

The background of the image features several Native American flags hanging vertically. The flags are in various colors including red, blue, green, and yellow, with some featuring traditional patterns and symbols. In the foreground, a red shawl with a thick gold fringe is draped over a dark wooden stand. The shawl is folded, and the fringe hangs down. The title 'The Empty Shawl' is written in a stylized font over the top right of the shawl. The word 'The' is in a smaller, white, serif font. 'Empty' is in a larger, white, serif font. 'Shawl' is in a larger, gold, serif font.

The Empty Shawl

Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence Against Them



The *Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence Conference* in June 2009 was an unprecedented gathering of tribal leaders, tribal domestic violence professionals, state and federal leaders and advocates. It was sponsored by the Department of Public Health and Human Services, the Montana Board of Crime Control, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, the Office of Public Instruction, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Justice and the Montana Attorney General. Participants included the Governor, the Attorney General, leaders from all Tribal Nations in Montana (Blackfeet, Chippewa Cree, Confederated Salish and Kootenai, Crow, Fort Belknap Tribes, Fort Peck Tribes, Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and Northern Cheyenne) as well as representatives of Montana's Congressional offices, Indian Health Services, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and many others representing key state and federal partnerships. Everyone came together in the Chambers of the State Capitol in Helena to share their stories and their wisdom, and to discuss solutions to the domestic and sexual violence epidemic that is so devastating to Indian Country.

During the opening ceremonies, Patty McGeshick, representing the Fort Peck Tribes, presented a shawl in honor of Native women who have lost their lives because of violence as well as those who continue to suffer because of violence. Senator Carol Juneau joined her at the base of the podium where they gently draped the special shawl around the back of the chair. At the end of the day, the shawl was moved to Governor Schweitzer's office, where it will continue to serve as a reminder of those who, in many cases, can no longer speak for themselves.

“Today, when we look at this empty chair, when we see this empty shawl, we will remember those we have lost and those who continue to suffer. We will look at this chair and we will see the faces of our ancestors and of our mothers. We need to move on to healing, but we cannot forget these women. The Indian Angel doll pinned to the shawl is a symbol, in honor of these Native women.”

- Patty McGeshick



Indian people have lived in this place we call Montana for 400 generations and beyond. Traditionally, they have honored three generations before and three beyond. They did this by honoring our Mother Earth.

During the 2009 Legislative Session, State Senator Carol Juneau stepped forward to say that we must stop the violence against Indian women. I asked her, “How can it be that in cultures that respect women more than any other, women are 2.5 times more likely to be the victims of violence?”

The Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence Against Them Conference held in June 2009 moved the agenda along. This report is the logical next step. It will discuss the prevalence of the violence, the issues that make law enforcement difficult, and finally, it will speak to solutions and make recommendations. As Governor, I am committed to the First People. We must begin working with our federal partners to protect the grandmothers, mothers, daughters, sisters and aunts of our Native lands. We must commit and continually recommit to doing what we must to protect our mothers.

Governor Brian Schweitzer

Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence Contents	Page #
A Note from Anna Whiting Sorrell, Director of DPHHS	4
Keynote, Julia doney Fort Belknap Community President	5
Montana’s Reservations	6
Domestic Violence Overview / Then to Now	7
Incidence and Prevalence Rates	8
Poverty and Racial Disparities	11
Homelessness	14
Trends and Domestic Violence Fatalities in Montana	17
Foster Care Links	19
BRFSS and Sexual Assault	21
Jurisdictional Issues	22
Reason for Hope: Examples of What’s Going Right	24
• CSKT Victim Assistance	25
• Crow Domestic Violence Task Force	26
• Fort Peck Tribes Family Violence Resource Center	27
• The Rocky Boy’s ONI Initiative	28
• Encourage to Arrest Project	29
• Tribal Domestic Violence Ordinances and Codes	30
• Indian Law Resource Center	32
• Indian Health Services	33
• Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)	34
• Stop Violence Against Women Act (STOP VAWA)	36
• Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)	38
Appendix 1: 61st Legislature Joint Resolution 26	40
Appendix 2: Victim Assistance Resource List	41
Appendix 3: Montana Victim/Witness Advocates	45
Appendix 4: End Notes and Sources Cited	46



A Note from the Director

I have lived on a Reservation and I know the disturbing amount of abuse that occurs there. I have seen the facts and heard the stories. I've seen the faces. I know that if I were to speak with you, many of you could share your own stories as well.

I began my career as a teacher and saw abuse from that perspective. Firsthand, I saw that children cannot learn the day after there has been abuse in the home, that they cannot succeed without first having experienced success in school. As Director of the Department of Public Health and Human Services, I now have the opportunity to work closely with the people of our state and to help make a difference.

Like many of you, I have had to make choices in the middle of the night... *run for help, or stay?* I, too, know what it is like to lie in bed as a child and listen. I, too, have suffered abuse. But I thank God every day that I had a family I could run to, family members who protected me and who kept me safe. I am also thankful for my husband of 23 years who shows me every day what it means to be loved. And love never means *to be hit*.

This gathering is historic. We have brought together high level tribal, state and federal representatives, legislators, victims and advocates. We are here to chart a new day for our children and grandchildren. We don't want them to stand here a generation from now, talking about how to stop the violence against Native women. Because together, here and now, I believe we set things in motion to honor Native Women by stopping the violence.

- Anna Whiting Sorrell

Director, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services

Shawls are an important symbol for Native American people. In this case, the fringe is said to represent the tears of Indian women crying for the pain and suffering their people have endured for generations, as well as strength and beauty. The color red honors Native women who have survived many forms of violence. And the warmth of a shawl around the shoulders is a reminder of care and solidarity.



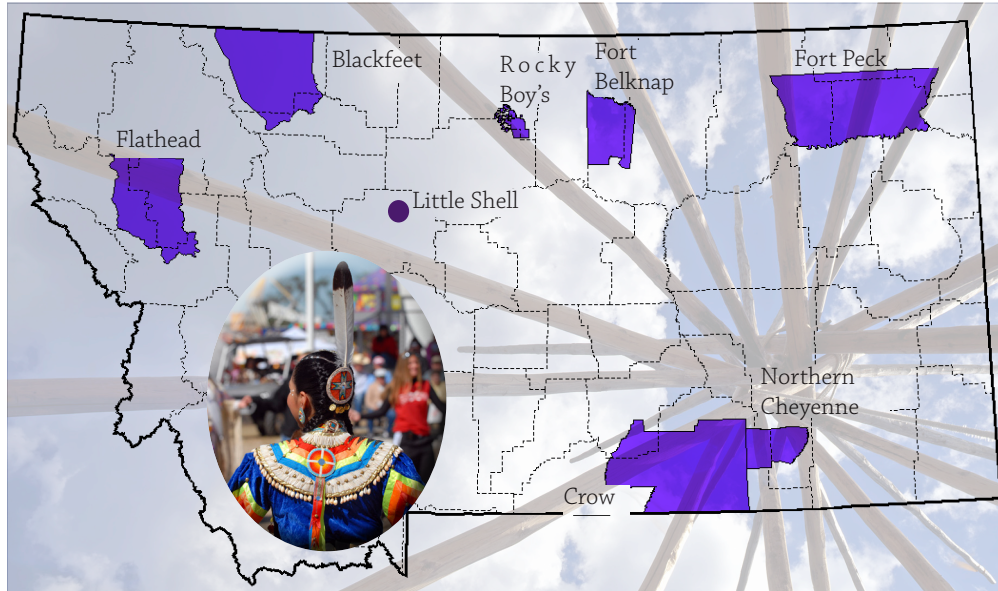


Montana has one of the highest rates of Traumatic Brain Injury in the nation, in part because Montana men don't like to wear helmets... except on the Reservations, where the leading cause of Traumatic Brain Injury is domestic violence.

“When children are exposed to violence in their homes, many remember so vividly that even years later, it comes back like it just now happened. Getting beyond that to truly believe they are safe can be very hard. Later, these children go into the community to make a place for themselves, and they get into relationships of their own. Children live what they learn in their homes. I was in a classroom the other day and I saw a young man pinch the girl he was sitting with. I could tell that it hurt, and she punched him on the shoulder. A little later, he pinched her again, harder. I knew his family and hers, and I went over and talked to them. They need to know what it means to have a healthy relationship. Our young men need to understand that they are the protectors of their homes and that they must respect and care for their sisters, cousins, aunts, mothers, grandmothers...all of the women in our communities. And our young women need the strength and courage to say no when someone does not treat them with respect. We must teach our young people healthy values and the traditional respect our tribal communities had for women. We must restore the role of Native men to protectors, and bring the balance back to our families and our communities.”

-- Julia doney, President of the Fort Belknap Indian Community
June 23, 2009 - Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence
Conference

Montana's Reservations



Between January 1 and December 31, 2008, 19,416 Montanans, predominantly women, were victims of *reported* domestic violence. Of those, 2,527 (13 percent) were Native American¹; a growing body of research indicates that many domestic violence victims never report the crimes. Victims ranged from infants to elders and they suffered some of the most heinous and violent acts people can commit against one another.

There are seven American Indian Reservations in Montana. Each is a sovereign nation with a distinct government and legal system. They encompass 8,242,648 acres (12,879 square miles); in 2007, there were just 106 sworn law officers who were responsible for policing this vast area and addressing the 53,394 crimes reported that year². Women living in these areas are often physically isolated and reluctant to report abuse, particularly in view of the fact that it can take hours for an officer to respond. In rural and frontier areas there may be little hope of confidentiality or accountability. Taken together, these factors dramatically reduce the chance that a woman will report her victimization. The 2,527 Native women who did report their victimizations were likely the tip of the iceberg.

Domestic violence

can be defined as a pattern of abusive behavior used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over the other. It can take many forms, including physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats. It affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and educational levels, races, ethnicities and genders. These are often hidden crimes, but all leave scars.

Native American women endure much higher levels of sexual and domestic violence than their non-Indian peers. A U.S. Department of Justice study on violence against women concluded that more than one in three American Indian and Alaska Native women will be raped, as compared to fewer than one in five of their non-Indian peers³. This study concluded that Native women are 2.5 times more likely to be raped or sexually assaulted than American women in general. As alarming as these statistics are, it is widely believed that they do not accurately portray the full extent of sexual violence endured by Native American women⁴.

Domestic violence affects those who are directly abused and inflicts substantial collateral damage on family members, friends, coworkers, witnesses and the community. Secondary victims (often children) are predisposed to numerous social and physical problems, including mental illnesses, homelessness, school failure and teen pregnancy. Children from homes where battery occurs may be up to 15 times more likely than their peers to be physically abused and neglected themselves, and girls with violent fathers are much more likely to be sexually abused. Behavioral symptoms can include inability to concentrate, learning disabilities, violence, aggression and stress-related physical symptoms. Children who witness abuse are also more likely to go on to abuse alcohol and drugs, and six times more likely to commit suicide than children in the general population⁵.

Then to Now

Traditionally, Native people held women sacred; many cultures universally honored and respected women for their life-giving powers. Their ability to create life likened them to Mother Earth, so acts of violence against women evoked fear and horror. By many accounts, domestic violence was rare in indigenous societies prior to European contact, and only became common after colonization. Euro-American settlers brought with them the belief that women and children were the property of men, with few rights of their own. This is contrary to Native tradition, which held batterers immediately accountable for the actions and meted out severe consequences, including banishment or retaliation by the victim's male relatives. A man who was violent within the family shamed his relatives because his violence was a threat to the entire tribe⁶.

The 1700s and 1800s were times of significant suffering for Native people. Traditional cultural values were undermined by practices aimed at gaining control of land and resources and imposing a foreign value system that designated women as substandard.

The systematic destruction of Native cultures included the degradation of Native women. In many ways, the conquest of Native nations by Europeans was accomplished by making war on Indian women, who were raped, abused and killed. Generations of Native people were raised in boarding schools and subjected to inhumane treatment. This led to the loss of traditional cultural values and identity and, for some, the internalization of oppression⁷.

"A people is not defeated until the hearts of its women are on the ground. Then it is done, no matter how brave its warriors or how strong its weapons."

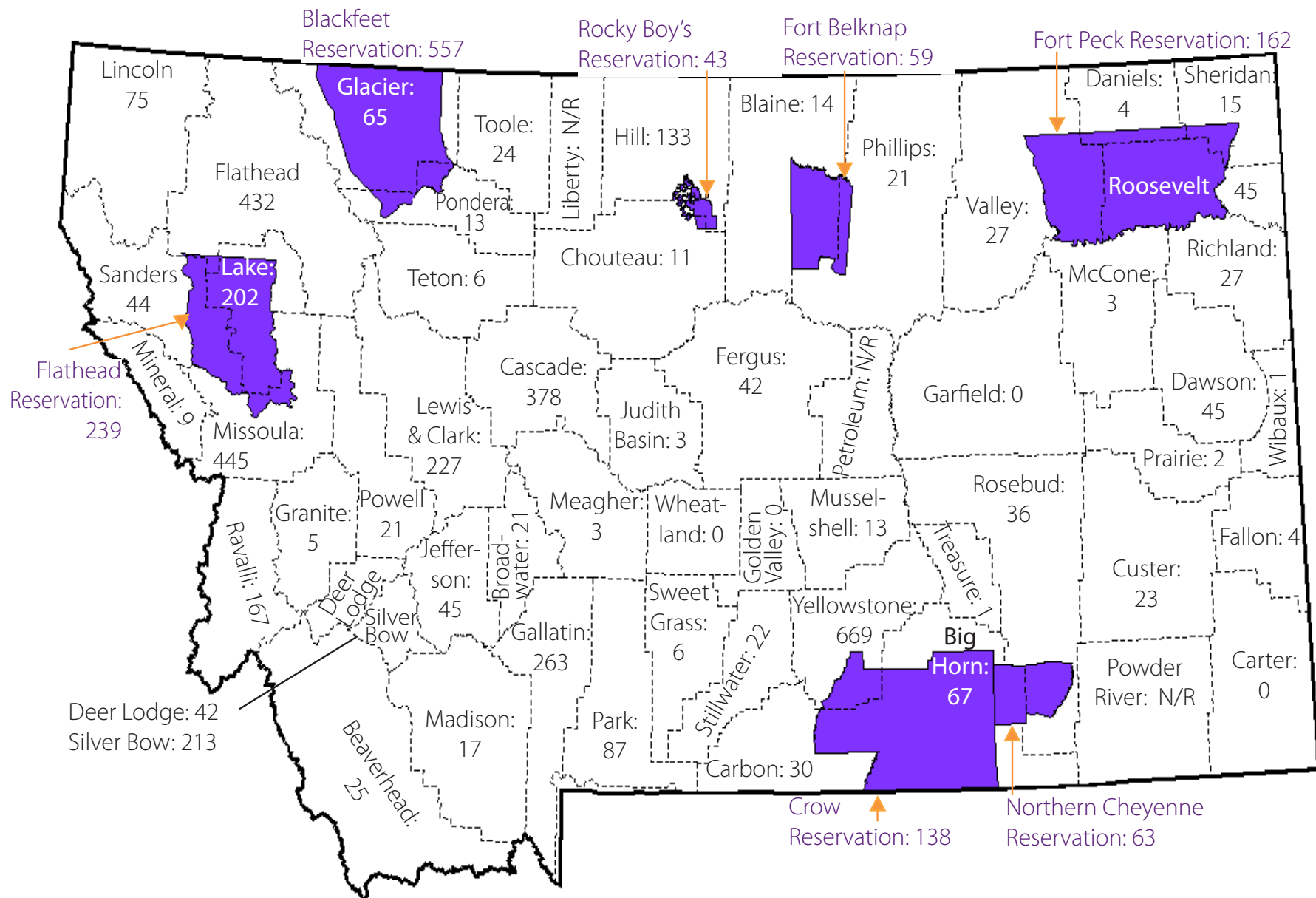
- Traditional Cheyenne saying⁸

"Domestic violence

is not part of our tradition. We are the yayas, the grandmas, the great grandmas. We are the heart of the Native people. Creator gave us the right to bring life into the world. Only a woman can do that. We need to be honored by our men...our husbands, uncles, sons, fathers...and we have the power to make that happen.

