

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.

5,646 in 2017.

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

MURDER is the **THIRD** leading cause of death of AI/AN women.

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**.

32% of sexual violence cases occur on the reservation.

57% occur in urban areas.

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.

Prepared by:



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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"**
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