



## American Indian and Alaska Native Research and Evaluation-Selected Findings

NIJ's research and evaluation projects support Indian tribes' capability to solve crime and related social problems in tribal communities and native villages.



### **Tribal Justice and Safety in Indian Country Web site**

This Department of Justice (DOJ) Web site contains information about courts, corrections, law enforcement, crime statistics, crime prevention, and other public safety issues of relevance to American Indian and Alaska Native communities. The site also provides tribal communities with information on how DOJ can meet their informational, training, and funding needs.

[www.tribaljusticeandsafety.gov](http://www.tribaljusticeandsafety.gov)

### **Violence and Victimization**

- The majority of Alaska Native women have experienced family violence. However, despite the prevalence of violence and the difficulties in policing rural areas, the majority of victims report satisfaction with the police response. See Randy Magen and Darryl Wood, [www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/215350.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/215350.pdf)
- National averages of victimization against American Indian and Alaska Native women hide the high rates in counties composed primarily of tribal lands. This report serves two purposes. First, it provided a critical consideration of the epidemiology of violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women. Second, it reviewed the published literature on the responses of the criminal justice system and other public entities to the problem. See Ronet Bachman et al, <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/223691.pdf>
- Rates of sexual assault in Alaska are consistently over

twice the national average. In a seminal statewide study of sexual assaults in Alaska, this report investigated the epidemiology of sexual assaults in Alaska and the ways in which alcohol use affects the reported assaults. For a review of published articles see [www.justice.uaa.alaska.edu/forum/25/1-2springsummer2008/index.html](http://www.justice.uaa.alaska.edu/forum/25/1-2springsummer2008/index.html).

### **Crime Prevention and Tribal Justice Systems**

- Tribal Strategies Against Violence was a Federal-tribal partnership designed to empower American Indian and Alaska Native tribes to improve the quality of life in their communities by implementing locally developed partnerships for solving social problems. The evaluation found Tribal Strategies Against Violence to be successful at some sites, but several obstacles hindered success. See V. Richard Nichols et al., [www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/195791.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/195791.pdf)
- An impact evaluation of tribal Service, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP) programs found several "promising practices" for reducing violence, holding offenders accountable, and

increasing coordinated community responses to crime. See Eileen M. Luna-Firebaugh et al., [www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/195174.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/195174.pdf).

- The U.S. Department of Justice's Comprehensive Indian Resources for Community and Law Enforcement (CIRCLE) project partnered several tribes with the Federal Government to strengthen justice systems. Initial results of the evaluation are promising. See Stephen Brimley et al., [www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/210893.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/210893.pdf)
- The Indian Country Justice Initiative, developed to improve responsiveness to criminal justice needs in American Indian communities, was evaluated at two sites. The initiative accomplished several goals, including fostering greater awareness of the unique law enforcement needs of American Indian nations and promoting multiagency approaches to justice matters. See Carol C. Lujan et al., [www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/81048.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/81048.pdf).
- A program called *Peacemaking* is offered by some justice systems to communities and families who need a minimally formal, accessible, and affordable form of conflict resolution. This approach can reduce conflict within or between family and neighbors. See Eric K. Gross, [www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/187675.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/187675.pdf)
- Little is known about the possible role of culture in

suicidal behavior in jail. This report discusses issues faced by incarcerated American Indians and recommends protocols to assess a detainee's risk of suicide that are tailored to the detainee's cultural background. See Margaret Severson and Christine W. Duclos, [www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/199363.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/199363.pdf).

### Law Enforcement

- More than 200 police departments operate in American Indian communities. They range in size from 2 to 200 officers; the communities they serve range in size from 600 to more than 200,000. This report details the challenges of policing in these communities. See Stewart Wakeling et al., *Policing on American Indian Reservations*, [www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/188095.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/188095.pdf).
- Federal PL-280 structures law enforcement and criminal justice for 23% of the reservation-based tribal population and 51% of tribes in the lower 48 States, while potentially affecting all Alaska Natives and their tribes or villages. This study examined the perspectives of more than 350 Indian tribal members and State and local officials on the impact of PL-280. See Carole Goldberg, Heather Valdez Singleton, and Duane Champagne, [www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/222585.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/222585.pdf)
- Alaska's Rural Alcohol Interdiction Program was designed to meet the unique challenges of enforcing local alcohol control laws in rural western Alaska communities by supplementing existing law enforcement, investigation, and prosecution capacity. A two year evaluation of this program found limited

support. Final report will be archived shortly.

