

# American Indian Crime in Idaho: Victims, Offenders, and Arrestees

2013





---

# American Indian Crime in Idaho: Victims, Offenders, and Arrestees

Planning, Grants, and Research  
Statistical Analysis Center

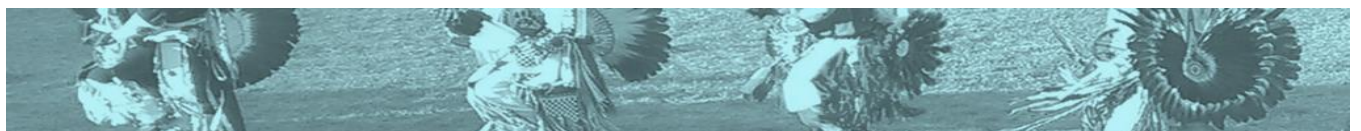
Email: [pgr@isp.idaho.gov](mailto:pgr@isp.idaho.gov)

Website:

[www.isp.idaho.gov/pgr/Research/sac.html](http://www.isp.idaho.gov/pgr/Research/sac.html)

Printed: February 2013

Cost information for this publication is available from the Idaho State Police in accordance with Idaho Code, Section 60.202. This project was supported by grants from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (2010-BJ-CX-K033) and a Stop Violence Against Women Grant (2010-WF-AX-0060). Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Justice or the Idaho State Police.



“All men were made by the Great Spirit Chief. They are all brothers. The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it... Let me be a free man--free to travel, free to stop, free to work, free to trade where I choose, free to choose my own teachers, free to follow the religion of my fathers, free to think and talk and act for myself and I will obey every law, or submit to the penalty.”

- Chief Joseph, Nez Perce Nation

## Introduction

American Indians have the highest victimization rates of all racial/ethnic groups in the United States (Perry, 2004). Despite the unusual disparity in the vulnerability to violent victimization, the pervasiveness of American Indian crime is rarely reported or acknowledged. The focus of this report is on the prevalence, nature, and consequences of crime in Idaho involving American Indians as victims and offenders.

A variety of resources were used to conduct this research. Information for crimes reported to the police comes from Idaho’s incident-based data for the years 2005-2011, the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reports for 2010, and crime data reported by tribal police for the years 2004-2009. Data also comes from a 2008 victimization survey conducted in Idaho. The findings reveal the existing disparity of the victimization and criminal activity of American Indians compared to all racial groups.

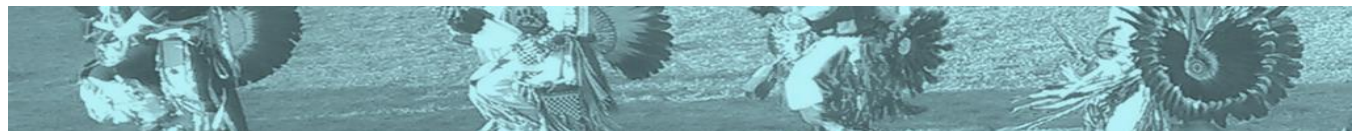
### American Indian Issues

Nationally, American Indians have high rates of unemployment, poverty, suicide, and violent victimizations. A 2005 report by the U.S. Office of Indian Services reported that American Indians in Idaho had a 67% unemployment rate and 38% were employed but still lived below poverty guidelines (Office of Indian Services, 2005).

The suicide rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives is higher than the overall US suicide rate. The national suicide rate for young male American Indians is three times higher than same age males in other racial groups. In Idaho, suicide is the third leading cause of death for American Indian males ages 15 to 24. Between 2003 and 2007, suicides of Native American males accounted for 4.49% of all 15-24 year old Idaho male suicides (Benchmark Research & Safety, Inc.).

American Indian crime is a topic that has largely been ignored by criminal justice researchers and practitioners. The reporting of crime statistics in tribal areas has been almost non-existent until the last couple of years. In 2009, the federal government turned attention toward American Indian crime issues with \$248 million in stimulus dollars allocated to tribal criminal justice systems (Johnson, 2009). In 2010, a federal mandate was passed requiring the Bureau of Justice Statistics to report American Indian crime. Prior to these actions, information on American Indian crime was sparsely reported by the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and a few smaller studies which suggest crime rates are much higher for American Indians compared to the national average.

According to the NCVS, American Indians experience almost twice the violence as the U.S. resident population. On average, 1 out of every 10 American Indians age 12 or older experienced a violent crime between 1992 and 2001 (Perry, 2004). The national average for all U.S. residents age 12 or older was 1 violent crime experienced for every 25 people. The above average violent victimizations for American Indians compared to other racial or ethnic groups occurred across age groups, housing locations, and gender. Another study found that females are victimized in intimate partner violence more than twice as often as black or white females; and the rates for males are similarly disproportionate (Catalano, 2007).

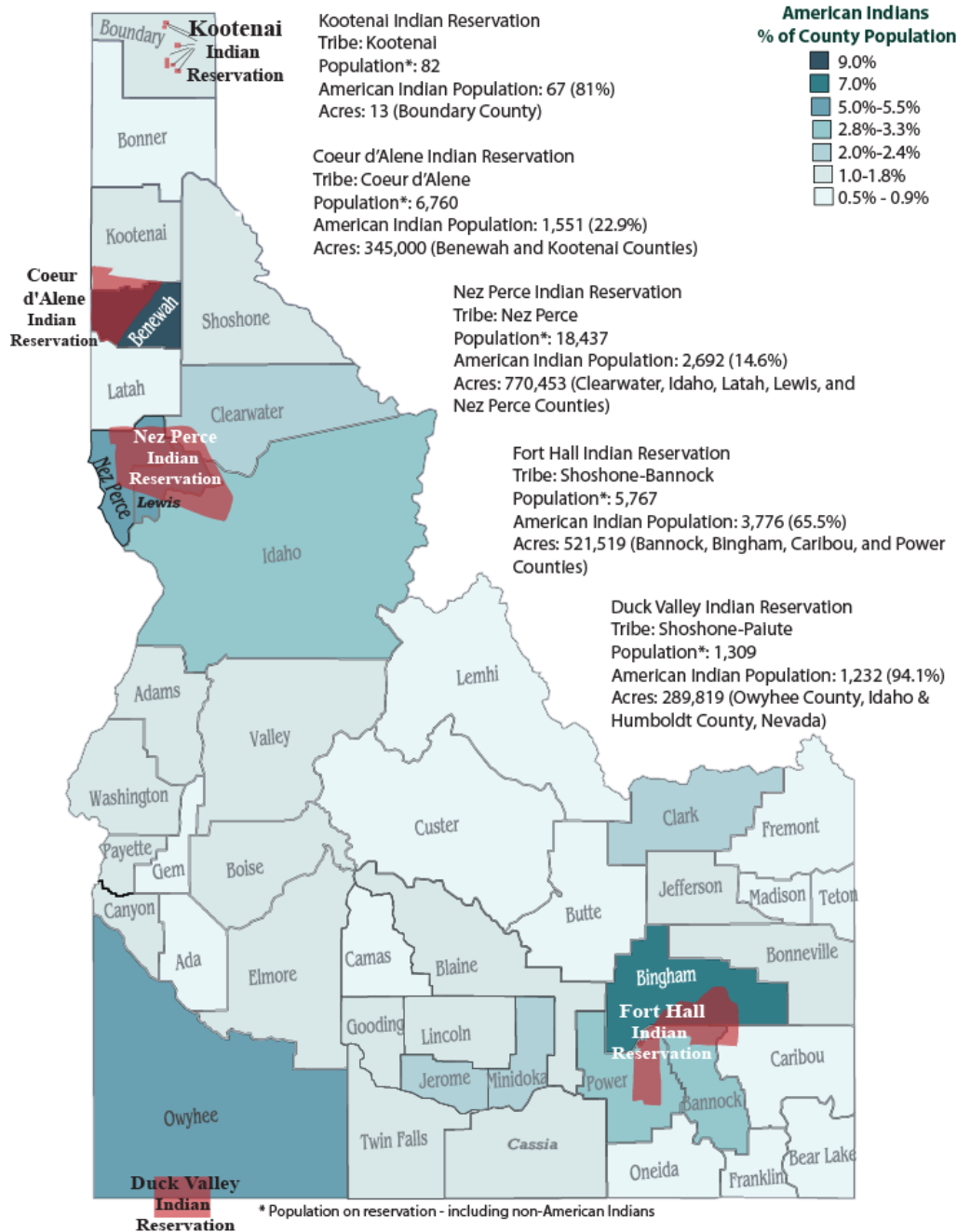


INTRODUCTION

## American Indians Population in Idaho

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, American Indians in Idaho account for 1.4 % of Idaho’s population. Idaho counties with the highest percentage of American Indian populations are Benewah (8.8%), Bingham (7.1%), Nez Perce (5.9%), Lewis (4.8%), and Owyhee (4.7%). Portions of these counties contain Indian reservations. The five Indian reservations in Idaho are the Kootenai, Coeur

