MCASA
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Sexual Violence Against Native Americans & Alaska Natives

FACT SHEET

Overview

Native Americans and Alaska Natives experience disproportionately high rates of violence nationwide. More than **four in five** Native American and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime, and **56.1%** have experienced sexual violence.[1] Sexual violence against Native American and Alaska Native women stems from the effects of colonization and historical oppression, where it was used as a tool for power and control.[2] Many survivors also face barriers to reporting and accessing support, including limited culturally responsive services, geographic isolation, jurisdictional challenges, and mistrust of law enforcement rooted in historical and ongoing trauma.[3]

In Maryland, Native Americans and Alaska Natives make up **2.1%** of the state's population.[4] The state is home to three state-recognized Indigenous tribes: the Piscataway Indian Nation, the Piscataway Conoy Tribe Choptico Band and Cedarville Band, and the Accohannock Tribe.[5]

Statistics

- According to the 2020 U.S. Census, **9.7 million** people identified as Native American or Alaska Native or in combination with another race, representing **2.9%** of the U.S. population.[6]
- Native American and Alaska Native communities experience some of the highest rates of violence of any racial or ethnic group in the U.S.[7]
- In 2023, the FBI's National Crime Information Center reported **10,650** missing American Indian and Alaska Native people across the United States. While most cases were resolved, **325** remained active at the end of the year.[8]
- Native American and Alaska Native survivors often face barriers to reporting and accessing services such as limited access to culturally responsive victim services, geographic isolation, complex jurisdictional systems, and mistrust of law enforcement rooted in historical and ongoing trauma.[9]

For survivor resources, please visit:
mcasa.org/survivors/culturally-responsive-services

[1] Rosay, André B., "Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men: 2010 Findings From the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey" (2016). U.S. Department of Justice. Retrieved from https://www.ojp.gov/library/publications/violence-against-american-indian-and-alaska-native-women-and-men-2010-findings.
[2] McKinley, Catherine E. and Knipp, Hannah, "You Can Get Away with Anything Here… No Justice at All"— Sexual Violence Against U.S. Indigenous Females and Its Consequences" (2021). Gend. Issues 39, 291–319. Retrieved September 2026 from https://doi.org/10.1007/s12147-021-09291-6.
[3] "2023 Report to the Nation: Fiscal Years 2021 - 2022 " (2023). Office for Victims of Crime. Retrieved August 2026 from https://ovc.ojp.gov/2023-report-nation/tribal-communities.
[4] "QuickFacts Maryland" (2025). Retrieved August 2026 from https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/MD/PST045225.
[5] "Governor Moore and Lieutenant Governor Miller Host Historic State House Tribal Consultation Meeting " (2023). The Office of Governor Wes Moore. Retrieved August 2026 from https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press-releases/governor-moore-and-lieutenant-governor-miller-host-historic-state-house-tribal-consultation-meeting.
[6] Jones, Nicholas et al., "2020 Census Illuminates Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Country" (2021). United States Census Bureau. Retrieved August 2026 from https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/08/improved-race-ethnicity-measures-reveal-united-states-population-much-more-multiracial.html
[7] Rosay, André B., "Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men" (2016). National Institute of Justice. Retrieved August 2026 from https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/violence-against-american-indian-and-alaska-native-women-and-men.
[8] "2023 Missing American Indian (AI) and Alaska Native (AN) Persons Data" (2024). FBI's National Crime Information Center Missing Person File. Retrieved August 2026 from https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/reports-and-publications/2023-mmip-missing-aian.pdf/view.
[9] "American Indian & Alaska Native Victim Services Resources" (n.d.). Office for Victims of Crime. Retrieved August 2026 from https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/tribal/overview.