### Current Projects

- In consultation with the Office on Violence Against Women, NIJ has begun preliminary work on a program of research to examine violence against American Indian and Alaska Native Women. This program of research will include domestic violence, dating violence, murder, stalking, and sexual assault. See [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/topics/tribal-justice/vaw-research/welcome.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/topics/tribal-justice/vaw-research/welcome.htm)
- Data collection is underway on the differences in the nature and processing of reported sexual assaults of American Indian and Alaska Native women based on offenders' military affiliation.
- Research is underway on the conditions of confinement in Indian Country, with a special focus on factors and issues within Indian Country that exacerbate those conditions.

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The National Institute of Justice is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the Community Capacity Development Office; the Office for Victims of Crime; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART).

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**The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the research, evaluation, and development agency of the United States Department of Justice (DOJ). It was established by Congress to prevent and reduce crime and to improve the criminal justice system by sponsoring research projects and development programs, developing new technologies to fight crime, evaluating the effectiveness of criminal justice programs, and identifying and recommending programs that have been successful or are promising. NIJ publishes a number of documents that allow criminal justice professionals, policymakers, and the academia to stay abreast of the latest public safety research and evaluation findings and recommendations.**

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*RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND INITIATIVE STUDIES—*

- C *Policing on American Indian Reservations.* This 18-month discretionary grant program provided an opportunity for Indian tribes to examine and assess the effectiveness of policing strategies and determine how tribes and private and public agencies concerned with the welfare of American Indian communities might apply the findings. In fiscal year (FY) 1995, NIJ awarded \$334,010 for this project. The final report is currently available from NCJRS.

Publication: *Policing on American Indian Reservations* (Revised September 2001), September 2001, NCJ 188095.

- C *Understanding Partner Violence in Native American Women.* Though data on violence against Native American women are scant, some reports suggest that rates of partner violence are 13 times the national average. This project surveyed women of several Plains Indian tribes to determine the prevalence of partner violence. The study addressed cultural beliefs and the possible contribution of substance abuse to domestic violence. The study filled a need to address major concerns affecting the well-being of American Indians, who are not well represented in violence research, and is of particular interest to the National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and the Office of Research on Minority Health. NIAAA awarded \$144,967 for this project, which NIJ monitored. The final report is currently available from NCJRS.

Publication: *Intimate Partner Violence and Injury in the Lives of Low Income Native American Women*, 2004, NCJ 199703.

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- *Impact Evaluation of STOP Grant Programs for Reducing Violence Against Women Among Indian Tribes.* The purpose of this 24-month project was to evaluate the impact of the *STOP Violence Against Indian Women Discretionary Grant Program*. The study was intended to develop a basic understanding of the cultural and legal context of reducing violence against women among Indian tribes, evaluate the impact of tribal programs aimed at reducing violence against women in terms of effectiveness and identify program elements that require adjustment or modification, and make recommendations for improving existing programs and developing effective new programs for tribes to reduce violence against women. In FY 1996, a total of \$144,666 was awarded to the University of Arizona for this project. The final reports for this project are currently available from NCJRS.

Publications:

1. *Impact Evaluation of STOP Grant Program for Reducing Violence Against Women Among Indian Tribes, Final Report* (NCJ Number: 195174)
  2. *Impact Evaluation of STOP Grant Programs for Reducing Violence Against Women Among Indian Tribes* (NCJ Number: 186235)
- *Demonstrating a Cost-Effective Approach for Locally-Initiated Police Research in Small and Medium Cities.* This police/researcher partnership linked police departments in Eureka and Redding, CA, Pocatello, ID and Rapid City, SD, with police researchers affiliated with the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), the Institute for Law and Justice (ILJ), and the Joint Centers for Justice Studies (JCSC). An expansion of this collaboration included sheriffs' offices in rural counties of the partner cities and police departments policing tribal lands. The primary goals of the project were: 1) to develop, test and evaluate new interactive processes for linking researchers and police departments, and for maximizing the cost effectiveness and long-term usefulness of the research tasks; 2) to encourage each department to learn from other departments' experiences on an ongoing basis; 3) to enable researchers to learn about and report on community policing in contexts that until now have remained essentially unreported; and 4) to provide police departments with research support for community policing. In FY 1995 and FY 1996, NIJ awarded a total of \$399,029 to support these research partnerships. This project was completed in 2000. A final report is currently available from NCJRS.

