

*We must remember that we have Indigenous solutions to our problems.*



## **Sexual Assault and Native Youth Fact Sheet**

### **Fact Sheet**

*"These lives given to us, we must value and honor -- honor each other, together as one." ~ Anonymous*

Sexual Assault refers to sexual contact or behavior that occurs without explicit consent of the victim. Some forms of sexual assault include: penetration of the victim's body, forcing a victim to perform sexual acts such as oral sex or penetrating the perpetrator's body, fondling or unwanted sexual touching or contact. (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network or RAINN, 2015).

#### **Sexual Assault Facts**

- 44% of victims are under the age of 18 and 80% are under 30 (RAINN, 2015).
- 68% of sexual assaults are not reported to the police (RAINN, 2015).
- 2/3 of Sexual Assaults committed are by someone known to the victim, with 38% of perpetrators being a friend or acquaintance (Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition, 2015).
- Girls and women ages 12-34 have the highest risk of being sexually assaulted (Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition, 2015).
- Social norms that continue to place blame on the victim, as well as social policies that fail to protect women continue to make women more vulnerable to sexual violence (The Advocates for Human Rights, 2015).
- Sexual violence against Native women is more likely to include higher levels of physical violence (Amnesty International, 2007).

#### **Sexual Assault and Native Youth**

- One in three American Indian and Alaska Native women will be raped in her lifetime (Institute for Native Justice, 2015).
- 88% of offenders of all violent crimes against Indian women are Non-Indian (Institute for Native Justice, 2015).
- Native teens are three times more likely to be sexually assaulted than any other demographic (National Indian Country Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault or NICCSA, 2015).
- 51% of reported cases of sexual violence are teenage victims (NICCSA, 2015).
- A teen in Indian Country is more likely to be sexually assaulted facilitated by drugs. This is when the perpetrator used drugs such as GHB (Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate), rohypnol (roofies), ketamine, and/or alcohol to physically incapacitate the victim (NICCSA, 2015).
- Native youth who have been sexually assaulted are more likely to engage in risky behavior, drop out of high school, are suicidal, and suffer from teen pregnancy (NICCSA, 2015).
- A teenaged victim is more likely to be a victim of sexual violence again in the future (NICCSA, 2015).

*This project is supported by Grant No. 2014-TA-AX-K047 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.*

*We must remember that we have Indigenous solutions to our problems.*

### **Long Term Effects of Sexual Violence (RAINN, 2015)**

- Post-traumatic Stress Disorder
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Self-harm
- Depression
- Flashbacks
- Substance abuse
- Dissociation
- Eating disorders
- Pregnancy
- Sleep disorders
- Suicide

### **Where Sexual Assault Victims Can Find Support**

- Tribal Sexual Assault Program
- Non-native Sexual Assault Program
- Indian Health Service - Behavioral health services
- Guidance counselor or teacher at school
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) nurses in a hospital
- School Title IX Coordinator

- 
- » Sexual Assault In *RAINN: Rape Abuse and Incest National Network*. Retrieved July 2, 2015, from <https://www.rainn.org/get-information/types-of-sexual-assault/sexual-assault>
  - » Sexual Assault Statistics In *Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition, Inc.* . Retrieved July 2, 2015, from <http://www.strongheartedwomen.org/home/statistics>
  - » Sexual Assault In *The Advocates for Human Rights: Stop Violence Against Women*. Retrieved July 2, 2015, from [http://www.stopvaw.org/Sexual\\_Assault.html](http://www.stopvaw.org/Sexual_Assault.html)
  - » Get the Facts! Sexual Assault (n.d.). In Institute for Native Justice . Retrieved July 2, 2015, from [http://instituteornativejustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Sexual\\_Assault\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://instituteornativejustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Sexual_Assault_Fact_Sheet.pdf)
  - » Victims with Unique Consideration (n.d.). In *National Indian Country Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault* . Retrieved July 2, 2015, from <http://niccsa.org/teens/>
  - » *Maze of injustice: The Failure to protect indigenous women from sexual violence in the USA* (p. 5). (2007). New York, NY: Amnesty International USA.

*This project is supported by Grant No. 2014-TA-AX-K047 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.*