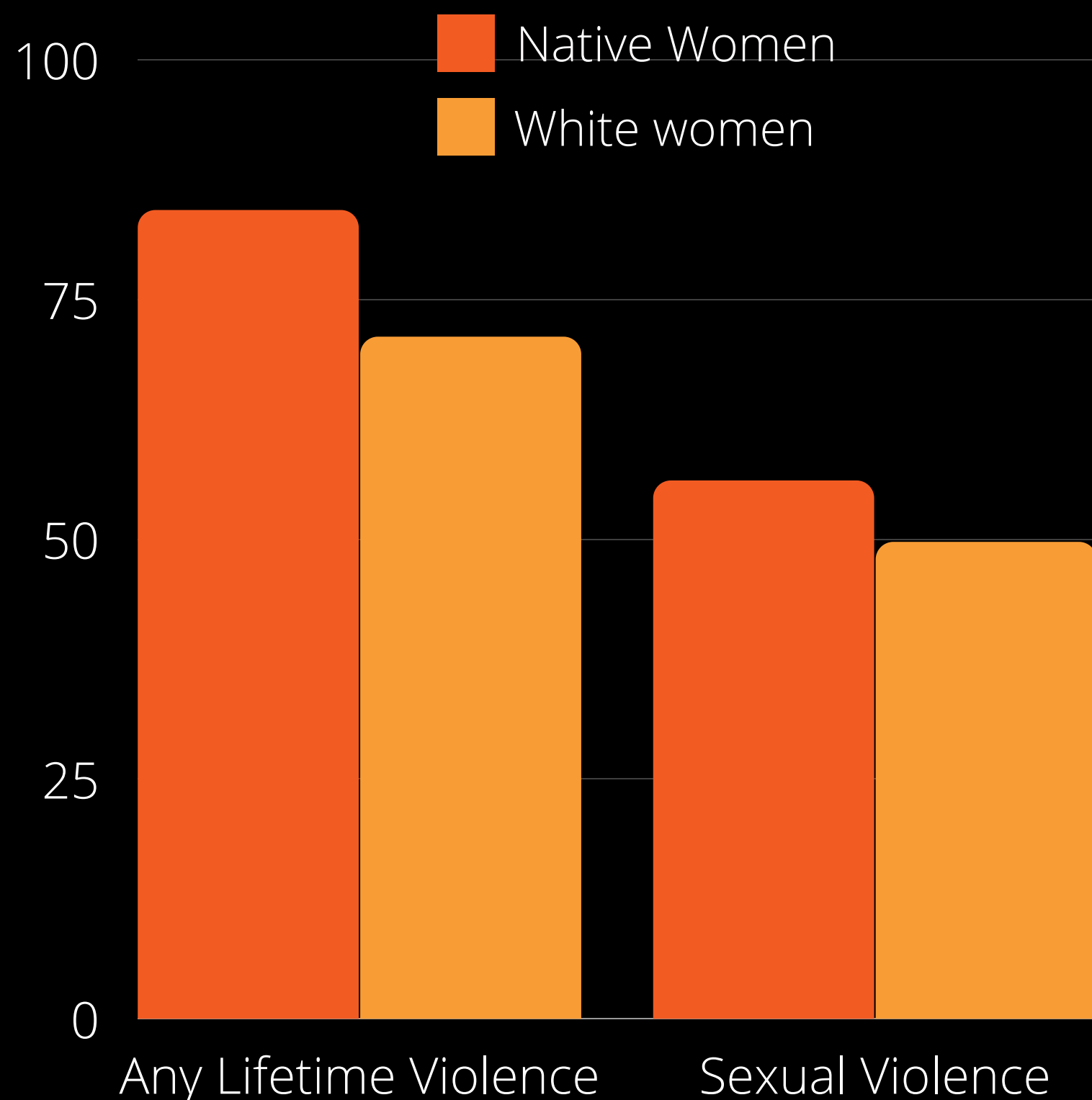


#MMIWG2S

(Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit)



84.3% OF NATIVE WOMEN

Experience Violence

56.1% OF NATIVE WOMEN

Experience Sexual Violence

"Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men." n.d. National Institute of Justice. Accessed November 18, 2021. <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/violence-against-american-indian-and-alaska-native-women-and-men>.