"I was asked to tell my story. I didn't want to go into it because it still brings back hurt and shame. Remember that when women come to you from violence -- there is hurt, shame and anger. They need to be treated gently. Have patience. Don't give up on them, because when you give up, that might mean the death of a woman you could have saved. If a woman goes back 20 or 30 times, you must be there for her each time she tries again."

- Evelyn, Salish Tribe and grandmother of 20
Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence Conference, 2009



2008 incidences of Domestic Violence

Note: The figures noted in context with county names are from the Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) interactive historical crime database and reflect crimes of domestic violence reported by local non-tribal law enforcement agencies⁹. The figures noted on reservations are from the MBCC Tribal Crime Data project, and reflect reports from tribal law enforcement entities¹⁰. N/R means *No Reports filed*.

Reported Crimes Against Primary and Secondary

Native American Victims (Statewide PDQ Data¹¹)

January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008

CRIME	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	TOTAL
Adult Sexual Assault	107	2	109
Adults molested as children	70	-	70
Assault	274	24	298
Child incest / sexual abuse	33	15	48
Child physical abuse	89	38	127
Child witness of domestic violence	3	-	3
Custodial Interference	28	15	43
DUI/DWI victims	10	9	19
Domestic violence	1,541	495	2,036
Elder abuse	4	-	4
Financial harm	41	8	49
Harassment	157	62	219
Kidnapping	14	2	16
Other violent crimes	1	-	1
Robbery	10	-	10
Sexual intercourse w/o consent	56	3	59
Stalking	91	24	115
Survivors of homicide victims	16	6	22
Violation of order of protection	47	2	49
Total Crimes	2,592	705	3,297
Total Unduplicated Victims	1,959	568	2,527

PDQ stands for *Providers of Data Quality*. This customized database was developed to track domestic and sexual violence statistics in Montana. Every program receiving state funding for domestic violence/sexual abuse services must file quarterly reports that provide demographic information on the victims served, crimes suffered, services received and outcomes. After assuring validity, the data is downloaded for use by the Montana Board of Crime Control and the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Voices

When I met my husband, I thought I'd found my knight in shining armor. I was pregnant the first time he hit me. I couldn't believe it: here was someone who was supposed to love me, but he hurt me. But I stayed, thinking that if I loved him enough, he would stop. But the abuse only got worse. I never knew what I would walk in to. He might start in a good mood, then something would set him off.

The first time we tried to leave, we stayed away for about a week. Then loneliness set in, and fear of how I'd make it without him. We went back. We left four more times in the next eight years. The physical abuse stopped, but the emotional, verbal and mental abuse kept going. Black eyes heal, hair grows back. Emotional and verbal abuse don't heal.

- Marilyn, Blackfeet Domestic Violence Program
Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence Conference

Domestic and Family Violence Reported by Tribal Law Enforcement

2008 Reports ¹²	Domestic Violence	Child Abuse	Total
Blackfeet	557	55	612
Crow	138	15	153
Flathead	239	14	253
Fort Belknap	59	59	118
Fort Peck	162	22	184
Northern Cheyenne	63	146	209
Rocky Boy's	43	61	104
Totals	1,261	372	1,633

Source: MBCC Tribal Crime Data¹¹

The data collected by tribes and reported to the Montana Board of Crime Control reflects crimes reported by Tribal Law Enforcement agencies on Montana's reservations. There is no way of knowing how many victims these incidents reflect: one victim could endure multiple crimes. Additionally, intimate partner or family crimes may be reported under other categories (e.g., assault, aggravated assault, rape, homicide or other, nonviolent, crimes). Even so, in many cases, this data points to a more pervasive problem than is portrayed by mainstream (off reservation) law enforcement agencies.

Incidences of Domestic Violence Reported by Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies

	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Blackfeet	418	529	387	557	1,891
Crow	9	90	113	138	350
Flathead	12	152	341	239	744
Fort Belknap	136	126		59	321
Fort Peck		123	172	162	457
Northern Cheyenne	28	83	65	63	239
Rocky Boy's		39	51	43	133
Totals	603	1,142	1,129	1,261	4,135

Source: MBCC Tribal Crime Data¹²

Determining Prevalence

The extreme diversity in social, cultural, and economic conditions between Montana's tribal nations as well as among American Indian women residing in larger, non-reservation communities makes it difficult to estimate overall rates of violence against American Indian women in Montana.

One of the difficulties is the confusion between federal, state, local and tribal jurisdictions because reservations are, under law, sovereign nations. Additional barriers can include a lack of understanding of jurisdictional cross-over. Eileen Hudon, a sexual abuse counselor from the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, says that this lack of understanding of the justice system can result in violations of the rights of Native American women.

Technically, cases involving a non-Native American perpetrator and Native American victim fall under federal jurisdiction. According to the Department of Justice, 70 percent or more of the violence experienced by Native American women is committed by non-Natives¹³. The problem is exacerbated by lack of accountability when communication breaks down between tribal and federal law enforcement professionals and the courts. Additional problems include a lack of services in the highly rural and frontier areas that characterize many of Montana's reservation communities.

Fewer than half of violent victimizations against women are reported to police.

Poverty as a Factor

Though domestic and sexual violence occur in every culture and economic strata, poverty sharply reduces options for women who are already disempowered by abuse. Leaving an abusive partner requires significant change that may include moving to another home or area, divorce, separation and the need for legal assistance. Often the woman has been physically isolated from the community and has not been allowed to work toward economic self sufficiency, to finish her education or acquire the skills needed to support herself and her children. Abuse can cause disability and disfigurement, which may at first necessitate trips to the hospital or emergency room and later limit ability to work, to participate in education or job training programs or to comply with benefit requirements.

Many programs throughout Montana provide short-term assistance, but most have limited funding and are regularly full to overflowing. Often, the best they can provide is temporary respite without a guaranteed bridge to safe, stable, permanent housing. Many women are left to choose between facing continued physical, emotional and sexual abuse and literal homelessness. Those who have spent their lives in poverty - as many American Indian Montanans have - suffer more physical and mental health problems than their more fortunate peers. This further diminishes their choices and ability to hold meaningful work, and increases vulnerability to abuse.

*American Indian women in Montana
are significantly more likely than
their White peers to be
living in poverty¹⁴.*

Disparities

Montana: Poverty by Race / Ethnicity, 2004 - 2006¹⁵

	Montana	United States
Disparity Score	2.61	2.18
All women	16.9%	16.4%
White women	14.9%	11.9%
All minority women	38.8%	25.8%
American Indian/Alaska Native women	48.3%	32.8%

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation: statehealthfacts.org

Data Notes¹⁵

- Data for women ages 18-64.
- The federal poverty level in 2005 was \$19,350 for a family of four.
- All Minority women includes Black, Hispanic, Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native women, and women of two or more races.
- Disparity score greater than 1.00 indicates that minority women are doing worse than White women. Disparity score less than 1.00 indicates that minority women are doing better than White women. Disparity score equal to 1.00 indicates that minority and White women are doing the same.
- Data derived from the Kaiser Family Foundation report, Putting Women's Health Care Disparities on the Map, available at: www.kff.org/womensdisparities/.
- Sources: Current Population Survey, 2004-2006.

Disparities

Median Household Income by Race / Ethnicity, 2004 - 2006¹⁶

Montana	Montana	United States
Disparity Score	2.58	1.82
All women	\$39,807	\$45,000
White women	\$41,794	\$54,536
All minority women	\$16,200	\$30,000
American Indian/Alaska Native women	\$12,480	\$24,000

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation: statehealthfacts.org



Women Without High School Diploma by Race / Ethnicity, 2004 - 2006¹⁶

Montana	Montana	United States
Disparity Score	3.83	3.11
All women	7.7%	12.4%
White women	6.2%	7.3%
All minority women	23.7%	22.8%
American Indian/Alaska Native women	29.8%	18.1%

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation: statehealthfacts.org

No Health Insurance Coverage by Race / Ethnicity, 2004 - 2006¹⁶

Montana	Montana	United States
Disparity Score	2.61	2.18
All women	20.1%	17.7%
White women	17.7%	12.8%
All minority women	46.1%	27.9%
American Indian/Alaska Native women	56.1%	33.7%

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation: statehealthfacts.org

Data Notes for All Tables¹⁶

- Data for women ages 18-64.
- The federal poverty level in 2005 was \$19,350 for a family of four.
- All Minority women includes Black, Hispanic, Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native women, and women of two or more races.
- Disparity score greater than 1.00 indicates that minority women are doing worse than White women. Disparity score less than 1.00 indicates that minority women are doing better than White women. Disparity score equal to 1.00 indicates that minority and White women are doing the same.
- Data derived from the Kaiser Family Foundation report, Putting Women's Health Care Disparities on the Map, available at: www.kff.org/womensdisparities/.

Sources: Current Population Survey, 2004-2006.

Voices

I was working in Walmart. I'd been promoted to front-end manager, and that fall, I was supposed to go to a management training program for Native American women. I was so proud of myself. In July 2002, we went to Indian Days in Browning. At seven on Sunday morning, he called and said he'd be back in an hour. I knew he wouldn't, that he'd be drinking all day. I had to be to work in Great Falls by six the next morning, so I finally headed out. I got down the road a little way and realized I had forgotten my wallet. My sister came running out with it, but he was right behind her. He jumped in, said he wanted a ride to his cousin's house. Then he started asking questions. Before I could answer, I felt a blow to my face. I passed out, and when I came to, I saw the bottle he'd hit me with. I didn't realize how severely I was hurt, but there was a gash in my forehead that took nine stitches. My nose was broken. It was early morning when I got back to my grandma's house. My baby girl was four, and she woke up. The look on her little face was awful.

I ended resigning my job. I lied and said I'd had an accident...and then I moved home. It was the hardest thing I ever did. In 2003, my daughter's teacher called. "Something is wrong," she said. "Your daughter cries every day."

I went to the school and put my little girl on my lap. "Why do you keep crying every day? Is there anything going on?"

"I thought you were dead," she told me. "You wouldn't wake up when I called your name, and I thought you were dead." My husband was formally charged but never caught. There's a warrant out, but he will never come back.

- Barb, Blackfeet Domestic Violence Program
Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence Conference

Voices

Silence is broken at the kitchen table. As a survivor of rape and stalking, I know that the first time you are ready to talk about it, you have to find a very special person to listen to your story. When you are a victim, you are afraid to talk about it, because if you begin, you will start crying. And if you start crying, you are afraid you will not stop. The way you are heard the first time has a dramatic impact on how you will heal.

When we talk about the most recent assault, we don't bring up our experiences of violence at different stages in our lives - as infants, toddlers, adolescents, teens, young women, older women, grandmothers. Yet we know that is often the case. If you talk to someone who has been a victim of sexual violence, that person needs to be at a place of healing herself. You cannot listen if you have not addressed your own pain. Because in listening, in trying to help, what comes up is your own experience.

- Eileen Hudon, Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women
Keynote Speaker, Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence Conference



Homelessness

The annual Survey of the Homeless is designed to gather data on all of the homeless persons who can be identified on a single night at the end of January. The date is set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the survey is sponsored by the Department of Public Health and Human Services. It is administered by volunteers, primarily in Montana's largest communities. The survey cannot be considered a census, but it does provide a good point-in-time look at the demographics of homelessness as it exists in Montana. Most of the respondents each year come from the seven largest communities.

On January 29, 2009, 381 Native American persons responded to the Survey of the Homeless; together with their family members, they comprised a total of 821 persons. Of those, 505 (61.5%) were female. These numbers have been climbing since 2007, but jumped even more dramatically in 2009¹⁷.

Montana Survey of the Homeless ¹⁷		American Indians		All Races
		Respondent	Respondent + Family	Respondent + Family
2005	All	291	471	2,097
	Female	121	248	920
2006	All	261	459	2,311
	Female	134	287	1,153
2007	All	245	411	2,217
	Female	111	222	1,054
2008	All	314	535	2,786
	Female	143	289	1,301
2009	All	381	821	3,629
	Female	199	505	1,744

Montana Surveys of the Homeless: www.mthomeless.org/2009

Who is Homeless?

On average for the five years that include 2005 - 2009, 142 Native American women have responded to the annual Survey of the Homeless.

In 2009¹⁷...

- Of the 821 Native American respondents and family members represented in the 2009 Survey, 375 were in Billings, 171 were in Kalispell and 158 were in Missoula.
- The majority of Native people identified through the Survey were female - 505 of the 821 (62%) respondents and family members were female.
- 83 Native women who were homeless were also pregnant.
- 199 of 381 primary respondents were female.
- The 199 primary, female American Indian respondents to the 2009 Survey of the Homeless were much more likely to have been homeless four or more times during the past three years than the group of American Indian respondents as a whole.
 - Among 381 primary American Indian respondents to the 2009 Survey of the Homeless, 145 (38%) had been homeless at least twice in the past three years and 60 (16%) had been homeless four or more times.
 - Among primary *female* respondents who were American Indian, 74 (37%) had been homeless at least twice during the past three years, but 50 (25%) had been homeless four or more times.