d’Alene, Nez Perce, Fort Hall, and Duck Valley Indian Reservations which belong to the four federally recognized Indian tribes in Idaho: the Kootenai, Coeur d’Alene, Nez Perce, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. In 2005, Idaho had 10,808 enrolled tribal members and 17,996 people were eligible for tribal services. Approximately one-third of American Indians in Idaho live on reservations. Almost 94.7% of Fort Hall tribal members (Shoshone-Bannock)



lived on or near the reservation as of 2005. In comparison, 64% of Coeur d'Alene and 59% of Nez Perce tribal members lived on or near their respective reservations.

## Jurisdictional Issues

American Indian crime occurs across several overlapping jurisdictions. When crime occurs on non-tribal land, jurisdiction over those crimes is typically the responsibility of the city or county in which those crimes occurred. However, when a crime occurs on tribal land the handling of those crimes becomes complicated and depends on several factors such as, crime severity and whether the offender is a tribal member. When a tribal member commits a minor crime on tribal land, the matter is often handled by tribal law enforcement and tribal courts. Major crimes committed by tribal members on tribal lands are handled by federal authorities. Tribal law enforcement and courts do not have jurisdiction over non-tribal members; therefore crimes committed by non-tribal members are handled by federal authorities. For example, 85.4% of the population on Nez Perce tribal land is not American Indian, meaning Nez Perce tribal law enforcement does not have authority over 85.4% of the people on their land. This complicated web of jurisdictional authority makes it difficult to accurately measure crime by and against American Indians in Idaho.

Four sources of information were analyzed to get a more complete picture of the amount and type of crime involving American Indians in Idaho: the Idaho Crime Victimization Survey, 2008; "Native American Crime in the Northwest: 2004-2005," describing the offenses reported by tribal law enforcement agencies to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Law Enforcement and Security Montana Board of Crime Control; UCR offenses reported by Idaho tribal law enforcement agencies to the FBI; and the Idaho Incident Based Reporting System (IIBRS).

## American Indian Crime

### Idaho Crime Victimization Survey

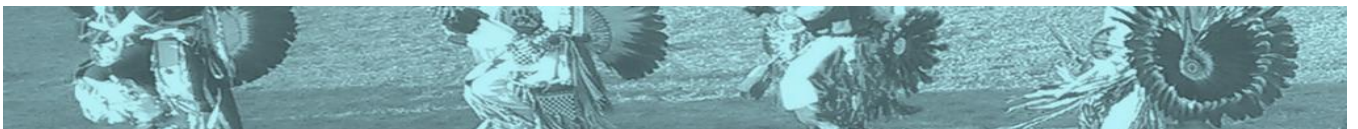
The Idaho Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS) provides estimates for persons age 18 and older who were victims of a violent or property crime in 2008, as well as estimates of Idahoans who have been physically abused by an intimate partner or sexually assaulted at least once in their lifetime. ICVS estimates indicate that 4 out of every 1,000 American Indians in Idaho were victims of a crime in 2008, while the victimization rate for all Idahoans was 1 per 1,000 residents. The largest discrepancy between American Indians and all Idahoans is the risk of being a property crime victim. American Indians were 3 times more likely than all Idahoans to be victims of property crimes in 2008.

The statistical difference between American Indians and other respondents on their violent victimization rates in 2008 could not be determined due to the low number of American Indian respondents and violent crime victims in 2008. However, lifetime abuse by an intimate partner or sexual abuse experienced in their lifetime was significantly higher for American Indians.

**Table 1. Idaho Crime Victimization Survey - 2008 Rate Per 1,000 Adults**

Type of Crime	American Indian	All
Violent	1.4	0.4
Property	3.5	0.7
Aggravated Assault	0.0	0.1
Simple Assault	0.8	0.2
Intimidation	0.6	0.2
<b>Victim in 2008*</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Lifetime IPV**	2.7	0.3
Lifetime Sexual Assault	2.3	0.6

\*Includes assaults, sexual assaults, intimidation, robbery, burglary, vandalism, vehicle theft, and other thefts. \*\*Ever experienced violence committed by an intimate partner. In 2009, 1.7% of weighted respondents from the ICVS (55 of 3,229 total respondents) identified themselves as Native American only or in combination with another race (1.2% reported being Native American only).



## Crimes Reported by Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies

From 2004 to 2009, the Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) worked with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Law Enforcement and Security to collect tribal crime data. Prior to this project, very little information on tribal offenses was known. According to this data, the five-year average index crime rate<sup>1</sup> from 2004 through 2008 was 19 per 1,000. This was lower than Idaho's average index crime rate, which was approximately 27 per 1,000 people as indicated by Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data. However, the tribal violent crime rate was higher than Idaho's and property crimes were lower.

The FBI (2010) reported in their annual publication, "Crime in the United States," that the UCR violent crime rate for tribal law enforcement agencies was nearly three times that of Idaho's rate (see Table 3). The combined rate for three tribal agencies in Idaho was 6.2 violent offenses per 1,000 tribal land residents, compared to 2.2 violent offenses per 1,000 Idaho residents. The stark contrast in UCR violent crime rates is most evident in aggravated assaults in which 5.8 aggravated assaults occurred in 2010 for every 1,000 tribal residents. Idaho residents experienced 1.7 aggravated assaults per 1,000 residents. Unlike violent crimes, the UCR property crime rate on tribal lands was half of the Idaho property crime rate (9.6 per 1,000 vs. 20.0 per 1,000).

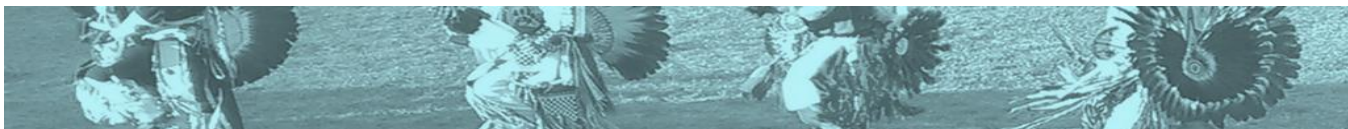
**Table 2. Tribal Offenses: Offenses Reported by Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies**