LAWS THAT IMPACT #MMIWG2S



INDIAN RELOCATION ACT (1956)

- Facilitated the relocation of Native people to urban centers, where they are 10x more likely to be murdered



MAJOR CRIMES ACT (1885)

- Gives the federal government jurisdiction over several "major crimes", including rape, murder, and kidnapping, on tribal land.



OLIPHANT VS SUQUAMISH INDIAN TRIBE (1978)

- Ruled that tribes did not have the authority to prosecute non-Natives for crimes committed on tribal land.



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT (2013)

- Provides federally recognized tribes with jurisdiction to prosecute domestic violence cases, including against non-Native people

An Epidemic of Violence

REASONS BEHIND THIS

5712 Native American and Alaskan women were reported missing in 2016, only **116** were logged in the national data base("Understanding the Issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women" n.d.)

The #MMIW movement started in Canada in 2015, but violence against Native women has been occurring since colonizers set foot in the Americas. Colonizers views of women as objects and Native people as lesser beings were used to justify the violence and rape of native women.

The total extent of missing Indigenous women is unknown due to most historical police reports classifying them as white or Hispanic, with most forms not even having a place to list tribal affiliations

1. Lack of Jurisdiction

Laws such as the Major Crimes Act and Oliphant decision limit tribal jurisdiction, especially against outsiders, providing a sort of safe-haven for people to commit crimes against natives with a low chance of facing repercussions("Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men" n.d.). 97% of victims report violence by a non-native perpetrator, making it difficult to prosecute crimes . The VAWA attempts to fix some of this concern by giving tribes jurisdiction over domestic violence issues.

3. Proximity to "Man Camps"

Mining and pipeline construction near reservations can lead to the creation of "Man Camps", where many men are brought in from outside the community to live in temporary shelters or take over motels and trailer parks for the duration of their work("ISSUES" n.d.). Dangerous work combined with isolation and large paychecks can exasperate mental health and substance abuse issues, leading to an increase in violent behavior. This combined with the relative anonymity of the men in the community can lead to abuse and trafficking's of the women, girls, and Two Spirit people in the Native communities they are located near.

2. Indian Relocation Act

The Indian Relocation Act led to a large number of native people moving to urban centers from reservations("Understanding the Issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women" n.d.). Today 60% of native people live in urban areas, compared to 22% who live on reservations. Native women are 10x more likely to be murdered in a city compared to a reservation.

Indigenous Resistance

Savanna's Act



Savanna Greywater (Spirit Lake) was found in 2017 by Kayakers floating in the Red River (Pao 2020). She was 22 years old and 8 months pregnant. Greywater was killed by her neighbor who then took her baby. In 2017 a bill was introduced that requires the Department of Justice to strengthen resources related to crimes against Native women ("Savanna's Act and the Not Invisible Act Signed into Law | Indian Law Resource Center" n.d.). This law was finally passed in 2020 after years of fighting on the part of Native women.

Ella Mae Begay is a 63 year old Diné woman who is a master rug weaver ("Family Presses for Answers in the Case of Missing Master Weaver Ella Mae Begay" n.d.). She went missing from her home in Sweetwater Arizona on June 15th 2021. On June 20th the case officially became a homicide case. The case is now in the hands of the FBI after it was initially investigated by the Navajo Nation Police Department. The family of Begay feels that the investigators have not done enough to find her, stating they feel as though they are being tortured by not knowing what happened to their loved one (Castillo 2021). To raise awareness around Begay's disappearance, and around #MMIWG2S in general, members of the family have organized a 150 mile walk across the desert.