Publication: *Community Policing Beyond the Big Cities*, November 2004, NCJ 205946



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- *Indian Country Justice Initiative Evaluation.* The DOJ Indian Country Justice Initiative sought to improve the Department's responsiveness to criminal justice needs in Indian Country and to increase its enforcement of the laws against violent and other major crimes there. The Department implemented the initiative at Laguna Pueblo in New Mexico and Northern Cheyenne Nation in Montana. NIJ sponsored an evaluation project to work with and provide feedback on a regular basis to the Department's site managers to document and describe the project's implementation process. In FY 1996, NIJ awarded \$149,977 to Arizona State University to conduct this evaluation, which was completed in February 1998. The final report and video are currently available from NCJRS.

Publication: *Justice in Indian Country: A Process Evaluation of the U.S. Department of Justice Indian Country Justice Initiative—Final Evaluation Report*, March 2000, NCJ 181048.

- *Evaluation of the Tribal Strategies Against Violence Program.* The evaluation of BJA's TSAV program focused on the development and implementation of comprehensive tribal crime control and prevention strategies. It documented the TSAV process, detailing how TSAV approaches to crime control and prevention have evolved; how sites have implemented comprehensive strategies; and how differences in physical environment, service delivery, breadth and depth of participation in planning activities, and government structure have affected development and prevention strategies. The evaluation also assessed interim outcomes, such as whether the partnerships were in place and working and established indicators for longer term effects on the community and youth. The evaluation was conducted in four of the seven TSAV sites. In FY 1997, NIJ awarded \$239,583 to Orbis Associates to conduct this evaluation. A supplement of \$40,586 was awarded to Orbis Associates to enhance this evaluation in FY 2000. The final reports for this project are currently available from NCJRS.

Publications:

1. *Tribal Strategies Against Violence: Cross-Site Evaluation Report, Executive Summary*, August 2002, NCJ 195791.
2. *Tribal Strategies Against Violence: Cross-Sites Evaluation Report*, August 2002, NCJ 195790.
3. *Tribal Strategies Against Violence: Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Case Study*, June 2004, NCJ 206036.
4. *Tribal Strategies Against Violence: Chickasaw Nation Case Study*, June 2004, NCJ 206037.

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5. *Tribal Strategies Against Violence: Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Case Study*, June 2004, NCJ 206035.
  6. *Tribal Strategies Against Violence: Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes Case Study*, June 2004, NCJ 206034.
- *Navaho Peacemaking Project*. The primary purpose of this research project was to use a balanced methodological approach comprising qualitative and quantitative techniques to measure the efficacy of the Peacemaker Court. This study sought to answer such questions as: Does the work of the Peacemaker Division contribute to greater social harmony? What is the actual recidivism rate among Division participants and how does this compare with rates for comparable crimes as handled by the Nation's courts? Do Peacemaker participants perceive the Division as having helped communities deal with violence and disorder? How do Peacemaker Division results compare in standard measures of justice effectiveness with the western justice model? The longer term ancillary goal was to assist the Navajo Judicial Office in the development of a comprehensive computerized information system to organize data measuring court performance, and to enable administrators to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and impact of court operations. In FY 1997, NIJ awarded a grant to Temple University to conduct this research. The final report is currently available from NCJRS.

Publication: *Evaluation/Assessment of Navajo Peacemaking*, April 2001, NCJ 187675.