Offenses	2004	2005*	2006	2007	2008	2009*	Annual Average
Homicide	0.03	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.03
Negligent Manslaughter	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Forcible Rape	0.26	0.12	0.32	0.45	0.48	0.20	0.31
Attempted Forcible Rape	0.03	0.16	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06
Sex Offenses	1.32	0.56	1.42	1.10	1.52	0.44	1.06
Aggravated Assault	1.10	0.28	1.61	5.94	6.10	4.76	3.30
Assault	8.30	2.98	9.66	9.11	4.97	3.29	6.38
Domestic Violence	2.91	2.38	13.18	12.95	9.85	6.98	8.04
Child Abuse	2.68	0.91	2.39	2.42	2.26	0.87	1.92
Elderly Abuse	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Robbery	0.03	0.16	0.06	0.23	0.06	0.04	0.10
<b>All Violent</b>	<b>16.73</b>	<b>7.54</b>	<b>28.94</b>	<b>32.20</b>	<b>25.26</b>	<b>16.63</b>	<b>21.21</b>
Burglary	1.45	1.71	3.81	3.68	1.26	1.71	2.27
Vandalism	3.39	1.43	4.39	7.20	3.52	4.72	4.11
Stolen Property	1.13	0.56	1.29	1.23	0.48	0.16	0.81
Motor Vehicle Theft	0.48	2.42	1.61	0.94	0.42	0.60	1.08
Larceny-Theft	3.10	0.00	4.33	3.10	2.97	4.01	2.92
Embezzlement	0.39	0.08	0.03	0.13	0.26	0.08	0.16
Forgery/Counterfeiting	0.42	0.52	0.29	0.90	0.52	0.44	0.51
Fraud	0.26	0.63	0.48	0.42	0.39	0.60	0.46
Arson	0.13	0.12	0.32	0.52	0.48	0.20	0.30
<b>All Property</b>	<b>10.75</b>	<b>7.46</b>	<b>16.57</b>	<b>18.12</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>12.50</b>	<b>12.62</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>260.9</b>	<b>65.9</b>	<b>421.5</b>	<b>528.8</b>	<b>361.4</b>	<b>186.3</b>	<b>304.1</b>

\*2005 and 2009 calculations do not include the Fort Hall Indian Reservation due to limited reporting. Rates are based on estimates of American Indian residents on tribal lands.

Source: "Native American Crime in the Northwest: 2004-2010 – BIA Information from Alaska, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington."

<sup>1</sup> Index Crimes include homicides, forcible rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larceny-thefts and motor vehicle thefts.



**Table 3. UCR Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, 2010**

UCR Crime	Coeur d'Alene Tribal		Fort Hall Tribal		Nez Perce Tribal		Total Tribal		Idaho	
Violent crime*	142	21.0	29	5.0	21	1.1	192	6.2	3,465	2.2
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	21	0.0
Forcible rape	7	1.0	1	0.2	2	0.1	10	0.3	525	0.3
Robbery	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.2	3	0.1	214	0.1
Aggravated assault	135	20.0	28	4.9	16	0.9	179	5.8	2,705	1.7
Property crime	82	12.1	84	14.6	132	7.2	298	9.6	31,286	20.0
Burglary	28	4.1	35	6.1	33	1.8	96	3.1	6,502	4.1
Larceny-theft	47	7.0	21	3.6	87	4.7	155	5.0	23,462	15.0
Motor vehicle theft	7	1.0	28	4.9	12	0.7	47	1.5	1,322	0.8
<b>Population</b>	<b>6,760</b>		<b>5,767</b>		<b>18,437</b>		<b>30,964</b>		<b>1,567,582</b>	

Source: "Crime In the United States, 2010." \*murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

### Idaho Incident-Based Reporting System (IIBRS)

Unlike the UCR data reported by tribal agencies, Idaho Incident Based Reporting (IIBRS) data allows for the analysis of crimes involving American Indian victims, offenders, arrestees, and incident characteristics. Through IIBRS data, it can be determined how much reported crime on non-tribal land involves American Indians as victims, offenders, and arrestees as well as the corresponding age and sex of such persons. One limitation of IIBRS data is that it does not capture most crimes committed on tribal lands by a tribal member (most of which are handled by tribal law enforcement). However, only about 43% of American Indians in Idaho reside on tribal lands. Therefore, in theory, approximately 67% of American Indian crime should be captured in IIBRS.

### IIBR Crime Rates

#### Victimization Rates

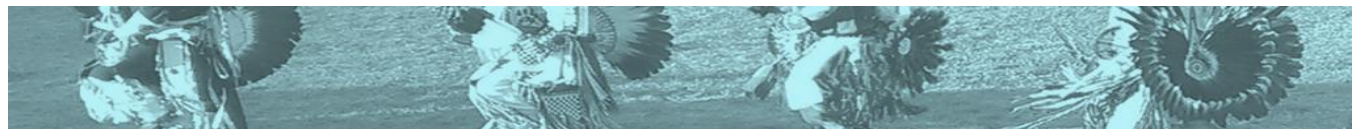
Throughout the United States, American Indians and Alaskan Natives are exposed to violence at more than twice the national rate of all individuals in the U.S. In Idaho, American Indians experienced violence almost one and a half times the rate of violence against all Idahoans (including all races). Idaho law enforcement agencies reported an annual average rate of 1 in 78 Idahoans and 1 in 54 American Indians were victims of violence from 2005

through 2011. The disparity in violent crime rates between American Indians and all Idaho residents is most contributable to the higher rates of physical assaults for American Indian Victims. An annual average of 14 per 1,000 American Indians in Idaho and 8 per 1,000 Idaho residents experienced a simple assault. American Indians also experienced higher rates of aggravated assault. In contrast, sexual assaults reported to the police were less likely to be of American Indians (.90 per 1,000) than victims of any race (1.17 per 1,000).

**Table 4. Average Annual Rate of Individual Victims Per 1,000 Persons, 2005-2011**

Type of Crime	American Indian	All
<b>All Violent Victimization</b>	<b>18.73</b>	<b>13.00</b>
Simple Assault	14.64	8.77
Aggravated Assault	2.35	1.77
Sexual Assault	0.90	1.17
Forcible Sodomy	0.04	0.06
Sexual Assault w/Object	0.03	0.04
Forcible Fondling	0.45	0.70
Rape	0.38	0.38
Intimidation	0.60	1.01
Robbery	0.19	0.19
Abduction/Kidnapping	0.20	0.15
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0.04	0.02
<b>Property Crime</b>	<b>12.87</b>	<b>26.21</b>

Rate is calculated using the number of victims and the estimated population of American Indians in Idaho living outside of tribal lands (65.5% of Idaho American Indians).



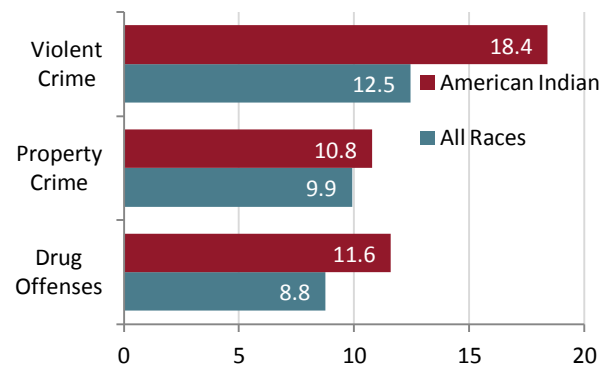


### Offender and Arrestee Rates

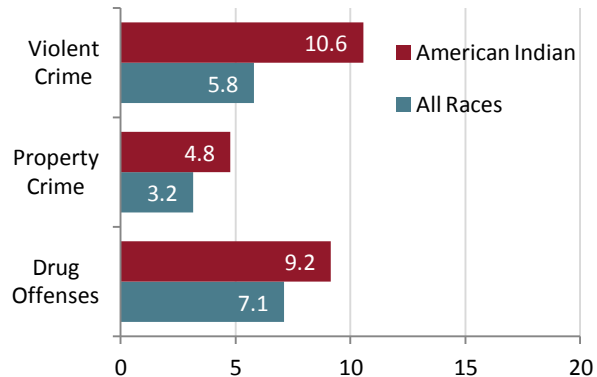
The annual average violent crime rate among American Indian offenders from 2005-2011 (18.4 per 1,000 persons) was over one and a half times Idaho’s overall rate (12.5 per 1,000 persons). The annual average violent crime arrest rate of American Indians (10.6) was almost twice Idaho’s overall arrest rate (5.8). Property crime rates for American Indian offenders (10.8) was slightly higher compared to all racial groups combined (9.9). However, American Indians were one and a half times more likely to be arrested for property crimes than all Idahoans. Concerning drug offenses, American Indians were 1.3 times as likely to be an offender or arrestee.

