

Domestic Violence in Tribal Communities

Domestic Violence (DV) has no gender. The Minnesota statute defines domestic abuse as physical harm, bodily injury or assault, or the infliction and fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury or assault, when done by a family or household member.



Cultural



Body



Isolation



Verbal



Emotional



Mind



Spiritual

Victims of DV by an intimate partner

56%

Native Women
-NIJ-

43%

Native Men
-NIJ-

78%

LGBTQ
Two Spirit
-NCAI-

Prosecution

United States attorneys declined to prosecute or investigate 67% of violent crimes of Native people.

-GAO-

10 Times Higher

Natives accounted for 10% of the 2020 homicide victims in Minnesota while the Native population is only 1% of the state.

-OJP-

Youth

Youth witnessing DV in their homes are two times more likely to become victims or harm-doers of DV in the future.

-Whitfield-

COVID-19

Since the pandemic, DV hotline calls have increased significantly with callers disclosing issues of COVID-related violence.

-NDVH & StrongHearts Native Hotline-

“Violence follows the fault lines of systemic oppression – of racism and sexism, homophobia, and transphobia – and we see this reflected in the data. As a Native woman, as a survivor, and as a child witness to intimate partner violence, I can tell you that every Native woman I know has experienced violence. Every single one.”

- Minnesota Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan



MENDING THE SACRED HOOP



STAY INFORMED

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

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a form of domestic violence that happens when a current or former spouse or intimate partner engages in a repetitive, fear-inducing pattern of abuse toward their partner to maintain power and control in a relationship. This pattern of abuse can take place in relationships such as couples that are dating, married, living together, have a child together, or even after the relationship has ended.

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

Intimate partner homicides rose 40% in Minnesota in 2020.

Of the 20 killed by intimate partners last year, nine were shot; four were beaten; three were strangled; three were stabbed, and one was run over with a car.

Six were separated from their partner or attempting to leave. Six were victims of a homicide-suicide.

Nine were mothers of minor children. Four were pregnant.

-Relationship Abuse in Minnesota-

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