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- *An Assessment of Suicide Ideation Among Indians in County Jails*. The purpose of this project was to examine cultural/social factors affecting suicidal thoughts and behavior among incarcerated Northern Plains Indians (nine Indian nations, including the Blackfeet, Cheyenne, Chippewa, Crow, Delaware, and Omaha). Specific objectives were to: (1) assess rates of suicide ideation among Indian and non-Indian detainees; (2) develop measures of culture-specific symptoms/syndromes of suicide ideation and incorporate them into a screening protocol; and (3) recommend more culturally-sensitive intervention and treatment policy and procedures. In FY 1999, NIJ awarded an initial grant for \$49,120 to the University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc., to conduct the research. This project developed culturally appropriate suicide screening protocols for American Indians in a county jail located near a reservation in South Dakota. The first year of the project was used to develop a culturally sensitive suicide risk assessment instrument. The second phase of the study piloted the instruments in the Pennington County Jail in Rapid City, South Dakota. The first year findings revealed significant differences in suicide ideation between Indians and non-Indians, and major differences

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in perceptions of screening questions, screening processes between Indians and non-Indians, and untruthfulness of answers to instrument questions by both Indians and non-Indians. The second phase of the study refined and piloted the instruments and provided a comprehensive report. The final report is currently available from NCJRS.

Publication:

1. *Assessing Suicide and Risk Behaviors in an Incarcerated American Indian Population: Investigating Culturally Sensitive Risk Assessment Instruments and Procedures in a Border Jail*, Final Report, March 2003, NCJ 199363.
  2. *American Indian Suicides in Jail: Can Risk Screening Be Culturally Sensitive?*, June 2005, NCJ 207326.
  3. Severson, M. & Duclos, C. (2004). *Assessing American Indian Suicide Risk: Can Screening Be Culturally Sensitive? Research for Practice Series*. "Corrections Today Magazine." 66(3): 30-31.
- *A Study Regarding the Interrelationships of Alcohol and Drugs on Crime Among Adult American Indians - A Prevalence and Methodical Study*. The purpose of this study was to fully investigate the nexus between alcohol and/or other drugs and crime in Indian Country. This study employed a rigorous scientific study of a large sample (1,000) at the Oglala Sioux Tribal Reservation in South Dakota and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians reservation in North Dakota. It was the first systematic empirical study of alcohol and drug involvement in crime in the two Indian communities. This eighteen-month effort also explored commonalities and differences among men and women who are arrested for alcohol and drug related crimes. In FY 1999, NIJ awarded \$201,621 to the University of New Mexico's Center on Alcoholism, Substance Abuse, and Addictions. The final report is not yet available from NCJRS.
  - *Turnover Among Alaska Village Public Safety Officers (VPSOs): An Examination of the Factors Associated with Attrition*. The demands of the physical geography and a lack of economies of scale have made it a challenge to provide policing services to rural Alaska Native villages across the state. Different policing programs developed to meet that challenge using specially appointed native police officers have all been plagued with the problem of officer attrition. The Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program, which currently provides police and other public safety services to 85 Alaska Native villages, is no exception to that rule. This research done by the University of Alaska at Anchorage examined the extent of turnover in the VPSO program to identify the reasons former VPSOs left the program as well as the reasons current VPSOs stay with the program. A two-part research strategy was employed. First, an analysis of VPSO

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personnel records was completed to fully document the extent of the turnover problem and to identify patterns in the employment records for factors that could be associated with the problem. The second part of the research sought information about decisions to stay with or leave the VPSO service by means of a self-administered survey of current and former VPSOs. The final reports are currently available from NCJRS.

Publications:

1. *Turnover Among Alaska Village Public Safety Officers: An Examination of the Factors Associated With Attrition*, January 2000, NCJ 182609.
  2. *Turnover Among Alaska Village Public Safety Officers: An Examination of the Factors Associated With Attrition—Summary*, University of Alaska Anchorage, April 2000, NCJ 182608.
  3. *Police Turnover in Isolated Communities: The Alaska Experience*, January 2001, NCJ 186187.
- *Community Based Institutional Assessment to Reduce Risk of Continued Abuse to Native American Women*. This project was implemented by Minnesota Program Development, Inc. It examined how Native American women's safety was affected by responses from the criminal justice system. The goals of this study were to uncover how institutional practices carried out by a non-Native criminal justice system enhance or marginalize attention to the safety needs of Native American women. Institutional ethnography was used to adapt the Duluth Safety and Accountability audit process. Researchers formed a community-based audit team of up to 18 members, consisting of elders from the Fond Du Lac Tribe, and staff from community agencies serving Native American women. The research staff investigated the processing of misdemeanor assaults involving Native American women. Those studying the criminal justice system obtained their data from the Duluth Police Department. They reviewed 50 emergency 911 transcripts, including Native and non-Native American women; 100 police reports and follow-up investigations involving Native and non-Native American women; ten pre-sentence investigations involving Native American offenders who have children; and outcome data on 100 misdemeanor cases involving Native and non-Native-American battered women with children. This committee worked in small groups observing and conducting interviews pertaining to court processes. The final report is currently available from NCJRS.

Publication: *Community-Based Analysis of the U.S. Legal System's Intervention in Domestic Abuse Cases Involving Indigenous Women*, March 2003, NCJ 199358.



- *Research on Violence Against Indian Women: Community Readiness and Intervention.* This study explored the patterns of violence against women in 15 Native American communities and examined the readiness of these communities to develop and implement effective violence-prevention efforts. Both reservation and urban Native American communities were included in the project, so that differences between these two settings could be examined to determine the appropriateness of specific interventions and to ascertain any differences in readiness. The project began with a survey of the communities to determine the extent to which western Native American communities were aware of violence against women as a problem, had access to intervention and prevention programs that targeted violence against women, and had actually used resources. Detailed data were obtained from key community members about how the problem of violence against women was perceived in their community, the nature of the problem, their willingness to be involved in intervention efforts, current efforts and their effectiveness, community and cultural beliefs about the appropriateness of violence against women, and beliefs about appropriate and inappropriate interventions. Additional detailed data were collected through in-depth individual interviews with Native women in selected communities, so as to explore cultural expectations and norms as well as to obtain information about culturally acceptable means for intervention and prevention. The final report is currently available from NCJRS.

Publication: *Violence Against Indian Women*, Final Revised Report, January 2003, NCJ 198828.

- *Violence Against Native Alaskan Women in the Copper River Basin.* The purpose of this project was to examine factors associated with the prevalence and incidence of violence against Athabascan (Native Alaskan) women in one area of Alaska—the Copper River Basin. The goal was to identify factors that influence the protection provided to Native Alaskans experiencing violence against women at the individual, community and service systems level. Data were collected in two phases utilizing different strategies and different populations—ethnographic interviews of Athabascan Elders, and a victimization survey of Athabascan women. Ethnographic interviews were used to examine traditional attitudes, beliefs, and practices of Athabascan people related to violence against women. The victimization survey provided information on the nature and extent of violence against women, and factors that correlate with level of victimization such as social cohesion, mobility, routine activities, and substance use. The final report is currently available from NCJRS.

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Publication: *Intimate Partner Violence Against Ahtna (Alaska Native) Women in the Copper River Basin*, July 2006, NCJ 215350.

- *Evaluation of Comprehensive Indian Resources for Community and Law Enforcement (CIRCLE) Project.* This project supported the participatory evaluation of the Comprehensive Indian Resources for Community and Law Enforcement (CIRCLE) Project at three tribal sites: the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, the Oglala Sioux Tribe, and the Pueblo of Zuni. The CIRCLE Project was a three year, Federal initiative designed to empower American Indian communities to more effectively fight crime, violence, and substance abuse. This was the first 18-month phase of a planned four-year evaluation. The goals of the evaluation were to: (1) gain insights about the development of the CIRCLE Project and the three site tribes' specific strategies; (2) track the implementation of the tribal strategies; (3) develop insights about the influence of the existing environment or context (including the influence of the tribal culture and government) on the strategies developed by each of the tribes; (4) develop insights about the progress and outcomes of the strategies; (5) describe partnerships that developed within the tribes and between tribal and non-tribal (especially Federal) agencies; and (6) lay the groundwork for longer-term evaluation. The products of this first phase of the CIRCLE Project evaluation are: (1) a report on the development of the CIRCLE Project; (2) an implementation analysis of the program in three sites; and (3) a cross-site analysis of key issues and outcomes, lessons learned, and implications and recommendations for the future. The principal investigator of this \$270,000 project was Joseph Kalt, Ph.D., Harvard University. The Phase I final report is currently available from NCJRS.