The Links Between DV and Homelessness

Domestic violence is consistently identified as a primary cause of homelessness by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Nearly all (92%) of homeless women have experienced severe physical and/or sexual assault at some point in their lives, and in 22 cities, 15 percent of all homeless persons identified were the victims of domestic violence, and 28 percent of the time, homeless families cited domestic violence as a cause of homelessness¹⁸.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors report *Hunger and Homelessness Survey: A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities (a 25-city survey)* was released in December 2008. Among families experiencing homelessness, the top reason cited was the lack of affordable housing, followed by poverty, unemployment and domestic violence. The lack of affordable housing is just one primary need, but safe, stable housing is critical to breaking the cycle of violence. In fact, victims of domestic violence often return to their abusers when they cannot find permanent housing.

When women are denied services, many face a choice between returning to their abusers and becoming homeless. PDQ data gathered by the Montana Board of Crime Control for calendar year 2008 found that 98 women had been turned away or referred elsewhere due to lack of space in the shelters receiving federal Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA) of Violence Against Women VAWA funds. More than half (49/81 or 65%) were American Indian women. When there is no safe shelter available, women often feel that they have no choice but to return to their abusers¹⁹.

Reasons for Homelessness²⁰

Of the 821 American Indian persons identified during the 2009 Survey of the Homeless:

- 147 (18%) had left their last place of residence because of conflict with friends or family;
- 58 (7%) had left due to domestic violence.
- 226 (28%) had left their last place of residence for “Other” (e.g., unspecified) reasons.

When the data is disaggregated to consider just the experience of the 199 female primary respondents, much higher percentages cited conflict or domestic violence than did the group as a whole:

- 47 (24%) cited conflict with friends or family;
- 23 (12%) cited domestic violence; and
- 55 (28%) left their last place of residence for “Other” reasons.
-

Additional reasons for leaving the last place of residence included:

- 20 had lost their housing due to fire or because the housing was condemned;
- 43 went to prison and 27 went into the hospital; and
- Poverty-based reasons were common: 65 people had been evicted, 67 people cited overcrowding, 99 cited lost jobs and 133 cited rent problems.
- Note: Respondents were encouraged to note as many reasons as were applicable.

Understanding Native women who have survived sexual and domestic assault²¹

- SHAME

She believes people will think it's her fault...not shame on him but shame on her.

- FEAR OF DISCLOSURE

She fears what he will do and what his family and friends will do. Small communities gossip, everyone knows everything - she is afraid of reprisals.

- BLAME

She blames herself and worries that she won't be believed.

- DISTRUST OF SYSTEM

If nothing happens to him, she is revictimized by the system.

- TRAUMA

There is a strong probability that she is already dealing with unresolved trauma - an alcohol- or drug-related sexual assault or a history of childhood abuse or incest.

- FAMILIARITY

She knows the offender or the offender is a relative, which makes her accessible and vulnerable.

- POWERLESSNESS

In a male-dominated society, women may not be viewed with the respect they deserve.

- by Patty McGeshick, Fort Peck Tribes Family Resource Center

Voices

I was 14 when I got into the relationship. He was 20. I dropped out of school in 8th grade because I did not want to live in my home, which was consumed with alcohol. I was going to go into my freshman year, though. I knew I needed to go back to school and I believed education was important – that is how I would do other, bigger and better things in my life. He told me, “Okay. Yeah. You go back. You’ll probably find someone else your own age. And then you’ll be with him.”

I said, “I’ll show this man how much I love him.” So I dropped out of school and stayed with him. I have five children – four daughters and one son. I was in this relationship for ten years. He did many terrible things to me. I could tell you blow by blow, but it would take all day. He beat me so bad, I have scars on my lips. The worst one on my lip couldn’t be stitched, because it was like hamburger. I had skin that hung down. A doctor out of the kindness of his heart fixed my lip. He stitched it up.

This man carried so much rage, and yet I loved him with all my heart. I wanted normal. I didn’t even know what normal is, but I lived it to the best of my ability. But then he almost killed me, and I finally said, “No more.”

- Marcella, Blackfeet Domestic Violence Program
Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence Conference

Trends

The Montana Domestic Fatality Review Commission identified a number of trends. Among them were the following.

- Services for domestic violence victims on Native American reservations are frequently nonexistent or inaccessible to many residents.
- Isolation is a major challenge in our state, both for victims of domestic violence and families that require services after a homicide.
- Ongoing dialogue between tribal, federal and state prosecution teams is required in order to limit jurisdictional conflicts.
- Inconsistent communication between district courts and lower courts regarding Orders of Protection may put victims at risk.
- There is a significant interaction between alcohol and domestic violence in the majority of the cases reviewed.
- Firearms continue to be the most frequently used weapons²².

Between 1/1/2008 and 12/31/2008, 2,527 unduplicated Native American victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence were reported through the state's PDQ system. Together they endured 3,297 reported crimes²³.

There were 52 intimate partner homicides in Montana between February 2000 and August 2009: 21 were homicide/suicide clusters, four of which involved children's deaths. Ten of the 52 homicides involved Native Americans living in reservation communities; two of the ten were homicide/suicide clusters²⁷.

Domestic Violence Fatalities in Montana

The Montana Domestic Fatality Review Commission was initiated by the Legislature in 2003, and charged with reviewing two intimate partner domestic violence homicides from across the state each year. Victims ranged from a 12-year-old boy to two adults in their 50s. This is just a fraction of the family violence deaths that occur in Montana each year. Since passage of House Bill 116 in 2003, at least 64 Montanans have died in domestic violence homicides. From 2000 forward, Montana has averaged more than eight family violence deaths per year, which should be considered a minimum figure²⁴.

Of the 22 domestic violence deaths that occurred in 2007 and 2008, eight involved Native Americans in reservation communities. Native Americans are strongly overrepresented in all domestic violence incidents and deaths in Montana. According to 2006 Census data, Native Americans make up 6.4 percent of Montana's population but 13 percent of all intimate partner deaths²⁵.

The commission most recently reviewed four homicides (2007 and 2008). They spanned the state and left three children orphaned. Three were single murders, one was a homicide/suicide. Three perpetrators were male. Weapons included a motor vehicle, a firearm, strangulation and a fall. Victims ranged in age from 22 to 45. One of the reviews involved a Native American victim, and took place in a reservation community. Two perpetrators were subsequently imprisoned, and were interviewed as part of the review²⁶.

Homicide/Suicide Clusters²⁸

A homicide-suicide cluster is defined as one or more homicides with the subsequent suicide of the perpetrator.

Homicide-suicide clusters involve the killing of one or more persons followed soon after by the suicide of the perpetrator. In general, men are the perpetrators, killing their female partners and, sometimes, their children. Many homicide-suicides are preceded by a history of intimate abuse. They note that “the typical perpetrator is a man married or living with a woman in a relationship marked by physical abuse.”²⁸

One classic study (Wolfgang, 1958) found that only about eight percent of homicide-suicide clusters were committed by women. Battering is a significant precursor and frequently the clusters occur within context of chronically chaotic relationships fraught with jealous suspicions, verbal abuse, and sub-lethal violence (Marzuk, Tardiff and Hirsch). This same study revealed that substantial differences between the genders. In cases in which the female partner was the killer, about 60 percent of the men had precipitated their own deaths by striking a blow or showing and using a deadly weapon. Just nine percent of killings in which the woman was the victim were deemed victim precipitated. These findings on intimate partner homicide have been well replicated²⁸.

Another research team (Currens, 1991) examined the phenomenon of homicide-suicide clusters, which accounted for just six percent of all homicides during a five-year study period. In this case, 97 percent of perpetrators were male and 73 percent of the victims were female. In most of the homicide-suicide clusters (96%), the victim and perpetrator were well known to one another, and in 70 percent of the clusters, the perpetrator was a current husband (79%), boyfriend (15%) or former husband (6%) of the victim²⁸.



Voices

When we were drinking, he was always accusing me of cheating on him with the neighbor, with anyone and everyone. One night we'd been out, and I knew I was going to get it when we got home - I knew the looks and the tone. My sons even knew. Sure enough, as soon as we got home, he started accusing me of cheating with my neighbor. "No," I said. "I never cheated you and never would." But he ran back to the bedroom where he kept a pistol by the bed. He came out with it. He held it to my head, said he was going to kill me. My sons were standing there. They were just eight and ten and they were pleading with him. "Don't kill mom. Don't kill mom."

He put the pistol back, but he started beating me up again. Something in me snapped. I ran to the bedroom and grabbed the pistol. I was going to shoot him, kill him, but he tackled me. My head broke the window, and there was blood everywhere. I remember falling back on the bed and pulling the trigger. A shot went off, but I missed him. He got the pistol away. I ran to the living room, and there was my youngest son, holding a rifle. They thought their dad had killed me.

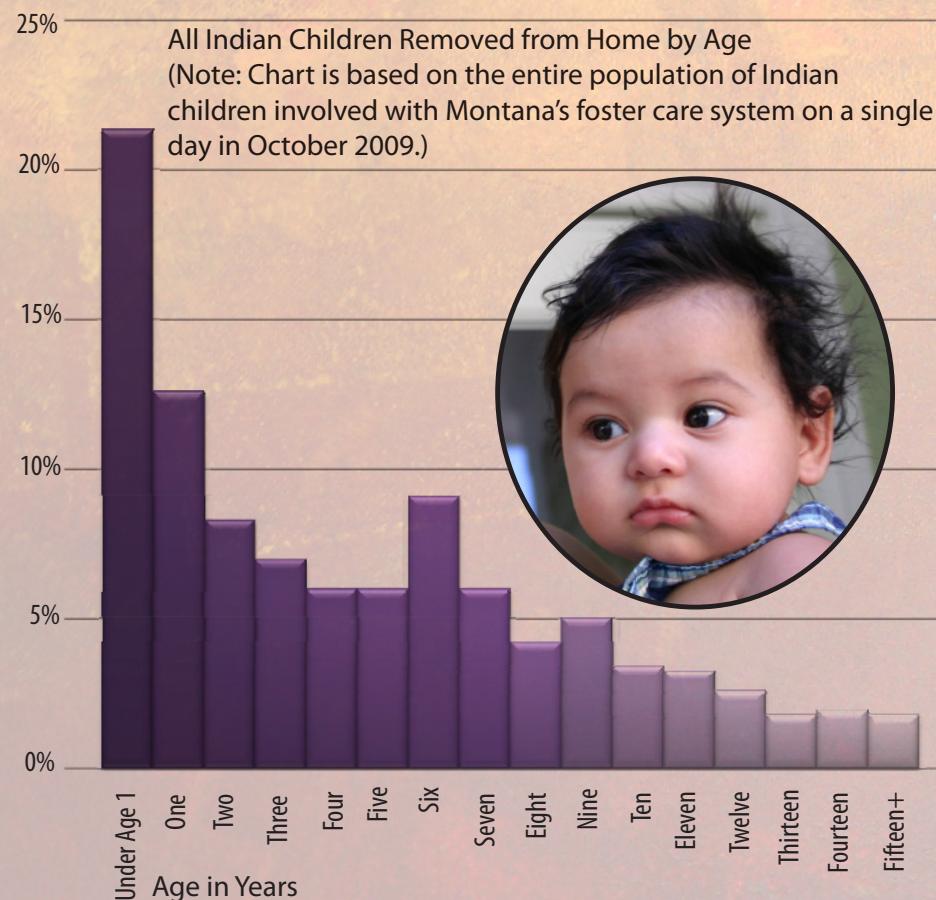
- Marilyn, Blackfeet Domestic Violence Program
Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence Conference

Links: Foster Care and Domestic Violence

Studies demonstrate a strong link between domestic violence and child abuse. In fact, several studies have found that in 50 - 75 percent of families in which a woman is battered, children are also battered. Other studies suggest that between 30 and 60 percent of men who batter their female partners also abuse their children²⁹. In homes where domestic violence occurs, children are physically abused and neglected at a rate 15 times higher than the national average³⁰.

The impacts of witnessing violence in the home can be profound, leading to adverse affects on physical, cognitive, emotional and social development. Infants and toddlers who witness violence in their homes show excessive irritability, immature behavior, sleep disturbances, emotional distress, fears of being alone and regression in toilet training and language³¹. Exposure to this kind of trauma also interferes with the normal development of trust. School-age children and adolescents exposed to violence in the home often show a greater frequency of withdrawal, anxiety or aggressive or delinquent behavior. As these children age, they are more likely than their peers to engage in a variety of teen risk behaviors including school dropout, juvenile crime, premature sexual activity and experimentation with drugs and/or alcohol. Even when children are the secondary victims of violence, they are often deeply affected.

Information reported to the Montana Board of Crime Control through their PDQ database reveals that 2,527 Native American victims of sexual and domestic violence were served in Montana during calendar year 2008. Of these, 1,959 were primary victims, and 568 were secondary victims. The majority of secondary victims were under age 12. Additionally, 133 primary victims were under age 12, and an additional 64 were between the ages of 13 and 17³².



Statistical Sample

Child and Family Services reviewed a sample of 62 case files in August 2008. The sample included 40 foster care and 22 in-home services cases in three counties. Of those reviewed, 12.5 percent involved American Indian children and families. Domestic violence in the child's home was listed as the primary reason for opening the case for 2.5 percent of the cases; emotional maltreatment was the primary reason for opening the case in an additional 2.5 percent. According to CFS Division personnel, Emotional Maltreatment is often how they code domestic violence in the home³³.

American Indian Children in Foster Care

In Montana, the Child and Family Services (CFS) Division of the Department of Public Health and Human Services administers programs to protect children and youth from abuse, neglect and abandonment. There were 619 American Indian children under supervision by Child and Family Services or tribal foster care systems in a point-in-time count in October 2009³⁴. If national studies bear out, this means that at least 204 of these American Indian children were coming from homes in which domestic violence was a reality.

Of the 619 American Indian children under the supervision of the Child and Family Services or tribal foster care systems in a point-in-time count in October 2009³⁵:

- 314 (51%) were female, 302 (49%) were male, and gender was unspecified for three children (0.5%).
- The average age at removal was 4.5 years; the average age of discharge was 7.4 years.
- On average, children had 3.5 placement settings while involved in the foster care system.
- Placement settings included Family Foster Care (47%); Kinship Foster Care (24%); Trial Home Visit (7%); Specialized or Therapeutic Family Foster Care (7%); Out-of-state or Residential Treatment Centers (3%); Other Active Placement (6%); Group Homes or Therapeutic Group Homes (4%); and Shelter Care (2%). Additionally, three children (0.5%) were counted as runaways.
- Permanency goals were listed by CFS for 604 of the 619 children in care. These included: Return to the Home (60%); Adoption (23%); Guardianship (6%); Maintain in Current Living Situation (6%); Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (3%); and Placed with Other Relative, Non-custodial Parent or Other (2%).

A number of studies estimate that domestic violence is present in at least one-third of families involved in child protective services³⁶.

Adverse Childhood Experiences³⁷

A growing body of research indicates that childhood trauma is a significant risk factor for the development of adult health concerns. The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study was carried out in Kaiser Permanente's Department of Preventive Medicine in San Diego. Twenty-six thousand (26,000) consecutive adults were asked to participate in a study to demonstrate how childhood events affect adult health status: 18,000 agreed to participate.

