

Native Americans in Philanthropy

Investing to Prevent and End All Forms of Violence Against Native Women and Girls

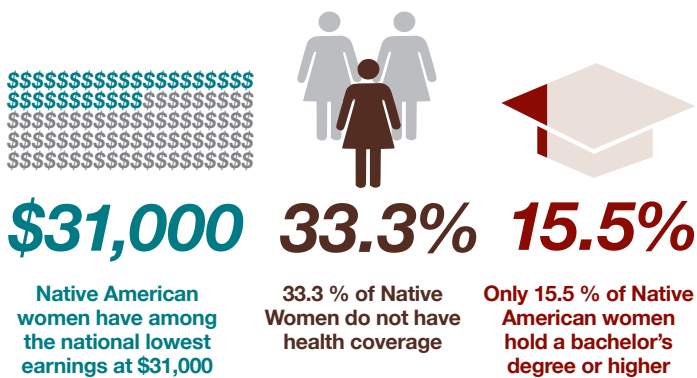
A Legacy of Violence Against Native Women

According to Amnesty International, “**violence against women** is one of the most pervasive human rights abuses. It is also one of the most hidden. It takes place in intimate relationships, within the family and at the hands of strangers and it affects women in every country in the world.... Indigenous peoples in the USA face deeply entrenched marginalization – the result of a long history of systemic and pervasive abuse and persecution. **Sexual violence against Indigenous women today is informed and conditioned by this legacy of widespread and egregious human rights abuses.**”

An international study by UNFPA, provides clear evidence that indigenous girls, adolescents and young women face a higher prevalence of violence, harmful practices, labor exploitation, and harassment, and are **more vulnerable to sexual violence than any other group of women**. It also underscores that violence against indigenous girls and **women cannot be separated from the wider contexts of discrimination and exclusion** to which indigenous peoples as a whole are often exposed in social, economic, cultural and political life.¹

Inequitable Reality

Native women have to overcome more challenges to have an equal chance at life's opportunities free from violence in comparison to all other racial groups of women in the United States. Nationally, Native American women make up the group with the highest poverty rate, they are among the least likely to attain at least a bachelor's degree, and are the lowest to have health coverage in 2013.² These factors position Native women as the most vulnerable and at highest risk to experience different forms of violence in their lifetime.



The Need

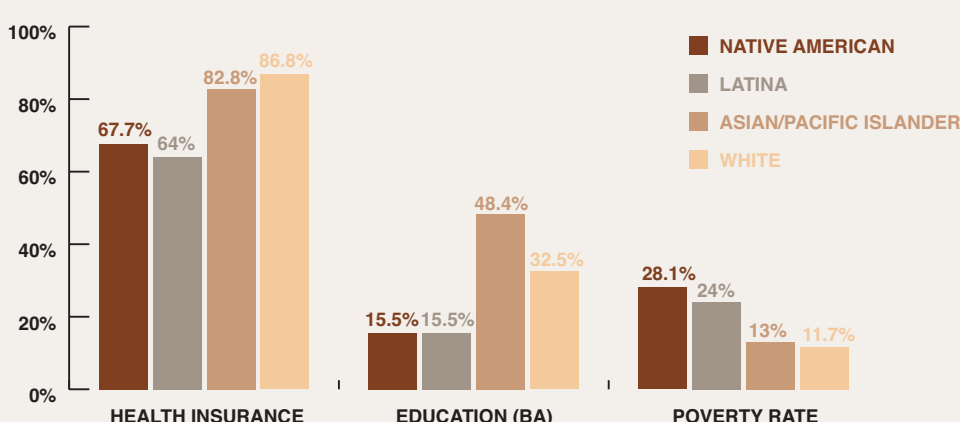
NAP acknowledges the importance of regularly collecting more in depth and regular data for developing effective policy solutions for pressing issues affecting Native communities in rural and urban areas. Consequently, there are several major tasks that lie ahead for philanthropy. There is a need for disaggregated data and we must bring issues affecting Native women and girls to a broader audience of funders. We must invest to end the legacy of violence against Native women, adolescents and girls.

Philanthropic support explicitly designated for Native Women, adolescents and girls, to address the alarming rates of violence, does not exist. The government has adopted funding initiatives to serve tribes across the country; however, the high rate of different forms of violence perpetuated against Native women persists. NAP aims to insight a philanthropic interest with foundations that want to make a substantial commitment in support of Native women and girls.

