

# *Meeting the Needs of American Indian and Alaska Native Survivors with Disabilities*

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Amanda Watson

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# What We'll Be Talking About

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- Historical and current context for violence against Native people with disabilities
- Unique barriers to services that Native people with disabilities face
- Implications for non-tribal advocacy agencies
- Actions non-tribal advocacy programs can take to provide more effective services for Native survivors with disabilities

# A Note on Language

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- People first language
- “Indian Country”
- American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN)
- Native/ Indigenous
- Disability (WHO definition)

# Native People in the US

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- 5.2 million Native Americans (2010 Census)
- 573 federally recognized tribes (BIA, 2019)
- Sovereign, government-to-government relationship
- 84.3% of AI/AN women will experience violence in their lifetime (NCAI, 2018)

# Native People in the US (2)

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- 56.1% of AI/AN woman experience sexual violence in their lifetime (NCAI, 2018)
- 24% of AI/AN people have a disability (NCAI)

# Looking Back to Understand Where We Are

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- Compounded forms of trauma
- Gender-based violence against Native people
- Forms of historical trauma

# Ongoing Impact

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## Jurisdictional Challenges:

Tribal authority to hold non-Native offenders accountable has been severely undermined

The Tribal Law and Order Act and the 2013 VAWA Reauthorization have helped, but there are still significant challenges for offender accountability

# Ongoing Impact (2):

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- Lack of access to culturally-relevant services
- Invisibility to non-tribal programs
- Stereotypes and harmful assumptions
- Continued efforts to undermine tribal sovereignty



# Considerations for Non-Tribal Programs

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- Cultural differences in how disability is viewed
- Understanding history for your particular region (and how that impacts Native survivors today)
- Need to be aware of how intersecting identities create additional risk for violence, barriers to support

# Concrete Actions You Can Take

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- Know the tribes in your region
- Connect with your tribal coalition, if available
- If there are tribal programs, do you have a relationship with them?
- Discuss how you identify AI/AN survivors
- Vet your agency's partners for cultural competence
- Ongoing reflection and self-education

# Resources for Further Information

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- National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
  - State Tribal Coalitions
- National Congress of American Indians

# Questions?

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Amanda Watson

[Amanda@praxisinternational.org](mailto:Amanda@praxisinternational.org)

# Thank you!

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Please take our survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/92QP8Z5>

Materials for download (PowerPoint PDF and Record of Attendance):

<https://vera.egnyte.com/fl/RLSBTqzn84>