Volunteers were asked about eight categories of childhood abuse and household dysfunction. The abuse categories included recurrent physical, emotional and sexual abuse. The categories of household dysfunction included growing up in a household where: the mother was treated violently; someone was in prison; active alcoholic or drug abuse; someone was chronically depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal; and/or at least one biological parent was lost to the patient during childhood – regardless of cause. An individual exposed to none of these experiences had an ACE Score of 0; an individual exposed to any four had an ACE Score of 4. An arm of the study will follow the cohort for at least five years to compare childhood experiences against current adult emergency room use, doctor visits, medication costs, hospitalization and death.

The ACE Study revealed an epidemiological correlation between the ACE Score and likelihood of later becoming an IV drug user. For example, a male child with an ACE Score of 6 has a 4,600 percent increase in the likelihood of later becoming an IV drug user as compared to a male child with an ACE Score of 0. In addition to these examples, many other measures of adult health were found to have a strong, graded relationship to what happened in childhood: heart disease, fractures, diabetes, obesity, unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and alcoholism were all more frequent.

BRFSS *and Sexual Assault*

Sexual assaults are associated with a range of short- and long-term problems, but the consequences extend far beyond the primary victims to affect families, children and friends. At a The consequences of rape, battering, and other sexual assaults impact social and health care delivery services, public health and criminal justice systems. The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a population-based telephone interview survey of a random selection of Montana adults, age 18 years and older, in the non-institutionalized population. All respondents are anonymous and data are weighted to represent Montana's adult population. In 2007, the Montana Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey included questions on sexual assault, from unwanted touching to completed rapes. The following sexual assault data are based on BRFSS interviews with 5,995 adults in 2007. The findings were discussed in the Spring 2009 Montana Fact[or]s published by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services³⁸.

- In 2007, 1 in 20 (5.3%) – or an estimated 34,495 Montana adults - reported being the victim of sex against their will or without their consent.
- Persons with a reported disability were 2.5 times more likely (10%) to report being raped than adults without a disability (4%).
- Adults with household incomes less than \$25,000 per year had higher rates of reported rape (8%-12%) than adults with higher household incomes (<5%).
- One in ten adult Montana women (9.6%) reported being raped in their lifetime. This means in Montana, an estimated 31,495 adult women have had sex without their consent at some time during their lives³⁸.

Putting 2007 BRFSS estimates in context with 2007 crime data means that it is likely that as few as 2.8 percent of sexual assaults in Montana were formally reported to law enforcement authorities.

Prevalence

According to the Montana Board of Crime Control's *Crime in Montana Report*, 335 rapes were formally reported to local law enforcement agencies in 2007. Only those cases that met the informational requirements of the Montana Incident Based Reporting system (MTIBRS) were included in this count; rape offenses reported on paper summaries were not counted, as there was insufficient data on those cases. (About 1.8 percent of the rape offenses were reported on paper summaries.) The average age of rape victims was 20, and the most common (mode) age was 14. The arrest rate for rape is low: 13 percent in 2008 and 16 percent in 2007³⁹.

Rape offenses fit into a broader offense category called "forcible sex offenses." In 2007, 737 forcible sex offenses were committed in addition to the 335 rapes. The two most common offenses included sexual assault (583/737) and sexual abuse of children (105/737)⁴⁰.

BRFSS only surveys adults. In 2007, 632 forcible sex offenses were perpetrated against adults; added to the 350 reported rapes, that comes to 967 forcible sex crimes. BRFSS estimates suggest that 34,495 Montana adults were the victims of sex against their will in 2007. Putting 2007 BRFSS estimates in context with 2007 crime data means that it is likely that just 2.8 percent of sexual assaults were formally reported to law enforcement authorities.

Jurisdictional Issues⁴¹

The U.S. Attorney's Office has the lead responsibility for two types of domestic violence offenses, and the sole responsibility for another in Indian Country.

1. A tribal prosecutor may have authority to charge a domestic violence offense by a Native American on a reservation if serious bodily injury resulted from the assault. In this case, the U.S. Attorney's Office should pursue charges in federal court, pursuant to the Major Crimes Act.
 - **Explanation:** Tribal judges may not incarcerate a defendant for more than one year as the result of limitations in the Indian Civil Rights Act. Given the seriousness of an assault resulting in serious bodily injury and the ability to mandate incarceration in excess of one year, federal prosecution should be pursued in readily provable cases.
2. The federal government should charge viable cases of habitual domestic violence criminalized by the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. Through 18 U.S.C. § 117, a felony, federal prosecutors may charge defendants who have committed an act of partner/family member assault within the exterior boundaries of a reservation (even if serious bodily injury did not occur as a result of the assault) if the perpetrator has been convicted of domestic violence on two or more occasions in tribal, state or federal court.
 - **Explanation:** A habitual domestic violence offender may be prosecuted in tribal rather than federal court. However, given the seriousness of a third prosecutable domestic violence offense, and in view of the fact that two previous prosecutions failed to generate behavior modification, such offenders should be prosecuted in federal court.
3. Acts of domestic violence committed against Native Americans by non-Indians on tribal lands fall solely under federal jurisdiction, making it crucial to refer all such offenses to the U.S. Attorney's Office for prosecution. Neither the tribal prosecutor nor the county attorney have authority to charge the offense.
 - Even though the act of domestic violence occurred on a reservation, the tribal court lacks jurisdiction over a non-Indian.
 - The county attorney does not have the authority to file charges in state court when a domestic violence assault takes place on a reservation and involves a Native American victim.
 - **Explanation:** States have no responsibility to investigate and prosecute Indian Country crimes if the illegal act has been committed by or against an Indian within the exterior boundaries of a reservation. The laws and courts of the United States, rather than those of the State, have jurisdiction when the illegal act is committed within the exterior boundaries of the reservation and involves offenses that involve Indian and non-Indian persons (e.g., offenses committed by one who is not an Indian against one who is [Williams v. United States, 327 U.S. 711, 714 (1946); Donnelly v. United States, 228 U.S. 243 (1913); Mull V. United States, 402 F.2d 571, 573 (9th Cir. 1968); Dickson v. Carmen, 270 F. 2d 809 (9th Cir. 1959)]. Federal courts stand alone as the only forum in which to charge this misdemeanor crime.

Jurisdictional complexities, geographic isolation, and institutional resistance can impede effective protection of women subjected to violence in Indian country.

Jurisdictional Issues

Jurisdictional complexity creates significant impediments to law enforcement in Indian country. Criminal investigations can involve a cumbersome procedure to establish who has jurisdiction according to the nature of the offense committed, the identity of the offender, the identity of the victim and the legal status of the land where the crime took place.

The first law enforcement officials called to the scene are often tribal police or BIA officers, and these officers may initiate investigations and/or detain suspects. Then a decision has to be made whether the crime warrants involvement by the FBI or state law enforcement. Officers then decide whether to refer the case to federal prosecutors or the local prosecutor.

Each of the three sovereigns has less than full jurisdiction. Consequently, there is often a need for multiple rounds of investigation. This can lead to failure to act. Overall, law enforcement in Indian country requires a degree of cooperation and inter-reliance among federal, tribal and state law enforcement that can be difficult to achieve. These issues are compounded by a grave lack of resources for law enforcement in Indian country.

Crimes against women tend to be under-prosecuted in Indian country as the difficulties of prosecution in general, coupled with traditions of non-involvement by law enforcement officials in spousal abuse, make federal and state enforcement difficult. Simply calling for greater enforcement by the federal law enforcement agencies is not an adequate response. American Indian women who do come forward to report sexual violence are often caught in a jurisdictional maze that federal, state, and tribal police that can be difficult to sort out and can lead to confusion and uncertainty such that no jurisdiction takes action, survivors are denied access to justice and perpetrators go unpunished.

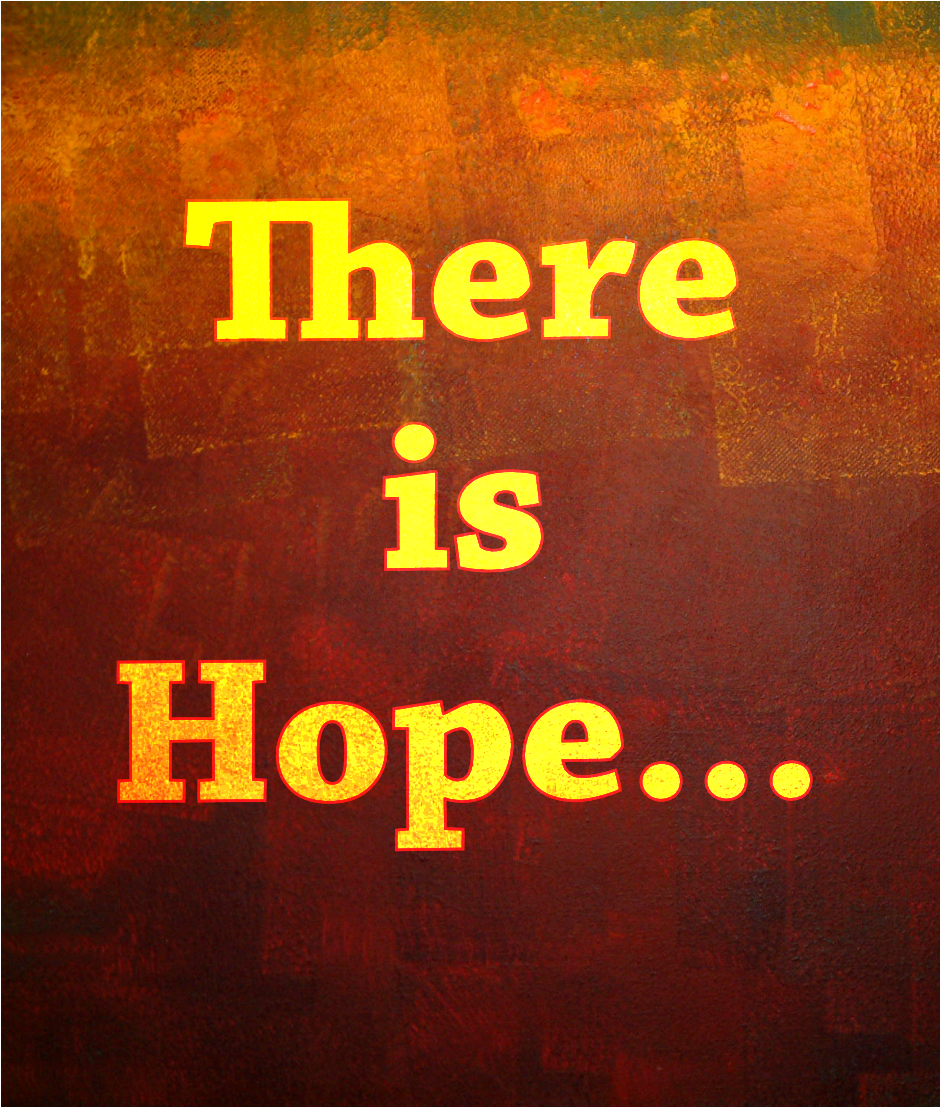
Indian Country Criminal Jurisdiction Chart

Offender	Victim	Jurisdiction
Indian	Indian	Federal: Major Crimes. If the offense is listed as a major crime (under 18 U.S.C.A. §1153), there is federal jurisdiction concurrent with the tribe (provided the tribe defines the crime as a misdemeanor in its own law and order code, and the crime is subject to ICRA sentencing limitations). Tribal: Other Crimes. If the offense is not listed by the Major Crimes Act, tribal jurisdiction is exclusive.
Indian	Victimless	Tribal: Tribal courts have exclusive jurisdiction.
Indian	Non-Indian	Concurrent Federal and Tribal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the offense is listed as a major crime (under 18 U.S.C.A. §1153), there is federal jurisdiction concurrent with the tribe (see above). If the offense is not listed by the Major Crimes Act, but is one of the crimes applicable within federal enclaves, there is federal jurisdiction concurrent with the tribe (under the General Crimes Act). BUT there is no federal jurisdiction if the tribal court has already rendered punishment. If there is no major crime or federal enclave crime involved, state law can be applied in federal court under the Assimilated Crimes Act. Federal jurisdiction is concurrent with the tribe.
Non-Indian	Indian	Federal: Federal jurisdiction is exclusive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the crime is a federal enclave offense, the General Crimes Act applies. If there is no federal enclave crime, state law is assimilated under the Assimilated Crimes Act. The Major Crimes Act does not apply because it only covers crimes by Indians. Tribal courts have no jurisdiction under Oliphant. State courts have no jurisdiction.
Non-Indian	Victimless	State: State jurisdiction is exclusive, only where no interest of the tribe, its members or property is involved.
Non-Indian	Non-Indian	State: State jurisdiction is exclusive under McBratney.

Source: *Criminal Jurisdiction in Indian Country with a Special Focus on Domestic Violence Issues*: Presentation by Lucy Simpson and Kirsten Matoy Carlson
Indian Law Resource Center. December 2008.

What's Going Right

Though the issues surrounding domestic and sexual violence for Native American women throughout Montana are well documented and profound, there are many reasons for hope.



**There
is
Hope...**

The Montana Native Women's Coalition *Mission:*

The Montana Native Women's Coalition strengthens relationships among tribal domestic violence programs to improve services for rural and urban Native American women (and their children) affected by violence.

The goal of this organization is to enhance networking relationships between domestic violence programs and improve services for urban and rural Native American women and children who are victims of domestic abuse. The Coalition will focus on addressing the issues of abused Native American women and provide leadership for programs serving disadvantaged victims throughout Montana.

An added purpose of the Coalition is to bring together Native American women leaders and representatives from state agencies that manage respective state and federal funding for domestic violence programming in Montana, with the goal of increasing resources and support for tribal programs.

For more information, go to:

Montana Native Women's Coalition - C/O The Healing Tree

P.O. Box 541 - Lame Deer, Montana 59043

Phone: 406-477-3495 - Fax: 406-477-3495

<http://montananwc.org/>

CSKT Victim Assistance Program

The United States Department of Justice awarded \$802,642 to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) to provide services, including counseling and weekly support groups, for victims of domestic abuse. CSKT is the only Montana tribe to be awarded the Violence Against Women funding⁴².

CSKT has been proactive in addressing domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, and in 1995 created a Tribal Crime Victim Advocate Program. In 2007, the CSKT Victim Assistance Program and DOVES, a private non-profit crime victim advocacy agency, helped more than 500 primary victims of domestic abuse with more than 4,000 units of service. During the same period, Tribal Law Enforcement and the Lake County Sheriff's Office received 483 calls related to domestic violence⁴³.

