

Sexual Violence in Tribal Communities

The Minnesota statute defines sexual assault as: without the consent of the victim. This can include unwanted sexual touching or penetration and forced and unwanted sexual acts.



Victims of Sexual Assault and Sexual Violence

56%
Native Women
-NIJ-

28%
Native Men
-NIJ-

85%
LGBTQ
Two Spirit
-NCAI-

<p>Sovereignty</p> <p>US attorneys declined to prosecute or investigate 67% of violent crimes of Native people on Native Land. -GAO-</p>	<p>Financial Impact</p> <p>There is a clear link of poverty and homelessness to sexual assault or rape. Natives make up 11% of the homeless in Minnesota. -MN Women’s Consortium-</p>
<p>Healing Medicine</p> <p>In one study, nearly 50% of Native SA survivors who did not have supportive helpers had attempted suicide. -Bohn Lifetime-</p>	<p>COVID-19</p> <p>Pandemic SV cases have increased as isolation, transportation, medical, support, & services have been limited. -Center of Research & Education-</p>

Top Barriers for Native Survivors

- Inadequate medical care or access to medical care
- Lack of sexual assault forensic nurses
- Rape Kit backlogs for prosecution DNA evidence
- Fear of retaliation or gossip in small communities
- SV of Native people is 2.5% higher than all other races
- Mistrust of systems and historical lack of justice



STAY INFORMED

Sexual violence is one or multiple types of abuse, such as physical, emotional/verbal, intimate partner, financial, spiritual, cultural, or digital abuse aimed at a person in forms of overall power and control.

Sexual violence is any kind of sexual activity or act (including online) that was unwanted or involved one or more of the following: pressure, manipulation, bullying, and/or intimidation regardless of the relationship to the victim.

THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM: NATIVES, SV, & MINNESOTA

- Hennepin County, Minnesota, Native women comprise approximately 25% of women arrested for prostitution though Natives are only 2% of the local population. -Human Trafficking Center-
- 30% of Native girls ages 11-17 had a history of sexual abuse in MN. -MIWRC-
- In one survey, 11% of Native American girls reported being raped and 23% reported being touched without their consent. -National Women's Law Center
- 13% of Native high school students report being raped at some time in their lives compared to 12% of all other race. -National Center for Injury Prevention-
- Of Native female sexual assault survivors, 96% were assaulted by someone of a different race at some point in their lives compared to 21% who experienced assault by someone of the same race. -National Institute of Justice-

In Indigenous societies, violence is not traditional. Colonization imposes and promotes the domination and ownership of Native women by men, as reflected in violence against Native women seen throughout history since contact, which has laid the foundation for present-day violence.

-Andre Rosay, National Institute of Justice



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