Family of Ella Mae Begay



Indigenous Resistance

Cont.

NCAI Task Force and VAWA



Image source: National Congress of American Indians, "VAWA Presidential Signing Ceremony," 2013. Accessed via <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ncai/8538206386/in/photostream/> CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) formed a task force to fight violence against Native people ("Advocating and Protecting Native Women; NCAI Violence Against Women Task Force Leads VAWA Meetings on Capitol Hill | NCAI" n.d.). This task force was headed by Juana Majel Dixon (Pauma) and Terri Henry (Cherokee) who worked with members of both parties in order to advance the VAWA and the inclusion of a law that allows for Nations to prosecute domestic violence offenders even if they are not members of that Nation. Their efforts were successful and they were included in the signing ceremony with President Obama.

Deb Haaland

Deb Haaland (Pueblo of Laguna) is the first Native person to hold a cabinet position, currently serving as Secretary of the Interior ("Secretary Haaland Creates New Missing & Murdered Unit to Pursue Justice for Missing or Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives" 2021). In April of 2021 she announced the formation of a new Missing and Murdered Unit (MMU) in the Bureau of Indian Affairs to coordinate interagency work and strengthen current resources.



Image source: Flag of the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs.svg, "Flag of the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs," 2013. Accessed via <https://picryl.com/media/flag-of-the-united-states-bureau-of-indian-affairs-702f45> Public Domain

Coalition to Stop
Violence Against
Native Women

<https://www.csvanw.org/mmiw>

Sovereign Bodies

<https://www.sovereign-bodies.org/>

**Where to
learn
more**



Where to Find Help



The National Sexual Assault
Helpline 1-800-656-4673
<https://www.rainn.org/>

Strong Hearts Helpline
1-844-7NATIVE
<https://strongheartshelpline.org/>

Sources

“Advocating and Protecting Native Women; NCAI Violence Against Women Task Force Leads VAWA Meetings on Capitol Hill | NCAI.” n.d. Accessed November 18, 2021. <https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2012/07/05/advocating-and-protecting-native-women-ncai-violence-against-women-task-force-leads-vawa-meetings-on-capitol-hill>.

Castillo, Diana. “Missing Woman's Family Pushes for Answers.” KOB 4. KOB, October 1, 2021. <https://www.kob.com/albuquerque-news/missing-womans-family-pushes-for-answers/6255579/>.

“Family Presses for Answers in the Case of Missing Master Weaver Ella Mae Begay.” n.d. The Salt Lake Tribune. Accessed November 18, 2021. <https://www.sltrib.com/news/2021/08/05/family-presses-answers/>.

“ISSUES.” n.d. Stop Line 3. Accessed November 18, 2021. <https://www.stopline3.org/issues>.

Pao, Maureen. 2020. “Savanna’s Act Addresses Alarming Number Of Missing Or Killed Native Women.” NPR, September 28, 2020, sec. National. <https://www.npr.org/sections/live-updates-protests-for-racial-justice/2020/09/28/917807372/savannas-act-addresses-alarming-numbers-of-missing-or-murdered-native-women>.

“Savanna’s Act and the Not Invisible Act Signed into Law | Indian Law Resource Center.” n.d. Accessed November 18, 2021. https://indianlaw.org/swsn/savanna_not_invisible_laws.

“Secretary Haaland Creates New Missing & Murdered Unit to Pursue Justice for Missing or Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives.” 2021. April 1, 2021. <https://www.doi.gov/news/secretary-haaland-creates-new-missing-murdered-unit-pursue-justice-missing-or-murdered-american>.

“Understanding the Issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.” n.d. Accessed November 18, 2021. <https://www.nativehope.org/en-us/understanding-the-issue-of-missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women>.

“Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men.” n.d. National Institute of Justice. Accessed November 18, 2021. <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/violence-against-american-indian-and-alaska-native-women-and-men>.