This funding will allow the program to hire one new full-time Salish Kootenai College Campus Crime Victim Advocate and three half-time positions: a van driver, a tribal GED Instructor and a childcare worker. The positions were chosen because so many clients need to access these services. The grant will allow the programs to hire a part-time mental health professional who will work with groups and individuals. Additionally, women experiencing domestic violence who do not see a way out can receive job training for good-paying jobs that can provide a way to support themselves and their children. The Tribes will collaborate with the Salish Kootenai College Marketing Committee to establish a campus- and community-wide awareness campaign and will help train service providers on the dynamics of domestic violence and other issues surrounding dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Through other grants, the CSKT Victim Assistance Program also provides housing and legal assistance to victims of domestic violence.

ARRA and the CSKT

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law by President Obama, and provides \$20.8 million to the Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women for the Indian Tribal Governments Program. The money will be used to decrease the number of violent crimes committed against Indian women. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced on August 28 that more than \$5.6 million in stimulus money from the Office on Violence Against Women will go to tribes in Montana, California, Kansas, Mississippi and Oklahoma⁴⁴.

The CSKT/Office of Violence against Women (OVW) Recovery Act Project will:

- renovate a space so that disabled victims can use laundry facilities;
- provide job training for well-paying, nontraditional jobs for women;
- provide transportation vouchers;
- provide vouchers for childcare for those attending the Salish Kootenai College;
- create a campus- and community-wide education and prevention campaign, conceived by SKC students, Reservation artists and the SKC Marketing Committee; and
- educate service providers in a variety of professions on the dynamics of domestic violence and other issues surrounding dating violence, sexual assault and stalking⁴⁵.

Crow Domestic Violence Task Force

The Crow/Northern Cheyenne Hospital community serves about 12,000 consumers a year. In 2002, the hospital created a Domestic Violence Task Force, in collaboration with the Child and Family Services Division of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Some of the successful innovations implemented by the Task Force include:

- The Crow Domestic Violence Task Force sponsored SANE training (Sexual Assault Nurse's Examiner) training for local nurses.
- The Crow/Northern Cheyenne Hospital initiated a work place policy to screen patients and enacted a community law against domestic violence.
- The hospital is working toward an integrated, comprehensive management approach that will utilize all health care disciplines to evaluate patients holistically.
- The Domestic Violence Task Force team includes various agencies that share a common vision and meet once a month. Their approach coordinates multi-agency efforts including courts, law enforcement, Indian Health Services, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and others.
- Domestic violence prevention includes two primary activities: community education and prevention in the form of Family Fun Nights.
- Family Fun Nights started in 2004 with 80 participants, to honor two Crow girls who were killed and found on Thanksgiving Day in Hardin. Participation has grown dramatically. By 2006, 600 people were coming. After a whole night of fun, food, education, awards, the event closes with gifts for all the children.
- Prevention activities have included promoting traditional virtues, such as dignity, compassion and honor.

Source: Deborah Russell, Social Worker, Crow Domestic Violence Task Force at the *Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence Conference*:

Voices of Success

I am a survivor. I've worked with children who have been abused for the past 22 years. I am currently the Chair of the Native Women's Coalition. I've also been fortunate enough to participate in the federal task force on violence against women.

- Patty McGeshick

I was in such an abusive relationship that my husband almost killed me. He went to prison, but even there, he kept abusing me. Then a friend took me to a battered women's circle. I told them, "He beat me, almost killed me." They told me, "Take your power back." First I got sober, then I got out of the relationship. I started working on myself and my own self esteem. Things started to change. When I was ten years sober, I went back to my reservation and got two AA degrees, then two BA degrees and an MA in Social Work. I worked for the Salish Kootenai Tribes as a primary victim advocate. I am also the grandmother of twenty. I am grateful to be here and to talk about what I've been through.

- Evelyn

Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence Conference

Fort Peck Tribes Family Violence Resource Center

The Fort Peck Tribes created their Sexual Abuse Victims Treatment Program in response to accelerated reports of child sexual victimization as well as an increase in the number of sex crimes involving children and adults.

Since 1992 the Fort Peck Tribes Family Violence Resource Center has received 2,153 referrals for domestic abuse and sex crimes against women.

- In the eight-year period between January 1, 1992 and 2000, 113 Federal cases of sex crimes with women and children as primary victims were opened.
- During the past three years, there were 459 referrals for domestic abuse.
- Since 2000, an additional 12 women have been sexually assaulted.
- During the first six months of 2009, 103 women and 155 children were the documented victims of domestic and family violence.
 - 32 women were placed in the local shelter and 9 were placed in off-reservation shelter within a 6-month period.
- One victim received 13 threatening phone calls within a 3-hour period.

The Fort Peck Tribes have developed a multi-jurisdictional tri-court process for handling sex crimes.

Source: Patty McGeshick: Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence Breakout Session: Services in Tribal Communities.

Federal Criminal Court	Tribal Civil Court	Tribal Criminal Court
Prosecutes violations of Major Crimes Act felonies committed on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protection orders• Family intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dual criminal prosecution• Does not constitute double jeopardy

Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes

The Family Violence Resource Center in Wolf Point started as the Sexual Abuse Victims Treatment Program in 1985, and has been a model agency for victim services in Indian Country. The Resource Center's primary focus is addressing violence and victims' needs. Their mission is the prevention, intervention, and healing of adult and child victims of sexual assault and family violence to promote healthier lifestyles.

The Tribe was one of two initial pilot sites chosen to participate in a Tribal Strategies Against Violence (TSAV) project by the US Department of Justice in 1995. A comprehensive case study was performed in 2002. The TSAV framework included the promotion and implementation of comprehensive community-based program development around crime and violence issues⁴⁶.

The TSAV strategies undertaken by the Fort Peck Tribes were both short- and long-term in nature. Short-term strategies included building awareness about specific types of violence (e.g. domestic violence) and substance abuse problems in reservation communities. Long-term strategies were reflected in numerous Tribal Code amendments and the creation of the Family Wellness Court (juvenile drug court) and the DUI Court (adult drug court). Results included stronger reporting and enhanced prosecution, reductions in enforcement and sentencing inconsistencies, and initiating alternatives to incarceration and detention⁴⁷.

At the start of the TSAV planning process, the local rates of domestic violence led partners to target improved prosecution of domestic and youth violence as well as substance abuse, which was identified as a co-factor for 93-98 percent of offenses by those interviewed. Enhanced awareness of domestic violence and the improved ability of TSAV partners to collaborate in addressing it were regarded as some of the most successful outcomes of the initiative⁴⁸.

The Rocky Boy's Ojibwa Ne-i-yah-w Initiative

The Ojibwa Ne-i-yah-w (ONI) Initiative is a Tribal department formed in January 2007, uses cultural aspects of the Chippewa (Ojibwa) and Cree tribes to deal with issues on the reservation, including drug use and violent crime.

The Chippewa Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation had not had a domestic violence program for at least eight years when they received a \$419,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Violence Against Women in 2008 to fund a program to help victims — and perpetrators — of domestic violence to revitalize their program⁴⁹.

The efforts undertaken through the 2008 DOJ grant focus on victim-based services, including creation and operation of a 24-hour crisis hotline, shelter services, enhanced law enforcement, court training and advocacy for the two-year period. The program is based on culturally appropriate approaches to address domestic violence and the effects of exposure to that violence on children. It utilizes the direction and advice of the ONI Native Women's Advisory Council. This grant award will allow provision of services and enhance safety for victims of domestic violence and their children. This program's cultural approach will also provide positive supportive services utilizing tribal elders and tribal teachings⁵⁰.

The Montana Department of Commerce also awarded the Chippewa Cree Tribe \$70,000 in 2008 to access start up funds to provide tribal workforce training and development, provide entrepreneurial training and assist in the development of entrepreneurial services and financial literacy as part of their Ojibwa Ne-i-yah-w Initiative. The Initiative recognizes that in order for the Tribe to have effective economic development and business/job development, they first must have a strong, healthy, competent workforce. The grant was matched with \$235,200 from the Tribe⁵¹.

When you take a child out of a domestic violence situation, you basically take them out of a war zone⁵².

- State Representative Jonathan Windy Boy, Vice Chair, Chippewa Cree Tribal Council

Voices of Success

I am a survivor.

*The last time, when he woke up, I said, "You really hurt me this time." He took me to the hospital. I decided **no more** and pressed charges. I was so afraid his family and everybody would be mad at me. I had never tried to do anything before because of family secrets. But the police came. After that, the FBI got involved because my injuries were so terrible. I remember them taking me by ambulance to Great Falls. Years later, my sister-in-law told me she was so afraid I would die.*

I have been sober now for 24 years. I have been working on call as a volunteer for the Blackfeet Domestic Violence Program for a long time. I went back to school at 40 and got my GED. I went to college and got a two-year degree in human services, then my chemical dependency license. I am now a CD Counselor at the Crystal Creek Lodge in Browning. I believe in my heart that none of this was a coincidence. Creator meant for me to be here.

-- Marcella, Blackfeet
Honoring Native Women by Stopping the
Violence Conference

Encourage to Arrest Project⁵³

The criminal justice response to domestic violence in Montana includes a patchwork of federal, state, tribal and local efforts, supported by a variety of governmental, public and private resources. The results are frequently fragmented for victims and for those working within the criminal justice system.

Through the *Encourage to Arrest Project*, the Office of Victim Services is seeking to address this problem. The project began in September 2002. The goal is reducing the incidence of domestic violence and improving the enforcement of orders of protection.

To accomplish this, the project is working to establish new procedures to ensure that victims can rely on orders of protection obtained from their community, state or their tribe, and that these orders can be used as a basis for protection anywhere in Montana. The project is focusing on four major areas:

- improving access to services in rural areas;
- improving law enforcement response to domestic violence incidents;
- enhancing judicial training in best practices for protecting victims and holding abusers accountable; and
- supporting existing victim-witness programs and helping to create programs in areas without them.

For more information, visit the Department of Justice website:
www.doj.mt.gov/victims/domesticviolence.asp#encouragearrest.

In her opening remarks at the *Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence Conference*, President Julia Doney from the Fort Belknap Tribal Council stressed the importance of teaching children healthy values, including respect for the role of women in tribal societies. She also emphasized restoring and honoring the traditional role of Native men as protectors.

I Just Want You to Know...

There's something I want you to know.

It comes from deep within my soul.

I, too, have been there,

Scared and full of fear.

I was so full of shame

And really thought I was the one to blame.

I really didn't know

That there was a "safe place" for me to go.

And then came the day

When a caring person showed me the way,

That this was not the way to live,

That something had to give.

You, too, can find the strength from within

And let your new life begin⁵⁴.

- Marilyn Gobert

Published in the *Glacier Reporter* September 30, 2009



Tribal Council of the Northern Cheyenne

AN ORDINANCE OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBAL COUNCIL ENACTING A STALKING ORDINANCE, AND ADDING TO TITLE VII OF THE OFFENSE CODE OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION⁵⁵.

WHEREAS: The Northern Cheyenne has determined that a Stalking Ordinance is necessary due to increased incidents involving the domestic abuse violations on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, and

WHEREAS: the Domestic Abuse Ordinance lacks this clause and the stalking of the victim has occurred various times throughout the years, where the perpetrator has harassed and intimidated the victim by the use presence and by other means.

SO BE IT ORDAINED by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council that the following ordinance, the Stalking Ordinance, is hereby adopted by the Tribal Council. It shall be a part of Offense Against the Family, Chapter S, Title VII and shall be numbered 7-5-11. Stalking is a Class A offense. The ordinance is as follows:

Stalking - exemption - penalty

(1) A person commits the offense of stalking if the person purposely or knowingly causes another person substantial emotional distress or reasonable apprehension of bodily or death by repeatedly:

- (a) following the stalked person; or
- (b) harassing, threatening, or intimidating the stalked person, in person or by phone, by mail, or by other action, device, or method.

(2) A person convicted of a first offense for stalking shall be jailed for not less than 30 (thirty) days and fined not less than \$500.00. A person convicted a second time for stalking shall be jailed not less than 90 (ninety) days and fined not less than \$1,000.00. A person convicted for the third or subsequent times shall be jailed for not less than 180 days and fined not less than \$2,000.00.

(3) Upon presentation of credible evidence of violation of this ordinance, an order may be granted, restraining a person from engaging in the activity described in subsection (1).

(4) For the purpose of determining the number of convictions under this Ordinance, "conviction" means: (a) a conviction, as defined in this ordinance (b) and, bail put forth can not be forfeited in lieu of court appearance. Appearance before a Judge is mandatory.

(5) Attempts by the accused person to contact or follow person after the accused person has been given actual notice that the stalked person does not want to be contacted or followed constitutes prima facie evidence that the accused person purposely and knowingly followed, harassed, threatened, or intimidated the stalked person.

Complete text of the ordinance is available online at: www.naicja.org/vawa/nchey.html

The Project Advisory Committee of the National American Indian Court Judges Association evaluated 40 tribal codes in context with standards established for Violence Against Indian Women codes. The committee found that five of these existing tribal codes provided good examples by meeting many of the established criteria. The Northern Cheyenne Domestic Violence Ordinance is one of the five⁵⁶.

Source: www.naicja.org/vawa/top5.asp

Crow Law and Order Code

TITLE 8E: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE⁵⁷

Chapter 1: General Provisions

§8E.1.01 Purpose

The purpose of the Crow Tribal Legislature in enacting this Domestic Violence Code is to recognize:

- a. That all persons have a right to be respected, to maintain the sanctity of body and soul, and to be free of violence.
- b. That domestic violence is a serious and pervasive problem in our Reservation communities.
- c. That domestic violence has many faces — Physical, intellectual, sexual, psychological, spiritual, and economic.
- d. That domestic violence is more pernicious than other forms of violence because of the special relationship between the abuser and the abused.
- e. That domestic violence within a relationship tends to escalate in frequency and severity, particularly when the victim tries to sever the relationship.
- f. That victims of domestic violence are often isolated, intimidated, and dispirited, losing the will and the ability to help themselves.
- g. That domestic violence cannot be excused by stress or poverty, by intoxicants or illegal substances, by weather or season, or by the victim's behavior.
- h. That today's domestic violence spawns tomorrow's domestic violence, perpetuating generations of abusers and abused.
- i. That domestic violence is not "cultural" and, indeed, is contrary to traditional Crow values holding the individual and the family sacred.
- j. That domestic violence is not just a "family matter" but, rather, a crime against the victim, the victim's family, the community, and the Crow Tribe.
- k. That the unity of our Tribe depends upon the unity of our families, and that a family wracked by domestic violence is neither strong nor stable.
- l. That the future of our Tribe depends upon the future of our children, and that a child who experiences domestic violence, as either victim or witness, carries deep emotional scars.
- m. That the compassion of our Tribe is measured by our treatment of the most vulnerable, and that domestic violence against elders and the disabled diminishes our collective humanity.
- n. That domestic violence can be prevented, reduced, and deterred through increased awareness and zero tolerance and through prompt and firm intervention by law enforcement, the legal system, and social, educational, and health care institutions.