With almost twice the rate of all Idahoans, a large discrepancy in offender and arrest rates between American Indians and all racial groups is with simple assaults and vehicle thefts. According to non-tribal police reports, 14.5 American Indians commit simple assaults per 1,000 American Indians and 8.4 out of 1,000 are arrested for a simple assault. In comparison, the annual average simple assault rate for offenders and arrestees of all racial groups is 8.5 offenders and 4.3 arrestees per 1,000 Idahoans. American Indian offenders and arrestees also had higher rates compared to all races for aggravated assault, robbery, vandalism,

**Chart 1. Average Annual Offender Rate (per 1,000) by Crime Type**



**Chart 2. Average Annual Arrest Rate (per 1,000) by Crime Type**





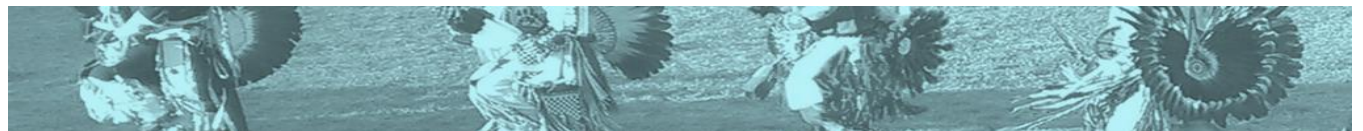
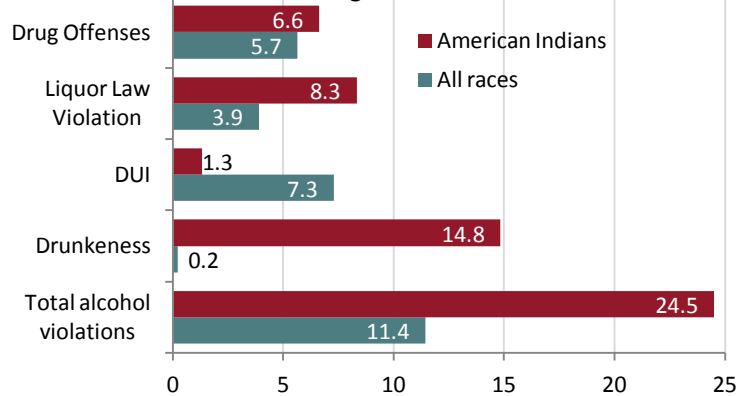
stolen property offenses, and weapons law violations (see Table 5). In contrast, American Indians were less likely to be offenders or arrestees in sexual assaults, abductions, murders, or burglary cases. American Indians differed the most from all Idahoans in their arrest rates for alcohol violations.

Chart 3 shows the average annual arrest rates for alcohol violations for all Idahoans and American Indians. Compared to all racial groups, American Indians are 2.1 times more likely to be arrested for an alcohol violation, including driving under the influence, liquor law violations, and drunkenness. Driving under the influence is the most often alcohol related arrest for all racial groups (7.3 per 1,000), but American Indians are twice as likely to be arrested for DUIs (14.8 per 1,000). The largest difference between American Indians and all Idahoans in their arrest rates was for drunkenness, in which American Indians were almost six times more likely to be arrested for drunkenness than all Idahoans combined (1.3 per 1,000 vs. 0.2 per 1,000).

**Table 5. Average Annual Rate of Offenders and Arrestees' per 1,000 Persons, 2005-2011**

	Offenders		Arrests	
	American Indian	All	American Indian	All
<b>All violent Victimizations</b>	<b>18.42</b>	<b>12.46</b>	<b>10.55</b>	<b>5.80</b>
Simple Assault	14.49	8.45	8.36	4.28
Aggravated Assault	2.34	1.68	1.50	0.93
Sexual Assault	0.64	1.10	0.28	0.28
Forcible Sodomy	0.02	0.06	0.01	0.02
Sexual Assault w/Object	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.01
Forcible Fondling	0.32	0.62	0.17	0.17
Rape	0.30	0.38	0.10	0.08
Intimidation	0.70	0.95	0.27	0.21
Robbery	0.22	0.18	0.12	0.07
Abduction/Kidnapping	0.11	0.15	0.10	0.06
Murder	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02
Negligent Manslaughter	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Property Crime</b>	<b>10.79</b>	<b>9.93</b>	<b>4.78</b>	<b>3.16</b>
Larceny/Theft	4.12	4.02	1.58	1.19
Vandalism	3.21	2.63	1.75	0.99
Breaking & Entering	1.53	1.69	0.66	0.54
Vehicle Theft	1.11	0.59	0.43	0.21
Stolen Property Offense	0.37	0.29	0.23	0.19
Arson	0.08	0.07	0.02	0.03
<b>Drug Offenses</b>	<b>11.61</b>	<b>8.77</b>	<b>9.15</b>	<b>7.11</b>
Weapon Law Violation	1.13	0.94	0.84	0.67
Counterfeiting, forgery, Extortion, Bribery, Embezzlement	0.07	0.11	0.07	0.11

**Chart 3. Average Annual Rate of Arrests Per 1,000 Population, 2005-2011**



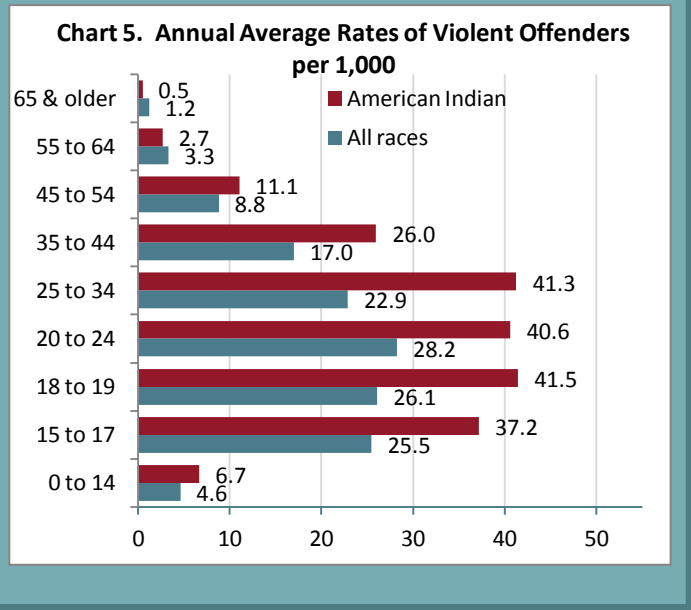
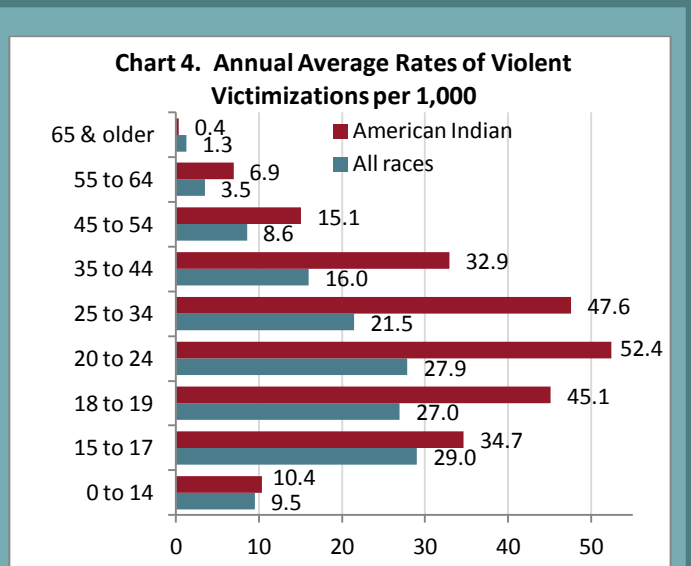


## Victim, Offender, and Arrestee Characteristics

The differential pattern of higher victim rates for American Indians holds true despite the sex or age of victims (except victims older than 65). Offender rates are also higher for American Indians regardless of gender and age (except for those 55 and older).

