



Montana's Native American Population Rape Prevention Education Program MT DPHHS

Montana's Native American Population

Native Americans have lived in the Montana region for thousands of years practicing respect for each other and the land. However, experts have found that Native American women are 2.5 times more likely to become a victim of sexual violence when compared to non-Native Americans (*Maze of Injustice* 2007 pg. 2). Montana is beginning to learn more about this issue. Below are several resources that illuminate the crimes of sexual and intimate partner violence against Native Americans.

Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC)

MBCC annually tracks all crimes reported to Montana law enforcement. The *Crime in Montana 2012-2013 Report* states that, "10.9% were American Indian females" (pg. 42). For more information about sexual assault crimes reported to Montana law enforcement and the MBCC, please visit www.mbcc.mt.gov/crimerport.

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) receive funding in a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to operate the state-based Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Conducted annually, the BRFSS is a phone survey of Montanans 18 years old and older. On the 2012 survey, 12.8% of the Native Americans questioned said that someone had **attempted** to have sex with them after they said or showed that they didn't want to, and 9.6% said that someone **had completed** sex with them after they said or showed that they didn't want to. For more information about the BRFSS survey and its findings, please visit www.brfss.mt.gov.

Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS)

YRBS is sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and is administered in Montana by the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). While the survey does not focus solely on sexual violence, it does include key questions that shed light on Montana teen behavior with regard to gender violence. Below are findings from the 2013 survey.

Montana YRBS 2013	
“Have you ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they didn't want to?”	
Percentage of American Indian students replying “yes”	9.6%

Montana YRBS 2013	
Among students who dated or went out with someone during the past 12 months, 8.8 percent had been physically hurt on purpose by someone they were dating or going out with one or more times during the past 12 months.	
Percentage of American Indian students relying “yes”	12.%

For more information about the YRBS survey and its findings, please visit www.opi.mt.gov/YRBS or www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs

Other helpful websites include:

Montana Native Women’s Coalition: www.mtnativewomenscoalition.org

Indian Health Services: www.ihs.gov

Bureau of Indian Affairs: www.bia.gov

Maize of Injustice by Amnesty International: amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR51/035/2007

Montana’s Tribal Relations Report 2011: tribalnations.mt.gov/docs/2011_Tribal_Relations