POVERTY, EDUCATION and HEALTH by RACE and GENDER, 2014³

“Violence against indigenous girls and women cannot be separated from the wider contexts of discrimination and exclusion to which indigenous peoples as a whole are often exposed in social, economic, cultural and political life.”

– UNFPA (2012)



MORE THAN 4 IN 5



Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime

MORE THAN 1 IN 3

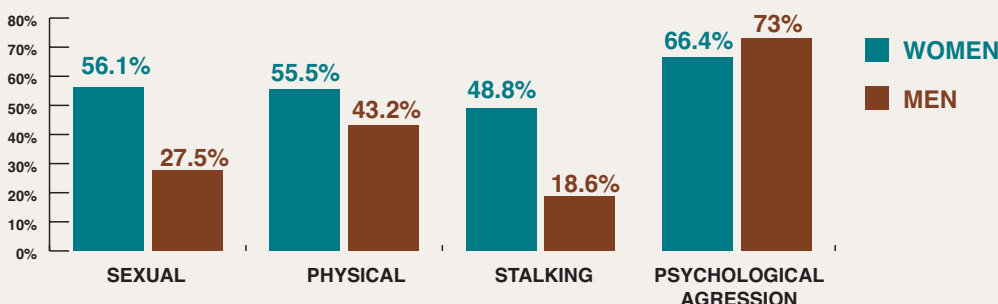


Native women have experienced violence in the past year

No Other Group of Women Experience in Their Lifetime the Alarming Rate of Violence as Native Women

- More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their **lifetime**.⁴
- More than 1 in 3 American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in the **past year**.⁴
- Over the past decade, federal government studies have consistently shown that American Indian and Alaska Native women **experience much higher levels of sexual violence** than other women in the USA.
- Data gathered by the US Department of Justice indicates that Native American and Alaska Native women are **more than 2.5 times more likely to be raped or sexually assaulted** than women in the USA in general.
- A US Department of Justice study on violence against women concluded that **34.1 percent** of American Indian and Alaska Native women – or **more than one in three – will be raped during their lifetime**; the comparable figure for the USA as a whole is less than one in five.
- **39 percent** of American Indian and Alaska Native women will be **subjected to violence by an intimate partner** in their lifetimes, compared to 29 percent of African American women, 27 percent of White women, 21 percent of Hispanic women, and 10 percent of Asian women (NCAI Policy Paper, 2013).
- **17 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women reported being stalked during their lifetimes**, compared to eight percent of White women, seven percent of African American women, and five percent of Asian women (NCAI Policy Paper, 2013).

PERCENTAGE BY GENDER AND FORM OF VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED IN THEIR LIFETIME



Investment Opportunities to Impact Violence Against Native Women and Girls

A holistic approach to impact violence must aim to empower Native women, adolescents, girls and their communities and nations.

- **PREVENTION:** Prevent all types of violence from occurring against Native women and children
- **AWARENESS:** Raise awareness of root causes of violence against Native women and children that take place under one roof, community or neighborhood
- **SOVEREIGNTY:** Preserve Tribal Sovereignty to protect Native women and children
- **HEALING:** Culture and spirit-based healing of violence against Native women and girls
- **EMPOWER:** Empowerment of Native women, adolescents and children to ensure increase in education, health care, and income levels
- **DATA AND POLICY:** Collection of in depth and regular data for developing effective policy solutions to end violence against Native women and children

¹ <http://www.unfpa.org/resources/breaking-silence-violence-against-indigenous-girls-adolescents-and-young-women#sthash.MmJ4gCDm.dpuf>

² Status of Women in the United States, 2015. Accessed on 05/10/2016 <http://statusofwomentdata.org/>.

³ Status of Women in the United States, 2015. Ibid.

⁴ Rosay, Andre B. May 2016. Violence against Native American Indian and Alaska Native women and men: 2010 Findings from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey. Department of Justice National Institute of Justice.



NATIVE AMERICANS
IN PHILANTHROPY

WEB nativephilanthropy.org
 TWITTER @nativegiving
 FACEBOOK NativeAmericansPhilanthropy