Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women & Girls

**MMIWG at the National Level**
- 84% of AI/AN women have experienced violence in their lifetime.
- 56% experience SEXUAL VIOLENCE.
- 55% experience PHYSICAL VIOLENCE by an intimate partner.
- 48% experience STALKING.
- 66% experience PSYCHOLOGICAL aggression by an intimate partner.

AI/AN women are 1.2 times more likely than non-Hispanic women to experience violence in their lifetime.
AI/AN women are NEARLY 2 TIMES MORE LIKELY to have experienced violence in the past year.

**Number of AI/AN women entered as MISSING in the National Crime Information Center Data Base**
- 5,711 in 2016.
- 2,758 in the first SIX MONTHS of 2018.

AI/AN peoples experience violence at more than TWICE the national average.
Rates of violence on reservations can be up to 10x the national average.

**MMIWG in New Mexico & the Southwest**

According to the 2010 Census, New Mexico has the fifth largest AI/AN population in the US. Yet, New Mexico has the highest number of MMIWG cases in the country.

In the Southwest, 46% of Native American women surveyed reported that they had been the victim of sexual assault or violence in their lifetime.

- Average age of victims: 31 years old.
- 25% of victims were under the age of 18.
- ONE THIRD of victims had NO relation to the perpetrator.

**Legal Jurisdiction: A Major Challenge**

>> In 1978, the U.S. Supreme Court held that Tribal Nations DO NOT have criminal jurisdiction of non-Indians for crimes committed on tribal lands.

Tribal governments can only exercise jurisdiction if a perpetrator is a known AI/AN person.

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)**

The 2013 reauthorization of VAWA restored Tribal jurisdiction over non-Indians for domestic violence and dating violence within Tribal lands. This jurisdiction has not been extended for crimes such as murder or sex trafficking.

After expiring in 2019, the reauthorization of VAWA is still pending in the U.S. Senate.

For more information on this issue and to view a full list of sources and citations, see: “Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls: A Briefing Paper”
Lead Author: K. Huyser
UNM Native American Budget & Policy Institute
nabpi.unm.edu/research

Prepared by:
NATIVE AMERICAN BUDGET & POLICY INSTITUTE
CENTER FOR SOCIAL POLICY