### Age

All Idahoans aged 15 through 17 are most likely to experience reported violent crime based on their average annual victimization rates. For every 1,000 Idahoans aged 15 to 17, there was an average of 29 reported victims of violent crime in that age group. American Indian victims of violence, on the other hand, are most likely to be aged 20 to 24, with 52 of every 1,000 American Indians in Idaho of this age experiencing some form of violence. Among American Indians from the ages of 20 to 24, the rate of violent crime victimization is 1.9 times the rate for all persons in the same age category. However, the rate of American Indian victims between 25 and 34 is 2.2 times that of all Idahoans in the same age group. This age group also experiences a high rate of American Indian violent offenders compared to all Idahoans of this age group (41.3 per 1,000; 22.9 per 1,000).



Idahoans aged 65 and older suffered violence at triple the rate of American Indians in the same age group. Older American Indians were also less likely to be violent offenders compared to all older Idahoans. Approximately one per 1,000 Idahoans aged 65 and older were violent offenders compared to 0.5 per 1,000 American Indians aged 65 and older. In addition, American Indians aged 55 to 64 were less likely to be offenders.





### Sex

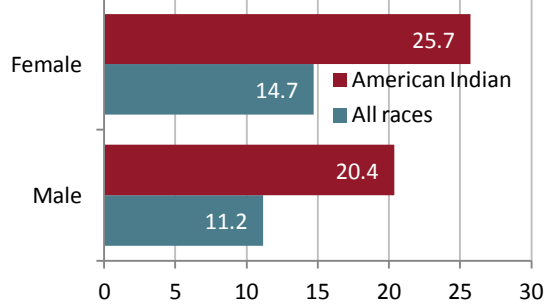
Charts 6 and 7 present the sex distribution of the 136,632 victims and 120,882 offenders for whom sex was known. The distribution confirms what is generally known about violent crime; the majority of victims are female (56.7%) and most offenders (72.6 %) are male.

The rate of male and female American Indian victims and offenders is higher than for all races. Compared to all females, American Indian females are 1.7 times more likely to be victims of violence and 1.8 times more likely to be offenders. The rate of American Indian male victims is 1.8 times higher than all male victims and 1.4 times higher than all male offenders. The largest gender discrepancy between American Indians and all races occurred with arrest rates in which American Indian females were 2.3 times as likely as females of all races to be arrested (6.3 vs. 2.7 per 1,000).

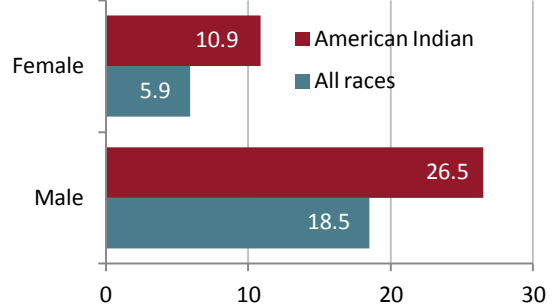
### American Indian Victims by Offender Race

American Indians make up 1.3% of all violent crime victims, but 1.9% of violent crime offenders (in which race was identified). American Indian violence against American Indians constituted 54.3% of American Indian victims and 37.8% of American Indian offenders. The majority of American Indian offenders have white victims (60.6%), whereas a majority of American Indian victims have American Indian offenders (54.3%).

**Chart 6. Annual Average Rates of Volent Victimizations per 1,000**



**Chart 7. Annual Average Rates of Volent Offenders Per 1,000**



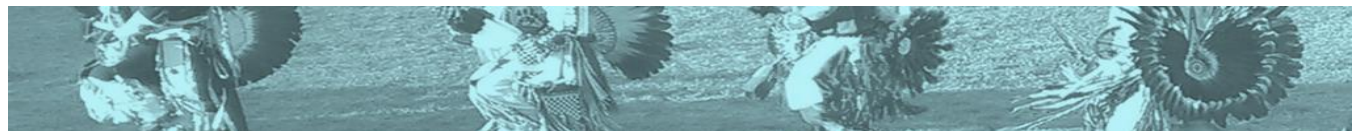
**Table 6. Percent of Violent Victims, by Race of Victim and Offender**

Offender race	Victim's Race			Total
	White	American Indian	Other	
White	96.6%	43.2%	61.1%	95.3%
American Indian	1.2%	54.3%	1.7%	1.9%
Other	2.2%	2.5%	37.1%	2.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>116,807</b>	<b>1,556</b>	<b>2,132</b>	<b>120,495</b>

**Table 7. Percent of Violent Offenders, by Race of Offender and Victim**

Victim race	Offender Race			Total
	White	American Indian	Other	
White	98.2%	60.6%	75.6%	96.9%
American Indian	0.6%	37.8%	1.1%	1.3%
Other	1.2%	1.6%	23.3%	1.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,386</b>	<b>2,222</b>	<b>3,347</b>	<b>117,955</b>

\*Limited to victims and offenders of known race.

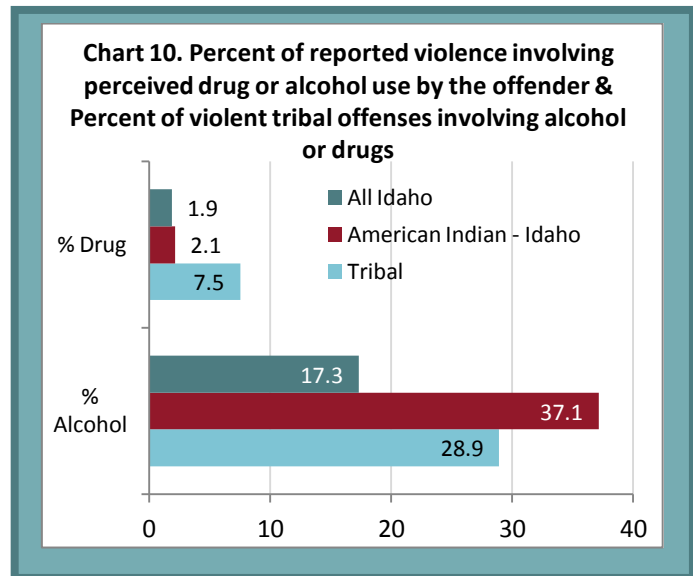


## Alcohol/Drug Use and Arrests

Much of American Indian crime appears to be alcohol and/or drug related. Tribal law enforcement agencies in Idaho reported that 28.9% of violent crimes involved alcohol and 7.5% involved drugs. In comparison, alcohol was thought to be involved in 17.3% of violent crimes statewide. An offender was perceived as being under the influence of drugs in only 1.9% of all violent crimes in Idaho.

Differences can be found by race in the victims' perception of alcohol or drug use by offenders. Among victims of violence who were able to describe alcohol or drug use by offenders, American Indians (39.4%) were more likely than all racial groups (18.9%) to report an offender under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Overall, American Indian victims reported alcohol use by 37.1% of the offenders, compared to 17.3% for all races. In 2.1% of violent crimes experienced by American Indians, the offender was thought to be under the influence of drugs.

American Indians were twice as likely to be arrested for alcohol violations compared to all racial groups in Idaho. On average, about 24.5 in 1,000 American Indians in Idaho are arrested for alcohol violations each year, whereas 11.4 in 1,000 Idahoans of all races are arrested for alcohol violations each year. As with all arrests in Idaho, American Indian arrestees were mostly male (66.8% - all vs 74.9% - American Indian). American Indian arrest rates for alcohol violations were 2.7 times greater than all racial groups combined for: females; those between the ages of 35 to 44; or between the ages of 55 to 64.



