

VIOLENCE AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN

Aboriginal women have faced historical violence and brutality that still continues today. This abuse affects aboriginal women physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

(Researched to Death: B.C. Aboriginal Women and Violence, 2005)

Prevalence

- ❖ Aboriginal people are three times more likely than non-Aboriginal people to experience violent victimization (319/1,000 versus 101/1,000 respectively).
- ❖ Aboriginal women are 3.5 times more likely than non-Aboriginal women to be victims of violence (343/1,000 versus 96/1,000 respectively).
- ❖ This pattern of violent victimization is similar for Aboriginal men, who are almost three times as likely as non-Aboriginal men to be victims of violence (292/1,000 versus 107/1,000 respectively).
- ❖ Aboriginal people are nearly twice as likely as non-Aboriginal people to be repeat victims of crime.
- ❖ Physical assault is the most frequently reported violent offence by Aboriginal people.

Financial and Social Consequences

- ❖ Aboriginal women experience similar profound financial and social impacts as non-Aboriginal women as a result of male violence. Some of these impacts include:
 - Diminished self-esteem and sense of security;
 - Damage to physical and emotional health;
 - Self-blame;
 - Negative impact on children (fear, insecurity, perpetuation of the cycle of violence);
 - Negative impact on financial security;
 - Loss of matrimonial home and consequently relocation resulting in broken community bonds.

Who are the Perpetrators?

- ❖ Approximately 56% of violent incidents committed against Aboriginal people are perpetrated by someone who is known to the victim.

Spousal Violence

- ❖ Approximately 21% of Aboriginal people, in comparison to 6% of non-Aboriginal people, report experiencing some form of physical or sexual violence by a spouse.

- ❖ Aboriginal women are approximately 3.5 times more likely to experience some form of spousal violence than non-Aboriginal women.
- ❖ Aboriginal women (54%) are more likely than non-Aboriginal women (37%) to report the most severe forms of spousal violence, such as being beaten, choked, threatened with a gun or knife, or sexually assaulted.
- ❖ Emotional abuse by male partners, a major risk factor for spousal violence, is also more frequent for Aboriginal women than non-Aboriginal women.

Sexual Violence

- ❖ Approximately 75% of survivors of sexual assault in Aboriginal communities are young women under 18 years of age.
- ❖ Approximately 50% of these girls are under the age of 14 and approximately 25% are under the age of 7.

Homicide Rates

- ❖ Canadian Aboriginal women between the ages of 25 and 44 are five times more likely than all other Canadian women in the same age group to die as a result of violence.
- ❖ Between 1997 and 2000, the murder rate for non-Aboriginal women was 0.8/100,000. The murder rate for Aboriginal women during this same time period was 5.4/100,000 - almost **7 times higher** than that of non-Aboriginal women!

Table 1: Aboriginal Victims of Homicide, 1997-2004

Victim/ Victim- offender relationship	Total number of victims	% murdered by a spouse	% murdered by a parent	% murdered by other family members	% murdered by other intimate relationships	% murdered by an acquaintance	% murdered by a stranger
Aboriginal Female Victims	141	27	9	9	11	35	11
Aboriginal Male Victims	329	10	4	19	1	53	13

*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

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