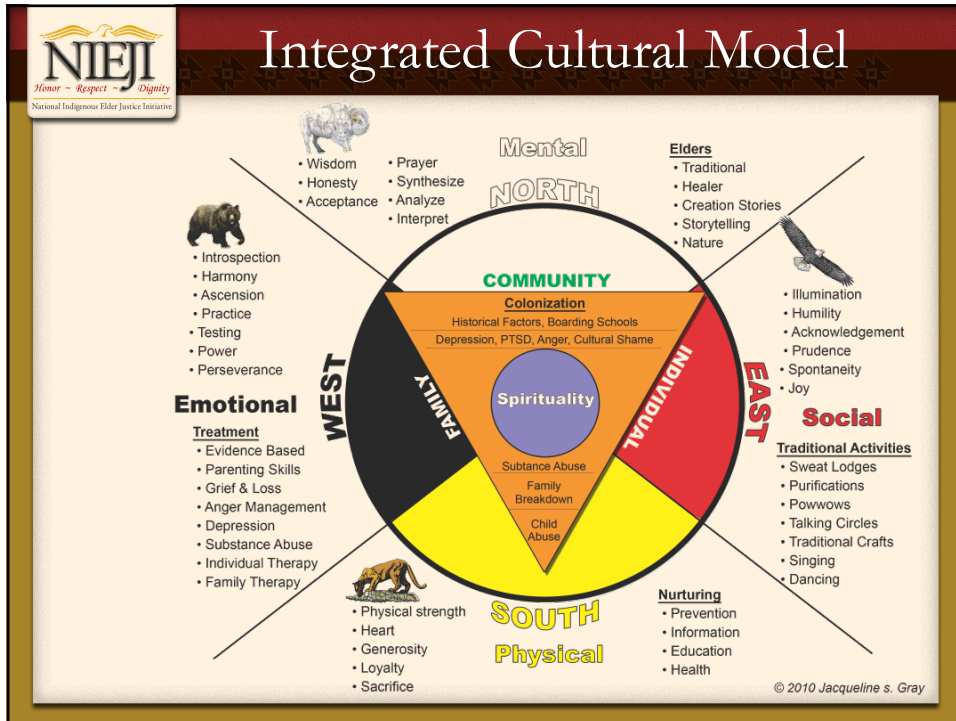
- ❖ Implementing a Trauma-Informed Care System in Your Tribal Community
- ❖ Coeur D'Alene Youth At Risk Tracking Program (Strengthening The Spirit Program)
- ❖ Equine Assisted Therapy, Rosebud Horse Society





AI/AN Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Interventions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Story Telling ✓ Talking Circles ✓ Sweat Lodge ✓ Ceremonies and Rituals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purification • Passages • Naming • Grieving ✓ Drumming, singing, dancing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Vision Quest ✓ Flute playing/ meditation ✓ Reconciliation ✓ Mentoring ✓ Service learning ✓ Traditional Experiences Preservation
---	--





Questions?



Wado

THANK YOU



Jacque Gray, PhD

Jacqueline.gray@med.und.edu



National Indigenous Elder
Justice Initiative

Center for Rural Health
University of North Dakota

<http://nieji.org>

info@nieji.org

Phone: 701-777-6084