**Table 8. Annual Average Rates of Arrests for Alcohol Per 1,000 Persons**

	American Indian	All races
Total	24.5	11.4
Gender		
Male	34.0	17.1
Female	15.7	5.8
Age		
0 to 14	1.1	0.6
15 to 17	47.9	26.6
18 to 19	92.5	55.9
20 to 24	58.3	33.2
25 to 34	43.4	18.0
35 to 44	35.5	13.2
45 to 54	25.1	9.9
55 to 64	11.6	4.3
65 & older	1.0	1.0



## Event Characteristics

### Location

Crime locations also differed by victim race. The majority of overall violent crimes (63%) occurred in a residence. Compared to all victims of violence, American Indians were more likely to be violently victimized in all crime locations except a residence or fields/woods/waterway. The largest disparity in crime location between all victims of violence and American Indian victims was the occurrence of crime in public areas or buildings. American Indian victims were almost twice (1.8 times) as likely to be victimized in public areas or buildings. Crimes in a bar or nightclub were one-and-a-half times as likely to be against American Indians compared to all victims of violence (7.3% versus 4.7%). On the other hand, American Indians were least likely to be victimized in fields/woods/waterways (0.8%) compared to all victims of violence. In fact, all victims of violence were 2.2 times as likely as American Indians to be victimized in fields/woods/waterways.

**Table 9. Percent of Violent Victimization by Location and Victim Race**

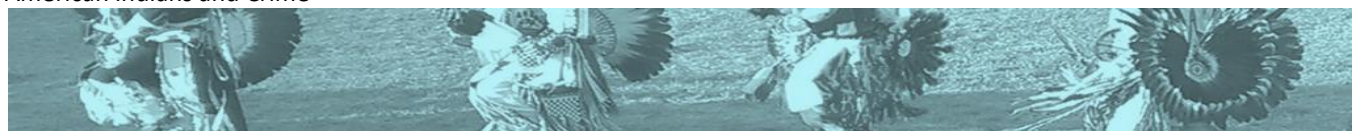
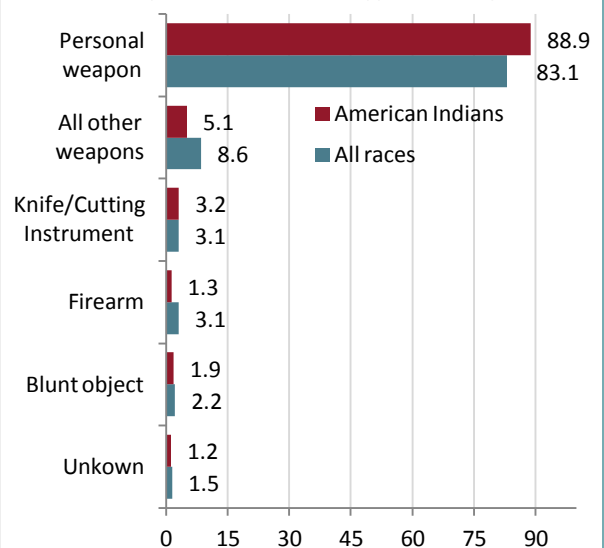
Offense Location	American Indian	All
Residence	57.2	63.0
Road, Garage, etc.	12.7	11.9
School/College	7.1	6.4
Commercial	6.3	5.4
Bar/Night Club	7.3	4.7
Other/unknown	4.3	4.6
Government/Public Building/Area	4.2	2.3
Field/Woods/Waterway	0.8	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,702</b>	<b>137,150</b>

### Weapon Use

A weapon was used in 91.2% of all violent crimes and 96.3% of violent crimes against American Indians. When a weapon was used in a violent crime, American Indians were less likely to be assaulted with a weapon other than the offenders' hands, fists, or feet (personal weapon). On average, American Indians faced an offender with a dangerous weapon in one out of nine (10.7%) violent crimes from 2005 to 2011. On the contrary, more than one in seven (15.4%) of all violent crime victims faced an offender with a serious weapon.

When an object (not hands, fists, or feet) was used as a weapon against American Indians, the weapon was one and a half times more likely to be a knife or cutting instrument compared to victims in all racial groups (28.6% versus 18.4%). However, American Indians were almost half as likely to face an offender with a firearm (12.1% versus 18.5%).

**Chart 11. Percent of Violent Crime Victims Assaulted by Victim Race and Type of Weapon**



## Victim Injury

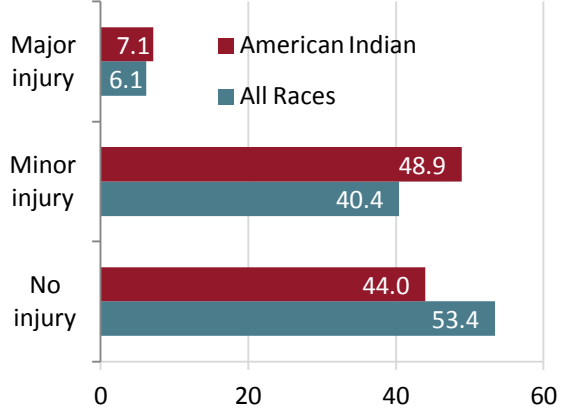
Victim race also affected injury risk during criminal incidents. Relative to all victims of violence, American Indians were more likely to be injured (56.0% vs. 46.6%). However, when an injury did occur, the most serious injury inflicted upon an American Indian was less likely to be classified as a major injury (12.7% of those injured) compared to all injured victims of violence (13.2%). This is not surprising considering American Indians are less likely to be victims of aggravated assaults, which by definition requires a weapon to be brandished or a serious injury to occur.

## Victim Offender Relationship

Of the 827,007 incidents reported by Idaho law enforcement agencies from 2005-2011, 714,139 did not identify a victim, or the nature of the crime did not include an individual victim (e.g., drug offenses). The remaining analyses will only include incidents in which the victim-offender relationship was known.

Only about a tenth of all victims were violently victimized by a stranger, while more than 3 in 4 of all victims knew their offender in some capacity (Chart 13). Victims of violence most likely knew their offender outside of an intimate or non-family relationship (33.7%). A non-spousal family member committed about 2 in 13 of the violent crime victimizations against all victims (15.8%) and American Indians (15.6%). American Indian victims were more likely to know their offender through a current or prior intimate relationship (30.3%) compared to all victims of violence (28.9%). Because violence between intimate partners is the only relationship type in which American Indians are more likely to be victims compared to all victims of violence, the remainder of the analysis will analyze intimate partner violence (IPV) and highlight differences between American Indians and all victims of IPV.

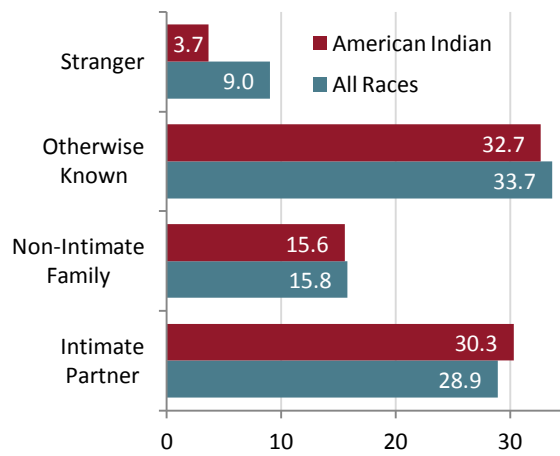
**Chart 12. Injuries Documented in Violent Crimes**



\*Does not include cases in which the only crime was intimidation since no injury is involved in those cases.

NIBRS injury categories were collapsed as follows for this study: NONE (none); MAJOR (apparent broken bones, possible internal injury, severe laceration, other major injury, loss of teeth, unconsciousness); MINOR (apparent minor).

**Chart 13. Percent of Victims Race by Their Relationship to Offenders, 2005-2011**



Does not show 100%. The remaining victim/offender relationships are unknown.



## Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Victims of intimate partner violence were identified based upon the victim’s relationship to the offender. These relationships were spouse, ex-spouse, common-law spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend, and same-sex partner. From 2005 through 2011, 120,495 victims of intimate partner violence were identified. Of all IPV victims, 96.9% were white, 1.3% were American Indian, and 1.8% were of other races. Although American Indians make up 1.4% of Idaho’s population and only 1.3% of IPV victims, American Indians victims of violence were slightly more likely to have or had an intimate relationship with their offender (30.3%) compared to all victims of violence (28.9%).