Tribal Domestic Violence Codes

At least five of Montana's tribes have specific domestic violence codes or ordinances: Blackfeet, Crow, Confederated Salish and Kootenai, Fort Peck and Northern Cheyenne.

Blackfeet Tribal Law and Order Code

Ordinance No. 82: Domestic Abuse Law Ordinance

- www.narf.org/nill/Codes/blackfeetcode/blkftord82abuse.htm

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Offenses, Codified

Part 7: Offenses Against the Family; 2-1-701. Domestic Abuse

- www.tribalresourcecenter.org/ccfolder1/salishandkootenai_tribaloffenses.htm

Crow Tribe Domestic Violence Code

Title 8E: Domestic Violence

- This is very thorough code encompasses 20 pages, but is not currently available online.

Fort Peck Comprehensive Code of Justice 2000

Title VII - Criminal Offenses: Section 244. Domestic Abuse VII-17;

Section 245 Notice of rights to victim upon arrest in domestic violence situation VII-18.

- www.tribalresourcecenter.org/ccfolder1/fortpeck_justicecode_7.htm

Northern Cheyenne Stalking Ordinance

Offense Against the Family, Chapter S, Title VII; Number 7-5-11.

- www.naicja.org/vawa/nchey.html



The Indian Law Resource Center⁵⁸

Through its Safe Women, Strong Nations project, the Center helps Native women's organizations in their work to help tribes deal more effectively with the egregiously high rates of sexual violence and physical assault perpetrated against them. The Indian Law Resource Center collaborates with Native women leaders who have been dealing with this issue for years, and has worked closely with the National Congress of American Indians Task Force on Violence Against Women, Clan Star, Inc., the Navajo Nation and others to raise awareness of this issue internationally.

The current criminal jurisdictional scheme created by the United States government impedes the ability of Indian nations to properly protect their citizens, and the federal government has drastically cut funding to law enforcement in Indian Country. This has resulted in the erosion of tribal jurisdictional authority and the denial of equality under the law to Indian nations and women.

Failure to effectively police and prosecute perpetrators negatively impacts victims and entire Indian nations. Violence against women disrupts the stability and productivity of families, communities and Indian nations. The *Safe Women, Strong Nations* project recognizes that protection for Native women must involve strengthening the ability of Indian nations to police their lands and prosecute offenders.

With our help, a coalition of indigenous organizations brought these issues to the attention of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in December 2007. The Committee responded by urging the United States to increase its efforts to ensure that reports of sexual violence against Native women *"are independently, promptly, and thoroughly investigated, and that perpetrators are prosecuted and appropriately punished."*

- For more information, visit the Indian Law Resource Center at www.indianlaw.org/en/safewomen or call 406-449-2006.

Safe Women, Strong Nations

"One in three Native women is raped in her lifetime. Six in ten experience domestic abuse. Sadly, the majority of these women never see their abusers or rapists brought to justice. The complex jurisdictional scheme in Indian country leaves Native women without effective judicial recourse against their perpetrators."

"The situation for Native women is bleak but I can see beyond the initial despair of these horrific statistics. As Native women, we serve as the backbones of our communities, and many strong Native women have shown relentless dedication to ending the epidemic of violence in our communities. The contributions of women like Tillie Black Gear, Cecelia Fire Thunder, Terri Henry, Karen Artichoker and so many others, inspire my hope for the future - that our daughters will face better odds, that our communities will heal, that the violence will cease."

*"I am honored that many of these women have collaborated with the Indian Law Resource Center in creating its Safe Women, Strong Nations program. We value our work with them, which builds on their previous grassroots efforts. We are supplementing their continuing efforts with a campaign to raise awareness of violence against women as an international human rights issue, and look forward to assisting them further in the fight to end violence against Native women."*⁵⁹

- Kirsten Matoy Carlson, of Cherokee descent from Oklahoma, is an attorney with the Indian Law Resource Center and director of the Center's Safe Women, Strong Nations program.

Indian Health Services Violence Against Native Women⁶⁰

The Billings Area Indian Health Service (IHS) provides a comprehensive health services delivery system to more than 70,000 American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people in the states of Montana and Wyoming. There are six IHS service units, two Self-Governance service units, five urban programs and an administrative office in Billings, Montana.

- During fiscal year (FY) 2004 the IHS user population increased by two-percent, increases outpatient workload by four-percent, and decreases the average daily patient load (ADPL) by 1.2 for inpatient.
- The Billings Area clinical staff consists of approximately 54 physicians, 179 nurses, 29 dentists, and 33 pharmacists delivering health care through 3 IHS hospitals, 9 health centers, 6 health stations and numerous health locations.
- All IHS and Tribally operated facilities in the Billings Area have been successfully accredited through JCAHO or AAAHC or CMS (Critical Access) or FQHC.

Indian Health Services has instituted GPRA (Government Performance and Results Act) domestic violence screening for all women over age fourteen. Doctors and other medical personnel are provided with brochures that describe who, when and how to screen for domestic violence as well as a variety of clinical tools. A Violence Against Native Women section on the Indian Health Service/ Maternal Child Health website that offers information and links to a wide range of resources.

Source: www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/MCH/V/index.cfm

Blackfeet Service Unit

Blackfeet Community Hospital
Browning, Montana - Phone: (406) 338-6154
Heart Butte Health Station
Heart Butte, Montana - Phone: (406) 338-2151

Crow Service Unit

Crow/Northern Cheyenne Hospital
Crow Agency, Montana- Phone: (406) 638-2626
Lodge Grass Health Clinic
Lodge Grass, Montana - Phone: (406) 639-2317
Pryor Health Station
Pryor, Montana - Phone: (406) 259-8238

Fort Belknap Service Unit

Fort Belknap Hospital
Harlem, Montana - Phone: (406) 353-3100
Eagle Child Health Station
Hays, Montana- Phone: (406) 673-3777

Fort Peck Service Unit

Verne E. Gibbs Health Center
Poplar, Montana - Phone: (406) 768-3491
Chief Redstone Health Clinic
Wolf Point, Montana - Phone: (406) 653-1641

Northern Cheyenne Service Unit

Lame Deer Health Center
Lame Deer, Montana - Phone: (406) 477-4400

Tribally Operated Facilities

Flathead Tribal Health

St. Ignatius, Montana - Phone: (406) 745-3525

Rocky Boy Tribal Health

Box Elder, Montana - Phone: (406) 395-4486

FVPSA⁶¹

The U.S. Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) was first enacted nationally in 1984 to provide support for lifesaving emergency shelters, crisis hot lines, victims assistance and counseling. It ends family violence by ensuring that domestic violence victims and their children will not be turned away when they need safe haven. Montana has had a Domestic Violence Program since 1986. It's primary goal is to establish and maintain programs and projects that help prevent domestic violence and provide immediate shelter and related assistance to victims of domestic violence and their dependents.

During federal fiscal year October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009, Montana's Domestic Violence Program contracted with 22 community-based service providers. In 2008, the statewide program had a total of \$980,044 in funding, from a combination of state and federal sources:

- Federal FVPSA grant (\$768,469);
- General Fund (\$122,163); and
- State Special Revenue (\$89,808). The State Special Revenue Account is comprised of a combination of marriage filing fees and fines imposed for the crime of family member/partner assault.
- Of the total funding, \$946,472 goes for program contracts and \$12,075 helps fund the PDQ database.

Percent of Total Service Units Delivered to Native Americans in FVPSA Counties 2008⁶²

Beaverhead: 2%	Lake: 53%	Sanders: 3%
Carbon: 1%	Lewis & Clark: 11%	Silver Bow: 5%
Cascade: 23%	Lincoln: 0.2%	Valley: 30%
Custer: 1%	Mineral: 4%	Yellowstone: 34%
Dawson: 12%	Missoula: 16%	Montana/Statewide: 22%
Fergus: 1%	Park: 0.3%	Native American Client % of Services Units Received based on 2008 PDA Data by County and State from Montana Board of Crime Control
Flathead: 17%	Pondera: 31%	
Gallatin: 0.02%	Ravalli: 3%	
Hill: 46%	Richland: 2%	

FVPSA-Funded Programs	City	County
Community Support Center	Dillon	Beaverhead
Domestic and Sexual Violence Services	Red Lodge	Carbon
YWCA Great Falls	Great Falls	Cascade
CNADA (Custer Network Against Domestic Abuse)	Miles City	Custer
Dawson County Domestic Violence Program	Glendive	Dawson
SAVES, Inc.	Lewistown	Fergus
Violence Free Crisis Line/The Abbie	Kalispell	Flathead
The Network Against Sexual and Domestic Violence	Bozeman	Gallatin
District 4 Human Resources Development Council	Havre	Hill
SAFE Harbor	Ronan	Lake
The Friendship Center	Helena	Lewis & Clark
Libby Community Interagencies, Inc.	Libby	Lincoln
Mineral County Help Line	Superior	Mineral
YWCA - Missoula	Missoula	Missoula
Tri-County Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence	Livingston	Park
Hi-Line Help for Abused Spouses	Conrad	Pondera
SAFE (Supporters of Abuse Free Environments, Inc.)	Hamilton	Ravalli
Richland County Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Sidney	Richland
Sanders County Coalition for Families	Thompson Falls	Sanders
SAFESPACE	Butte	Silver Bow
Women's Resource Center of Glasgow	Glasgow	Valley
YWCA- Billings: Gateway House	Billings	Yellowstone

The Montana DPHHS Request for Proposals is distributed to programs and tribes in late June or early July of each year. Funding allocations are made by a grant review committee in August, and contracts are in place by the first of October each program year.



Percent of Native American Residents by County (2008 Census Estimates) Compared to Percent of Native American Clients Served by Domestic Violence Programs (PDQ Data) ⁶³								
County	Census % NA 2008	% NA Served	County	Census % NA 2008	% NA Served	County	Census % NA 2008	% NA Served
Lake	22.8%	50.5%	Lewis & Clark	2.1%	7.7%	Park	1.3%	2.3%
Hill	21.3%	49.8%	Dawson	1.9%	6.2%	Carbon	1.1%	2.2%
Yellowstone	4.1%	22.0%	Silver Bow	2.3%	6.1%	Gallatin	1.0%	2.1%
Cascade	4.5%	18.0%	Flathead	1.3%	3.9%	Fergus	1.7%	1.8%
Mineral	2.1%	12.6%	Richland	1.9%	3.3%	Ravalli	1.0%	1.7%
Pondera	17.1%	12.4%	Sanders	4.8%	3.3%	Beaverhead	1.8%	1.3%
Valley	11.2%	10.0%	Custer	1.8%	3.2%	Lincoln	1.3%	0.3%
Missoula	2.7%	8.7%	Native American Clients Served based on 2008 PDA Data by County from Montana Board of Crime Control Census estimates from Montana Census and Economic Information Center: http://ceic.mt.gov/EstimatesStatePop.asp					
Montana/Statewide	6.4%	13%						

In many cases, county-level data shows that domestic violence programs that included FVPSA funding served more Native American victims than would be expected given the percentage of Native American residents within the county (Census 2008). In five cases (highlighted in yellow, above), fewer Native Americans than might be expected received services.

STOP (Services, Training, Officers and Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)⁶⁴

The Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) has administered the STOP VAWA funding since inception of the program in 1995. The STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (STOP Program) was initially authorized under the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA) and reauthorized and amended by the Violence Against Women Acts of 2000 and 2005.

The overall goal of Montana's STOP Program is to provide every female victim of violent personal crime with accessible, appropriate assistance by knowledgeable, well-trained and compassionate public, private service providers and court system personnel. Priority for funding of direct services under STOP has been given to programs serving rural and Native American victims. Five out of eight programs receiving STOP funding under the non-profit victim services category are located in rural Montana. At least 10 percent of the allocation for non-profit victim services are targeted to programs serving Native Americans.

STOP VAWA Funding Priorities

States are encouraged to develop and support projects that:

- Support programs that address sexual assault and stalking, including developing and implementing protocols, training for judges, prosecutors and court and law enforcement personnel; and develop coordinated community responses to violence against women.
- Enhance or strengthen statewide collaboration among law enforcement, prosecution, nonprofit, nongovernmental victim advocacy and service providers and the courts in addressing violence against women.
- Implement community-driven initiatives, utilizing faith- and community-based organizations to address the needs of underserved populations as defined by VAWA, including people with disabilities and elder victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Montana's STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Funding Allocations 2009 (Includes STOP VAWA and Recovery Act STOP VAWA)

Law Enforcement	Prosecution	Victim Services	Discretionary	Court
Billings Police Department	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe	YWCA of Billings	DV Fatality Review Commission	Montana Supreme Court
Montana Law Enforcement Academy	Park County Attorney	SAFE Harbor, Ronan	Montana Planned Parenthood SANE Training	
Helena Police Department	Billings Attorney Victim/Witness Program	Safe Space, Butte	MBCC PDQ Database	
Gallatin County Sheriff's Office	Billings Domestic Violence Unit	Dawson County DV Program	Montana Department of Justice	
Glasgow Police Department	Gallatin County	Custer Network Against Domestic Abuse	Missoula County	
City of Glasgow	Montana Legal Services Association	Dillon Community Support Center		
		Glasgow WRC		
		YWCA of Missoula		
		Hamilton SAFE		

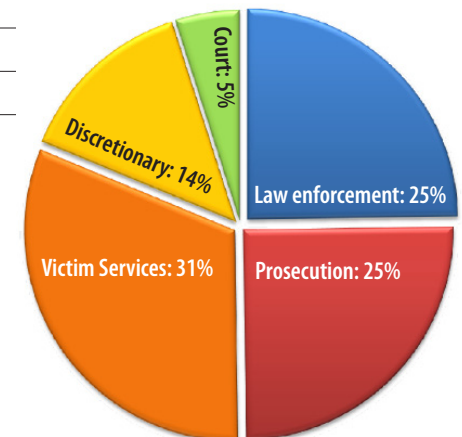
Note: At the time of publication, Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) VAWA for 2009 had not been awarded.

Montana's 2009 STOP VAWA Funding: \$2,005,737

STOP VAWA: \$867,456

Recovery Act STOP VAWA: \$916,955

SASP VAWA: \$221,326



A Few STOP VAWA Successes⁶⁵

Appointments to the VAWA Subcommittee are made to ensure broad professional and geographic representation, and include Native Americans residing on tribal lands.

S.A.N.E. Training

Planned Parenthood of Montana offers statewide Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) training for Montana's registered nurses, nurse practitioners and physician's assistants. The free, annual, week-long training is offered in the fall. Scholarships are available to help cover travel costs. Using Recovery Act VAWA funds, Planned Parenthood will develop a web-based version of the training. The new web-based training program should make great inroads into rural training deficiencies.