Publications:

1. *Strengthening and Rebuilding Tribal Justice Systems: Learning From History and Looking Towards the Future, Final Report*, March 2005, NCJ 210893.
2. *Strengthening and Rebuilding Tribal Justice Systems: Learning From History and Looking Towards the Future, Executive Summary*, March 2005, NCJ 210892.

The second phase of the project pursued a number of goals over its 30-month project period. The goals of the second phase of the CIRCLE Project evaluation were to: (1) continue to track the implementation of the tribal strategies; (2) continue to develop insights about the existing environment or context (including the influence of tribal culture and government) on the strategies developed by each of the tribes; (3) report on the progress and outcomes of the overall CIRCLE Project and selected individual strategies and sustainability; and (4) continue to describe partnerships within the tribes,

and between tribal and non-tribal (especially Federal) agencies. Overall the authors concluded that the CIRCLE project was important in addressing crime in Indian Country. Tribes that experienced the greatest benefit were those who incorporated criminal justice strengthening efforts as part of their broader nation-building agenda. CIRCLE evaluation results also proved useful to tribes not able to commit to such an agenda by describing criminal justice processes and problems as well as identifying promising avenues to improve their system in the future. The Phase II final report is currently available from NCJRS.

Publications:

1. *Strengthening and Rebuilding Tribal Justice Systems: A Participatory Outcomes Evaluation of the U.S. Department of Justice Comprehensive Indian Resources for Community and Law Enforcement (CIRCLE) Project, Final Report*, September 2007, NCJ 210893.
  2. *Strengthening and Rebuilding Tribal Justice Systems: A Participatory Outcomes Evaluation of the U.S. Department of Justice Comprehensive Indian Resources for Community and Law Enforcement (CIRCLE) Project, Executive Summary*, September 2007, NCJ 221081
- *Law Enforcement of PL280 States*. This project investigated the experiences of Indian Nations and local law enforcement agencies under Public Law 280 (PL-280). The applicant selected a total of 13 reservations in 10 States with and without PL-280 jurisdiction. The project included a comparison of PL-280 and non-PL-280 sites with an effort to determine how the different circumstances of PL-280 tribes affect their experiences. Project objectives were to: (1) compare crime rates on reservations subject to PL-280 with rates on reservations not subject to PL-280; (2) determine the quality and availability of law enforcement and criminal justice under PL-280; (3) evaluate Federal law enforcement and criminal justice funding and services to tribes subject to PL-280 jurisdiction; (4) evaluate retrocession, concurrent tribal jurisdiction, and cooperative agreements as options to alleviate problems in PL-280 jurisdictions; and (5) explore possible administrative and legislative responses to PL-280. The applicant made a six-day visit to each of the 13 sites, conducted at each site 20 interviews with local law enforcement, and tribal members and officials. The applicant secured reservation-based crime statistics for PL-280 States from county sheriff's offices and obtained statewide crime statistics for all the sites. Funding sources and services available to PL-280 tribes were researched through Federal agencies, tribal and State reports. Reports related to this topic are available from NCJRS. The final report is available at NCJRS.

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Publication:

1. *Research Priorities: Law Enforcement in Public Law 280 States*, July 2005, NCJ 209926.
  2. *Public Law 280 and Law Enforcement in Indian Country—Research Priorities*, December 2005, NCJ 209839.
  3. *Final Report Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Under Public Law 280* November 2007, NCJ 222585.
- *Behavioral Science Video Resources for Native American, Rural, and Other Underserved Police Departments*. This project funded the development of two pilot videos designed specifically to help Native American, rural, and other under-served law enforcement agencies addressing stress-related issues for officers and their families. The two videos, along with corresponding evaluation forms, were distributed to 24 pilot law enforcement agencies with demographics similar to the target agencies. The evaluation forms were designed to measure overall effectiveness, content, value of the material to the consumer, ease of use and cultural appropriateness and were distributed along with the tape to command officers, peer support officers, law enforcement officers, and family members. Site visits were conducted at seven of the pilot agencies so that additional in-depth narrative information can be collected. The final report is available from NCJRS.