Table 10 indicates the race of IPV victims and the race of the offending intimate partner. American Indian on American Indian violence was more likely in all acts of violence (54.3%) than in IPV instances (52.2%). White offenders were more likely to be an American Indian victims’ intimate partner (45.4%) than in all violent crimes against American Indians (43.2%).

**Table 10. Violent Victimizations by Relationship, and Race of Victim and Offender, 2005-2011**

IPV Victim Race	Percent of victims			
	All Races	American Indian	White	Other
<b>Race of All Violent Offenders</b>				
American Indian	1.9	54.3	1.2	1.7
White	95.3	43.2	96.6	61.1
Other	2.8	2.5	2.2	37.1
All races	120,495	1,556	116,807	2,132
<b>Race of Intimate Partner Offenders</b>				
American Indian	1.7	52.2	1.0	0.8
White	95.3	45.4	96.6	60.6
Other	3.0	2.5	2.4	38.6
All races	36,710	485	35,598	627

Note: Table excludes victims and offenders of unspecified races and undocumented relationships.

### IPV Victim and Offender Characteristics

Victim and offender sex and age were also different for American Indians involved in IPV compared to all racial groups. American Indian victims of IPV were less likely to be male (17.9%) and more likely to be female (82.1%) than all IPV victims (21% male, 79% female). There was little variation by race in the proportion of offenses committed by intimate partners who were male. The majority of IPV offenders were male regardless of race (78.7% of American Indian offenders; 78.5% all offenders). More variation by race is seen in the victim and offender age groups.

American Indian victims and offenders of IPV are more likely to be between the ages of 25 and 44 than victims and offenders from all races. Larger percentages (84.7%) of American Indian victims of IPV were between the ages of 20 to 44 than all victims of IPV (76.6%). For offenders of intimate partner violence, a higher percentage of American Indians were ages 15 to 19 (7.2%) and ages 25 to 44 (66.3%) than offenders of all races (6.4% and 59.3%, respectively). The



**Table 11. Victims of Intimate Partner Violence**

	All Races	American Indian
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	21.0	17.9
Female	79.0	82.1
<b>Age</b>		
0 to 14	0.7	0.2
15 to 17	3.2	1.8
18 to 19	6.3	3.8
20 to 24	20.5	23.2
25 to 34	34.2	38.3
35 to 44	21.9	23.2
45 to 54	10.2	7.1
55 & older	2.9	2.4
All IPV Victims	38,696	496

**Table 12. Offenders of Intimate Partner Violence**

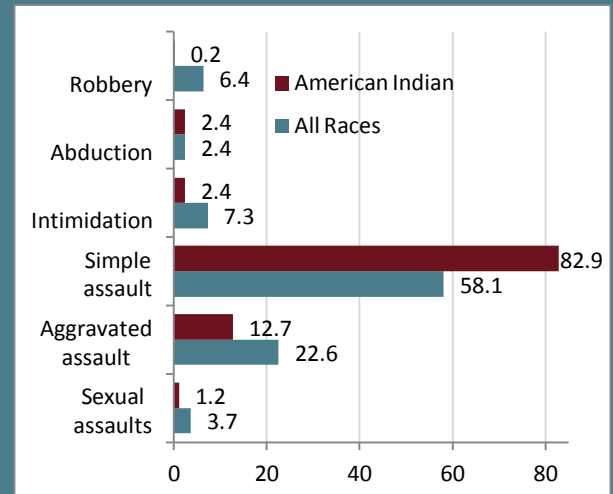
	All Races	American Indian
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	78.4	78.7
Female	21.6	21.3
<b>Age</b>		
0 to 14	0.2	0.0
15 to 17	1.5	1.7
18 to 19	4.9	5.5
20 to 24	18.9	19.0
25 to 34	35.1	40.8
35 to 44	24.2	25.5
45 to 54	11.6	6.7
55 & older	3.3	0.8
All IPV Offenders	38,222	652

key difference in age of victims and offenders of IPV between American Indians and all races is that the percentage of victims and offenders older than age 45 was larger for all racial groups than American Indians. Victims of all racial groups combined were almost one and a half times as likely to be older than 45 than American Indian victims. Regarding IPV offenders, American Indians were half as likely as all races to be older than age 45.

### IPV Offenses

When examining the types of violent crimes, it is evident that simple assaults are the most common (67.4%). Simple assaults are also the most frequently reported offense in intimate partner violence (58.1%) and even more so when the intimate victim is American Indian (82.9%). Intimates of American Indian origin were less likely to be victims of robbery, aggravated assaults, intimidation, and sexual assaults than intimates of all racial origins. In addition to analyzing the proportion of offense types that involved intimate partners, it is also important to examine the specific characteristics and consequences of those crimes.

**Chart 14. Percent of Intimate Partner Victims by Offense**



### IPV Event Characteristics

In violence against intimate partners, American Indian victims were more likely to: be assaulted with a weapon, be injured, be victimized in a public or commercial location, have drugs or alcohol involved, and have an arrest occur.





**Weapon**

A weapon was used in 92.9% of all IPV crimes and in 97.4% of IPV crimes against American Indians. An offender’s “hands, fists, or feet,” was the weapon used in IPV instances with victims of all races (83.0%) or American Indian victims (90.7%). American Indian victims were also more likely to face an intimate offender armed with a knife or cutting instrument (2.4%) compared to intimate victims of all racial groups (1.6%).

**Injury**

Intimate partner victims of all races were injured 53.2% of the time while 62.5% of American Indian intimate partners were injured. As with all violent crimes, American Indian victims were more likely to sustain a minor injury (55.6%) from an intimate partner than all victims of IPV (46.8%). A major injury was more likely to occur if a victim was intimately related to the offender (6.4% vs. 5.7%). However, American Indian victims were equally likely to sustain a major injury regardless of whether the offender was an intimate partner.

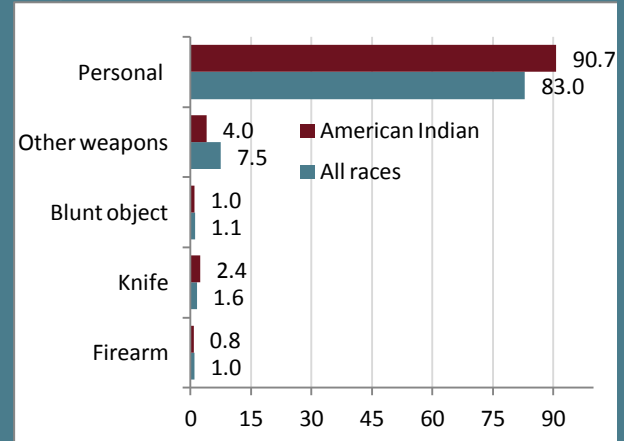
**Location**

A home or residence accounted for 62.9% of all violent crime locations and 85.0% of violent crime locations involving an intimate partner. American Indian victims of IPV were less likely (73.8%) to be victimized at a residence and more likely (23.0%) to be victims of crime occurring at a public or commercial location than all IPV victims (13.1%).