Technical Assistance

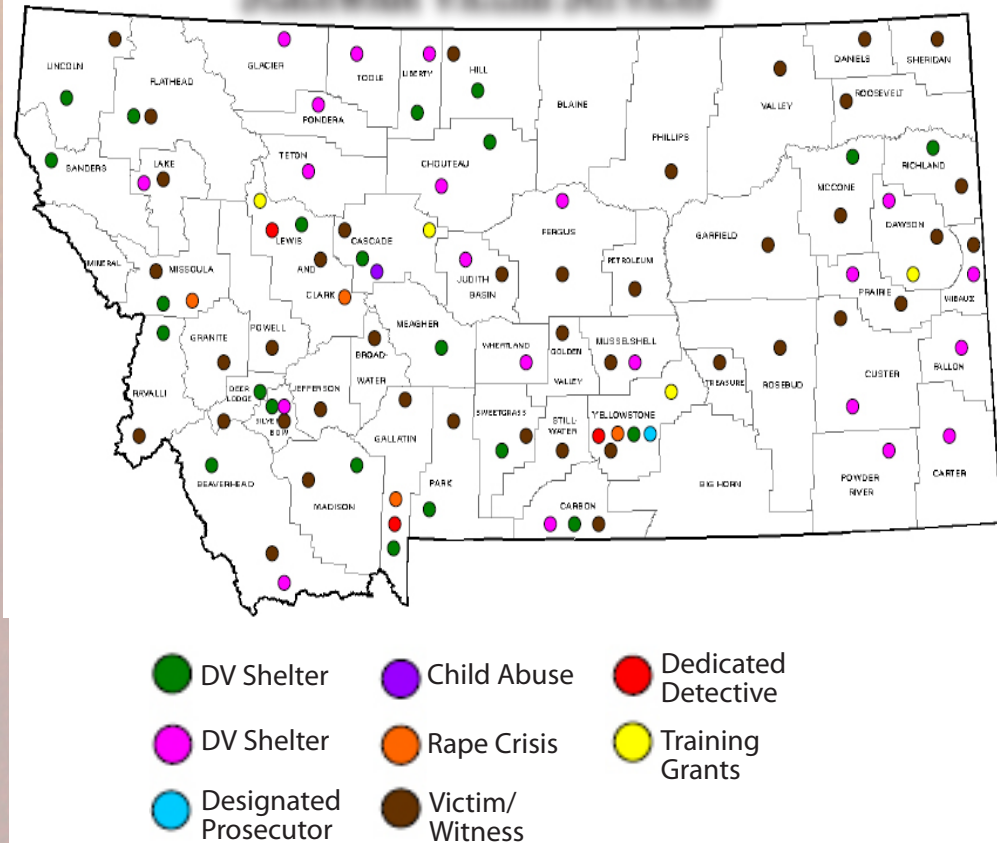
MBCC has offered technical assistance to every tribal government in Montana to help tribes apply for federal funding and/or Montana STOP funds. MBCC can also offer financial assistance for attending critical trainings. For the past several years, MBCC has also offered specialized grant writing training for rural Native Americans.

STOP Set Aside

Montana set aside ten percent of Recovery Act STOP VAWA funds for culturally specific community-based organizations. Through this set aside, STOP funds will provide for a full-time Victim Witness Advocate at the Glasgow Women's Resource Center (WRC) outside the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. The WRC:

- maintains community outreach and advocacy services through a 24-hour crisis line, shelter, transportation, victim support groups and other assistance.
- has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fort Peck Tribes and collaborates with the Fort Peck Tribes Family Violence Resource Center through cross training in tribal codes, major crimes act, law enforcement and courts.

Statewide Victim Services⁶⁶



Source: Stop Violence Against Women Act Program Implementation Plan for the State of Montana American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
http://www.mbcc.mt.gov/ARRA/IMPLEMENTATION_PLAN.pdf

Note: These services are not all-inclusive, but only reflect those that have received funding through the Montana Board of Crime Control.

Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Grant Program⁶⁷

Montana's VOCA Program is administered by the Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC). In FY 2009, the program was funded in the amount of \$1,478,230, which was subgranted to 36 agencies, statewide. Subgrants were awarded to 17 private nonprofit organizations, 12 county attorneys, three sheriff's offices, two county governments, one university and one police department. Though tribes are eligible and encouraged to apply, none submitted applications for the 2009 funding round.

In 2008, VOCA was funded in the amount of \$630,906. Forty agencies received subgrants, together serving 18,303 victims with a total of 47,461 units of service. The majority (11,036) were victims of domestic violence.

Victim Assistance Grant Intent	Eligible Applicants	Criteria	Match	Restrictions
Support service to crime victims by responding to their emotional and physical needs, helping stabilize their lives after victimization and assisting them to understand and participate in the criminal justice system	Public or nonprofit organizations and Indian tribes.	Eligible organizations must use volunteers and provide victims with assistance accessing victim compensation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20% cash or in-kind Indian tribes 5% cash or in-kind 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No perpetrator rehabilitation efforts, No medical costs, Subgrantees must provide services to victims without charge.

In addition to subgranting funds, the Crime Victim Compensation Program conducts annual trainings at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy during its Victim/Witness Basic and Advanced Training Institutes, and for other audiences upon request. According to PDQ data gathered by the MBCC, VOCA subgrantees provided 3,512 hours of training on domestic violence, sexual assault, crime victim advocacy, child advocacy, crime victims' compensation, crisis counseling and other subjects. Audiences included the general public, health care providers, child protective services, corrections, courts, prosecutors, law enforcement, service clubs, students, religious organizations and other service providers. Funds also provide support for subgrantee participation on task forces, child and adult protective teams, domestic violence and sexual assault teams, coordinated crisis response teams and other community efforts consistent with the needs of their clientele.



Voices of Success

I am a survivor.

It has been seven years since I left my relationship with my husband. When I was pregnant with my baby boy I decided to go back to school. Hard to work full time and go to school. Huge accomplishment. This year I will go back and finish my degree. For me and for my children. I am working on my degree in Criminal Justice – I want to represent women like me in court. I still have so much anger, and I struggle because I don't know if I will ever be able to be in another relationship. But no one will ever take advantage of me again.

- Barb, Blackfeet Domestic Violence

Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence Conference

I, too, am a survivor.

I work at a Domestic Violence program. I have been a victims' advocate for twelve years. I have two sons. I thank Creator that neither are abusers. They learned from watching what I've been through. They went the opposite way.

I finally said, "Enough is enough. It has to be up to me. I'm the only one who can make the choice." By then I was an advocate, and I took my own advice. I just realized that I didn't have to live this way and that I'm not going to. I left him. It's been three years now. I'll never be a victim again.

- Marilyn, Blackfeet Domestic Violence

Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence Conference

Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence

Angela Russell, Chief Judge for the Crow Tribal Court

Chief Judge Angela Russell was a facilitator for the *Jurisdiction* break-out session at the historic Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence Conference. Chief Judge was part of the first Legislature of the Crow Tribe and involved with the development of the new Crow Tribal Constitution calling for three branches of government. She was a state Legislator for seven years.

During the breakout session, Judge Russell stressed the importance of looking at traditional ways to address domestic violence. The breakdown of families in rural areas, social changes in gender role and alcohol abuse are all common factors involved with domestic violence, and in the past, intervention was emphasized to address domestic violence.

Barriers

- Victims withdraw: It is importance to work on a safety plan to prevent this from occurring.
- Orders of Protection are often not promptly served as a result of limited resources and staff.
- There is often a lack of family support for the victim.
- Often women feel safe working with non-profit organizations, but will not necessarily turn to the police.
- Economic issues compel women to return to offenders to seek financial security.

Tools

The Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA) is a federal law that ensures the provision of resources to enhance investigation and prosecution of the violent crimes perpetrated against women.

The Habitual Offender Law comes into play with repeat domestic violence offenders when they've had two previous convictions. The offender may be imprisoned no more than ten years.

- From Breakout Session: *Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence Conference*

Montana's Joint Resolution SJ26: *Honoring Montana's American Indian Women by Stopping the Violence Against Them*

The Montana State Legislature passed a resolution aimed at protecting Montana's 27,529 American Indian and Alaska Native women living on and off reservations. The resolution takes aim at the staggering national statistics confirming that Native women are far more likely to be raped or sexually assaulted than any other segment of the population.

The resolution provides formal recognition by Montana's Legislature of the importance of stopping domestic and sexual violence and providing resources and justice for all victims. It also announces a legislative commitment to take action and find solutions to end the violence. Champions of the resolution are pushing the Legislature to call on the U.S. Department of Justice, Montana's congressional delegation -- Senators Max Baucus, Jon Tester, and Congressman Denny Rehberg -- as well as state, local and tribal government agencies to support policies that ensure access to adequate, timely services for victims and adequate resources for prevention and intervention services to respond to these crimes. They also want to ensure that the federal government takes its responsibility to investigate and prosecute violent crime on Indian reservations seriously enough to make it a high priority.

61st Legislature

SJ0026

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
HONORING MONTANA'S AMERICAN INDIAN WOMEN BY STOPPING THE VIOLENCE AGAINST THEM.

WHEREAS, in the U.S., national statistics indicate that a woman is raped every 6 minutes and is beaten every 18 minutes, and domestic violence is the leading cause of injury among women of reproductive age in the U.S., with between 22% and 35% of visits by women to emergency rooms related to domestic violence;

WHEREAS, according to U.S. government statistics, Native American and Alaska Native women are more than 2.5 times more likely to be raped or sexually assaulted than other women in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, more than one in three American Indian and Alaska Native women will be raped during their lifetime, indicating that indigenous women are being denied protection, and there is a systematic failure to punish those responsible for the crimes; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, in at least 86% of the reported cases of rape or sexual assault against American Indian women and Alaska Native women, the perpetrators were non-Native men; and

WHEREAS, not all Montana Indian reservations have access to a statewide database called Providers of Data Quality that allows entities to collect data specifically regarding American Indian victims and survivors of domestic violence in Montana and that allows the data to be downloaded by the entities that fund the state's domestic and sexual violence program, the Montana Board of Crime Control and the Department of Public Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, the issue of domestic and sexual violence impacts Montana's 27,529 American Indian and Alaska Native women both on and off reservations; and

WHEREAS, tribal law enforcement agencies are chronically underfunded, and federal and state governments provide significantly fewer resources for law enforcement on tribal land than are provided for comparable non-American Indian communities; and

WHEREAS, the lack of appropriate training in all police forces, including federal, state, and tribal, also undermines survivors' right to justice, and many officers don't have the skills to ensure a full and accurate crime report and accordingly, survivors of sexual violence are not guaranteed access to adequate and timely sexual assault forensic examinations, which is caused in part by the federal government's severe under funding of the Indian Health Service; and

WHEREAS, American Indian women on Indian reservations who come forward to report sexual violence are caught in a jurisdictional maze that federal, state, and tribal police often cannot quickly sort out and that often leads to confusion and uncertainty with no jurisdiction taking action and survivors of sexual violence being denied access to justice and perpetrators going unpunished; and

WHEREAS, in *Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe*, 435 U.S. 191 (1978), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that tribal courts could not exercise criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian U.S. citizens, stripping tribal authorities of the power to prosecute crimes committed by non-Indian perpetrators on tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, for prosecutable crimes, tribal courts are further limited by the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968, which limits the penalty that can be imposed by tribal courts for any offense to a maximum of 1 year's imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine; and

WHEREAS, the majority of rape cases on tribal lands that are referred to the federal courts are reportedly never brought to trial; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature recognizes the importance of stopping domestic and sexual violence and providing resources and justice for all its victims, but with the alarming level of violence experienced by Montana's American Indian women, we must take action to find solutions to stop this violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislature call on the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Senator Baucus, U.S. Senator Tester, U.S. Congressman Rehberg, the Montana Department of Justice, federal, state, and tribal law enforcement agencies, the Montana Board of Crime Control, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, and other appropriate state agencies, local governments, and Montana's tribal governments to take action to stop this domestic and sexual violence against Montana's American Indian women by supporting policies to:

- (1) work in collaboration to obtain a clear and accurate understanding about the prevalence and nature of domestic and sexual violence faced by Montana's American Indian women;
- (2) support access to adequate and timely services for Montana's American Indian women who are victims of domestic and sexual violence;
- (3) provide adequate resources for additional criminal justice and victim prevention and intervention services to respond to crimes of domestic and sexual violence against Montana's American Indian women; and
- (4) ensure that meeting the federal government's critical responsibility to investigate and prosecute violent crime on Indian reservations is a high priority. - END -

APPENDIX 2: Montana Domestic and Sexual Violence Victim Assistance Resource List

City	Service Area (Counties)	Name	Phone Number(s)	Shelter	Refers to or Services Provided	Other
Anaconda	Deer Lodge, Powell & Granite	Family Resource Crisis Center	406-563-7072 or 800-563-7972	No	Safe Space in Butte	
Billings	Yellowstone	Interfaith Hospitality Network	406-294-7432	Yes	Provides shelter and counseling through 20 churches for homeless families with children	Can serve up to four families at a time; 28 families served in 2008
	Yellowstone, Carbon, Stillwater, Big Horn, Rosebud & Musselshell	YWCA - Billings Gateway House	406-245-4472	Yes	Refers to Community Crisis Center, Women/Family Shelter, Interfaith Hospitality Network	18 beds, can sleep 35; offers domestic violence program and sexual assault services
Bozeman	Gallatin	Hearts and Homes Family Resource Network	406-585-8544	No	Haven	Offers supervised visitation and parenting classes
	Gallatin	Sexual Assault Counseling Center	406-586-3333	No	Haven	Crisis hot line, sexual assault and trauma recovery counseling, rape outreach, legal advocacy, local referral line
	Gallatin, Madison and Meagher	The Haven Shelter and The Network Against Sexual and Domestic Violence	406-586-7689 or 406-586-4111 (crisis)	Yes	Shelter client advocacy, legal advocacy, education, hosts two support groups, has a counselor on staff	15 beds
Browning	Blaine, Glacier, Hill, Pondera, Liberty, Teton, Toole Counties	Montana Legal Services	406-338-7623	No		www.montanalegalservices.com
	Blackfeet Reservation	Rocky Mountain Victims Program	406-338-5180	No		
	Blackfeet Reservation	Blackfeet Domestic Violence Program	406-338-2409	No	Serves approximately 60 victims/month.	For abusers, a 13-week structured program may be provided in lieu of jail, with a major focus on developing cultural identity and tribal values.
	Blackfeet Reservation	Blackfeet Domestic Abuse Shelter	406-338-7921	Yes		
	Blackfeet Reservation	Native Indian Crisis Association	406-338-7922	No		
Butte	Silver Bow, Deer Lodge, Powell, Granite, Jefferson, Madison	Safe Space	406-782-9807 or 406-782-8511 (crisis) or 800-479-8511 (crisis)	Yes	Refers to supplementary services	11 rooms, 14 beds
Colstrip		Battered Women's Task Force	406-748-4357 406-748-2211			
Conrad	Chouteau, Glacier, Toole, Teton, Pondera and Liberty	Hi-Line Help for Abused Spouses	(406) 278-3342 or 800-219-7336 (crisis line)	Yes	Great Falls and Havre shelters	Domestic violence and sexual assault victim advocacy, counseling, transportation, emergency hotel vouchers (one night)
Crow Agency	Crow Reservation	STOPS	406-638-2490			
	Crow Reservation	Victim Assistance Program	406-638-3924			