Publication: *Behavioral Sciences Video Resources for Native American, Rural and Other Under-Served Police Departments*, February 2004, NCJ 204027

- *Participatory Evaluation of the Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Demonstration (IASAD) Program*. This project sought to conduct a participatory formative evaluation of two Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Demonstration (IASAD) Programs funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The two programs—Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe's Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Project in South Dakota and the Lummi Indian Nation's Community Mobilization Against Drugs (CMAD) initiative in Washington—each implemented different innovative approaches to reduce crime associated with the distribution and use of alcohol and controlled substances in their communities. Evaluators from the Native American Research & Training Center at the University of Arizona conducted this study. The final report is currently available from NCJRS.

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1. *Final Report: Participatory Evaluation of the Lummi Nation's Community Mobilization Against Drugs Initiative/Bureau of Justice Assistance's Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Demonstration Project*, March 2008, NCJ 222741.
  2. *Final Report: Participatory Evaluation of the Sisseton Wahepton Oyate IASAP Demonstration Project*, March 2008, NCJ 222740.
- *A Study of the Relevant Literature and Extant Research and Evaluation in the Area of Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women*. NIJ commissioned a study that entails a rigorous review of the research and evaluation literature in the area of violence against American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women that included, to the extent that they are available, literature on the scope of the problem, including issues on measurement, data sources/systems, legislation, justice and tribal system response, questionnaires/surveys, and the extent of victimization that occurs. The primary goals of this study were: to examine and describe the scope of the problem; the consequences of the problem; and the factors that may constrain or enhance effective strategies to address the problem; and to review the literature that specifically speaks to justice system response (enforcement, prosecution, intervention, etc.). The final report is available from NCJRS.  
  
Publication: *Violence against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and the Criminal Justice Response: What is Known*, August 2008, NCJ 223691
  - *The Rural Alaska Alcohol Interdiction, Investigation, and Prosecution Program (RAI Program)*. This two-year study provided a rigorous test of the RAI Program, a program in Western Alaska designed to enhance the existing law enforcement, investigation, and prosecution capacity. This study examined (1) whether the RAI Program was implemented as intended; (2) if the RAI Program produced its intended reduction in the incidence of violent crime, suicide, accidental death, and fetal alcohol syndrome in Western Alaskan villages with local alcohol prohibitions; (3) if it was feasible to adopt the RAI Program in other jurisdictions; and (4) if the RAI Program is cost-effective. The final report will be archived at NCJRS shortly.
  - *Anchorage Wellness Court Evaluation*. This project evaluated the effectiveness of the Anchorage Wellness Court, which processes criminal misdemeanor cases involving defendants with moderate to severe alcohol problems. The goals of this court include reducing alcohol related crime and maintaining defendant sobriety during and after the 18-month program. The evaluation reviewed project outcomes including (1) criminal recidivism; (2) days of incarceration; (3) alcohol abuse; (4) defendant quality of life and



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productivity (employment, family life); (5) transferability of the Court to other settings; and (6) the cost and benefits of the Wellness Court. The final report will be archived at NCJRS shortly.

- *Studying the Characteristics, Processes, and Outcomes of Sexual Assaults in Alaska.* This project investigated the epidemiology of sexual assaults in Alaska and the ways in which alcohol use affects the reported assaults. In a four-pronged approach, researchers from the University of Alaska, Anchorage, collected and analyzed Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) evaluations of victims statewide; examined the spatial patterns of reported assaults in Anchorage; described and identified the causes and consequences of the time lapse between the end of the assault and the report to the police or examination by a SANE; and examined how alcohol use affects injuries. For a review of published articles, please see <http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/forum/25/1-2springsummer2008/index.html>. The final report will be archived at NCJRS shortly.
- *Assessment of Minority Youth Overrepresentation in the Alaska Juvenile Justice System.* Recent research indicates that, generally speaking, Alaska Native and African American youths are overrepresented at most decision point within the Alaska juvenile justice system. The purpose of this study was to explain why disproportionate minority contact (DMC) occurs. This study examined the extent to which disparities in Alaska's juvenile justice system were explained by previous disparities in juvenile delinquency referrals, legal variables, and extralegal variables. The final report will be archived at NCJRS shortly.