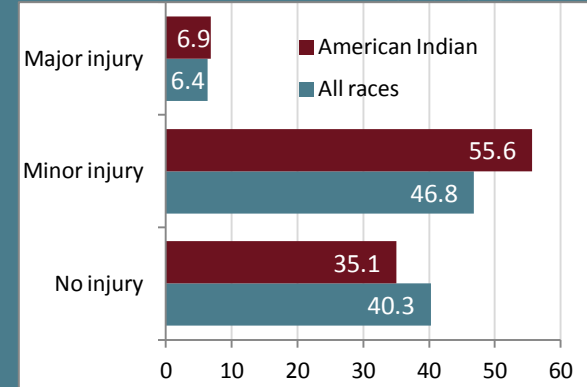
**Offender Alcohol or Drug Use**

Alcohol and drug use by the offender during, or just prior, to the crime increased if an intimate partner was involved. In 17.3% of all violent crimes, the offender was believed to have been using alcohol at the time of the crime, but this increased to 23.4% if the victim was an intimate partner. The percentage of intimate partner violent crimes against American Indians thought to be alcohol related was almost twice that of all IPV

**Chart 15. American Indian victims were less likely to be assaulted by an intimate partner with a weapon other than the offender’s hands, fists, or feet compared to all victims of IPV.**

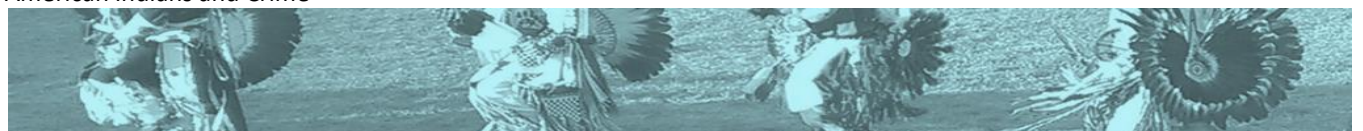


**Chart 16. Percent of IPV Victims by Injury Type**



**Table 13. Intimate Partner Violence by Crime Location**

	All Violence		Intimate Partner Violence	
	All	American Indian	All	American Indian
Commercial	10.1	13.6	4.4	9.7
Other/Unknown	3.4	3.8	1.4	3.0
Public	15.8	17.6	8.7	13.3
Residence/Home	62.9	57.1	85.0	73.8
School/College	6.4	7.1	0.4	0.2
All	137,175	1,703	38,696	496

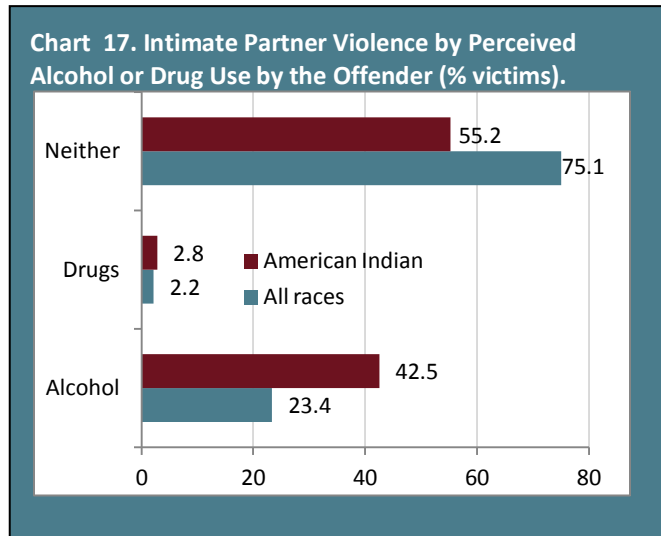


cases. In 42.5% of IPV crimes involving American Indian victims, an offender was believed to have been under the influence of alcohol at the time of the crime. In an additional 2.8% of IPV crimes against American Indians, the offender was thought to be under the influence of drugs.

**Case Outcome**

An arrest was made in 40.1% of all violent crimes. Violent crimes against American Indians were slightly more likely to result in an arrest (41.1%). The odds of an offender being arrested increased to 56.6% for all victims and 64.5% of American Indian victims if the violence was committed by an intimate partner.

Another 4.8% of violent crimes were denied prosecution. Prosecution was less likely to be denied in cases of intimate partner violence (4.5%) and if the intimate partner victim was American Indian (3.8%). Another case outcome is lack of prosecution due to the victim refusing to cooperate. American Indian victims are less likely to refuse to cooperate with the prosecution in cases of intimate partner violence (4.4%) compared to American Indian victims of violence in general (8.6%).



**Table 14. Percent of Victimization Resulting in Arrest, by Race of Victim**

IPV Victim Race	Total Victims	Offender was Arrested	Refused to Prosecute	Victim Refused to Cooperate
<b>Intimate Partner Victims</b>				
All Races	38,696	56.6	4.5	4.5
American Indian	496	64.5	3.8	4.4
<b>All Victims of Violence</b>				
All Races	137,175	40.1	4.8	4.8
American Indian	1,703	41.1	3.9	8.6

Note: Table excludes victims with unknown relationship to offender and victims and offenders of unspecified races.

**Summary and Conclusion**

According to all data sources reviewed in this report, American Indians have higher rates of violence than all racial groups in Idaho. The ICVS (2008) found that American Indians were 4 times more likely than all Idahoans to be victims in 2008 and 9 times more likely to have experienced IPV within their lifetime. The Crime in the United States, 2010 revealed that the violent crime rate on Idaho tribal lands was 2.7 times greater than Idaho’s violent crime rate. The analysis of IIBRS data found that American Indians experienced violence almost one and a half times the rate of violence against Idahoans, which was largely contributable to their higher rates of physical assaults. Further IIBRS analysis revealed that American Indians had one and a half times the rate of the overall violent offender rate and almost twice Idaho’s overall arrest rate. In fact, American Indians had higher victimization, offender, and arrest rates for both sexes and all age groups, except for those 65 and older.

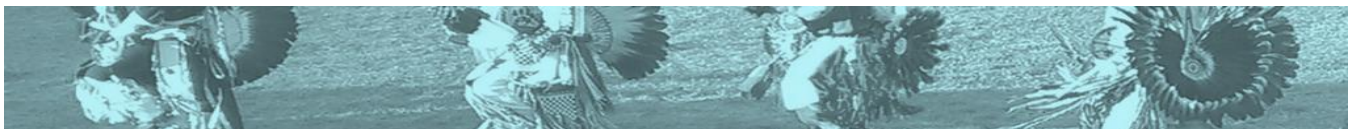


Other significant differences between American Indians and all racial groups in Idaho were that American Indians were:

- more likely to be victimized in all crime locations, except a residence or fields/woods/waterway;
- more likely to have a weapon used against them, but the weapon was less likely to be a dangerous weapon like a firearm;
- more likely to be injured, but less likely for that injury to be classified as a major injury, and;
- more likely to know their violent offender through a current or prior intimate relationship.

Compared to all intimate partner violence, American Indian IPV victims were more likely than all IPV victims to be female, between the ages of 20 and 45, a victim of simple assault, assaulted with a weapon, injured, victimized in a public or commercial location, have drugs or alcohol involved, and have an arrest occur. American Indian offenders of IPV were more likely than all IPV offenders to be between the ages of 15 and 20 and ages 25 to 44. American Indian IPV offenders and victims are less likely than all racial groups to be older than 45.

From the analysis presented in this report, it appears that alcohol and drugs play a contributing role in American Indian crime. For example, a high percentage of violent crimes in IIBRS and tribal law enforcement databases were identified as involving alcohol or drug use. American Indians were also twice as likely to be arrested for alcohol violations and their arrest rate for drunkenness was six times greater than the overall arrest rate for drunkenness in Idaho. Further, a higher percentage of American Indians were victimized in bars/nightclubs compared to all victims of violence. Future crime prevention efforts for American Indians should consider the role drugs and alcohol abuse plays, as well as other mental health and social issues that could contribute to their high rates of crime and suicide in Idaho.





---

## Works Cited

- Benchmark Research & Safety, Inc. (n.d.). *Idaho Department of Health and Welfare*. Retrieved 2012, from [http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Portals/0/Families/Suicide%20Prevention/Native%20American%20Males/Reports/Suicide\\_in\\_Native\\_American\\_males\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Portals/0/Families/Suicide%20Prevention/Native%20American%20Males/Reports/Suicide_in_Native_American_males_FINAL.pdf)
- Catalano, S. (2007). *Intimate Partner Violence in the United States*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.
- Johnson, C. (2009, June 15). *The Washington Post*.
- Kochanek, M. A. (2006). *National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 2004*.
- Office of Indian Services (2005). "American Indian Population and Labor Force Report". United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Perry, S. W. (2004). *American Indians and Crime: A BJS Statistical Profile, 1992-2002*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