City	Service Area (Counties)	Name	Phone Number(s)	Shelter	Refers to or Services Provided	Other
Dillon	Beaverhead and Madison	Community Support Center (was Women's Resource Center)	406-683-6106 or 406-683-3621 (crisis line)	Yes	Refers to Safe Space in Butte when full	Two bedroom house provides 30-days of emergency shelter. Offers sexual assault response team and 24-hour hotline
Forsythe	Rosebud and Treasure	Rosebud and Treasure Counties Victim/Witness Program	406-346-2237	Hotel Vouchers	Provides local hotel vouchers and referrals to Miles City and the YWCA in Billings	MBCC funding with support from county; work under County Attorney's Office
Glasgow	Valley	Women's Resource Center	406-228-8401	Yes		
Glendive	Dawson	Dawson County Domestic Violence Program	406-377-6477	Yes		FVPSA (Family Violence Prevention and Services Act) funding
Great Falls	Malstrom Air Force Base personnel and families	Family Advocacy	406-731-2161	No	Mercy Home	Parenting classes, anger management, couples therapy
	Cascade	Voices of Hope	406-268-1330 or 406-453-4357 (crisis)	No	Mercy Home	Sexual assault advocacy and 24-hour hot line for crisis intervention
	Cascade	YWCA - Great Falls Mercy Home	406-452-1315 406-453-1018 (Crisis)	Yes	Shelter and referral	
Harlem	Fort Belknap Reservation	Domestic and Sexual Crisis Intervention	406-353-2205	Yes	Shelter and judicial services	
Havre	Hill, Liberty, Blaine, Fort Belknap and Rocky Boy's reservations	District IV Human Resource Development Council	406-265-6743	Yes	Advocacy; crisis counseling; supervised visitation; 24-hour crisis line; women's shelter; orders of protection and referrals	Women/Men's Violence Intervention groups for perpetrators
Helena	Lewis & Clark, Broadwater and Jefferson	The Friendship Center www.thefriendshipcenter.org	406-442-6800 or 800-248-3166	Yes	Advocacy; crisis counseling; 24-hour crisis line; women's shelter; orders of protection and referrals	Survivor groups; sexual assault outreach; children's groups; legal advocacy; community education
Hamilton	Ravalli	SAFE (Supporters of Abuse Free Environments, Inc.)	406-363-2793 or 406- 363-4600	Yes	Emergency shelter; victim/family services; support groups and referrals	24-hour crisis line; case management; peer counseling; advocacy with the legal, medical, law enforcement and court systems support groups and referrals
Kalispell	Flathead	Violence Free Crisis Line The Abbie Shelter	406-752-7273	Yes	Emergency shelter; support groups; victim assistance and advocacy; peer counseling.	Residents generally stay for a few weeks and as long as a few month. In 2008, the shelter served 86 women and 68 children.
Lewistown	Fergus	Saves, Inc.	406-538-2303	Yes	Victim assistance	
Libby	Lincoln	Libby Community Interagencies, Inc. (LCI) and Lincoln County Crisis Solutions (LCCS) Program	406-293-3951	Yes	Crisis intervention; safety planning; victim support; emergency shelter; transportation, support services	Legal advocacy and support
	Lincoln	Lincoln County Help Line	406-293-9141 or 406-293-3223 (crisis)	Yes	8 emergency beds; access to safe houses and motel vouchers	Rental assistance; court assistance and advocacy; parenting classes
Livingston	Meagher, Park and Sweet Grass	Tri-County Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence	406-222-5902 866-880-8425 (crisis) 406-222-8154 (crisis)	Yes	Safe house; 24-hour crisis line; referrals; counseling; supportive services	Advocacy, assistance and a teenage dating violence prevention program

City	Service Area (Counties)	Name	Phone Number(s)	Shelter	Refers to or Services Provided	Other Services or Information
Livingston	Meagher, Park and Sweet Grass	Tri-County Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence	406-222-5902 866-880-8425 (crisis) 406-222-8154 (crisis)	Yes	Safe house; 24-hour crisis line; referrals; counseling; supportive services and a teenage dating violence prevention program	Advocacy and assistance
Miles City	Carter, Custer, Fallon, Garfield, Powder River and Rosebud	CNADA (Custer Network Against Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault)	406-234-0542 406-951-0475 (crisis) or 888-799-0542 (crisis) Fallon & Carter counties 406-978-3978 or 888-799-0542	Yes	24-hour crisis line; personal advocacy and support groups for women and children; shelter; transportation; public education	Court/legal assistance and advocacy; crime victims compensation assistance; referrals for batterers' intervention programs
Missoula	University of Montana	U of M Student Assault Resource Center (SARC) http://life.umt.edu/curry/SARC	406-243-5244 406-243-6559 (24-hour crisis line)	No	Trained student advocates are available 24-hours a day when University is in session to provide peer counseling, information and referrals to survivors of sexual and relationship violence.	Online Depression Screening. Advocacy may include providing information about emergency, medical, legal and academic options available to survivors and/or accompanying survivors to legal or other services.
	YWCA-Missoula	Ada's Place 18-month transitional housing for homeless women and their children, emergency housing (45-days)	406-543-6691 406-542-1944 (24-hour Crisis Line) 800.483.7858	Yes	Emergency women and children's shelter; walk-in peer counseling; support groups for women and children; in-house licensed therapist.	Referrals to community resources; and legal, personal and medical advocacy.
Pablo	CSK Reservation	Confederated Salish & Kootenai (CSK) Tribes of the Flathead Nation Tribal Crime Victim Advocate Program	406-675-2700 Extension 1180 (877) 231-5173 (406) 675-4700 www.cskt.org	Yes	Help through the court process, housing assistance, information and referral, crisis intervention	Help with orders of protection, outreach, girls' afterschool Program (Birds of a Feather), referrals to SAFE Harbour, the domestic violence shelter
	Lake County and Flathead Reservation	SAFE Harbour	406-542-1047	Yes	24-hour crisis line, outreach, information and referral, advocacy and out-of-shelter aid as needed. Shelter for 30 days.	Children's services, court watch
Plentywood	Sheridan County	Women's Resource Center of Glasgow - Satellite Office	406-765-7144 877-972-3232 www.thewrc.org	Yes: Safe Homes	Crisis intervention, advocacy, outreach services and support to victims and their families; support groups	Advocates will accompany individual(s) to a safe home as needed. A safe home is an occupied place of residence where a trained advocate provides room(s) for up to 3 days. The safe homes in each county are confidential and the locations are not disclosed.
Polson	Lake County and Flathead Reservation	DOVES www.doveslakecounty.org	406-883-3350 800-831-9987	Yes	Assistance with orders of protection; crisis counseling; information and referrals; legal advocacy; pro bono legal service; toll-free 24-hour hotline,	Financial assistance including gas vouchers, rent assistance, grocery vouchers, utility assistance; support groups and community training
Red Lodge	Carbon, Stillwater and Sweet Grass	Domestic and Sexual Violence Services of Carbon County www.dsvsmontana.org	406-446-2296 406-425-2222	Yes	Recovery Act funds will allow provision of transitional housing for victims and dependents	Education, training and support services to help secure permanent housing, employment counseling, job training, economic advocacy, transportation and child care.

City	Service Area (Counties)	Name	Phone Number(s)	Shelter	Refers to or Services Provided	Other Services or Information
Ronan	Lake County and Flathead Reservation	Safe Harbor	406-676-0800 (24-hours)		24-hour crisis line Shelter up to 30 days Transitional housing Group therapy for victims and children	Crisis counseling; personal, legal and medical advocacy; confidential information and referrals; housing advocacy; life skills classes; outreach and education
Roundup	Musselshell, Wheatland, Golden Valley counties	SAVES, Inc. - Satellite Office	406-323-2602 800-535-2303	Yes	24-hour crisis line	Temporary shelter, needs assessment, referrals and emergency legal advocacy
Scobey	Daniels County	Women's Resource Center of Glasgow - Satellite Office	406-765-7133 877-972-3232	Yes: Safe Homes	24-hour crisis line	Advocates will accompany individual(s) to a safe home as needed. A safe home is an occupied place of residence where a trained advocate provides room(s) for up to 3 days. The safe homes in each county are confidential and the locations are not disclosed.
Sidney	Richland and McCone counties	Richland County Coalition Against Domestic Violence	406-433-7421 877-972-3232 www.dcdv.org	Yes	24-hour crisis line Shelter, meals, transportation Part of Eastern Montana's coalition against domestic violence	Advocacy and support groups for women and children; education and awareness; court/legal advocacy; referrals for batterers intervention programs
Stanford	Judith Basin and Wheatland counties	SAVES, Inc. - Satellite Office	406-566-2277 EXT 128 800-535-2303	Yes	24-hour crisis line	Temporary shelter, needs assessment, referrals and emergency legal advocacy
Superior	Mineral County	Mineral County Help Line	406-822-4262 406-822-4202	Yes	24-hour crisis line	
Thompson Falls	Sanders County	Sanders County Coalition for Families	406-827-3218 800-265-0415 www.sccff.org	Yes	24-hour crisis line Emergency, short term shelter Transitional housing Emergency transportation	Peer counseling; legal advocacy and direct representation; criminal justice advocacy; support and advocacy groups for victims and families; community education; information and referral
Wolf Point	Fort Peck Reservation	The Family Violence Resource Center	406-653-1494 www.fortpecktribes.org/	Yes	Emergency shelter, referrals, legal advocacy	Information and referrals, victim/family support, transportation

MONTANA RESOURCES

Montana Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence P.O. Box 818 Helena MT 59624	406-443-7794 888-404-7794 FAX: 406-443-7818	www.mcadsv.com	Complete list of domestic and sexual violence programs for Montana	Resource lists for prevention, boys and men, coordinated community response, diversity/ Women of Color, faith-based, youth, media, prevention and workplace
Montana Department of Justice Office of Victim Services 2225 11th Avenue Helena, MT 59620-1410	Phone: (406) 444-1907 Fax: (406) 444-9680 E-mail: dojovs@mt.gov	http://www.doj.mt.gov/victims/	Crime Victim Advocates by City: Updated April 2009	Information on the Crime Victim Compensation Act, forensic rape examination payments, link to Sexual or Violent Offender Registry

Montana's Victim/Witness Advocates

City	Service	Phone Number
Anaconda	Anaconda/Deer Lodge County	(406) 563-4407
Big Timber	Tri-County	(406) 322-8003
Billings	Yellowstone County	(406) 256-2870
Boulder	Jefferson County	(406) 225-4014
Bozeman	Gallatin County	(406) 582-2075
Butte	Silver Bow County	(406) 497-6243
Columbus	Tri-County	(406) 322-8003
CSKT	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	406-675-2700 EXT 1194 or 877-231-5173
Forsyth	Rosebud and Treasure County	(406) 346-2237
Glasgow	Daniels, Phillips, Roosevelt, Sheridan and Valley counties	(406) 653-2999 or (866) 653-2999
Glendive	Seventh Judicial District	(406) 377-2818
Great Falls	Victim Witness Assistance	(406) 771-1180 EXT 219
Hamilton	Ravalli County Victim Assistance	(406) 363-4007
Harlem	Fort Belknap Victim Assistance	(406) 353-8395
Helena	Lewis and Clark County	(406) 447-8221
Lame Deer	Northern Cheyenne	(406) 477-8222 EXT 162
Lewistown	Fergus County Victim/Witness	(406) 538-8127
Libby	Lincoln County	(406) 293-7781 EXT 276
Livingston	Park County Victim/Witness	(406) 222-4150 or 222-2050
Miles City	Custer County (Custer, Fallon, Garfield, and Powder River counties)	(406) 233-8638
Missoula	Crime Victim Advocate Program: Orders of Protection	(406) 830-3830
	Advocacy for Victims of Violent Crime	(406) 830-3832 or (866) 921-6995
Philipsburg	Granite County	(406) 859-0105
Red Lodge	Tri-County Victim/Witness	(406) 322-8003
Ronan	SAFE Harbor	(406) 676-0800
Roundup	Musselshell and Golden Valley counties	(406) 323-2540
Seeley Swan	SSTEP: Seeley-Swan Talk, Education, Protection	800-677-3177
Sidney	Seventh Judicial District	(406) 377-2818
Thompson Falls	Sanders County Attorney's Office	(406) 827-6937
Townsend	Broadwater County	(406) 266-9237
Virginia City	Beaverhead and Madison County Victim/Witness	(406) 843-4232
Wolf Point	Northeast Montana Victim/Witness (Daniels, Phillips, Roosevelt, Sheridan and Valley counties)	(406) 653-2999 or (866) 653-2999

More Statewide Resources

Montana County Attorneys

<http://doju.tripod.com/montana.html>

Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA)

<http://www.mtlsa.org/>

800-666-6899

MLSA Office Locations:

- Helena: 406-442-9830
- Billings: 406-248-7113
- Butte: 406-723-4612
- Havre: 406-265-4731
- Missoula: 406-543-8343
- Poplar: 406-768-3006

MontanaLawHelp.org

Find legal help near you

Resources/contacts by county and issue area:

<http://www.lawhelp.org/MT>

Indian Law Resource Center

602 N Ewing Street

Helena, Montana 59601

406-449-2006

www.indianlaw.org



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- Page 36 -

63. Native American Clients Served based on 2008 PDA Data by County from Montana Board of Crime Control. www.mbcc.mt.gov; Census estimates from Montana Census and Economic Information Center: <http://ceic.mt.gov/EstimatesStatePop.asp>

- Page 37 -

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- Page 38 -

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- Page 39 -

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The Empty Shawl: Honoring Native Women by Stopping the Violence
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- This document was respectfully written, formatted and submitted by Sherri Downing, Sherri Downing Consulting. 1/2010. www.SherriDowning.com.

More Great Resources

1. *Maze of Injustice - The Failure to Protect Indigenous Women from Sexual Violence in the USA*. Amnesty International: www.amnestyusa.org/violence-against-women/maze-of-injustice/page.do?id=1021163
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