ACTIVE PROJECTS:

- *Participatory Evaluation of the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) Tribal Victim Assistance Program Initiatives—the Lummi Nation and Passamaquoddy Tribes.* This project seeks to conduct a participatory formative evaluation of two Tribal Victim Assistance (TVA) programs funded by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC). The two programs are the Passamaquoddy at Pleasant Point Victim Outreach Advocate Program in Maine and The Lummi Nation Victims of Crime Program in Washington. The purpose of the proposed project is to determine if each program is meeting its stated goals effectively and if the two programs have applications for other tribal nations delivering services to victims of crime. Evaluators from the American Indian Development Associates are conducting the study.

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- *Study of Administration of Justice in Indian Country.* NIJ funded a study that will examine the conditions of confinement in Indian Country detention facilities; the project responds to a recommendation in the U.S. House of Representatives Conference Report No. 108–792 (2004). This project will develop 12 case studies about the administration of justice in Indian Country. The purpose is to understand the factors that affect conditions of confinement in Indian Country by comprehensively describing the operation of the criminal justice system (both juvenile and adult) within the unique context of Indian Country, how it varies from one jurisdiction to another, and how different criminal justice structures and systems affect the administration of justice. Research results are expected to help guide the development of policies and practices that could assist in improving conditions of confinement. Evaluators from UCLA are conducting the study.
  
- *Research Program on Violence Against American Indian Women.* The National Institute of Justice, in consultation with the Office on Violence Against Women, has begun preliminary work on a program of research to examine violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women. As part of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act 2005 (Title IX, Section 904a), the U.S. Congress has mandated that NIJ conduct studies that will: (1) examine violence against women in Indian Country; (2) evaluate the effectiveness of Federal, State, tribal, and local response to violence against women; (3) and propose recommendations to increase effectiveness. The scope of work will cover domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and murder.
  
- *Differences in the Nature and Processing Of Reported Sexual Assault by Offenders' Military Affiliation.* Sexual assault is consistently rated as a top problem in Anchorage, particularly among the Native population. Data from the most recent Uniform Crime Reports showed that the rate of forcible rape per 100,000 in Anchorage (AK) was 198% higher in 2004 than the U.S. rate. Data also show that Alaska Native victims are vastly overrepresented in victimization statistics. The rate of sexual assault victimization among American Indians and Alaska Natives far surpasses the rates for other racial and ethnic groups. Although we know from past research (e.g., Rosen et al., 2002a) that rates of violence against women are affected by the presence of military bases, little to nothing is known about how the nature and processing of reported sexual assaults is affected by offenders' military affiliations. This project collaboration between NIJ and University of Alaska, Anchorage to examine the nature of sexual assaults committed by military personnel and how the processing of sexual assault cases (from report to conviction) is affected by offenders' military affiliations.

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- *Police Department's Use of Lethality Assessments: An Experimental Evaluation.* This research proposes to implement and evaluate the use of a Lethality Assessment protocol and intervention with six police departments in Oklahoma, a state where a substantial proportion of IPV victims are Native American. The intervention consists of two components: a brief Lethality Assessment, conducted by police at the scene of an IPV incident, designed to determine whether the victim is at high risk for homicide and, if so, immediate coordination with local social service providers. A nonequivalent group's quasi-experimental design is proposed to examine the effectiveness of a Lethality Assessment Intervention (LAI) at decreasing violence and increasing help seeking behaviors for victims of IPV. This research is expected to introduce nationally a combined criminal justice and social service intervention that can be implemented in most jurisdictions throughout the US affecting both policy and practice responses to the problem of IPV.

NCJRS is a federally funded resource offering justice and substance abuse information to support research, policy, and program development worldwide. NCJRS services and resources are available to anyone interested in crime, victim assistance, and public safety including policymakers, practitioners, researchers, educators, community leaders, and the general public. NCJRS offers a range of services and resources, balancing the information needs of the field with the technological means to receive and access support.

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