



Ontario Native Women's Association

FACT SHEET: Violence Against Aboriginal Women

- Rates of spousal violence are 3 times higher for Aboriginal women than non-Aboriginal women.
- Rates of sexual assault against Aboriginal women at 54% compared with non-Aboriginal women at 37%.
- Aboriginal Women are more than 8 times more likely to be murdered than non-Aboriginal women.
- Twenty-four percent of Aboriginal women, compared with 18% of Aboriginal men, said that they had suffered violence from a current or previous spouse or common-law partner in the five-year period up to 2004. (Statistics Canada, 2005).
- Young Aboriginal Women are five (5) times more likely to suffer serious and life threatening violence than non-Aboriginal women.
- Rates of stalking for Aboriginal women are at 21% vs. non-Aboriginal women at 11%.
- Aboriginal Women experience higher rates of non-spousal violence in and around their homes than non-Aboriginal women.
- More than 520 Aboriginal women and girls have gone missing or been murdered over the last 30 years. (NWAC, 2009).
- Up to 75% of survivors of sexual assaults in Aboriginal communities are young women under 18 years of age. Fifty-percent of those are under the age of 14 years old, and almost 25% are younger than 7 years old. (METRAC, 2001).
- Eighty-two percent of all federally sentenced women report having been physically and/or sexually abused. This percentage rose to 90% for Aboriginal women. (CAEFS, 2006).
- One in three admissions to Federal custody are Aboriginal women, increased by 131% between 1998 and 2008. (Office of the Correctional Investigator)
- ONWA's Breaking Free Report states that 8 out of 10 Aboriginal women have experienced some form of violence.

Impacts of Violence

Physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health resulting in severe physical and mental health issues, increased numbers of suicide of Aboriginal youth, high rates of pregnancy among young Aboriginal women, under-employment, insufficient funding for education and Third World housing conditions and increased children in child welfare system, highest infant mortality rates.

It should be noted that statistical methods for measuring violence against women is flawed as it was not specifically designed to take into account cultural differences among minority groups, including Aboriginal women (Statistics Canada). Actual rates of violence for Aboriginal women are higher than statistically reported.