



United States Department of Justice

## Office on Violence Against Women

*Working Together to End the Violence*

### The Facts about Violence Against Women in Indian Country

#### **Are Indian and Alaska Native Women at Risk of Experiencing Violence?**

According to a December 2004 study by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, **American Indians are twice as likely to experience sexual assault crimes compared to all other races.** In 2000, the National Institute of Justice published a report on the findings of the National Violence Against Women Survey which revealed that **one in three Indian women reported having been raped during her lifetime.**

#### **What is OVW Doing to Stop Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women?**

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) was created by the Violence Against Women Act of 1994. Since opening its doors in 1995, OVW has awarded more than \$1 billion in grant funding to state, local, and tribal governments to address violence against women.

Over the past decade, OVW has used more than \$100 million in Congressionally-appropriated funding to make grant awards through the STOP Violence Against Indian Women Discretionary Grant Program, and through OVW's other grant programs, to more than 120 tribal governments.

OVW offers a comprehensive training and technical assistance program designed to provide support and assistance to tribal governments to increase their capacity to develop a coordinated community response to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and to appropriately administer grant funds.

#### **What is the "Safety for Indian Women from Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative"?**

OVW has supported demonstration initiatives for Indian country, including its most recent initiative, the

Safety for Indian Women from Sexual Assault Offenders Demonstration Initiative. Under this \$2 million Initiative, four Federally-recognized Indian tribes received funding to increase their capacity to respond to the needs of Indian women who are victims of sexual assault, and to strengthen the collaboration between the tribal and Federal officials who share responsibility for responding to sexual assault in these communities.

#### **Have OVW Grants Helped Tribal Communities End Violence Against Indian Women?**

OVW will make awards totaling just over \$30 million to tribal governments under the new Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program during the summer of 2007. Between January 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005, more than 100 tribal governments used grant funding from OVW to improve their community's response to violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women. Among the key accomplishments of this group, include:

- Providing training on how to respond to crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking to more than 650 law enforcement officers, nearly 150 prosecutors, and more than 130 judges, and 81 probation and parole officers.
- Responding to 2,514 incidents of crimes related to violence against women. More than 1,700 of these cases were investigated, and nearly 1,100 offenders were arrested and charged.
- Providing advocacy and supportive services to approximately 13,000 women and children from tribal communities, and helping more than 15,000 women obtain protective order relief.

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[www.ovw.usdoj.gov](http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov)

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